

Notices

Evening service at Monika's and Sonia's

Usually this takes place on the second Sunday of the month but this month the service will be on **Sunday 18 March at 6.30pm.**

Lent study sessions

In Church after Celebrating Communion on the following Sundays:

11 March, 18 March. Discussions based on Bible passages and sections of *God's Green Book* which we have not previously used. See the Newsletter for more details.

Ladies' Tea Party 2018

Saturday 26th May, 3pm – 5pm. Please keep this date free in your diaries and invite family and friends. More information nearer the time.

Altar Panel Meeting

The next Altar Panel Meeting is on **Monday 19 March** at 7.30 in the downstairs meeting room. Entrance will be by the side door in Murieston Crescent.

Bishop John's Lent Appeal

This year's appeal supports two charities which, in their contrasting ways, offer healing and wholeness. **EMMS International** is well known for its outstanding work in bringing hope and love to people in the world's poorest countries who cannot afford medical care. **Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre** aims to 'be there' in the immediate aftermath of rape or abuse and to help victims and their families rebuild their lives.

If you would like to give money, please place it in an envelope marked "Bishop's Lent Appeal" and put it in the collection plate.

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The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 11 March 2018

President: Sarah Kilbey

Preacher: Sarah Kilbey



*Living out faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action*

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Read by: Bob Allen

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

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they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

Read by: Bob Allen

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Gospel:

Read by: Penny Allen

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Collect

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 18 March 2018 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30am Celebrating Communion

President: David Warnes

Preacher: David Warnes

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33