



GRAPEVINE

St Matthew's Rosslyn – Winter 2020 Issue 95



Vicarage View

All Saints 2020

The 8th verse of the 5th chapter of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God".

We have recently celebrated the Feast of All Saints. The day after, we remembered, All Souls' Day when we honoured all the faithful departed. These are important Days in the Kalendar of the Catholic Church as a whole. I therefore wish to talk about the Saints in this article.

In Matthew and Luke's version of the Beatitudes - so-called because of the verses all beginning "Blessed are", for which beatified is another word. Jesus' words teach us all how we should live, we should be humble, gentle, on the side of justice, we should be merciful, peacemakers, and defenders of the faith. These are qualities which we associate with The Saints with a capital "S". These are also supremely Christian qualities and for me to elaborate upon our Lord's clear message would be to over-egg the pudding. Instead, I am going to take a line from the Creed.

"And I believe in the Communion of Saints". Oh do we really? We all say it every Sunday in life, but perhaps as it



is in the Creed we don't really take a lot of notice. I want to consider what that sentence - "And I believe in the Communion of Saints" - means. It does not mean that there are a few people scattered throughout history called Saints. What we are affirming is we believe that there is a Communion - a common union - in the Body of Christ. This affirmation was placed in the creed

to deny the false belief that death caused a separation in the Body of Christ and also that death was final. This attitude of "when you're dead that's that", is common in our day and age, but was also known in New Testament times. St. Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians has much to say on the subject. What this clause in the creed is concerned with is the spiritual relationship of all the baptized.

I think a lot of the confusion regarding the saints is generated by our restricting the word to certain great disciples and followers of Jesus. In addition, we get some further oddball ideas from the paintings, stained glass windows and stories; all of which suggest that these people were seriously strange and not folk you'd like to have as dinner guests. Perhaps this has been exacerbated by the industry of the late pope, St John Paul II, who canonized more saints than all his 260-odd predecessors put together, which led to one catholic journalist suggesting that All Saints' should be renamed the Dead Popes Society. Indeed, Pope Francis has just add Pope Paul VI to the list, along with Archbishop Oscar Romero.

The late Father Raymond Raynes of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield told a lovely story of his giving an instruction course during Lent in a Girls' School; "Can anyone tell me what a Saint is?" he asked. "Yes Father" came the reply "Its a dead clergyman! "It was depressing enough to be a clergyman" he wrote," without being a dead one to become a Saint". So having looked a little at the misconceptions and misunderstandings, what do we

believe when we say And I believe in the Communion of Saints?

As I said earlier, communion is common unity. The Book of Common Prayer means the book used in common in public worship. So communion means that unity which we have with each other in Jesus Christ. "Fellowship" might be another word for it, and it is a very important thing for it prevents us from an unhealthy individualism concerned only with ourselves and our own salvation. There are brands of Christianity which overemphasize our uniqueness as individuals to the detriment of our common unity.

There is nothing wonderful about being an individual, there is nothing special about being unique in one's genetic makeup; good grief, we share this with dogs, cats, rabbits, head-lice and the rest of nature! Where we differ is that we are persons. To be a person you have to be more than a biological creature, you have to be in some relationship with other persons, we are formed in the image of God; He is a social being as are we and we should be in relationship or communion with each other and with Him. This is the communion of saints. Saints in this context is used as it is

used in the New Testament. St. Paul says Ye are called to be Saints (not, ye are called to be dead clergymen!!)

Within this common unity of saints there are three types if I can put it that way. Perhaps, in this era of COVID 19, I should say three tiers. Firstly, let us start with ourselves; we are the "Church Militant here in earth" still in the process of trying to fulfil our baptismal vows and fight the world the flesh and the Devil.

Secondly, there are The Departed, those in whom the Holy Spirit continues His work of purification and sanctification. Thirdly are the ones we actually call "The Saints" - with a capital "S". These are not three separate things but a single, common fellowship with one another in Christ. This communion is eternal and cannot be destroyed - not even by death.

This feast day of All Saints is largely to give thanks for the lives of all those Saints with a capital S; they are the ones who have been wholly sanctified by divine Grace; and it is worth remembering that for everyone named and known to us there must be many, many more who are known only to God. Now we believe in the Communion of Saints and the

Resurrection, therefore these Saints with the capital "S" are living members of the body of Christ and therefore are our brothers and sisters in Christ as we are brothers and sisters of each other in the same Jesus Christ. It is for this reason we give thanks to God for them. The Feast of All Saints is not a roll-call of dead heroes and heroines. I will give you an example, which I have used before. There was once a young girl called Theresa who entered a convent at the age of 15. Nine years later at the age of 24 she died. When the rest of the nuns got together to write her obituary they could not think of anything to say. Did she do anything worth noting? No not really. Did she say anything worth recording? No not really. Well what did she do?? She did what she had to do as well as she could because she was a friend of God. She never did anything extraordinary or heroic but did ordinary things extraordinarily well because she was a friend of God. Twenty eight years later she was canonised as St. Theresa of Lisieux. St. Paul tells us we are called to be Saints and St. Theresa's brief life is a clue to how we go about it.

Note also, the way that the church chooses to give its thanks for all the Saints. We do it by a celebration of Holy Communion in which our

common unity is renewed in, and focused upon, the Body and Blood of our Lord. We give thanks for the example of their earthly lives (for those we know) and we give thanks also that they have won through their earthly toils and are wholly sanctified and living fully in the divine presence.

It is for that reason also we sometimes ask them to intercede on our behalf for Scripture tells us that the prayers of the just avail much. Sadly, this is often misunderstood by the Protestant churches. One of the great acts of Christian charity is prayer and, as we ask for prayers of each other, why not include the Saints also, as they are members of the same communion in Christ as we are - albeit they are more illustrious members. The fact that we can't see them or do not know them personally is irrelevant. In many churches whoever is leading the intercessions may well, in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, be praying for the bishop of somewhere in the West of Scotland and the chances are we won't know him from a purple shirt. But it doesn't matter; we are all of us brothers and sisters in Christ and therefore in each other.

Equally, I am entirely happy to ask for the prayers of the faithful departed to

whom I feel close and to whom All Souls is dedicated. The only difference is that I also pray for them as they pray for me for they have not yet arrived at that final destination. The departed continue their journey in a different place coming ever closer to the full presence of God, that sublime state to which the Saints with a capital "S" have already attained.

To conclude then: The communion of saints is not something complicated nor is it something only for Roman Catholics or so-called "high church" folk. It is perfectly simple, it is perfectly scriptural, it is a central plank of our creed. We are all of us striving to get closer to God in this life and probably the next, in order that we as a common unity of saints may eventually join those saints with a capital "S" in the full presence of God, those Saints who have washed their robes white again in the blood of the lamb as it is written in the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine. It is a long and, at times, hard journey and I have said next to nothing on how we can best go about it. That is because Our Lord told us plainly himself. We have his words as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

I may have told you a couple of years ago that one of my favourite anecdote about the saints is the one where a small and very bored schoolchild was being given a conducted tour of the great cathedral in Chartres. Suddenly, the sunlight came streaming in through a beautiful stained-glass window and the picture therein seemed to come alive. “Who are those people in the pretty window?” she asked. “The Saints”, replied her teacher.

When she got home the little girl said to her mother in a conspiratorial whisper “I know who the Saints are”. “Do you dear?” she replied. “Yes”, said the little girl, “They are the people who let the light shine through”. It is as good a definition as I have yet heard.

Father Joe

Loving Lord

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

Amen

Prayer: Mothers' Union

Image: Elizabeth Perry

Vestry Report



Beyond blockbuster films and best-selling novels, few of us could have imagined what the last six months was to bring. The global pandemic has touched us all. Many have suffered and some have paid the ultimate price. Our physical and mental wellbeing has, at times, been tested to breaking point.

National lockdown meant that our chapel was closed and no services, at least in person, were possible for over six months.

Thankfully with the support of the Vestry, the Rosslyn Chapel Trust, and the Bishop of Edinburgh we have been able to resume services from early October. Services have been conducted under strict social distancing measures, but it's been wonderful to see people return.

On a more positive note, our weekly services did continue and thanks to the wonders of technology have been streamed live via our Facebook social media account. The services have attracted viewers from around the globe enabling us to reach a new audience of 'followers'. This virtual world continues and even as we return to services in the chapel, we continue to stream services meaning that even those unable to attend, due to distances or other reasons, can continue to enjoy our wonderful Chapel. Our thanks must go to Father Joe and Jacqui Roulston for making this happen.

I hope your faith has helped keep up your spirits and given you strength over the last six months. Stay safe and well.

James Cardwell Moore
Vestry Chair

St Matthew's Rosslyn Annual General Meeting

Due to the current Covid-19 lockdown we have decided that there will be no in person AGM this year. We will distribute all the usual reports and documents online (and where required via postal service) for review by the congregation members who have opted into our distribution list

Rosslyn Chapel Trust Report



At the end of my last contribution to Grapevine, I said that ‘the current situation with coronavirus means that, inevitably, there will be some uncertainty but – all being well – we look forward to another busy year ahead.’ When I wrote that on 6th March, who could have predicted what was lying ahead? We took the decision to close the Chapel from 18 March, as tight restrictions looked imminent. Bookings at Rosslyn Castle and Collegethull House were also suspended from then and, of course, church services stopped. Most of the Trust team were furloughed, with just a few of us working from home, and I must record my thanks again to Davie, one of our Security Officers, who stayed for the duration of lockdown at Collegethull House and kept a close watch on our buildings and provided company – and food – for William!

The Chapel was among the first attractions to reopen on 15 July with a suite of new measures in place to keep visitors and staff as safe as possible. Perhaps not surprisingly, the main differences since reopening, have been changes in the profile of visitors, with a very significant reduction in overseas visitors and higher proportion of locals, and the huge drop in

numbers – in August 2019, we welcomed 29,983 visitors and in August 2020, we welcomed just 4,383. Each day is now split into different timeslots, each giving visitors 90 minutes to enjoy the Chapel and visitor centre and helping us to manage the numbers on site throughout the day and provide enough space for physical distancing. Encouragingly, the feedback from visitors has been very positive; it’s a really good time to visit, with numbers reduced so much, and it has been great to see Sunday services and the prayer ministry starting up again in the past few weeks. Looking ahead to winter, we are doing a few things differently such as holding a weekly evening visit to enjoy the Chapel by Candlelight, transferring our Junior Guide programme to the website and offering talks to local groups via Zoom. I am relieved to say that the Trust’s team has mostly stayed well throughout the pandemic although I’m sorry to report that William is receiving treatment from the vet for kidney problems, a common ailment in older male cats. He has lost weight and we are keeping the Smith family, his official owners, updated on him. William is keeping a much lower profile now, usually staying behind the scenes in the visitor centre but still seems happy enough with his variety of beds there.

After my closing line last time, I’m not going to predict how the next few months will be but please do encourage your friends and family to come and visit or browse through our selection of books and gifts in our website shop. You’ll find our Advent calendars and Christmas decorations there as well as 4 designs of Christmas cards, all produced specially for the Chapel. In the meantime, and as we get used to new ways of living and working, keep safe and stay well.

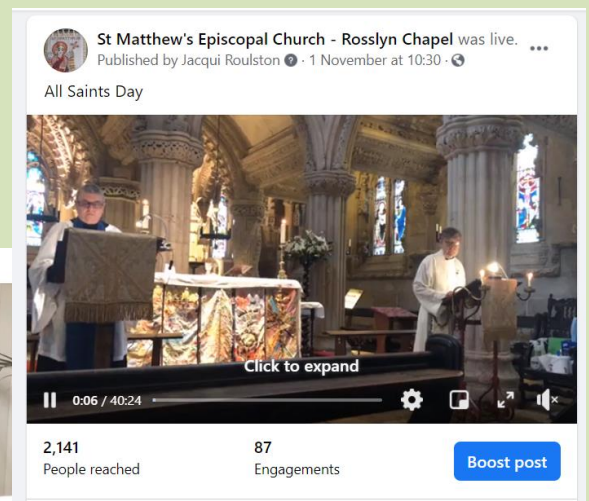
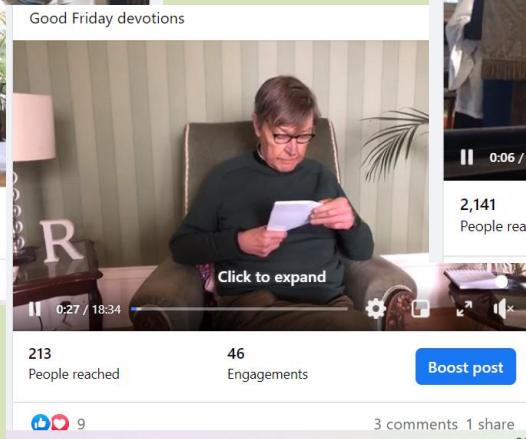
Ian Gardner
Director, Rosslyn Chapel Trust

Congregation Locked Down & Online



Thanks to everyone who joined us online for the Sunday services on Facebook and the Zoom coffee mornings – it was great to get together every week and chat about how everyone was coping.

After the first few weeks of Fr Joe saying Mass from home for everyone, it was suggested that we film the service from home. From our first live service from home on Palm Sunday to Holy Week daily prayers to the return to the Chapel we have had people watching our (sometimes slightly dodgy technology) from near and far. Lovely comments, lots of people watching with us and after the service.



News from Lockdown

Lockdown was difficult. However, being across Spring and Summer people we had more time outside and for some in our congregation their homes did not know what had hit them as everything was painted, cleared out and spruced up. Gardens also got some serious attention – most people who have a garden appreciate it much more now and realise how lucky they have been to have outdoor space during lockdown. Some have also added to the local outdoors with multiple fairy trails though Roslin, Rosewell, Bonnyrigg and beyond.



For many there have been difficult family separations, home schooling, leaving school with no fanfare, working from home, endless Zoom Friday night quizzes, degrees finished with no graduations in sight, coffee mornings, amazon deliveries, cancelled parties etc etc but we focus on the positives 😊



We have also had lots of good news about new congregation members (Freddie & Noah here to name but two) being born at a very difficult time – again family separations have meant that some babies are yet to meet their extended families but there is light at the end of the tunnel ... and we are confident it is not a high speed train 😊 As we enter winter and the days are getting shorter and colder the more relaxed lockdown across many areas will still be a challenge.



A View From My Pew

Well, that was a bit of surprise wasn't it? Last time I was here giving you the benefit of my opinion the world seemed to be the right way up - I was being overfed by multiple humans, I could sit where I felt like sitting (no booking or designated signs required) and I was looking forward to the usual tourist adoration that spring and summer usually bring. And then lockdown happened – apparently because of a Chinese bat.

During lockdown some of you will be aware that I have been quite poorly. Being at the pinnacle of feline perfection and physique I consider myself to be in my prime, so I had to ask whether it was not in fact coronavirus/COVID-19? Had I been infected by some human coughing on me? It would not be the first time if



the news is anything to go by. As ever, this involved further investigation so I headed off to the vet. She was pretty sure it was not the virus but wasn't so sure on the kidneys. Apparently, kidneys do not do well in older, larger cats, however as noted I do not identify as an 'older, larger cat'- and did have to question this diagnosis. So, she recommended a cat scan, try to lose some weight (cheek), and come back in 4 weeks.

So, there I was 4 weeks on, sitting (starving - thanks for asking) in the vets waiting room - with my kidneys - waiting for my results. During the very long wait, I caught up on my trash vet mag reading – interesting articles about how humans are coping with pets during lockdown and how pets will cope without their humans after lockdown. Obviously, the canine cousins will take it pretty hard as their humans who have been around incessantly for months go back to the office, but the article pointed out that for most cats, life during lockdown has not been massively different from their usual routine. This rather amusingly had been viewed with suspicion and panic by some home working humans who were worried that their cats slept all day AND HAD PHONED THE VET!! Seriously? Another worry for me was that vets were warning owners not to give their cats treats or feed them more often as they were all at home together for longer. At least one article was on our side “our cats had years of sleeping, eating and relaxing in solitude during the day, but now have us, and our kids in their space... ALL THE TIME!” Too true veterinarian mag – most cats are looking forward to a vaccine as much as you are so you can get out of our houses and back to wherever you go all day 5 days a week.

However, as you know I am not 'most cats' and I thought to myself ... I have missed my humans. While I have only seen some of you in small well controlled but empty handed batches over the last few weeks with your strange paper face-coats, I would like to say, well done for coping so far and good to see you back.

Keep the faith

William

Christmas Food

Start now! It's the middle of November so you only have a few weeks left ... get those sprouts on!

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 500g Brussels sprouts, halved
- 50g pistachios, roughly chopped
- 100g pomegranate seeds

Method

1. Buy fresh sprouts and prepare them with a wee cut on each one – laborious stuff (get minions, children or partners to do this as they probably do little else to help) or buy ready prepped – it's Christmas 😊
2. Heat some olive oil in a pan.
3. Put the sprouts in the pan, and fry for 10-15 mins, tossing occasionally. Keep that going until they look golden (blistered)
4. Scatter over pistachios and stir-fry until toasted – now they should look fabulous
5. Remove from the heat, slice if you like then tip into a lovely serving dish and stir through pomegranate seeds.
6. Voila – edible Christmas sprouts

Sizzled sprouts with pistachios & pomegranate



Ingredients

- 1 bottle red wine (taste test required)
- 300 ml fresh orange juice
- 2 tbs caster sugar
- Small linen bag with cloves, cinnamon, star anise, slightly crushed vanilla pods (or just buy one of those sachets from M&S)
- 150 ml brandy (taste test required)
- 1 clementine, sliced
- 1 apple peeled and thinly sliced

Method

1. Put the wine, a wine glassful of water, the orange juice, sugar and spice bag in a large saucepan.
2. Heat to what the cookbooks call a 'rolling simmer' – pretty bubbly but not manic - and hold this temperature for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Take it off the heat and stir in the brandy and fruit – allow to cool a bit before drinking

Mulled Wine (is one of your 5 a day)



'And People Stayed Home' – A Famine Poem. Kathleen O'Meara (1869)

And people stayed home
And read books and listened
And rested and exercised
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped
And listened deeper
Someone meditated
Someone prayed
Someone danced
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
Even the earth began to heal
And when the danger ended
And people found each other
Grieved for the dead people
And they made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of life
And healed the earth completely
Just as they were healed themselves.

SERVICES

| Date | DAY | SERVICE | TIME |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| Sundays | In person | Up to 30 people can book into the 10.30am service either by emailing or phoning Shonagh | 10.30am |
| Sundays and anytime | Online | Our Facebook live streaming continues weekly and can be watched if you have a Facebook account https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsrosslyn For those online but not with a Facebook account you can watch past services on You Tube St Matthews Rosslyn You Tube link | Any time of the day or night that suits you 😊 |
| All services below are subject to change based on direction from the Scottish Episcopal Diocesan guidelines and the Scottish government directives | | | |
| 8 November | Sunday | Remembrance Sunday | 10.30am |
| 15 November | Sunday | | 10.30am |
| 22 November | Sunday | Christ the King | 10.30am |
| 29 November | Sunday | 1 st Sunday of Advent | 10.30am |
| 6 December | Sunday | 2 nd Sunday of Advent | 10.30am |
| 13 December | Sunday | 3 rd Sunday of Advent | 10.30am |
| 20 December | Sunday | 4 th Sunday of Advent | 10.30am |
| 24 December | Thursday | Family Christmas Eve service (Christingle/Nativity) | 3pm |
| 25 December | Friday | Christmas Day Eucharist | 10.30am |
| 27 December | Sunday | | 10.30am |

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MATTHEW'S

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Ministry team | |
| Revd Dr Joe Roulston <i>Priest in Charge</i> | 0131 654 1068 |
| Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Reader</i> | - |
| 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 |
| Doris Nelson <i>People's Warden</i> | - |
| Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Representative</i> | - |
| Shonagh Toulouse <i>Priest's Warden</i> | 0131 629 9020 |
| Belle Dieckfoss <i>Alternate Lay Representative</i> | 0131 440 2824 |
| Jo Barrow | 0131 440 2136 |
| Joy Norridge | 0131 440 2826 |
| Roger Whait | 07593 641724 |
| | |
| 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 |