



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew July 2021



www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Dear friends of St John's & St Margaret's,

As we are all looking towards the lifting of restrictions in the coming weeks the questions on everyone's lips seems to be "have you had your 2nd Jag yet? & Are you going to go on holiday?". It is hard to believe the sheer achievement of vaccinating so many people in so little time, to say nothing of the research and development and the production of all the millions of doses we have been receiving. As I sat in the chair in Renfrew Leisure Centre I found myself overwhelmed by the utter achievement that I was benefitting from. The coming months will help us all to begin to look back and evaluate how we have been changed by the last 16 months as we connect again with people we've not seen for a long time.

Some of us are mourning friends and loved ones, and praying for hope to see a new a future with them no longer physically with us. Others are facing a work future that is not what they were training for, and in ministry we are looking to our church life in both physical and virtual terms. We have all learned so much, when we have taken the plunge and had a go, step by step slowly slowly. It is nice being physically connected again after all the months of our isolation, but we do have to get our heads about the 'new reality' which will not be 'going back to normal'. We shall be working hard in our vestries praying about how we can nourish our church life and encourage the gifts which God has given to his people. What have you been praying about in your life recently? Have you a story to share about how you encountered God in the last weeks? Do you have a vission for being the Church together and apart over the coming months?

"I came to give life; life in all its fulness" John 10.10 how can we allow these words of Jesus to resonate in our Charges as we face a new future, which none of us have the experience or training to work in? Lord God, you lead us day by day – help us to place our trust in you as we face the future in fear and trembling, in hope and in anticipation. Amen

Very Rev Reuben Preston – Rector



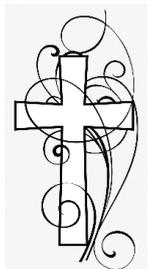
0945 & 1130 Sunday Services
recorded in our buildings
then put online



On the
telephone
& on Zoom

↑
← **Church** →
with one another

At home
alone or with
others

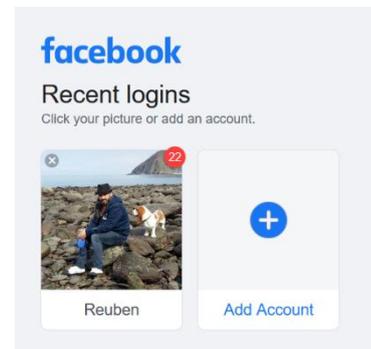


For July our Zoom & Telephone access remains

Tel: 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407 Passcode: 076546

or use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83241840407?pwd=YnBqWkxEeW5NMIBuTDRmbDc0cFZhUT09>

WARNING — The Rector's Facebook account has been hacked. This was deeply frustrating when I tried to log in last Saturday 19 June to be told that my password and email address had been changed 37 minutes ago. The naughty person who did it also removed my mobile phone number from the account so I cannot get it back again. It has been reported to Facebook and I will now have to make a new account in due course. I am told that there has been a spate of people's accounts being hacked by robots the other side of the world. Watch out for the next newsletter and I'll tell you how I get on trying to make a new account to keep connected to folk.



Connected Christians!

Thank you for the feedback on last month's piece by Lisa on good links to follow online – it was good to hear so many of you tried out the websites she suggested.

If you have some good sites you would like to share with others at St Johns and St Margarets please just send them to the Rector for inclusion in next months

Newsletter.

This month's top 10 suggestions:

1. The **Children's Chapel** made by the SEC and released each Sunday Morning found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtv9H_4N4c3JKM57zOj7GXw
2. Exploring Church organs - **Early English Organ Music from Pembroke College Cambridge** found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0C9oq1vpuI>
3. Hymns to sing at home - **30 Greatest Hymns with Lyrics** – an opportunity to get your voice ready for the return of singing in church! found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLVPtOYRgM>
4. **Five hours of glorious Psalms (Anglican chant)** - Guildford Cathedral Choir (Barry Rose) found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uHfqSnU94>
5. **Silence with God** - Perpetual (24/7) Eucharistic Adoration prayer mission found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz5gekfkF0o>
6. Getting to grips with some history of Christianity - **History of Christianity (2000)** | Full Movie | Dr. Timothy George | Mona Hurlbert Fisher found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhLKH9WkMyc>
7. **Kids Of Different Religions Describe God** found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPYyWhTDMQ>
8. **LA ART SHOW 2020 Walk Around** an hour exploring the art on show in 2020 found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcA2B41Wym8>
9. Wisdom From The Abbey : E10 - **Benedictine Spirituality** – something from Australia found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVZQFsqr0ts>
10. **Nonstop Praise And Worship Songs 24/7** - Top 100 Beautiful Worship Songs 2021 found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucvWKiLyzaA>

Worship Services continue as we emerge from the lockdowns

2pm Telephone Church is 20mins on a Wednesday afternoon for a short service hearing the bible readings for the day and using our Intercessions leaflet to help us in our prayer for the world and our churches. The service starts at 2pm so dial in around 155pm or so to get connected. **Note: PHYSICAL SERVICE will re-start on Wednesday 21 July and will be on the telephone too**



7pm Zoom Communion is each Wednesday and we hear the readings for the day and pray with each other for all that is happening in our lives. There is an opportunity to chat afterwards if you want to join in. **Note: PHYSICAL SERVICE will re-start on Wednesday 21 July at 7pm this will also be on zoom to join in with.**

On Sundays – We have services in church at 0945am at St Johns and 1130am in St Margarets which will all be recorded and then placed on our YouTube Channel for people to engage in who cannot come to the buildings. As the restrictions on numbers change the website will be updated so that we all know where we are with the National Guidance. Thank you for bearing with the continuing restrictions and thank you to folk who follow the service online too. We are getting about 12 views of the St Johns Service and 10 for the St Margarets service. **While we are in Level 2 we cannot sing. Once we are put in Level 1 or 0 we shall be able to sing again wearing masks!**

In our Church Buildings: - Funerals and Weddings and Baptisms can take place in our church buildings with limited numbers – please contact the Rector as necessary. The Rector is allowed to conduct Funerals at the Crematoriums and Cemeteries.

Telephone Church is open from 1.45pm to give you plenty of time to connect and type in the details as the **service starts at 2pm.** The service will end by 2.20pm and there is a chance to have a chat if you would like to.

It is an excellent way for everyone to join in being church in their isolation. Just use your phone. **As physical church re starts on Wednesday 21 July the service can be joined in with on the telephone as well if you cannot get to church.**

**Tel Number is 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407
Passcode: 076546**



The Service rotas for July 2021

you are invited to the physical, online & telephone Services

St Johns details in RED St Margarets in BLUE

Date	Celebration	Readings
Sunday 4 July 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i>	Pentecost 6 (green) Reader: David R, Allan - Prayers: Jane T, usual	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
Wednes 7 July 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Boisil, Prior of Melrose, c.642 (white)	Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a Psalm 33:1-4, 18-22 Matthew 10:1-7
Sunday 11 July 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i>	Pentecost 7 (green) Reader: Ann, John - Prayers: Vanessa, usual	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29
Wednes 14 July 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	feria (green)	Exodus 3:1-12 Psalm 103:1-7 Matthew 11:25-27
Sunday 18 July 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i>	Pentecost 8 (green) Reader: Ann, Tosh - Prayers: John, usual	2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Wednes 21 July 2pm St Johns & on the Telephone 7pm St Margarets and on zoom	William Wilberforce, 1833 (green)	Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15 Psalm 78:18-29 Matthew 13:1-9
Sunday 25 July 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i>	Pentecost 9 (green) Reader: Agnes, Jane T - Prayers: Pat, usual	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21
Wednes 28 July 2pm St Johns & on the Telephone 7pm St Margarets and on zoom	Anne and Joachim, Parents of Mary, Mother of the Lord (white)	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 Matthew 13:44-46

Daily Prayer continues online Our YouTube channel is hosting our Live Streamed Offices of the Scottish Episcopal Church <http://bit.ly/SECStJohnStMargaret>
9am Morning Prayer - Monday to Friday

Also our own St Mary's Cathedral is putting services online too for us to share at <https://thecathedral.org.uk/worship/>

You can join in the National Scottish Episcopal Church Services at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

This Newsletter

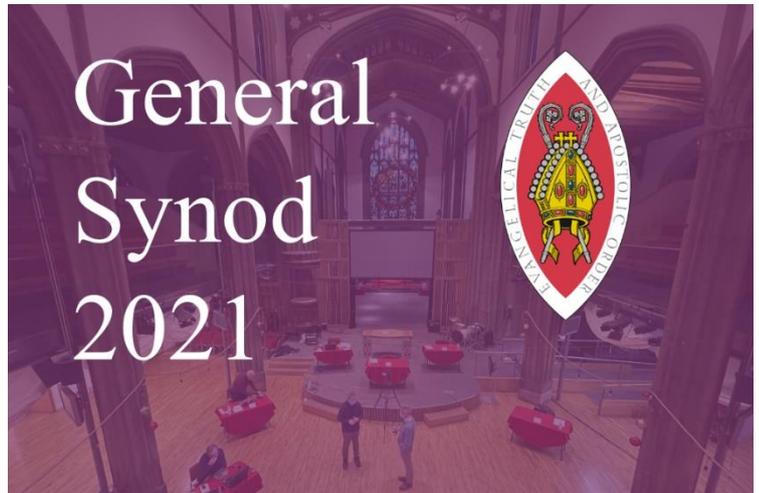
it is also available on our website to share with friends and also all of the web-links are live in the online version so you can explore more of the content which is recommended.



General Synod 2021

took place on Zoom on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June.

It was a remarkable gathering online as we debated and dealt with some very important matters in our shared Anglican life together here in the Scottish Episcopal Church.



In our Lectionary Jane Haining is to be added to our calendar. She was a Church of Scotland worker in Hungary who perished in Auschwitz on 17 July 1944. She was the only Scot known to have died in the camp. Her mission work was with Jewish children, whom she refused to abandon. She was arrested on 25 April 1944 for, among other accusations, “weeping when putting yellow stars on girls’ jackets; listening to a news broadcast from the BBC; having British visitors; sending British prisoners-of-war food parcels”. She rejected accusations of being involved in politics, declaring that she was “too busy” for all that.

General Synod members have backed a ten-point guidance plan on the first step towards the Scottish Episcopal Church achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Following a motion at last year’s Synod for a programme of actions to be brought to General Synod 2021 to resource the SEC in working towards the 2030 goal, the Church in Society Committee’s Technical Group on Climate Change presented a programme along with useful resources “aimed to equip the whole church for the urgent response that is needed towards achieving net zero carbon emissions”.

The Group has set out actions for different levels of the SEC to pursue, as congregations, dioceses, provincial level and as individuals; suggested more detailed action on buildings; listed useful resources; and indicated further work to be carried out. Further, a Toolkit is currently in preparation, designed to provide practical recommendations for the implementation of action plans and including for instance a means of working out a church’s carbon footprint.

“The changes we need to make encompass almost all aspects of our life as a church; not only our buildings, but in every area where we burn coal, oil or gas,” reported the Group. “We need to transition to renewable alternatives as far as we possibly can, and where this is not reasonably practical, we need to reduce, save and offset. We do not underestimate the challenge. But there are many steps we can already take which will make a difference and we need to plan now for how and when the bigger challenges could be met.”

The Rev Dr Jenny Wright, Convener of the Church in Society Committee, spoke to the report, telling Synod members: “Achieving net zero by 2030 is no small feat. Neither are the obstacles insurmountable. I hope that the programme of actions, today’s presentation and the group discussions will be the first of many such conversations.



“This is merely a starting point – we recognise that support and resources on both provincial and diocesan level are necessary. Rest assured, you will not be left alone to reduce your carbon footprint and engage with climate action.”

Dr Donald Bruce, chair of the Technical Group on Climate Action, reminded Synod of the urgency of the need to take action, and the responsibility of everyone to contribute.

“We are not alone in this task,” said Dr Bruce. “There’s a movement right across the chorus in the UK and some excellent experience to draw upon from Eco-Congregation Scotland, it’s English equivalent: Eco-Church, the Church of England and Church of Scotland both have excellent expert energy advice which we can call upon. And this is real world rooted advice, based on what you can really do, on the ground in a real church.” His full speech is here <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Dr-Donald-Bruce-110621.pdf>

To see the full presentation go to <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/climate-change-guidance-plan-welcomed-by-synod/> and to see the motions pass by synod go to <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate-Action-Synod-document-110621.pdf>

10 Points of Guidance

1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible



2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property



3. Using less polluting forms of transport, moving to electric or hybrid cars, car sharing, wherever possible walking or cycling



4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our land

5. Using Fair Trade, environment-and animal-friendly products wherever possible

6. Reducing waste by composting and recycling as much of it as possible

7. Reducing paper usage (and then only using recycled paper)

8. Using online meetings often, but balanced with our need for human contact and Christian fellowship

9. Disseminating information on good practice, and seeking expert advice, practical help, and funding possibilities

10. Promoting sustainability through our preaching, liturgy and teaching, and setting a good example

We recognise that not all of these apply to every congregation and that some will depend on the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, but we can begin to plan now.”

How can we at St Johns and St Margarets begin joining in with this call to action and commitment to the planet we share?

Bicycle racks at St Margarets? Bug Hotel in the grounds of our Churches? Installation of electric car charging points? LED lighting at St Margarets? Solar panels on our roof? Why not show this to a grandchild I am sure they will have ideas for you to bring to Church and to our Vestries over the coming months and years.....

All drawn up and a Building Warrant is applied for

St Johns Development works news....



LIGHTING – On the tables at the back of St Johns you will have seen the boxes of light fittings and LED bulbs which the electricians will start putting up in the coming weeks. The start date is probably around the end of August. Everyone has so much work on and we are pleased to have found the electrician that did some work recently at Holy Trinity in Paisley so he knows how church buildings are used.



How heavy is the font? – well the answer is 1.5tonnes approx. apparently although Gill and

Reuben haven't actually weighed it but our Architect Rebecca Cadie has fed all the measurements into the algorithm and that is the answer we have.

Renfrewshire Council have received the application for a Building Warrant – the £750 was paid and we are now awaiting their decision from all the pages of drawings submitted by the architects.



Please pray for this renewal of St Johns day by day – So much work is being done behind the scenes and we are looking ahead to the making of some mess as the physical work begins in due course.

As we plan for entering the Church Triumphant in heaven spare a thought for the church on earth.



What can I do for the Kingdom of God?

St Margarets & St Johns for the Future

– if you have left a bequest in your Will to St Johns or St Margarets, *Thank you very much*. If you are thinking about doing so, please do, as we plan for the next chapters of St John's and St Margaret's ministry in and around Renfrew and Johnstone. If you would like to have a private conversation

about it with the Rector please just call him on 07971 895897. Also a very helpful page on the Province's website is at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/stewardship-gift-aid-and-legacies/leaving-a-legacy-in-your-will-to-the-church/>

Thank you for your continued giving to our Churches

For Online & Telephone banking use these details for your giving:-

to **St Johns the Evangelist Episcopal Church:**

Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-16-53 Acct No. 00356544

to **St Margarets Episcopal Church:**

Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 83-26-22 Acct No. 00196266

Or send your giving for St John's or St Margaret's to the Rector at his home 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD and Reuben will ensure your cheques/cash are banked. If you would like to give directly please use these details above or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St John's/Margaret's* in the message box.

Contact: Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Tel: 07971 895897

The Rector – the Very Rev Reuben James Preston, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD

This Newsletter is available on the website

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

to follow the live links throughout

Summer Socials outdoors – the Vestries are needing your help for ideas of connecting together again as we can do so safely. Do you have any ideas for sharing hospitality for half an hour or so on our Church sites?

Socially Distanced Garden Party at St Margarets?

An Agnes Tea in the Drive at St Johns?

Please share your ideas and it would be great to do something before the summer of 2021 passes us by



STOP PRESS – Online Friday Prayer

Deepen your faith, meet with others, make new online friends.

2pm Fridays follow this link for more details

<https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/fridayprayer.html>