

GRAPEVINE

St Matthew's Rosslyn - October 2017 Issue 88



Vicarage View

Will SECxit follow BREXIT??

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) has been experiencing press coverage like never before. Indeed, the London Times featured it four times last week alone. Sadly, the reason for this sudden upturn of interest is because at General Synod in June of this year voted overwhelmingly to allow gay marriage. Personally, I was delighted that the church had finally passed through puberty; that we were still debating this in the twenty-first century was astonishing. There were comments reported in the Times from the Archbishop of Canterbury (understandably), the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (reasonably) and, of course, the Provost of Glasgow Cathedral (inevitably). The last of these was insistent that Lambeth Palace or the Anglican Office had been briefing against the Scottish Episcopal Church. It was, he said, not rocket science to deduce this. I would go further. It wasn't science at all. I have not seen, nor did the Provost present, one scintilla of evidence that this is the case. Like the Provost, I am delighted that, as a church we voted to sanction gay marriage, but I do not feel that, if others disagree with me, there must be a conspiracy behind it. It rather reminds me of the old joke – "The doctor only says I have a persecution complex because he doesn't like me".

There remain deeply held sincere views on both sides. Because someone cannot in good conscience accept gay marriage does not make them homophobic, any more than those against the ordination of women are misogynist.

What is concerning me, however, is the tone of some of the comments of those



senior clergy who disagree with us. Talk of sanctions, talk of being removed from decision making councils, perhaps even denied access to the Lambeth conference. What sort of "communion" is that?? Some senior Anglicans boast of our being a broad church, an inclusive church, but what we have been hearing this week seems a long way from that.

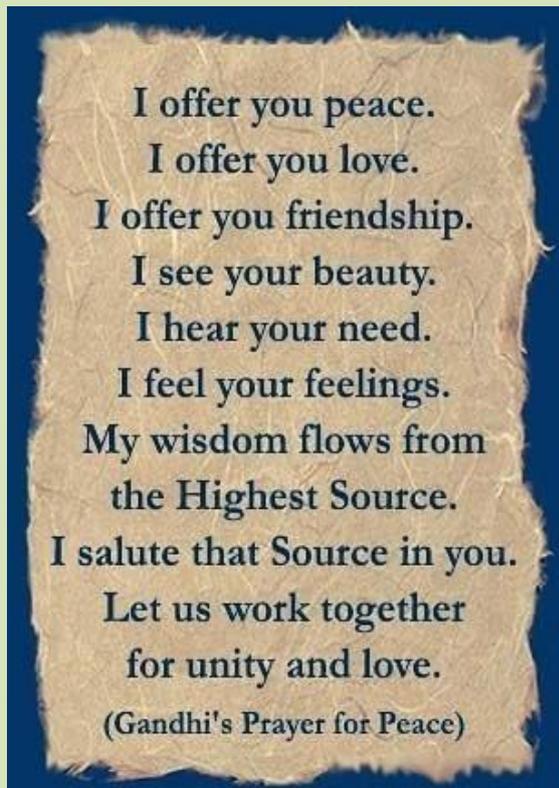
I suppose that is what made me make the link to BREXIT. There are those who seem determined to sanction and punish us for exercising our democratic right to withdraw from the European Union. Considering we have been the second largest contributor for years, this seems a little ungrateful. But, it is serious at a personal level. As with the 2014 independence referendum, families have been split and friendships fractured. There is a great deal of healing and reconciliation required to achieve a *modus vivendi* for all concerned without punitive reprisals.

I think that the wider Anglican Communion should reflect deeply. Whilst no-one should be surprised that politicians tend to denigrate their opponents, one might expect better from the church. The Anglican Communion cannot allow itself to be held to ransom, whether by rich evangelical churches – as it was in the Jeffrey John fiasco where

an offer of a bishopric was withdrawn by Rowan Williams – or by very conservative “southern cone” churches who have a loud voice because they are large in number. Indeed, in some of these countries, being gay is punishable by death! Yet I hear no call for sanctions here!

Yes, we are a broad church, but a road of infinite width has no direction. There are many important things for the church to be worried about; we have prelates “in good standing” who are *de facto* atheists, we have churches closing, we have a shortage of priests in parishes. These are deep and serious concerns for the church. In my opinion, gay marriage is not.

FR. JOE



A Prayer for Church Unity

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst say
unto thine Apostles,
Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give unto you:
Regard not our sins, but the faith of
thy Church,
and grant unto all Christian people
that peace and unity reignest with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, world without end.
Amen

Vestry Report



“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”

— Jim Bishop

Although summer appears to be clinging on by her finger nails, we are undoubtedly moving into Autumn now, the children are back at school, Saturday night is blocked out for Strictly and I will soon be having to tackle the entire leaf fall of Midlothian that appears to find its way into the garden every year.

The Vestry Committee doesn't meet over the summer, but that doesn't mean there hasn't been activity.

The Rosslyn Chapel Trust has kindly agreed to fund the flowers for the Chapel. This will benefit everyone who worships and visits the chapel we are grateful for their support.

As I mentioned in my last update, we continue to have challenges with our finances. Plate collections are down on 12 months ago as are regular covenants. The vestry are looking carefully at the long-term impacts of this and how best to mitigate them.

My wife and I, were glad to be able to host the annual parish lunch again this year. It appears to have gone well despite the occasional downpour. There was a great turn out and the children appeared to enjoy a very long and raucous “nerf” battle. Thanks to all those who came and brought donations of food and drink.

As always, the Social Committee organised a wonderful Harvest Festival lunch, with the usual mix of delicious food, wonderful music from the very talented musicians from Beeslack High School Jazz Band and some very enthusiastic dancing. Our thanks to all those who came along to support and give raffle donations. We also joined with the Kirk to host a cake stall at the Roslin Fun Day, raising £275 for Christian Aid.

On a final note. To celebrate the Feast of St Francis on the 4th October, we held a wonderful celebration of all our creatures great and small where Father Joe blessed several of our family pets, including William the Cat. Well done to everyone who kept their little friends well under control during the service and well done Joe!!

James Cardwell Moore
Vestry Chair

Rosslyn Chapel Trust Report



News from Rosslyn Chapel Trust

We have had a bumper summer at the Chapel, with visitor numbers breaking previous records. Autumn has started well, too, and so we hope to stay busy as we head into winter. Our events programme for the coming months includes a variety of concerts, including a great choir, Portmanteau, on 4th November, with proceeds going to the village Brownies and Boys' Brigade groups. We are also introducing some evening visits, when visitors can enjoy the Chapel by candlelight and, with numbers limited, it's a great way to beat the crowds! Full details on the 'what's on' section of our website or leaflet.

We have introduced some new products into the shop over the summer including The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, with a Rosslyn Chapel jacket, a limited edition whisky and our own branded gin, called 'The Prince of Orkney' in honour of the chapel founder's

Orkney connections. At the end of October, we should have a new coffee-table style hardback book about the Chapel, written by Helen and Peter Rosslyn and featuring over 100 new photographs of the building, inside and outside. Along with our candles, mugs and cards, there's really nowhere else you need to go for all your Christmas shopping this year (and don't forget the Chapel Advent Calendars too...)!

The Chapel's grounds are looking smarter with the new grass settling in on the north side, by the green gate, and our programme of maintenance has continued with inspections of the roof at the start of this month. Collegehill House is open again for self-catering guests, following the completion of our first phase of conservation work and repair there; phase two, concentrating on the interior, begins in early January.

It's always a treat to welcome our new group of Junior Guides, the new P7 class at Roslin Primary, who have worked really hard in the last few weeks and will start to welcome other schools to the Chapel shortly. It's also good to report that the Chapel has been shortlisted for two categories in the Lothian and Borders Regional Final of the Scottish Thistle Awards, the main tourism awards in Scotland. We will all have our fingers crossed for the awards ceremony towards the end of November!

Ian Gardner

Director, Rosslyn Chapel Trust

Our Chapel & Our People – A Decorative Tradition



From Winter to Summer, Spring to Autumn nothing reflects moods so readily as flowers. It is within the Chapel that the ornate treasures of its carvings – like the lilies, roses and daisies – on its ceiling will inspire flower arrangers to complement them in their own inimitable way.



Our four-strong team of flower arrangers - Rosemary Buchanan, Sue Fitchett, Sarah Lansdown and Lesley Whait – and our indispensable Festive decorators Ann Buchanan and Jo Barrow are governed by the significance of the Church's liturgical year, beginning with the 1st Sunday of Advent (Purple or Red) when Father Joe wears the stunning red chasuble designed and made by Meriel Tilling. The Altar is resplendent with Advent colours on the Altar Frontal and Lectern Falls which incorporate Ann Mitchell's woven panels.





Advent leads us to the joy of Christmas (White and Gold) with our traditional holly and ivy decorations, our Advent Wreath and our sparkling Christmas tree. Amongst the sparkle and excitement of the Christmas season, we are also able to pause in quiet wonder to reflect on the Christmas story at our Nativity Crib before moving on to the Epiphany.



After a long winter it is lovely to feel the fresh growth of Spring coming upon us. Mothering Sunday usually falls in March when our Children's Church design cards and help to make posies of daffodils to bestow on all the ladies in the congregation. As we celebrate the new life of Spring we also enter Lent when we reflect once again on life and death. We move through our Easter journey of repentance and preparation; symbolised by Altar and vestments of red and purples until we reach Maundy Thursday when we see the Altar stripped of all embellishment; we are laid bare.



The Easter Garden on the Sutherland Tomb is created for Holy Week and help many to create a visual journey through that week. The euphoria of Easter Day is reflected by the celebratory gold and white altar and vestments; flowers once again adorn our Chapel and our Easter Tree in the Lady Chapel completes our decorative celebration of the Easter festival

The passing of Easter heralds the season of The Trinity. This sees the Chapel embrace green altar frontals and Merial's green chasuble and lectern falls.

This wonderful ensemble carries us happily through summer until we reach Harvest Festival. On Harvest Sunday we are always delighted to display the hand stitched Victorian Sunflower Frontal – this was rescued from the Crypt and restored in the 1950s by Jill Carswell and friends. Again a timely reminder of our traditions and those of the Church that are enjoyed through the generations, as a result of very special people who recognise the importance of preservation, celebration and conservation for all our generations.



In addition to all the riches of St Matthew's Rosslyn, last year we were delighted to add another treasure in the form of the Visual Lord's Prayer. This was envisioned and designed by Sue Fitchett, and everyone at Children's Church worked extremely hard over several months to create the individual

panels that would eventually come together to become the Altar Frontal that we think is very possibly unique. The idea grew out of wishing to create a lasting legacy to one of the founder members and guiding lights of our Children's Church – Jackie Marsh – who died recently after a long and brave battle with Cancer.



As we reflect on the year of the Church and its traditions we are struck by the unending support of those near and far within our congregation that have seen our small Church create so much beauty for so many to enjoy. Harriet Whitson's stitchery skills fashioned our much used velvet prayer request book; Belle Dieckfoss and her niece Darcy created and gifted with our much missed Theo Thomisson the Prie-Dieu enjoyed at recent summer weddings and will no doubt live on well beyond most of

us! Jill Black and Domhnall Deann tending to the conventions required for our weekly Eucharist service and make sure our traditions are cared for and nurtured into the future.

While the ethereal beauty of the Chapel and our traditions provide us with inspiration, we as a team who work with the flowers, are ever mindful to give Father Joe and the servers safe passage as they weave their way past our arrangements – which is no mean feat given the different levels of the Altar floor in our challenging but beautiful Chapel!

Rosemary Buchanan

A View From My Pew

As if I haven't had enough to cope with after a summer of endless visitors and photocalls, we now appear to have some guy called St Francis who feels the need to bless us all! Casting my mind back to previous years it does remind me that around this time of year I am plucked from my pew without so much as a by your leave and carried (rather unceremoniously as I recall) to the Altar for a blessing. It doesn't seem to have done me any harm to date and I quite like the idea that there is a Saint watching out for me and my fellow felines. However I do draw the line at dogs, and other pet forms that are now being admitted to the 'Blessing of the Pets' service that appears to have sprung up out of nowhere.



Mild surprise was probably the best way to describe my reaction to several dogs (in pairs!!) arriving for the Sunday service. At various points there was some noise ... snoring? were they attempting to join in the hymns? (some low howling could probably be a good thing given the vocal accomplishments of some of merry band of Churchgoers), fear? No idea but they didn't bother me in the slightest.



I will admit, it was a lovely day for it and while I wouldn't encourage this to be much busier in future years, I quite enjoyed the company. Sunshine, a bit of adoration and attention – quite rightly – and then back to my pew for a well earned rest. A reasonable start to my Sunday.

Mind you I was very pleased to note that cautious pet owners decided to leave badly behaved pets at home and the troublesome types were represented by photos only some sort of exorcism perhaps? Or did the owners return to the same old chewed wallpaper and favourite slipper I wonder?

Prayer for My Pet

*In your infinite wisdom, Lord God, when you created the universe,
you blessed us with all living creatures.*

*We especially thank you for giving us our pets,
who are our friends and who bring us so much joy in life.*

*Their presence very often helps us get through trying times.
Kindly bless my pet.*

*May my pet continue giving me joy and remind me of your power.
May we realize that as our pets trust us to take care of them,
so we should trust you to take care of us,
and in taking care of them,
we share your love for all your creatures.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

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SERVICES

Date	DAY	SERVICE	TIME
29th Oct	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong (last one of 2017)	10.30am 5.15pm
5th Nov	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church <i>(followed by 'Thirsting after Righteousness' in Old Original)</i>	10.30am
12th Nov	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church <i>Remembrance Sunday – meet at the War Memorial noon</i>	10.30am
19th Nov	Sunday	Eucharist	10.30 am
26th Nov	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church	10.30am
3rd Dec	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church <i>AGM – Noon at the Original Inn, Roslin after the service (no coffee)</i>	10.30am
10th Dec	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church	10.30am
17th Dec	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church	10.30 am
24th Dec	Sunday	Eucharist <i>Christingle Family Service</i> Midnight Mass	10.30 am TBC 11.30pm
25th Dec	Monday	Christmas Day Family Eucharist	10.30am
31st Dec	Sunday	Eucharist	10.30am
7th Jan	Sunday	Eucharist <i>(followed by 'Thirsting after Righteousness' in Old Original)</i>	10.30 am
14th Jan	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church	10.30 am
21st Jan	Sunday	Eucharist	10.30 am
28th Jan	Sunday	Eucharist & Children's Church	10.30 am
4th Feb	Sunday	Eucharist	10.30 am

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MATTHEW'S	
Ministry team	
Revd Dr Joe Roulston <i>Priest in Charge</i>	0131 654 1068
Isla Shanks <i>Lay Reader</i>	0131 440 2463
Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Reader</i>	-
Rosie Wild <i>Prayer Ministry Leader</i>	0131 664 3196
Vestry	
James Cardwell Moore <i>Chair of Vestry</i>	0131 448 1935
Mike Fitchett <i>Vestry Secretary</i>	0131 440 4569
Ian McLeish <i>Treasurer</i>	0131 667 6561
Jo Barrow <i>People's Warden</i>	0131 440 2136
Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Representative</i>	-
Rosie Wild <i>Alternative Lay Representative</i>	0131 664 3196
Shonagh Toulouse <i>Priest's Warden</i>	0131 629 9020
Anne Buchanan	
Jill Black	0131 443 2116
Belle Dieckfoss	0131 440 2824
Susan Prenter	0131 667 4635
Doris Nelson	-
Jill Black <i>Sacristan</i>	0131 443 2116
Domhnull Dean <i>Sacristan</i>	0754 0657 360
Jacqui Roulston <i>Grapevine editor</i>	0131 654 1068
Rosemary Buchanan <i>Flowers</i>	0131 440 0952
Rosslyn Chapel Trust	0131 440 2159