

St Ternan's 2015 Review

Winter: We started the year by closing the church sanctuary for a few weeks while we explored (ahem) the chancel arch leak. Worship in the Hall was cosy and comfortable thanks to everyone's good cheer and care of each other. Back in the church and watching for any signs of seeping water, we baptized Carver Porter, and bid farewell to several old friends: Rest in peace, dear souls. Parish Fellowship talks took us to Morocco with Sandra and Barry Gibbons, the Holy Land with Howard Scholey, and Charlotte Petty helped us explore our very own eyes.



LENT was launched with a Sunday School & Friends Shrove Tuesday pancake and pizza party at the Moody/Thurlow house. With the Lent series on the Resurrection, the Rev Dr David Greenwood prepared us for Easter, and we practiced almsgiving in the context of gratitude for all we have, keeping the 'Count your Blessings' programme introduced by Andy Bond. As always, the **CHOIR** enhanced our Holy Week and Easter worship with glorious music, with Simon Glenarthur and Don French offering their wide variety of gifts of music leadership to feed the depth and breadth of our souls. We opened our sanctuary for weddings and vow renewals, and baptized Ethan Mair.



Spring: The Parish Fellowship hosted Gordon Casely's talk on Heraldry in April, and led an outing in June to the newly-built Episcopal Church in Westhill. Your clergy serves you with regular visits and teaching in three primary schools and the Banchory Academy, and for Easter the Hill of Banchory P5's sent colourful thank you cards in advance of their annual church visit. Two examples of the youngsters' greetings - 'Thank you for teaching me about God' and a lovely rendering of Jesus, arms open wide spreading His peace to the world, with the excellent advice: 'Keep calm and love Jesus.'

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP met throughout the year, with Sunday morning stories, learning and activities for toddlers and primary-aged children; and monthly trips to Tease for the Academy-aged kids to have time together with wise and caring adults to talk about life and faith and everything. That and regular evening Youth Group events, ably led by Bex Collins and Sue Roberts, continue to keep our ever-more sophisticated teenagers connected to the church.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND MUSIC SHARED: Once again, the choirs of St Ternan's and Christ Church, and other local singers, offered tremendous support to the Diocesan Choral Festival at the Cathedral. We also offered the Cathedral regular loan of our Rector, Rev Canon Lisa Eunson, from April through October as they searched for their new Provost. David's ongoing priest formation includes work in other local churches, and our Synod delegates Jane Selwyn Bailey and Michael Price (Michael also manages our website and edits the Diocesan Newsletter) helped us share our gifts around the Diocese. Your clergy continue to bring communion services to Inchmarlo, Dalvenie, and individual family homes.



PENTECOST was particularly rich this year as we joined with Christ Church to celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of our much-loved curate, Rev Dr David Greenwood. With two Bishops, numerous clergy and lay readers from the Diocese and around the Province, and an amazing combined choir from several local congregations we fit full-scale Cathedral style liturgy into our village church with great style. Guests sent wonderful thanks, full of praise for the many gifts of our people which enhanced the day, and the powerful sense of the



presence of the Spirit with such rich liturgy on offer; not to mention the wonderful chilli dinner served next door at West Church sorted by so many willing volunteers.

Thank you, David, Staci, Rachel, and James, for a great excuse to love God and feed each other on so many levels.

SUMMER included a fund-raiser for the Scout Trip Canada, the annual church picnic (formerly Sunday School picnic) at Bellfield Park and a party to bid farewell to the Petty family, moving to Dundee. We also bid farewell to the Mannions, who moved to the West Coast. A reminder that life is a journey, and those we meet along the way the gifts.



Four **Pilgrim Walks**, offered in the spring and the autumn as part of our *Scientists in Congregations* project, included comments on the local flora and fauna by Ranger Aileen Salway, and theological reflections by Rev Prof David Atkinson and our own folks. The SiC project final conference was held here in November: *Exploring the Cosmos through Science and Theology*, with speakers from the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen.



Meanwhile, Lisa was facilitating programmes for our churches and around the wider Diocese on *Pastoral Visiting Development*, and our own lively pastoral care team took good advantage of the two-stage training. She also coordinated the Diocesan Autumn Conference on Vocation: *All Are Called*, with great assistance from Andy Bond, Andrew Nicol, David Greenwood, and others around the Diocese.

On Oct 4th Christ Church again joined St Ternan's in worship and priestly celebration, this time the 50th Anniversary of Rev Canon Rex Chapman's ordination. Our music was enhanced by a small orchestra of Rex and Margaret's grandchildren, led by Louise Counsell.



Other AUTUMN events included a five-session exploration of our call to spiritual action in response to climate change with St Columba's Roman Catholic Church, using Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* as a launching point. This group gathered members from around Deeside and Donside, and is reconvening in January for next step discussions. We also

hosted a listening exercise to consider various positions on how the Scottish Episcopal Church will respond to changes in the marriage law, an evening facilitated by Place for Hope and drawing over 50 people from our own and neighbouring churches. The Parish Fellowship took a trip to Thomas Ironside's woodworking shop, hosted a speaker from Horseback UK in October raising generous donations to that cause, and gathered a huge crowd of enthusiasts to Gordon Casely's second talk on Heraldry in November.

ADVENT began with another glorious Advent Lessons & Carols service with the combined choirs of Christ Church, St



Ternan's, St Thomas's, and friends from the Kirk and Catholic communities. David's Advent series explored The Incarnation, in preparation for a deeper understanding of God with Us at Christmas. Our church hosted the Aberdeen & District Organists Association recital in early December. **CHRISTMAS** services in the schools and our churches once again fed our souls, with folks coming from all around to join in. The Christmas Eve 'Midnight in Bethlehem' was especially glorious, with choir and candles. The

Christmas Eve Play, 'A Night in Bethlehem' (pictured here) told the story we love with joy. What a pleasure to see the teenagers still playing a part, and a new generation of shepherds, angels, and actors moving into centre stage. In addition to generous donations to the ministry of St Ternan's, our Christmas services also raised over £400 for Christian Aid in retiring collections, and close to £1,000.00 for Nadaikavoo with Friday Coffees, Christmas Card deliveries, the Alternative Christmas Card, Andy's Christmas cakes and Andy and Rosalind's sales.

Financial Support of Our Ongoing Ministries

The 200 Club

Rosalind Eames reports: With 114 tickets sold for 2015 I paid out £585 in prize money (Dec being doubled) and £800 was paid into the St Ternan's Church Fund in August. We would benefit from more ticket sales if I can interest anyone without a ticket so far. It is £1 per month, i.e. £12 per year per ticket, and is one way of raising funds for the church.

Gift Aid

Chris Fry, Gift Aid Secretary, reminds us: If you qualify for the Gift Aid scheme (by paying sufficient UK tax each year) you can add 25% to your donations by paying through the blue envelope scheme, or setting up regular giving via yellow envelopes or bank payments. Talk to Chris to know more.

Treasurer's Annual Report for 2014/ 2015.

The year past is one of which we can be full of thankfulness and pride. As we went into the year, at last year's AGM, I was forecasting a deficit of £23,850. In the event, your generosity meant that we only incurred a **deficit of £16,477**, less than the £18,000 that is our share of funding Rev Dr. David's annual costs during the curacy (July 2014-June 2017). At the same time, significant donations enabled us to invest in new hymn books, new clerical vestments, a new home communion 'kit' and a new church audio/ visual system, as well as completing the first phase of the chancel arch refurbishment (with the second, completion, phase in progress as we meet).

There were two significant movements in our capital funds. Firstly, the £22,000 anonymous bequest we received in 2014 carried into our books. Secondly, our long standing investment brokers, Brewin Dolphin, had to implement new charges laid down by the Financial Services Authority. Consequently, because of the relatively small sum we had with them, their charges would have been greater than our income from this investment. We, therefore, transferred the funds into the SEC Unit Trust investment portfolio. The most recent valuation of our total investments is £61,936. Finally, we continued to support the work of Rev. Christopher and the Naidakavoo School: this year we sent £925: in the current 2015/ 2016 year, however, we will be able to send more than this.

The look-ahead to the end of the current year looks pretty similar to the last, with a forecast deficit broadly equivalent to the curacy cost. Within this, there are many ups-and-downs: the Employment Allowance (covering employer's NI) increases from £2,000 to £3,000 from April (although HMRC are querying whether individual churches should get it); clergy pension contributions reduce from 34.9% to 32.2% of standard stipend; and we have overpaid for our electricity for 18 months, so the current year's bill is reduced. On the other side, however, our quota contribution to the diocese has increased by 12.6%.

You will see, however, that we have sufficient liquid assets to fund the curacy cost through to its end in July 2017, consistent with our forecast two years ago.

On behalf of the Vestry and the Finance Committee I have to say a heart-felt '**THANK YOU**' for your continuing generous support. With so many of our fellow churches struggling for numbers and funds, it is wonderful that we continue to be so healthy, and that we can continue to maintain and upgrade our sacred spaces.

We have, of course, a challenge to attract and retain young families. At least, however, we are able to provide the financial resources to help this critical work.

<u>£</u>	<u>2013/ 2014</u>	<u>2014/ 2015</u>	<u>Budget 2015/ 2016</u>
Income			
Congregational	48,363	50,783	47,600
Special Collections	2,322	613	
Investments	1,405	2,365	2,315
Gift Aid Tax Relief	10,623	12,362	11,125
Property (hall use)	4,980	2,720	2,500
Sub-total	67,693	68,843	63,540
Sundry – fabric/ charity			
Ministry Grants	4,893	17,191	18,017
Capital	22,000	29,875	
Total	97,656	124,288	84,057
Expenditure			
Clergy Cost	36,972	72,835	71,154
Property	11,286	10,990	7,573
Church	2,382	5,677	2,475
Admin	4,749	3,357	3,588
Charitable	3,195	3,189	2,500 (SIC)
Quota	6,837	6,995	7,898
Exceptional	3,031	7,847	6,000
Capital	22,000	29,875	
Total	90,452	140,765	101,188
Surplus/ (deficit)	7,204	(16,477)	(17,131)

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

<u>£</u>	<u>2013/ 2014</u>	<u>2014/ 2015</u>
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Account	4,934	4,019
Gift Aid Account	48,240	32,678
Total	53,174	36,697
<u>Capital</u>	37,880	61,936

Pastoral Life Events – Advent 2014 – Christ the King Sunday 2015

Baptisms

January: William Carver Porter

March: Ethan Dexter Mair

August: John-Philip David Stewart

Weddings *(At St Ternan's or celebrated by your clergy)*

March: Claire McKimmie & Jonathan Baskin

March: Stacey Emmerton & Luke Buskie *(St Palladius, Drumtochty)*

July: Lynette Lamont & Iain Anderson *(Coos Cathedral, Aboyne)*

July: Kate Rochford & Stephen Parkinson *(St Palladius, Drumtochty)*

October: Kezia Jones-Williams & Gareth Wilkinson

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

January: Marion Huish *(funeral at East Church as our own church was closed for maintenance)*

January: Max Paterson *(funeral at St Andrew's Cathedral)*

February: John Hargreaves

February: Christopher Pern

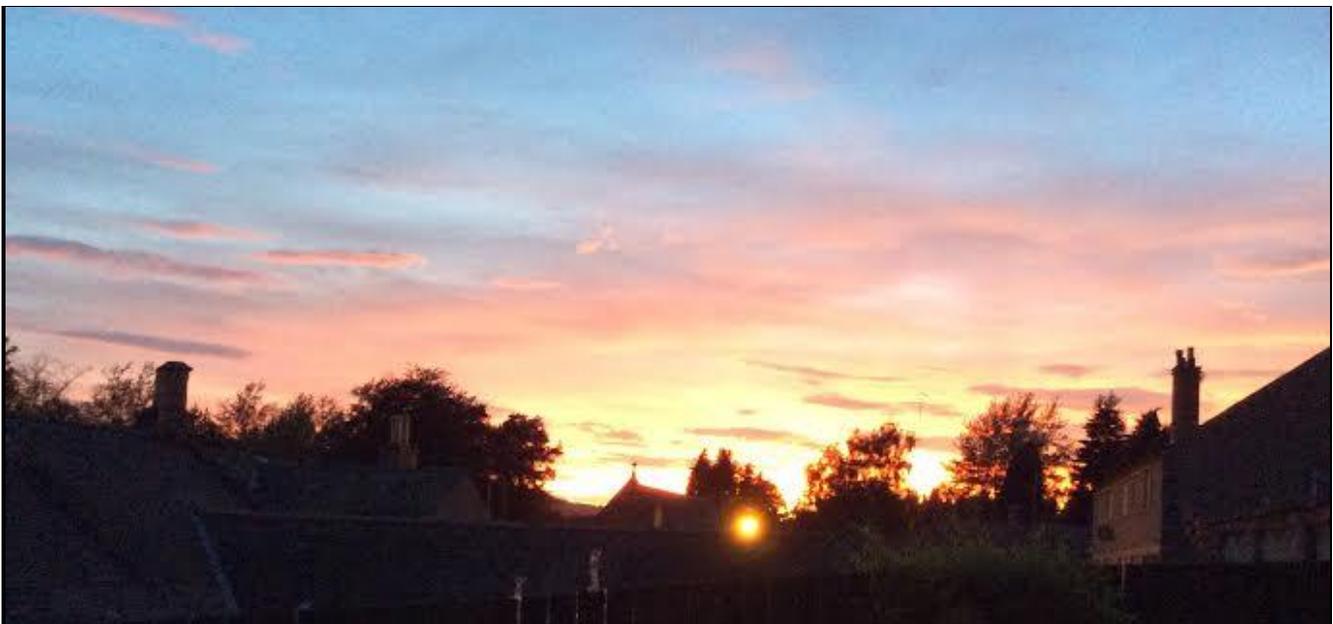
March: Peter Bell

April: Ian Cameron *(funeral in England; memorial gathering with Book Group in the autumn)*

April: Derek Craig

May: Hector Martin

May: Michael Johnson *(funeral at West Church)*



Sunset from the Rectory Office

Thank you all: to those who cleaned and polished and prayed and decorated and wrapped the organ and sang and read and studied and taught and led and served and preached and managed the website and sorted the rotas and welcomed and wondered and made tea, drank tea, made soup and baked and shared food and fellowship, and cared for the frail, the happy, the familiar, the strangers, the children and youth and everyone else ...

*And so we give thanks to God for all we have together,
and prepare our hearts for the adventures ahead.*

Want to get more involved, or try something new? As one of our Vestry members said recently about what it takes to be a healthy church: *To gain we have to give.*

Groups that Meet (and read and talk and pray and practice) Regularly

Prayer Group: Fortnightly - Wednesday evenings. Talk to Andy Bond.

Book Group: Weekly except holidays - Tuesday afternoons. Lifts available. Talk to Prue Wilson.

Choir: Rehearsals Sunday morning, commitment and audition required. Talk to Simon Glenarthur.

Volunteers always needed: Training available!

Pastoral Visiting Team: Talk to Lisa Eunson, Margaret Davidson, or Tina Hammond.

Flower Ladies: Talk to Tina Hammond or Gilly Whatling.

Sunday Morning Support Team: Welcomers, Readers, Sunday Coffees. Talk to Andy Bond.

Worship Leaders: Intercessions, Chalice Bearers. Gift discernment and training available. Talk to Lisa Eunson.

Sunday School Leaders: Lead or assist. Resources and training available. PVG clearance required and can be arranged. Talk to Sandra Gibbons or Maddie Thurlow.

Building and Grounds: We are blessed with three buildings and a significant plot of land which thrive thanks to the loving care of each new generation. Can you help with ongoing projects like painting, gardening, and other duties as required? Talk to Derek Whatling or Chris Fry.

Vestry Clerk: Willing to take minutes and put up with Lisa's corrections. Talk to a member of the Vestry.

Publicist: Help circulate information to wider community about weekly and special events. Talk to Lisa.

Saint Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church

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