

# Scottish Episcopal Churches of Wigtownshire

## St. John the Evangelist, Stranraer

# Church News Sheet

April 2020



Our monthly Church News will be suspended during these difficult times. This smaller News Sheet is available to all communicants who have provided their email addresses and on our website. As you will be aware, all future news and notices are being sent to you from our vestry secretary as soon as received.

**ALL EVENTS UP TO END OF MAY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**

We pray for all who have died from or suffer from Covid 19. We pray for all NHS staff, police, government, volunteers and essential workers.



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- FRIDAY 6th MARCH.**

The Stranraer United Service to mark World Day of Prayer was held in St. John's at 7pm on Friday 6th March 2020. A shortened service also took place at Belmont and Thorneycroft Care Homes. A service which was arranged at Coronation Day Centre had to be cancelled on the day.

Margaret Pratt welcomed more than 30 people to St. John's for the annual service which this year was composed by the Christian women of Zimbabwe.

The church was decorated with Zimbabwean flags and various African artefacts which helped with our understanding of modern day life in Zimbabwe.

Members of Stranraer Parish Church (Trinity and the High Kirk), St. Joseph's and St. John's took part in the service and many thanks must go to Hannah for accompanying the hymns.

The theme this year was 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with the Meditation based on the reading from John 5:2-9a.

Thankyou to Janet for help in the arrangements and to Don for projecting the hymns. The ladies of St. John's provided tea and biscuits after the service which allowed all members and friends from different churches to get to know each other.

Next year's service will be composed by the Christian women of Vanuatu and will take place on Friday 5th March 2021.

**Margaret Pratt.**

**Pastoral thought for the week from Rev Stephen:** Last Sunday was Mothering Sunday. Alas it could not be celebrated in church with flowers and children reading as we normally would. One of the hymns we had planned for at Greyfriars was "Now thank we all our God" by Martin Rinkart. He was a 17<sup>th</sup> century German pastor who wrote these moving words against the background of a severe plague in which he laid to rest thousands of his parishioners. How very relevant a circumstance. The theme for this week is Passion Sunday. There is a lot of passion around at the moment, good and bad. The traditional collect reminds that Jesus' passion leading up to Holy Week and Easter was entirely selfless for all of us. Just like the doctors, nurses and others who work valiantly for the most needy risking themselves - but towards a good outcome; "O God Who by the Passion of Thy Blessed Son hast made the instrument of shameful death to be unto us the MEANS of LIFE and PEACE". God bless you all. **Rev. Stephen.**

**Lent Prayer:** *Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from You the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, Who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on be God, now and forever . Amen*

" Pastoral care continues despite Covid 19 restrictions. Rev. Stephen Hazlett will continue to visit all pastoral emergency cases. Please telephone him direct on 01557 620132 / 07900231360. He will also be keeping in touch by telephone, and we can also pray together in this way. Hospitals and care homes will access clergy in extreme situations. God bless us all"

"Hazel and family would like to say a big thank you to St John's for all the kindness, help, support, prayers and flowers received since Chris's sudden death. I am still coming to terms with my great loss, but hope to soon feel strong enough to return to worship at St John's."  
**Hazel.**

### Prayer for April

Alleluia ! Easter morning,  
Hear the bells ring out,  
Feel the joy and new upliftment  
Banish fear and doubt.

Alleluia ! Gone the darkness,  
Feel the hope within,  
Onward to a bright tomorrow  
See the way begin.

Alleluia ! Share the gladness,  
Joy be unconfined,  
Gifts of wonder, love and beauty  
Fill heart and mind.

Alleluia ! He is risen  
Farewell darkest night,  
Death and sadness gone for ever,  
Welcome Love and Light !

**Hazel**

## Hazel

On behalf of everyone in St John's, thank you for the years of flower arranging you have done for us. We have loved your arrangements and the dedication that you have shown in adorning our altar to the glory of God.

### Floral arrangements

Welcome to our new floral arranger - José Bruens.

José has kindly agreed to take this on and will continue in the same way as Hazel. Should you wish to donate flowers for a special occasion or supply and arrange them yourself, please see José.

You don't have to be an expert - it's the thought that counts.

Thank you José.

### The Treasurer

The vestry are pleased to announce Rudy Bruens as our new treasurer. Rudy had been shadowing Chris for some time and has many years of financial expertise, so we feel very fortunate that he has agreed to take on this task.

Thank you Rudy.

## The Scottish Episcopal Church will broadcast the second of its weekly Eucharistic services on Sunday (29 March) at 11-00am.

The broadcast will be available for all to access on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#), from 11-00am on Sunday. Direct links will appear on SEC Provincial website in advance of the broadcast.

Further information can be found from emails previously sent and on Facebook and at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates>.

Our Interim priest the Rev Stephen Hazlett welcomes any enquiries from the congregation. Anyone requiring pastoral care should contact him direct on telephone 01557 620132 or 07900231360. or email - [stephen.hazlett@greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk](mailto:stephen.hazlett@greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk)

Also, if any members of the congregation are in hospital or need a visit then he should be contacted direct.

### [www.stjohnsstranraer.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsstranraer.co.uk) and [www.wechurches.org.uk](http://www.wechurches.org.uk)

Have you visited our web sites yet? Latest news of What's on, links to the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocesan site and includes the other charges in Wigtownshire. Various publications including past issues of the 'Church News', and lots more.

Now Inspires magazine on line [www.pisky.scot](http://www.pisky.scot)



Please feel free to contact me if you would like to contribute a piece for the Church News or any comments regarding contents of previous issues.

Contact details can be found on the back page.

Ian Taylor. Editor.

*The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.*



# Who's Who at St John's, Stranraer



Interim Priest in Charge	Revd. Stephen Hazlett	01557 620132
Worship Leader	Prof Ian M. Arbon	01465 841194
Pastoral Team	Mrs Anne McWilliam	01776 258518
Pastoral Team	Mrs Janet Peers	01581 400284
Secretary	Mr Donald Peers	01581 400284
Treasurer	Mr Rudy Bruens	01776 810725
Property Officer	Mr David McMillan	01776 707134
Deputy Property Officer	Mr Ian Clarke	01776 870441
Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults	Mrs Linda Highley	01776 810733
Lay Representative	Mrs Anne McWilliam	01776 258518
Alt. Lay Representative	Mr Derek Highley	01776 810733
Flowers Organiser	Mrs José Bruens	01776 810725
Pastoral Minister	Mrs Anne McWilliam	01776 258518
Organist (when available)	Mrs Hannah Arbon	01465 841194
Rector's Warden	Vacant	
People's Warden	Mrs Hazel Cain	01776 810487
Hymn Selection	Mrs Jean Ross.	



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