

St.Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Newsletter



 @SaintSaviours | www.saintsaviours.org

Autumn 2022

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on the day after the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, an occasion full of colour, pageantry and tradition which had at its heart, beautiful, uplifting liturgical worship. I remember reading that it is through our liturgy and our prayers that we Anglicans express our belief. At times it is lovely to return to the old liturgies which are so full of resonances for those brought up in the tradition, but it is important in our weekly worship that the language and content of our prayers reflect the tenets of our faith. This is why the Scottish Episcopal Church has updated the 1982 liturgy to include inclusive language and has introduced new liturgies like the one for the

Season of Creation which you are using for the first time at St Saviour's this autumn. Inclusivity and care for the natural world are two key aspects of the Christian faith which didn't feature in the liturgies of the past. Through the words of our modern liturgies, we declare our desire that everyone might feel included in our worship. In the prayers for the Season of Creation we express our understanding that we have been called to be responsible stewards of God's world.

Our Sunday worship is an important part of our Christian lives and it's good that members of all ages are now confident enough to return to church and get involved in the life of the community once more. Along with prayer, however, there needs to be a putting of our beliefs into action. The only way that we can show that we love God is by loving our neighbour. St Saviour's has a long tradition of supporting those in need in the local area. As a founder member of Start-up Stirling, St Saviour's led the way in the mid 90s when it became clear that support was needed for people entering a first tenancy after a time of homelessness. Ten years later, under the convenorship of your rector, Canon Dom Ind, Start-up became a provider of food for scores of local families who were unable to make ends meet. Over the years, you have continued to support Start-up as it has evolved to meet the wider needs of those in financial crisis.

This winter, the need will be greater than ever as a fuel crisis and a cost of living crisis coincide to create a perfect storm. And again, you are leading the way by setting up a Winter Drop-in to provide a warm, welcoming space for people who will be struggling not only with financial difficulties but also with loneliness and social isolation. As you put your faith into action, enabling others from outside the church also to show loving kindness to those

in need, remember that this work is another expression of what you say and sing and do in church on a Sunday morning. Both are inextricably connected.

I know that you would like me to express your gratitude to Vestry for acting on the proposal presented to them by Elaine Cameron, having recognised that it is a working out of one of the agreed aims which we developed earlier in the year, 'to be a church involved in the local community and serving the people of Bridge of Allan'. Vestry has also been supportive of the fundraising group who are doing great work in putting on innovative events, not only to raise money for the church and for charities but also to draw local people into the church buildings. The new heating system installed recently in the hall and the proposed kitchen facilities will make it an attractive place for community groups of all kinds, bringing much-needed income to the church.

With the support of the Dean and the Bishop, Vestry members are moving steadily towards the appointment of a new rector. They are currently working on a profile of the charge to be sent out to any priests interested in applying. In the next few weeks, you'll be invited to share your thoughts on the qualities you think would be essential or desirable in a rector of St. Saviour's. Please continue to pray for members of Vestry, Alastair, Alison, Bill, Jean, Liz, Margaret, Mike, Sue, Terry and Vicky, and also for each other and be assured of my prayers for you all.

With love, Nerys

Health and Safety

Sylvia Broomfield writes;

When I look back on where we were at the start of the year and compare it with where we are now, I am immensely proud of the progress we have made. Not only have we tried to make St Saviour's a safer place in every respect but also endeavoured to comply with the huge amount of legislation and the SEC guidance in a range of areas. I know many find regulations, procedures and paperwork tiresome but if we don't adhere to the rules we expose ourselves to claims of negligence and liability. This would be distressing and can also prove very expensive!

The area where you are likely to notice most progress is probably fire safety, We now have notices up in the Church and Hall (do please take time to read the evacuation procedures and note the escape routes and assembly point) Emergency lighting has been installed in the Church corridor and at the exit doors, and interlinked smoke alarms fitted in the Hall.

Policies are in place to protect both you and your data and you should be asked if you are happy for your photo to be used if you haven't already agreed.

Food safety and hygiene arrangements are being tightened up and with the opening up of the hall to other groups again, the kitchen is being assessed for modern expectations. We now need to consider allergies too and if you are providing baking for an event please list the ingredients that you have used. If you are donating food that you have bought this should already have a list of contents on the original packaging. There is a notice in both main hall and kitchen showing the commonest allergens. Please highlight things like wheat, eggs, milk for example in your list if you can.

The new heaters will be safer than the old gas fires as all electrical appliances are looked at in terms of risk as well as the running cost implications. All the portable electrical appliances from kettles, urns and vacuum cleaners to the sound system have now been tested for safety. Please do not use anything that you have brought in from home that has not been tested.

Before any planned event takes place the organiser should have completed a risk assessment and whilst it is never possible to eliminate risk altogether, steps will have been taken to reduce that to an absolute minimum. I am happy to advise on this.

Covid-19 will perhaps become more of an issue again as winter approaches and consideration will have to be given to that for the foreseeable future.

Health and Safety may well seem a boring topic but it is an essential part of our responsibility to keep everyone as well and safe as we can.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jean Kelly writes;

Hi there, to all present Prayer Shawl knitters and ALL new knitters who would like to join our team. As the nights grow darker and the garden is put to bed, it's time to dig out those needles and get back to knitting our Prayer Shawls again. Over the last few months, we have been able to give out another four shawls to friends of St. Saviour's community, who were comforted by these lovely shawls, knowing that someone has prayed for them whilst knitting this gift.

There is no time limit to how long you take, although it would be good to have a little stock of them for the future. We have a selection of beautiful wool in lovely colours and it really is a simple pattern of knit three purl three and repeat!

If you would like to get knitting again, or take it up for the first time, or indeed if you know of someone who should have one, please get in touch with me on 07715885582 or email jeankelly@live.co.uk



St. Saviour's 'Winter Drop-in Centre'

Elaine Cameron writes;

Since the Vestry approved the Winter Drop-in Centre project, we have been working hard to get it up and running. We have submitted an application to the Stirling Council 'Cost of Living Support Fund' and hope to hear from them in the middle of October. In the meantime, we are progressing with plumbers estimates and Food Safety guidance in order to bring the kitchen up to a compliant standard.

As you probably already know the Winter Drop-in Centre is our response to the 'cost of living' crisis which is expected this winter. It will be a warm place to spend time during the day, meeting old friends and making new ones; enjoy hot drinks and soup, perhaps play a game or even get together to do some crafting. It will be 'Free to Everyone', opening every Tuesday and Friday from sometime in November the opening times being 11am to 4.30pm.

Councillor Alastair Tollemache continues to be very supportive and has explained what the project is to the Community Council, he is also liaising with Councillor Dodd and 'Teas Company'. Start Up Stirling have confirmed that they will have a presence as a support service and we are in contact with HSTAR and Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Dementia Friendly who are interested in using the Drop-in as a signpost to their organisations.

I visited a similar café 'Peace and Jam' at St Luke the Evangelist Scottish Episcopal Church in Glenrothes where I was shown around and had a chat with Revd Gerry Dillon and Ross Stirling-Young Ordinand. Both were very supportive and gave me lots of advice plus broth mix and lentils to make our first soup. 'Peace and Jam' is a much bigger affair than we are planning, within a beautiful new building; but they are doing lots of things that we could do. In particular they have a craft group which is something we could easily do, especially in the lead up to Christmas. If anyone wants to visit 'Peace and Jam' at St Luke's it is open to all, or I would be happy to take a small group if that was seen as useful.

I am always pleased to chat to you about the Drop-in and love to hear about your own ideas. Ross said that one thing they did last year was to have a quiet contemplative time in the church (with lots of candles) once a week through Advent which I thought was a lovely, gentle way to bring new people into the church. We have lots of support and prayers are being said for us, I hope that the Drop-in will bring us all warmth and joy this winter.

Beetle Drive

Vanessa Berridge writes;

St Saviours organised a "hilarious night" as promised in the Church Hall, with 36 players competing, with some regard to the rules, all under the command (occasionally) of Ken, who did a sterling job keeping some of us in order! It was such good fun.

At half time we were amply supplied with refreshments generously donated by members of our congregation. What a feast!

Sandra's flower arrangement and Sylvia's cake were auctioned off to the highest bidders - Eileen and Angele.

The second half flew past and our final overall winners were Robert and Sam, with Christine delightedly gaining the wooden spoon!

We would like to thank everyone who helped in so many ways, making the evening such a success. We raised a total of £500.



Young Church is back!

Gillian Burr writes;

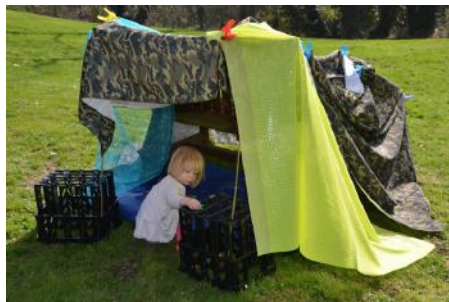
This Autumn Young Church with creche returns. We will be meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with the dates this term being 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December. We will meet in the hall at the start of the service - with the exception of 9th October where we will be in the church for the Harvest all age service. On the 11th December, after the service and coffee, will be the Young Church Christmas party, with the usual games and fun.

Although Young Church and Creche will only be running one Sunday a month, families and children are welcome every Sunday. There is a new child friendly area at the back of the church with a toy box and the chairs arranged in an informal circle that can be used for all, or part of the service.

We're back! ST. SAVIOUR'S YOUNG CHURCH

Second Sunday of every month. All welcome!

11th September, 10.30am
Den Building
Meet in the Church Hall



9th October, 10.30am
Harvest – All Age Service
Meet in the Church



13th November, 10.00am
Remembrance
Meet in the Church Hall



11th December, 10.00am
Christmas
Meet in the Church Hall



Lambeth Conference

Liz Wrathmell writes;

Since 1867, the Lambeth conference, a gathering of bishops from the Anglican Communion, has taken place every 10 years. Bishops gather together at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to pray together, to study the Bible and to hear the struggles and joys that each diocese experiences in their local contexts and to address issues facing the world.

The 15th Lambeth conference took place in July/August in Canterbury, its theme being Gods Church for God's World. By walking, listening and witnessing together, the delegates studied and discussed 1Peter which was the theme for Bible study. It called into holiness in Christ, a holy people following Christ: peace-making, resistance, resilience, suffering and authority in Christ. 1Peter is a book that does not shy away from difficult issues: It speaks about belonging, alienation, exile, slavery and persecution and as such is present in our world today.

Three countries, Uganda, Rwanda and Nigeria, controversially did not send a delegation. These provinces accused the Archbishop of wilfully ignoring the plain meaning of scripture on the gay marriage issue and the facts of church history. Archbishop Welby issued a statement and announced that the conference would not be issuing resolutions or statements but would instead be issuing 'calls' to be brought forth by bishops attending.

Ten calls were considered at the conference: Safe church, mission. evangelism, Anglican identity, reconciliation, human dignity, the environment and sustainable development, Christian unity interfaith relations, discipleship, and science and faith.

The outcomes of the conference are due to be discussed at the post conference meeting in Ghana in 2023. Further details of the Lambeth conference can be found at www.lambethconference.org.

We look forward to reporting on these outcomes next year.

Global Partnership

Three of us attended the Global partnership afternoon in the cathedral, convened by Bishop Ian in September. A variety of groups presented their situations, some of whom had attended the Lambeth Conference

Horn of Africa

We learnt from Bob Harley leader of the Anglican community in Ethiopia and looked at how the church interacted with the ancient orthodox church. The arc of the covenant arrived in Ethiopia in the time of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Though tiny compared with the orthodox and Pentecostal churches, Anglicans had worked successfully with the Nuer people who had been displaced as refugees.

Climate change

The theme here was to act locally and think globally. The diocesan toolkit was mentioned as a positive way to move forward. Area councils were in a good position to share experiences, good and bad. The aim is to be carbon neutral by 2030. We need to think more about our church buildings particularly regarding insulation

Truth or Dare

This was a game presented by two people from the diocesan youth congregation. It gave alternative statistics on the diocese of Amazonia where 8 clergy administer to a disparate congregation over a large area under one Bishop based in Belem,

Bishop Ian had met the bishop at the Lambeth conference and spoke with her over a video at the meeting. She described how the destruction of the Amazon Forest was affecting indigenous peoples.

Church in the Holy Land

The well known tensions were discussed by delegates who had visited many dangerous areas of Israel including St George's college where many staff are Muslim. Jericho near where Zacharius climbed the tree was also dangerous. Many Palestinian homes had been taken nearby by Israeli families.



VENUE FOR HIRE

CHURCH HALL: Seating up to 40 - Suitable for events such as fitness, craft or language classes and children's parties.

CHURCH FOR CERTAIN EVENTS: Concerts, art exhibitions and weddings.

The church is open daily. To view the church hall or to make a booking for hall or church please contact letting@saintsaviour.org or phone 01786 833559

For weddings contact Rev. Nerys Brown at rector@stmarysdunblane.org

For more photos goto www.saint-saviour.org/lettings

St. Saviour's Scottish Episcopal Church
Keir Street, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4AT

Hall Lettings

Margaret Price writes;

At the moment the dance class is a regular booking with the Vienna Horns using the hall occasionally. A poster has been designed with information about availability and lettings and will be put on the notice board, in the library etc.

For more information email at letting@saintsaviour.org or call 01786833559.

The Walking Group Trip to Dundee

Alastair Williamson writes;

The walking group recently enjoyed two days in Dundee, learning of its maritime and commercial history and enjoying the vistas of Tay estuary and Angus landscape in the late summer sunshine.

Anne had devised a packed programme of guided excursions and group visits to different locations around the fourth largest city in Scotland, enlisting the help of friend Roger Moulton whose inexhaustible knowledge of the cultural and maritime history of the place served to whet the appetite of all.

A walk in the streets of the burgh revealed so many architectural gems of intricately carved facades of wealthy Victorian edifices to quaint winds and streets that had been superimposed on earlier layouts around long-gone medieval castle and city gates. A massively refurbished and landscaped waterfront now dominated by the futuristic ship-like V&A building revealed a rich maritime history in Roger's narration.

Anne showed us the Slessor gardens nearby, in memory of missionary Mary Slessor (when she died, Nigeria named her "mother of all the people", recognising her devoted care for the poor and needy of that country).

Links with Stirling exist in that John Rothead, designer of the National Wallace Monument, also won a competition to build a triumphal waterfront Arch in Dundee, commemorating Queen Victoria's visit. Alastair talked about the Arch, sadly now demolished to make way for the sweeping Tay Road bridge that also frames the gateway to this city.

So many sights and sounds greeted all the walkers at every turn, fine buildings, views down streets to the glittering estuary and statues old and new.

Dundee the home of the Royal Research Ship Discovery, (docked by the V&A) has figures of penguins waddling by street corners - recognising the links with Antarctic exploration. Desperate Dan, Dennis the Menace and Oor Wullie figures mark the city's printing association with publisher D.C. Thomson and plaques as well as

statuary record Dundonians' contribution to medical science, social reform and literary or artistic prowess.

A highlight of the visit was a guided tour of the V&A, followed by dinner in the gallery's Tatha restaurant, overlooking the sun sparkled waters - a fitting end to a packed timetable of our visit to a city that has much to offer everyone.





ABBA

KARAOKE & SINGALONG

MUSIC BY: **DJ DEMON**

DRESS UP, DANCE LIKE THE DANCING QUEEN, SINGALONG TO THE MUSIC. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES - FUN FOR FAMILIES AND FOR ALL MAMA MIA FANS!!!

ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
FRIDAY 28th OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

TICKETS: **ADULT £15 - CHILD £1**

ADULT INCLUDES A GLASS OF FIZZ. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM **CAPTURE BOUTIQUE, LA FRENCH EPICERIE & THE STRATHCARRON HOSPICE SHOP**

SPONSORED BY: GUALA CLOSURES UCP BRIDGE OF ALLAN & WOODWINTERS - WINES AND WHISKIES



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Book Group Poetry

Sandra Rutt writes;



At our summer afternoon meeting in July, we met at Sandra’s house to discuss some poems by Brendan Kennelly. Iced mint and lime cordial was served on arrival, followed - after our discussion of the poetry - by Afternoon Tea.

You may have heard of him, but we had not so it was interesting to find out about this highly acclaimed and honoured Irish poet who died in October 2021. What strikes most about his poems is how full of life they are.

There is a wide variety of emotional and visual experiences in his poems. We all agreed that Kennelly brings his, and sometimes our, experiences, thoughts and feelings to the page (or recording). As you read or listen the voice comes off the page as freshly as if it is being said in your present time. Some of his strongest poems refer to memories of childhood: Poem from a three-year old, To learn, and I see you dancing Father. We discussed how these poems refer to times we can all tap into . There is a strong thread of recollection, of recapturing a moment in time with a

family member now gone. Thanks to Maggie, who supplied the CD, we were able to listen to Kennelly reading the poems. Here is an extract from I See You Dancing Father:

No sooner downstairs after the night’s rest
In the middle of the kitchen floor.

As you danced
You whistled.
You made your own music
Always in tune with yourself.

Well, nearly always, anyway.
You’re buried now
In Lisloughton Abbey
And whenever I think of you

I go back beyond the old man
Mind and body broken
To find the unbroken man.
It is the moment when the dance begins,

...
Whatever happens...
In the time I have to spare
I see you dancing, father.

This poem has a warm nostalgia about it but there are also very different poems which tell of the power of nature, of the environment. The short poems: Sea which has the voice of the sea reasoning, explaining its power and Begin were interesting. One of us began by thinking Begin rather depressing, but as we discussed it we decided it is full of the promise of new life! Maybe that viewpoint was helped by seeing the cakes being brought in..

Sea
I am patient, repetitive, multi-voiced,
Yet few hear me
And fewer still trouble to understand
Why, for example, I caress

And hammer the land.
I do not brag of my depths
Or my currents, I do not
Boast of my moods or my colours
Or my breath in your thought.

In time I surrender my drowned,
My appetite speaks for itself,
I could swallow all you have found

And open for more,
My green tongues licking the shores
Of the world

Like starved beasts reaching for men
Who will not understand
When I rage and roar

When I bellow and threaten
I am obeying a law
Observing a discipline

This is the rhythm
I live,
This is the reason I move

In hunger and skill
To give you the pick of my creatures.
That is why I am willing to kill

Chill every created nerve.
You have made me a savage master
Because `I know how to serve.

‘Begin’
Begin again to the summoning birds
To the sight of the light at the window,
...

Every beginning is a promise
born in light and dying in dark
determination and exultation of springtime
flowering the way to work.

...
begin to wonder at unknown faces
at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight
at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret
alone together while making good.

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.

Brendan Kennelly was Professor of Modern Literature at Trinity College Dublin. He has been honoured in a tribute from President Michael Higgins and with a Literary Archive held in Trinity College. We hope others will enjoy his poems as much as we did. We didn’t like all of them, of course, but agreed they are full of power and life... with some laugh-out-loud gems.

Pilgrimage

Alastair Williamson writes;

Saturday 20 August saw a band of pilgrims set out from St Saviour’s Church in Bridge of Allan to walk to the Labyrinth in the grounds of the University of Stirling.

This mini pilgrimage or “walk and talk” was part of a series of pilgrimages taking place across the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, led by Bishop Ian.

Pilgrimages are opportunities for walking together, reflecting and discussing - whilst appreciating the beauty of natural surroundings.

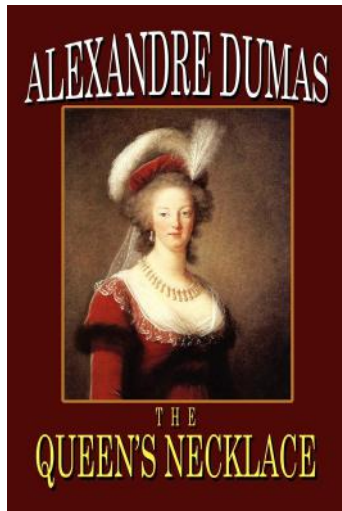
The Labyrinth is a fascinating feature set out in a lawn, by the Gardeners Memorial Garden at the eastern end of the University campus. In the form of a twisting path that leads the walker slowly to a central point, the Labyrinth provides an opportunity to clear the mind of troubling thought and focus on the present, centring in fact, a great opportunity for mindful relaxation.

After a good walk on Saturday, everyone enjoyed a packed lunch and coffee in St Saviour’s Church Hall.



Book Group

Alison Logie writes;



The Queen's Necklace By Alexandre Dumas

This is the story of Marie Antoinette's Necklace, set in France at the end of the 18th century in the court of Louis XVI. It's an interesting picture of life in the court, the protocol and the scheming that went on. Seeing the protocol involved in the arrangements for our Queen's funeral made the readers realise that life at court was not that simple either now or then. The book gave a clear picture of the circumstances that led to the French revolution. Life at court was rich and luxurious while the poor outside were starving. Even though Marie Antoinette visited the poor these gestures were not enough to hold back the tide of ill feeling towards the aristocracy. Our readers felt that the book was too longwinded and the translation not fluent.; that there was too much dialogue and the names of the courtiers were confusing. However, on the whole they were glad they had read it as, written by Dumas who lived shortly after that period of the French Revolution, it gave them insight into France in that turbulent time.

St Saviours Groups and Organisers

Ministry and Pastoral Team: Rev Nerys Brown (Interim Pastor)

Prof Nick Price (Lay Reader) - Sue white (Lay Reader)

Vestry Members:

Alastair Duncan, Robert Franks, Michael Horne, Jean Kelly, Alison Logie, Bill Logie, Vicky McDowell, Terry Moran, Sue Power, Margaret Price & Elizabeth Wrathmell

Child Protection & PVG:

Sue Power

Treasurer:

Bill Logie

Young Church:

Sue White

Craft and Knitting Groups:

Sue Horne

Gillian Burr

Prayer Shawl Group:

Jean Kelly

Jean Kelly

Flower Group:

Sandra Rutt

Communications:

Alastair Duncan

Angèle Franks

Magazine:

Alastair Duncan

Andrew McDowell

Jacquie Macpherson

Environmental Co-ordinator:

Elaine Cameron

Church Cleaning:

Christine Caldwell

Church Garden:

Maggie Moss

Rectory Garden:

Terry Moran

Pew Slip:

Sandra Rutt

Readers:

Graham Barratt

Music:

Sue Horne (Choral)

Alastair Duncan (Machine)

Welcomers:

Margaret Price

Safety Officer:

Sylvia Broomfield

Intercessions:

Alastair Williamson

Fabric Team:

Brian Bridgewater

Melvin White

Michael Horne

Bin Czar:

Liz Coleman

Property Letting:

Terry Moran

Walking Group:

Anne and Alastair
Williamson

Elaine Cameron

Margaret Price

Sylvia Broomfield



St.Saviour's Secretary e-mail address: secretary@saint-saviour.org

If you need a priest, please contact
Rev Nerys Brown at St.Mary's Church Dunblane Tel. 01786 824225

