



St Martin of Tours
Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

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



February March 2024

St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion
www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk

Who are we?

Priest in Charge	John Vincent johnvincent@stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk mobile 07914 762868	374 6365
Organist	Chris Johnson chrisj@epcc.ed.ac.uk	620 2603
Rector's Church Warden	Liz Moir (Miss)	
People's Church Warden	Roderick MacKenzie roderick@blueyonder.co.uk	
Vestry Secretary	Felicity Murdanaigum felicitymurdanaigum@hotmail.co.uk	07867278928
Treasurer	Lynn Dailly lynndailly@btinternet.com	444 2233
Gift Secretary	Stuart Campbell Campbellzn@hotmail.com	466 8184
Lay Representative	Liz Moir (Miss)	
Alternative Lay Representative	Diana Gilligan	

John's letter.

If You're Reading this....

One of the most moving books I have is 'If You're Reading This...' a collection of 'final letters' from service men and women who served in conflicts from the Napoleonic wars to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq; it provides insights into the thoughts and attitudes of people who were facing conflict and the constant threat of death at any time. Among the many moving letters are extracts from letters in a diary written by a Methodist missionary George Davies, who grew up in Shropshire, then felt the call to move to Australia. At the outbreak of War, he enlisted and served with The Australian Expeditionary force and found himself at Ypres in 1917. Writing to his mother, he writes

'I am now ready for the 'big push', ready in body mind and spirit...my mind is clear, my soul has been purified and the whole is in God's hands. If I die, do not fear for me, I will wait for you my loved above all. I give my love to you all and to Jesus Christ My Maker.... the time is near at hand, Jesus Christ went all the way to the Cross. I can meet my Gethsemane and my cross in His strength. I have not been all I might have been, but feel my sins forgiven though his love for me.'

George Davies was killed at Messines along with 1500 other Australians.

Every Soldier is encouraged to write a final letter before going on operations; it is one of the hardest things to do, to put in a few words how you hope to be remembered, what you hope you have achieved, sorrow and regret for personal failures and some kind of reassurance for those you leave behind. I never found it easy, but grateful for an opportunity to reflect on my life, my relationships and reappraise what is important to me.

If we are lucky enough, we breeze through life without thinking too much about what regrets or hopes we carry and it is only when we are confronted with a potentially life changing event, that our minds are drawn to these considerations and all too often, it is too late to change direction or banish regrets. But our season of Lent gives us a yearly opportunity to do this kind of personal and spiritual spring cleaning. We walk with Christ into the wilderness to reflect, reappraise, seek forgiveness and the grace to grow.

Christ asks us to accompany him over the next 40 days into Easter; it could be a good time to think about what you would want to write in a 'final letter'. In prayer offer to God your regrets, that they might be healed, your hopes, that they might be fulfilled and thanksgiving for those you hold dear and whose presence you cherish.

John

We are looking for volunteers to go on the church rota for "LOOP"

What does this involve? It is looking after the sound system for the Sunday morning service. There are instructions provided, but they are rather lengthy, and it is easier to show you what to do. You turn on the amplifiers, replace the battery in the throat microphone for the clergy and put out the hand microphone for the person doing prayers, plug in the lectern microphone and test the whole system well before the service.

Stuart Campbell

Church Flowers

There will be no flowers during Lent.

Many thanks again for all donations to the Flower Fund. Please continue to give when and what you can. Like everywhere else, costs at the flower market have increased considerably. I continue to try to make them last as long as possible.

Donations can be put in an envelope marked "Flowers" and put in the plate on a Sunday morning or handed to me directly.

Thank you again.

Lynn

Morningside Justice and Peace, Spring 2024
at The Eric Liddell Community,
15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP
Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m.
All welcome. £3
www.morningsidejandp.org
Also by Zoom.
Contact b.darcy20@gmail.com

News from Morningside Justice and Peace. January 2024

Every Wednesday morning, a talk and discussion on an issue of social justice.

Why not come along? October - March. 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

From January 10, Morningside Justice and Peace will meet every Wednesday morning in the Eltham Suite, at The Eric Liddell Community, Holy Corner, Edinburgh. All welcome.

We have topics local, national and international, such as energy and climate change, homelessness in Edinburgh, also USA and Taiwan. Discussion too. There's a simple website: www.morningsidejandp.org Pay £30 for the 10-week session or £3 when you attend. Barbara Darcy b.darcy20@gmail.com

Feb 7 Mike Wedderspoon, Director of Strategic Engagement and Delivery, The Scottish National Investment Bank. 'The Scottish National Investment Bank - Investing with impact for social change.'

Feb 14 Dr. Ben Coulson, Lecturer in International Relations, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh 'Are Russia, China, Iran, North Korea the new Anti-Western Axis?'

Feb 21 Ruth Evans, Advisor, Community Ownership Support Service, Community Ownership Development Trust Association. 'Community Ownership - how does that work?'

Feb 28 Eurig Scandrett, Senior Lecturer in Public Sociology at Queen Margaret University and Chair, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign. 'What next for the Palestinians?'

Mar 6 Lindsay Beevers, Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Edinburgh. 'Flooding - causes, problems and solutions.'

Mar 13 Derek Mitchell - Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Scotland. 'This endless cost of living crisis. What can we learn from Citizens Advice Scotland?'

Mar 20 Sue Scott, Feminist and Sociologist, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Visiting Professor at Universities Newcastle and Helsinki. 'The Question of Gender.'

Tony my friend and sailing partner

Tony Fairlie-Clarke will be many different things to the different people who knew him. First and foremost to the people of St Martin's he will be remembered as the considerate one, always willing to help if he possibly could, but always only happy if the job was done well. We all benefitted from his high standards when jobs had to be done around the church buildings. Diane, his wife, became the Rector's secretary and secretary to the Vestry. They read the lessons and in all sorts of ways were part of the St Martin's family. But they soon became surrogate grandparents for several small children in the congregation, stepping in to help, to comfort. Providing outings for treats, and just to keep an eye on things when hands were occupied with other matters and it was typical of Tony to combine his love of building things with his love of boats and swashbuckling stories and make one of Mai's boys a model pirate ship with sails, rigging and cannons - and a Jolly Roger flying from the mast head, all beautifully finished.

In fact it is through his love of boats and his lifelong experience of sailing, mainly off the South Coast, that I have my most treasured memories of Tony. I had shared the cost of a small cruising yacht with one of my sons-in-law. It was a good sea boat which could take a spinnaker when the conditions were right, it had a small diesel engine for use when the wind failed and it had three berths. It was kept on the Clyde and we took it out several times together but it soon became apparent that we had rather different views about sailing and we were not out together as much as we would have liked. There were several good reasons for asking Tony if he would like to accompany me, for one thing he was already a good friend but also his extensive experience of small boat sailing and his love of the west coast of Scotland ticked more boxes, and, unlike me, he wasn't colour-blind. On at least one occasion that turned out to be rather crucial as you will see. So it was that, with the agreement of my son-in-law, we fixed to go out in *Sula* in the summer, I don't even remember the year now but it was such a success that we repeated the sail several times afterwards. We were always on the lower reaches of the Clyde or up towards the Crinan Canal on Loch Gylp. We even went out toward Jura but couldn't make the Corrie vrechan (just as well!). Transport was a bit of a problem but I could usually pack plenty of stuff in our old station wagon and although it was tiresome having to ferry it out to the boat from the car, we had the car there for when we returned. Tony insisted on providing at least a couple of meals. I didn't think he did much cooking at home but he turned up with cans of steak and kidney pudding and potatoes. Tinned fruit and custard for pudding and some eggs and bread. What more did we need? We weren't going for more than a few days. Well of course there were also a few beers and Tony's favourite tippie, some gin and tonic, I think he always wanted to maintain the standards he was brought up with; what is it? "Drinks when the sun is over the yard arm."

I should have kept a log of those days but I didn't so the memories become hard to separate. Here are a few things that particularly impressed themselves on my mind. Our first port of call was Lochranza at the northern end of Arran, a beautiful place to stop and drop the anchor for a cup of tea - yes until one of us looked out and realised that the shore was slipping past slowly. We started the engine quickly and pulled up the anchor which was still attached to the boat. We had started to drag it along the bottom. We found a secure buoy to tie up to and went for an ice cream, what else? Later we found that it was hard to make an anchor dig in where we had stopped and people found a secure buoy instead. The next day we left early. It was beautiful and Tony wanted to make Campbeltown and possibly even pass around the Mull. The sun was hot - this was sailing as it is rarely experienced on the west. Someone once said that most of the time sailing the west coast is like standing in a cold shower tearing up five pound notes. We weren't even having to get our wallets out! Tony knew of a hotel in Campbeltown which looks kindly on mariners; time it right and you could get the use of a bath with loads of hot water. They also had a supper menu. We returned to our boat cleaner and more fully fed than we had left it at about 5 pm. But we didn't have enough time to get round the Mull so set a course to take us around the east side of Arran. We stopped off Holy Island and it was so hot that Tony had a swim - I don't do that sort of thing. We had hoped to see some Buddhist monks on the

island because we had heard that they had established a monastery there but they were keeping their heads down.

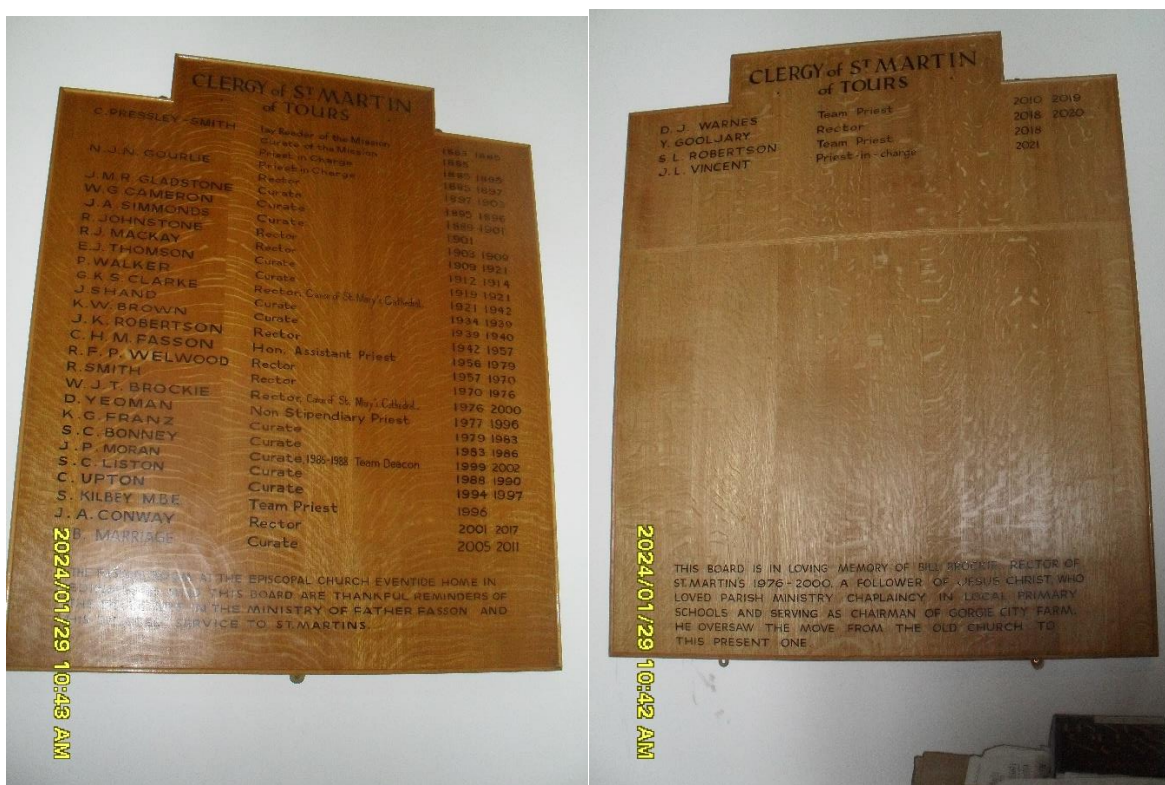
The weather held pretty well the next day but it was time to take *Sula* back to her own anchorage and that was uneventful except for a brief encounter with a Russian fishing boat going up the Clyde. Steam is supposed to give way to sail but clearly the Russians hadn't read that book but they did give us a friendly wave I seem to remember. All too soon we were unpacked and on the road home. It was such a success that we planned to do it all again. We never had weather as good again but other things happened. Going up Loch Fyne to enter the Crinan Canal you pass a spit of land which nearly takes up half of the width of the loch. I was steering, Tony was making coffee. I was carefully leaving the red buoys to port and the green to starboard when Tony threw himself at the tiller and averted disaster. As he quietly explained to me, my steering would have led us to collide with the spit of land. I had got red and green mixed up. When we entered the canal we found we were part of an armada of boats going our way too. We hadn't realised that the annual race to Tobermory was leaving on the Sunday and we would be lucky to find a place to moor overnight. We did find a spot thankfully because we couldn't have gone on had we not been able to stop. Much to Tony's chagrin, in the press of boats travelling through the Canal, his concentration was interrupted by something and while he wasn't watching he rammed *Sula* into a pile, of which there were plenty. We were only going slowly and a quick check showed that we were not leaking but the hole was only just above the water line. In rougher water we would take on water so the hole had to be repaired. As soon as we could, we tied up in the Crinan Basin and Tony went off in search of materials. *Sula* had a glass fibre hull and it was easy to repair small holes. And that is what poor Tony spent his Saturday doing and by the time he had finished it was almost impossible to see where the damage had been done. Tony, as those who worked with him knew only too well, was a perfectionist. Well, after the armada had departed, we did get through the locks into the ocean outside and had a bracing sail up to Melford but it was hard work getting back to Crinan where my son-in-law was taking over with his family. At one point we had all the sails drawing and the old engine thumping away and we still only made slow headway against the current.

There were other little memories of sailing with Tony. The time when he wanted to test a small device he had one of his students design which was intended to solve the problem of getting the spinnaker up and down single handed. He arranged with us to take *Sula* out and test the device with the student. My son-in-law and I went with Tony and the student and we sailed away from the mooring into a not too settled morning. The wind was getting up. "Perfect for the test", Tony said although we started to have doubts and thought if we were going to test the device we should do it as soon as possible and beat a hasty retreat. Tony agreed and he and his student set about what they had to do. When they were ready we turned the boat around and with the wind behind us started sailing very fast. Suddenly the spinnaker filled with wind and ballooned into the sky, the student and Tony desperately hanging on to it. They got it in alright but not with any help from the device which by that time was resting on the bottom in quite deep water - someone had let

go of it in the panic about the sail. It was okay, Tony said he'd got the student to make two of them and the other was safely in Glasgow. The student passed the exam. Perhaps it wasn't the best outcome for the test but it demonstrated Tony's determination that his students got as much help as he could give them and he did have great patience. We used to have discussions about the way the universities were changing and not always for the better. In fact I think he became a bit of a pain for his departmental head by pointing out the deficiencies in the courses and the way they were delivered. He was ready to retire when retirement came and I know he looked forward to lazy South Coast boating. It's just so sad that he didn't have much time to enjoy it.

Brian Kilbey. February 2024

The new Record's Board was dedicated on Sunday 28th January 2024



Church Registers

While having a glimpse through The Scottish Standard Bearer 1899 I came across the death of Mrs Alice Louise Pressley-Smith, whose husband, Charles Pressley-Smith, appears in our Church Registers. She died in 1899.

An Obituary in the Oban Times on 15 April 1899 records: "Alice Louisa Pressley-Smith was the third daughter of Mr C H Millar of Blair Castle, and 5 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. Married to the Rev Charles Pressley-Smith in October 1886, she laboured with

him for nine years in organising the Mission of St Martin, Edinburgh. Coming to Oban in 1895 she worked while she had the strength in this her husband's new field of labour. Always deeply interested in foreign missions, she increased the membership of the Church Womens' [sic] Association from 12 to 61. She was a manager of St John's Episcopal Day School, and in many ways she left her mark upon the church life of the congregation, though she has so soon been called from its midst. The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Messrs Munn, Oban."

On 7 August 1897, the Oban Times reports on an article in the Standard Bearer for August 1897 [*which Standard Bearer I haven't seen*]: "THE NEW EPISCOPAL DEAN OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES – The Standard Bearer for August contains an excellent portrait from a photograph of the Very Rev. Charles Pressley-Smith M.A., Dean of Argyll and the Isles, and Rector of St John's, Oban. A biographical sketch which accompanies says that the Dean is a hereditary Scottish Churchman. His father, the Rev. F. Smith, who died at the early age of 42, was incumbent on Arpafeelie, and inspector of schools in the diocese of Moray and Ross; his mother belonged to the Cardno family, who, for more than 300 years, have been resident in the Buchan district of Aberdeenshire, and well known as staunch Scottish Episcopalians. Born in 1862, in Fraserburgh, Mr Pressley-Smith received his early education at the Church day school in Arpafeelie, under his father's superintendence; he was afterwards a pupil at the Royal Academy School, Inverness, and subsequently entered Aberdeen University as a Drum bursar, taking his M.A. degree in 1883. In due course he entered the Theological College in Edinburgh where he won a Walker bursary. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1885, and to the priesthood in 1886. **While nominally curate of the Cathedral at Edinburgh, his real work was in connection with the St. Martin's Mission, which in 1887 ceased to have any connection with the Cathedral, and was made an independent charge, with Rev. Mr Pressley-Smith as the pastor. Through his efforts St. Martin's became an active centre of religious life.** In 1895 he accepted the important charge of St John's, Oban, where he has introduced a new constitution as recommended by the Representative Church Council a surpliced chair, choral celebrations etc. Dean Pressley-Smith, who is a good Gaelic scholar, was married in 1885 to Alice Louise, the third daughter of the late Christian Hoyar Millar, of Blair, near Culross, and of 5 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. The sketch concludes as follows:- 'As secretary of the Free and Open Church Association, and of the Diocesan Home Mission Board in Edinburgh, Dean Pressley-Smith has accomplished a large amount of most useful work for the Church at large; and we doubt not but that in his new position of added responsibility and dignity, Dean Pressley-Smith will be the instrument in God's hands of still further strengthening the ancient Church of Scotland during the years to come.' "

After his wife's death Rev Pressley-Smith remarried. In the Oban Times of 19 July 1947 there is an obituary for his wife, Elizabeth Mary Pressley-Smith: "THE LATE MRS PRESSLEY-SMITH: An impressive service is to take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban, on the evening of Friday of this week when the ashes of the late Mrs Elizabeth Mary Pressley-Smith are to be interred beside the remains of her husband, the late Very Rev. Charles Pressley-Smith,

D.D., who was Dean of Argyll and the Isles. The service is to be conducted by the Very Rev. D. A. G. Muir, Provost of St. John's Cathedral, Oban. Mrs Pressley-Smith died in Edinburgh on December 6, 1946, and after cremation the ashes have rested in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, until such times as they could be put into her husband's grave. Mrs Pressley-Smith was a daughter of Mr and Mrs John A Beith, Manchester and Altnacraig, Oban, and her grandfather, Rev. Alexander Beith, was the first minister of Oban Old Parish Church. She was a sister of Major Ian Hay Beith [Ian Hay, the noted playwright and novelist]. Most of her life was spent in Oban."

Again, in the Cheshire Daily Echo of 26 April 1901 there is an article about their marriage: "PRESSLEY-SMITH – BEITH: Another marriage in which a wide and exceedingly warm interest centred was solemnised at Holy Innocents' Church, Fallowfield, yesterday afternoon. The two united were the Very Rev. Chas. Pressley-Smith, Dean of Argyll and the Isles and Miss E. M. Beith, third daughter of the late Mr J. A. Beith, of Moorlands, Didsbury, and of Mrs Beith, of Bellfield Lodge, Fallowfield ... "

Diana

The Burns lunch

The Burns lunch was held on 28th January after church. It was most successful, delicious soup and haggis. Renditions of poems and a fun quiz added to the enjoyment. A big thank you to Auntie Liz who organized it all.

Quiz Night 23rd February Invite family, friends, colleagues. Tickets £5 each.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF ELEANOR'S ORPHANAGE - Saturday 23 March 11 - 12.30

We will be holding a fund-raising coffee morning with home baking in aid of Eleanor's Orphanage in Liberia on **Saturday 23 March**. We have supported Eleanor and the young people she looks after for some years and they are very appreciative of our donations. (If you are able to contribute home baking in advance that would be very helpful - please let either Mrs Liz Moir or Auntie Liz know.) Please come and bring friends! It's always a sociable occasion so do come along.

The Eco Group.

Church Funds – no don't turn away – this is for you!

It's almost the end of another tax year.

Although I've never counted them, I'm told that the Bible contains 1,600 references to money. That is quite astounding! Even if exaggerated somewhat (although I have no reason to doubt the number), the frequent mention of money in the Scriptures is still something to take seriously.

*Money in church is a taboo subject! Why? Because it makes us uncomfortable. But St Martin's folk are well used to addressing their minds to uncomfortable topics such as injustice, homelessness and yes the debt burden of the third world. However whenever we get to St Martins' needs, we suddenly talk in hushed tones and restrict debate to vestry. But it is not the job of vestry, the treasurer, the covenant secretary and clergy to provide for the costs of running a church. **It is your job!** It includes all of us.*

So now some preaching about money. The gospels time and again mention the potential money has to make people greedy and uncaring to others (see 1 Timothy 6:9, 1 John 3:17, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 25.14-30, Luke 12.15). Well there are many references. Old testament (Proverbs 28:20) as well as new (2 Corinthians 9:6). So where does our future lie?

*The guideline for what is reasonable for someone to donate is a Tithe (1 tenth). But that is perhaps rather too much for most people today, and rightly so, as we already donate **taxes** (boo hiss I can imagine you saying), and to other charities and family and friends and so on.*

I will explain. Today we do indeed pay taxes and National Insurance which provides for society's protection, health and welfare (or it is supposed to). These are items that the tithe was supposed to cover, so we might justifiably say to tithe we must deduct Tax and NI first. Also I certainly hope that church is not your only charitable outgoing. So let us say only a half of the tithe should be paid to St Martins, and how you give the other half is none of our business! So how would this pan out?

Well the government now recognises that much of the work carried out by charities like the church, are things that would otherwise have to be financed by central and local government and so permit the reclaim of the tax which you have paid on all the money you give to church. That is where I come in. As covenant secretary and treasurer, Lynn and I tot up all the money given in cheques or in monthly standing orders, that are attributable to those who have signed a Gift Aid Form in favour of St Martins. We also total all the cash given in church (not attributable to any specific fund raising or service provision) and that is added to gift aided money to include in the tax claim. Then once a year (after April 5, end of the tax year) I claim back tax at 20% of the total, which helps keep St Martin's wolves from the door.

So take what I have said, think about it, and decide what in terms of your income you should be giving to the work of St Martin's. But when giving, if you are a tax payer, do ask the treasurer to record your name against the money, and, if you have not signed a gift aid form, please sign one and give it to me (copies in envelope in foyer).

I will now leave you to think, with my favourite prompts

1 Corinthians 4:2 *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Stuart Campbell (Covenant Secretary)

Walking group

There are no walks organised yet, so to kickstart 2024 we will revive Walter's walk from the Odeon South Clerk Street, to St Martin's on Saturday 16th March. Meeting at the Odeon at 10.30 we can walk over the Meadows, have lunch (bring your own) at St Martin's and organise our walks for the year. Have a think about walks that can be easily enjoyed by all abilities. If you can't make the walk please join us for lunch after.

Peter and Liz

Craft club

The craft group continues to meet in Monika & Sonia's lounge on Saturday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00. We stop for tea, coffee and biscuits at 3.00 pm, and of course, we have a good natter too.

Diana

The Lent Course The Emotions of Jesus

An hour of reflection and discussion Each Saturday in Lent beginning at 10am.

24 February Lent 1 Gratitude
2 March Lent 2 Joy
9 March Lent 3 Anger
16 March Lent 4 Compassion
23 March Lent 2 Weariness

Lent 1 in Church and after that meetings held at the Rectory, 15 Ardmillan Terrace.

Calendar: February March 2024

February 2024

Sun 4 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**
Preacher: Stuart Robertson

Sun 11 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Sunday before Lent**
Preacher: John Vincent

Wed 14 10.30am Ash Wednesday

Sun 18 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – First Sunday of Lent**
Preacher: Sarah Kilbey

Sun 25 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Second Sunday of Lent**
Preacher: John Vincent

March 2024

Sun 3 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Third Sunday of Lent**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 10 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 17 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 24	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Palm Sunday Preacher: John Vincent
Tuesday 26	11.30am	Chrism Mass St Mary's Cathedral
Thurs 28	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist of Last Supper
Fri 29	2pm	Good Friday Service at the Cross.
Sun 31	7am	Dawn Communion Service followed by breakfast at St Michael's
Sun 31	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Easter Sunday Preacher: John Vincent

