

St.Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Newsletter



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Summer 2023

Dear Friends,

If you were to be asked to think of an image that sums up for you what Church should be like, I wonder what it would be. I would probably choose Andrei Rublev's famous icon painted early in the fifteenth century for the monastery of the Holy Trinity of St Sergius, the most important spiritual centre of the Russian Orthodox Church. You may have heard in the news that it was moved last month against the advice of its restorers, to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow, a gift from President Putin to Patriarch Krill, one of the most vocal supporters of his invasion of Ukraine.

Icon writers usually stick to age-old ways of portraying a subject but with this work, Rublev broke new ground. He used the famous account of Abraham's hospitality towards three mysterious travellers in Genesis chapter 18 to depict the Holy Trinity. In order to do this, he stripped away the detail of the story included in traditional icons, leaving only the house, the tree and the mountain which become rich symbols of the story of salvation. These form a backdrop to the three winged figures sitting in silent conversation around the table. Each of the visitors is identical apart from their clothing and hand gestures which identify them as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Each looks to the other and as we follow their gaze, a shape is revealed, a mysterious circle of love which represents the unity of God.



Within the circle there is an empty space at the front of the painting. It invites us to step in, to take our place at the table and accept the hospitality of God so that we are able to offer hospitality to others. For Rublev and his fellow monks, hospitality would have been at the heart of what it meant to be a Christian community. They knew that, in order to grow as followers of Christ, we need to welcome strangers, inviting them to join us at our table and also accepting their invitation to us. This kind of hospitality involves being open to see God in all others and to respond to their needs. It is costly and risky. It is the way of the Cross.

Right at the centre of the icon of the Holy Trinity is a dish. The hand gestures of the three figures reveal it to be a symbol of God's self-giving which we are called to imitate. God the Son in the centre is pointing to it with two fingers making it his own. God the Father is blessing it, while God the Holy Spirit is pointing to the small opening in the front of the altar. This is where the bones of the martyrs would

be kept. According to Henri Nouwen, it represents the narrow road which leads to God's house. It is also the base of the shape of a cross formed by the dish, the Christ figure and the Tree of Life above him and of the heads of the Father and the Spirit. In the icon, the circle and the cross are inseparable. They remind us that on the narrow path, there is no joy without sorrow, no gain without loss, no life without death.

This way of living for others to which we, the Church, are called, can only be sustained by prayer and worship. The dish which represents the self-giving of God is also the communion vessel from which we receive when we gather together Sunday by Sunday for the Eucharist. We need its nurture just as we need each other, in order to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

You as a congregation are remarkable in your readiness to offer deep hospitality to all who come through the doors of St Saviour's, be they international students and their families, clients of the Drop-in Centre or members of the wider community who support your fundraising events. As members of your Vestry prepare to invite candidates to sit with them around a table to discern together whether God is calling them to the position of Rector of St Saviour's and St Modoc's, I invite you to pray daily for wisdom and insight for both interviewers and interviewees. Pray also that as you embark on a new season in the history of your church, you would together continue to seek to give and receive hospitality, guided and fuelled by our hospitable God. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter information about the great work that is being done to improve the Rectory, reports on the amazing fundraising events that have drawn many local people into the church and the hall, and also an appeal for you to increase your financial contribution to St Saviour's if you are able. I would ask you to read the latter prayerfully and take time to consider what you are able to offer to the life of the church.

Please be assured of my continuing prayers for you all.

With love, Nerys

News from the Vestry

Alastair Duncan writes;

An advertisement for the new rector was published in The Church Times on 9 June. The closing date for applications is six weeks after that. A date for interviews has not yet been fixed. Given that candidates are likely to have to give three months notice, we can hope to have a rector in place before Christmas but perhaps not long before.

The appointing committee is formed of three representatives from each church, St Modoc's and Saint Saviour's: the Secretary, the Treasurer and one other member of the Vestry, in our case Alastair Duncan, Bill Logie and Vicky McDowell. Applications are received by the Bishop and suitable applications forwarded to the appointing committee. It draws up a short list of candidates which will then be discussed by each Vestry as a whole. Following the interviews, the Vestries will again have the opportunity to hear from their representatives before a choice is made. Both Vestries have to agree on the choice.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the rectory to bring it up to standard for the new rector. The inside has been almost completely repainted. Attention to the roof tiling and skylights is in hand, as is the scraping and painting of the rones and drain pipes. Additional jobs include enhancement of the en suite, a firewall in the attic, loft installation, secondary glazing, and insulating wallpaper in the chilly rooms upstairs. All except the insulating wallpaper should be suitable for grant assistance from the Diocese, but precise figures cannot be established until September. The remainder will be shared 50/50 between St Saviour's and St Modoc's. The whole project is being managed by Malcolm Cordwell-Smith of St Modoc's to whom the we are profoundly grateful.

Kelvin Holdsworth's 25th Anniversary

Alastair Duncan writes;

On Friday 2 June, five of us from Saint Saviour's attended the eucharist in St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow which celebrated the 25th anniversary of Kelvin's priesting. What a glorious event it was, full of music, colour, drama and diversity. Joy, said our former rector and current Provost of the Cathedral, was to be its keynote, and so it was: Kelvin's own visible enjoyment of the event was captivating and infectious, not least in the procession which concluded the service. Up and down the church proceeded the thirty-strong choir, the clergy and servers, the Bishop of Glasgow (followed by his mitre bearer), then a server walking backwards swinging the thurible whose smoke and smell filled the air, and finally Kelvin himself holding high the precious Monstrance. We bowed or knelt each time the Monstrance passed. When finally, Kelvin laid it back on the altar, what a ringing of bells and beating of drums. The most affecting moment, however, came earlier. From the ceremony 25 years previously, Kelvin recalled the moment when the presiding Bishop poured oil on his hands as a sign of his calling. Rather than retake his vows – though in effect he did so in his moving homily – Kelvin requested the Bishop of Glasgow to repeat that simple gesture, which he did while we stood silent, grateful for all Kelvin has done in his 25-year ministry and what, with undiminished energy and commitment, he will go on to do.

“Let's Get Together” Again.

Vanessa Berridge writes;

We're continuing to have an open invitation to our “Let's Get Together” time where we just sit and natter over a tea or coffee and enjoy being in each other's company. It's at John and Vanessa's home and if the weather is kind we'll be out in the garden. We do hope you'll join us, and feel free to bring a friend. We will advertise the next one in our weekly pew sheet and in the church diary located on the table just inside the church door. Please phone 07740178689 if you need more details.

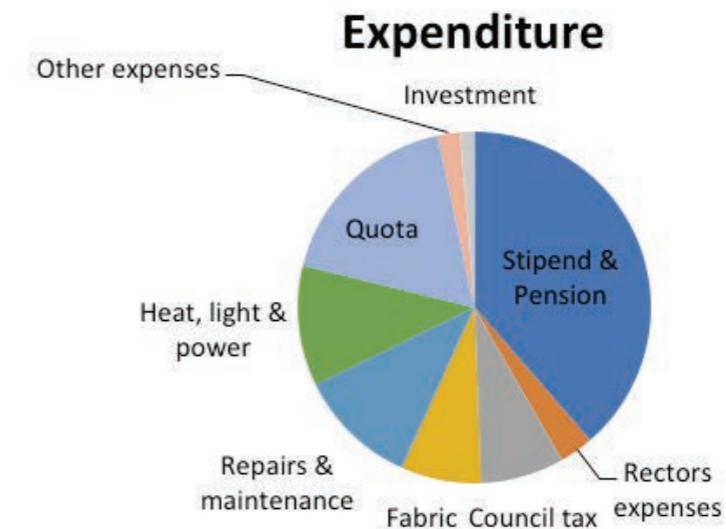
Funding St Saviour's - Report and Appeal from the Treasurer

Bill Logie writes;

How much do you spend on a cup of coffee per week – and a cake? £5? £6?



Did you know that the congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church pay the Rector's stipend directly? All the repairs, heating and lighting and other expenses come from our pockets. In addition, we contribute (through the so-called “Quota”) to the expense of the Diocese and the Scottish Episcopal Church in general. These costs, making allowance for the shared contribution from St Modoc's, total around £62,000 per year. The Pie chart below shows where our expenditure goes.



The absence of a rector over the last 18 months has enabled us to rebuild our reserves, depleted after repairing the dry rot in the hall and rectory. We have upgraded the hall kitchen and, helped by a grant from the Diocese, installed secondary glazing downstairs in the church hall. With the participation of St Modoc's, we are redecorating and refurbishing the rectory to make it fit for the new rector. By 2030 the Scottish Episcopal Church aims to go carbon neutral. This means that our reserves will quite shortly be needed to help eliminate gas from our heating. In addition, it would be very desirable to bring the upstairs rooms of the hall back into use by providing an extra means of access which will satisfy fire regulations.

On current projections we can hope in the next financial year to receive income of up to the £62,000 required. That income comes in part from special donations, fundraising events, hall and church lettings and grants towards fabric expenditure. This year to date we have raised £436 from the Bingo night, £435 from the jazz concert, and the hard work on the Scottish Gardens Day yielded £700. The bulk of our income however comes from annual regular giving. In this respect there is a worrying trend. In the last financial year regular giving fell by £1000 to £50,000, while at the same time we expect inflation to add £8000 to our annual costs.

We therefore very much need to increase our annual giving to ensure a stable future for St Saviour's and a warm welcome for our new rector. One important way to do this is to spread the word, to welcome and encourage new members to join us. Another is to reflect on our own contributions. Can we give up that weekly cup of coffee and donate it instead to St Saviour's?

Do you know that, if you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your giving and so increase the amount you give to Saint Saviour's by 25% with no cost to yourself? Gift Aid forms are available at the back of the church. The church account is Saint Saviour's Church Vestry, Sort code 80-05-81, and the account number is 00714871. Please contact me (treasurer@saint-saviour.org; 01786 833631) either to amend the amount you Gift Aid or to start Gift Aiding. I need to have the form with your signature in order to claim the Gift Aid. Many thanks.

The Winter Drop-in Update

Elaine Cameron writes;

Our first six months of running the Winter Drop-in Centre is complete and we finished with a celebration and thank you for our volunteers which included cake and, of course, soup.

Our volunteers have all been brilliant, bringing lots of different skills and contributing in too many ways to list. Thanks to everyone.

We have achieved a great deal since we first went into the Church Hall for a meeting with Councillor Tollemache last summer. The hall is now cosy and welcoming and there are tangible benefits that we can share and build on.

The funding we received has not only run the Drop-in Centre but provided a small regular income to the Church Hall and we have set aside enough funds to be able to provide a service again next winter. We are closed now and will re-open in early November, aiming to run until the end of April 2024.

There have been many benefits. A small community has been created, new friends made, old friends re-connected. We have been there for some who were in crisis and provided information and introductions to help to others. The Church community has expanded, including those who prefer not to attend church but nevertheless enjoy helping at our activities and events and are actively supporting the Church's work in the larger community.

We are now looking forward to meeting our new Rector and to another exciting six months of Drop-in fun over the coming winter.

Thank you to all Drop-in Centre supporters, volunteers, and visitors alike, and if anyone feels that they would like to become more involved, or has any ideas for the future, please just get in touch with any of our volunteers or myself.

Until November, I wish you many happy summer days.



Fundraising

Alison Logie writes;

Events: There have been two very successful fundraising events recently – the Open Gardens Day on Sunday the 21st of May and Jazz in the Church on the 2nd of June. You can read all about them elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recycling for Good Causes: We now have a box in the Church Hall to collect certain items – jewellery, coins and currency, mobile phones, cameras, gadgets and stamps. When we have a minimum of 10kg a person from the charity will collect the bag and send us money for the items.

Car Boot sale at Lecropt: We are thinking of taking a car to the Car Boot sale at Lecropt. So, if you have any items, anything, that we could sell speak to Alison Logie, Terry Moran and Vanessa Berridge.

Marmalade and cards: We're very grateful to Sylvia for continuing to produce marmalade and cards which make between £400 and £500 per annum. A wonderful contribution.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jean Kelly writes;

The Venerable Peter Potter conducted a Blessing Service on 19th March, Mothering Sunday, for the knitters. The completed shawls and those in progress were on display for the congregation to see.

The knitting needles are more at rest at this time of year, but if anyone would like to join our team I have a supply of lovely colours of yarn, ready to be completed at your leisure.

I have three shawls ready to go to anyone who is in need and would benefit from this ministry. Please get in touch with me at Jeankelly@live.co.uk or phone me on 07715885582 if you are interested.

Young Church News

Gillian Burr writes;

Back on Easter Sunday, after the service we had fun hunting for eggs in the church garden and it was lovely to see all the decorated Easter bonnets, and this year, Easter crowns too. We also made use of the church garden at the Coronation weekend, with the children getting to play games there, as part of the overall church celebrations.

Young Church continues to meet each week. Most weeks we meet in the hall at the start of the service, however, when there are All Age Services, we meet in the church. The next All Age Service will be on 25th June where we will be thinking about St Peter.

We will be taking a 5-week break over the summer holidays. Our last Sunday will be the 2nd of July where we are planning an end of term trip to the play park. We will meet in the hall at the usual time and head to the park from there. We will start back after the summer on the 13th of August with activities in the church garden.

St. Saviour's Young Church: June to August

04/06/2023	Sarah and Beth	
11/06/2023	Gillian (and James)	
18/06/2023	Jean and Gillian	
25/06/2023	All Age	
02/07/2023	Everyone available	Park visit with juice and crisps
09/07/2023	No YC	
16/07/2023	No YC	
23/07/2023	No YC	
30/07/2023	No YC	
06/08/2023	No YC	
13/08/2023	Everyone available	Garden activities inc. Den building 

Open Gardens and Scotland's Garden Scheme

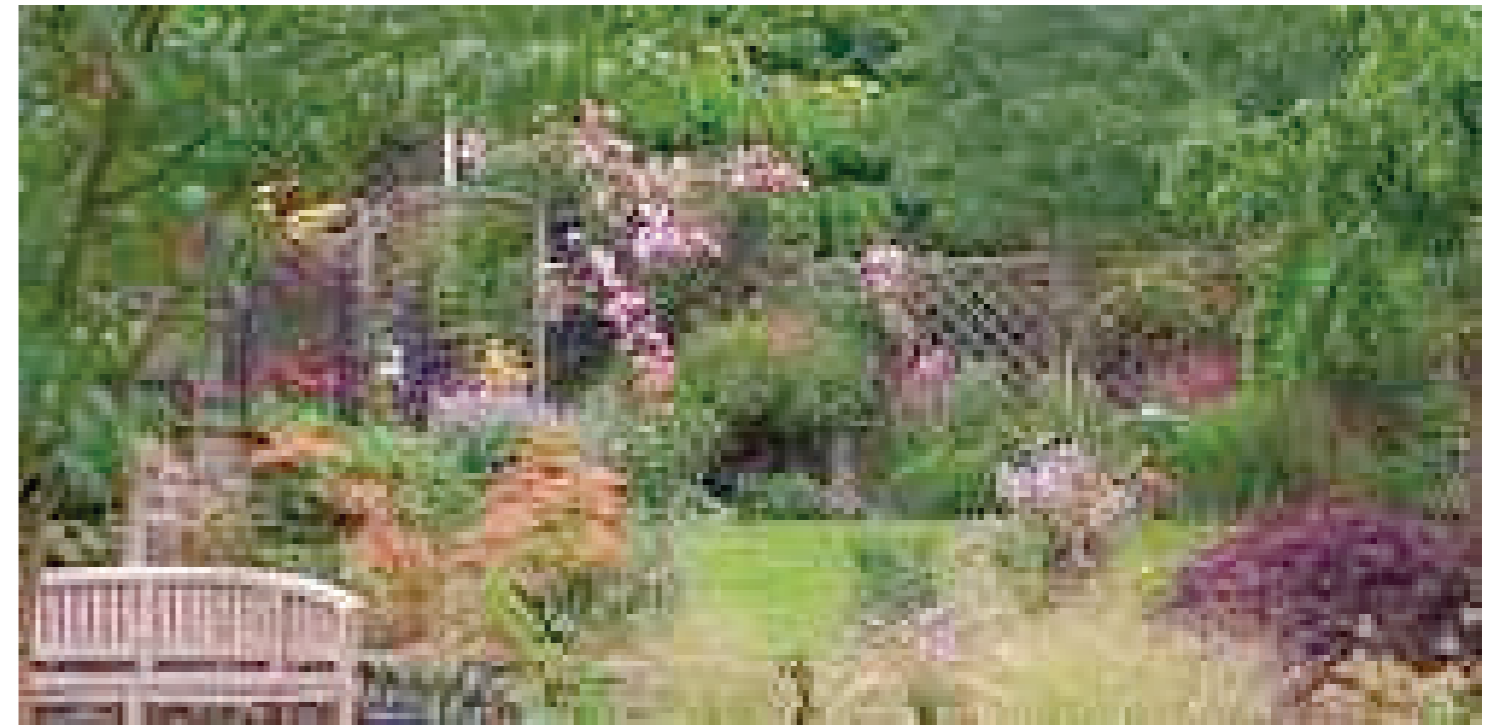
Sylvia Broomfield writes;

As far as I am aware, gardens in Bridge of Allan first opened for Charity under Scotland's Garden Scheme in 2006. They were featured on "Beechgrove Garden" as it was the 75th Anniversary of the SGS and they had a garden that had opened every one of those years and ours that were opening for the first time. If you are on YouTube, search for "Bridge of Allan Gardens". Since then anything between three and nine gardens (and sometimes the Allotments as well) have opened every year except during the pandemic. Three members of the congregation have opened their gardens several times and once under Anna Ind's care, the rectory garden took part too.

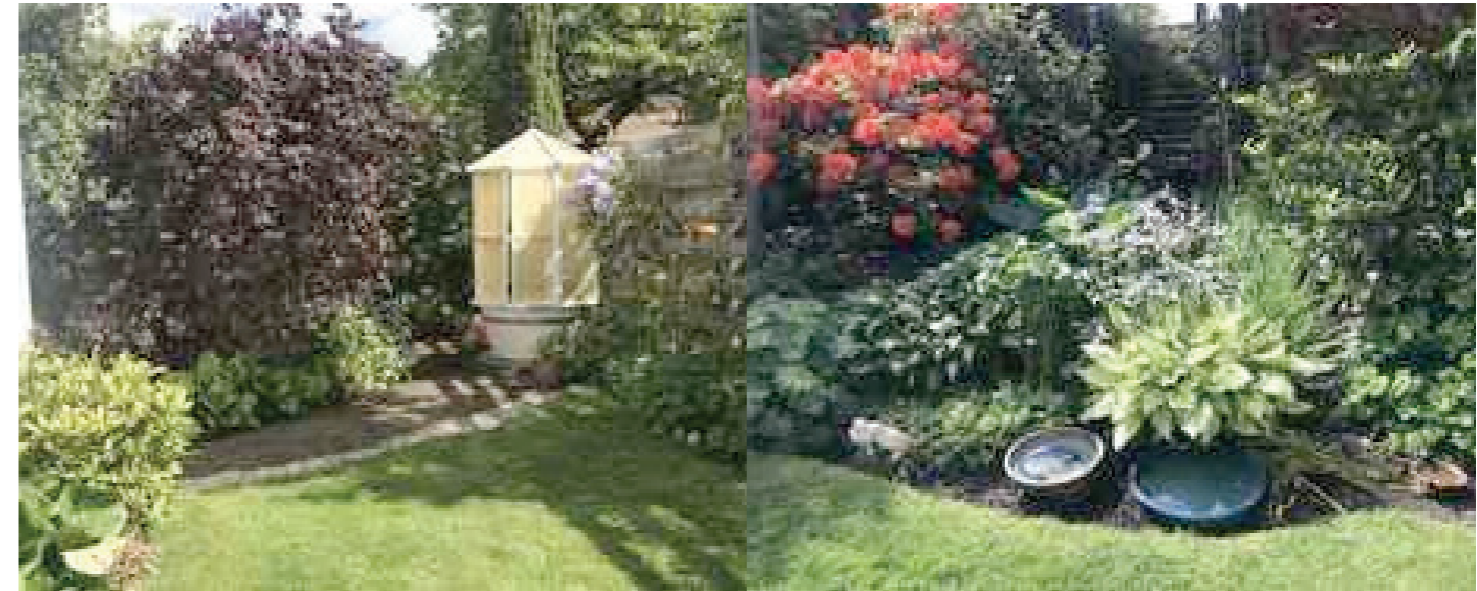
On Sunday 21st May this year, eight gardens were open. Beechgrove again decided to film a "village" opening and Bridge of Allan was chosen. Three differing gardens were selected by TERN and they and their owners were filmed on the Saturday and then again with their visitors on the following day. General shots were filmed around Bridge of Allan and its parks, including drone film over the Allan Water and pictures of the Castle and Monument. They filmed in the Church garden where the Plant Stall was busy doing a good trade but didn't manage time to go into the Hall and record the hard working waitresses and happy customers.

In spite of weather concerns overnight, it cleared up, and just over 200 people visited some or all of the gardens and about 100 teas were served. It is always a popular social event when St Saviour's opens its doors and garden and a magnificent record total of £2311.90 was raised. St Saviour's and Artlink each get 30% (£693.57) and the remaining 40% is split equally between the SGS Charities i.e. The Queen's Nursing Institute, Scotland (the original charity in 1931), Perennial, and Maggie's (£308.25 each).

Many thanks to all who contributed to the day in any way, including helping set up beforehand and clearing up afterwards. A donation from Bayne's the family bakers and Graham's dairies, as well as some congregation members meant that the cost of providing teas was covered. Well done everyone!!



Kilmun cottage



Mayne Avenue



Glenailie



Plaka

Upper Glen Road Mount Iver

Jazz in the Church

Terry Moran writes;

St Saviours hosted yet another evening of music and entertainment on Friday 1 June. The Church was filled with members and with people from the local community who enjoyed the excellent playing of Ian Millar on saxophone and clarinet, and Dominic Spencer on keyboard. They played a selection of well known tunes as well as their own compositions in a relaxed and melodic style. The church was decorated with side tables and flowers, and candlelights placed around the windows and on the tables created a moody atmosphere. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the night.



The Walking Group.

Anne Williamson writes;

This term we began with our customary walk round the University, ending at the Drop-In Centre for delicious soup and a chat.

We have also walked from Tillicoultry to Alva and enjoyed a new walk in Stirling, Beechwood Park and Kenningknowes Community Woodland, which are lovely green spaces to enjoy within a city.

Menstrie Wood was colourful with its wild flowers and we linked it for the first time with a walk round the village and saw Menstrie Castle, birthplace of Sir William Alexander in 1567.

He was instrumental in founding the colony of Nova Scotia, which gives its name to the main gardens in the village.

We are looking forward to our trip away in August to Harrogate, renowned for having the first Spa in Britain.



Young Adults Group: Stirling/Bridge of Allan/Dunblane Area

James Gardner writes;

On Tuesday 11th April, a new Young Adults Social group started up at St Saviours Bridge of Allan. This group is supported by the three churches in the area. St Saviours Bridge of Allan, Holy Trinity Stirling and St Mary's Dunblane. The group is for Young Adults from the age of 18 up to 40. This new initiative started as a pilot up to the end of the summer term, however due to the success it will continue after the summer holidays, as we expand our group to hopefully involve St Mary's Dunblane young adults. The majority of the current group members are students at the University of Stirling; however, we have also had members come from the local community who may have recently moved to the area, and due to home working aren't able to socialise with many people their age in the community, or are already members of the churches and have been encouraged to come along and be part of the group.

The weekly meetings have been designed by the group and are facilitated by James Gardner, Joan Lyon and Rebekah Sims, we have also had guest support from congregation members when one of the core team has been unable to attend a week and these run from 7.30-9.30 in St Saviours Church Hall.

The weekly sessions end with Compline or a meditation depending on the activity of the week.



Board games night.

The Book Group: All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Maggie Moss writes;



This is a wonderful book, which we all found well worth reading. It is at times distressing and painful, at times tender and joyful, and always a compelling read, with many interwoven stories within the main tale.

The book centres on Marie-Laure, who is blind from age six, and Werner, a German orphan boy. Chapters are very short, so the reader never loses sight of the other main character.

The story takes place for the most part during the Second World War. I wonder if the book is felt even more keenly by the ever-shrinking number of people who experienced the war and remember deprivations, from no bananas to not seeing a father for five years, perhaps to suffering the loss of a father. For those in that situation the book is part of their history rather than merely History.

When Paris is invaded by the Germans, Marie-Laure and her father escape to St. Malo to live with M.-L.'s great uncle Etienne. The father builds his daughter a perfect model of the town, just as he did of their quartier in Paris, so she can once again learn to find her way around alone. The close relationship between Marie-Laure and her widowed museum locksmith father is described with great tenderness, as is the relationship that builds up later between Marie-Laure and Etienne.

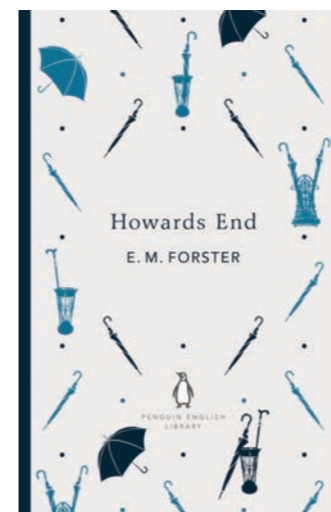
A central recurring theme is that of the diamond, the "Sea of Flames", with its three fakes, hunted obsessively and in vain by von Rumpel, a German soldier and jeweller in civilian life.

We follow Werner and his perceptive sister Jutta as they grow. Werner is selected for a prestigious school and is trained to be a Hitler Youth.

There is the work of the French Resistance in St. Malo and the clandestine broadcasts by Etienne, picked up by Werner, a whizz with radios, whose job it is as a Nazi to track down partisans in several countries, before finishing up in St. Malo towards the end of the War. And thus Marie-Laure and Werner meet.

The Book Group: Howard's End by E. M. Forster.

Sandra Rutt writes;



Our choice for May 2023 was a classic novel set in Edwardian England. The central characters are from three families from very different social and cultural backgrounds. They meet, often by chance, they interact and they become interlinked. This sounds like a simple plot and happily it is clearly drawn but brilliantly clever. Characters have spirit, goodness, generosity, rigidity, paternalism, self-interest, double-standards, honour, immorality - in other words the story is rich in characters that are recognisably human and they are all affected to greater or lesser effect by where they live or wish to live. Howard's End in the novel is a lovely farmhouse outside London, originally owned by Ruth Howard. She marries the emotionally reserved but very successful and wealthy man of business, Henry Wilcox. She loves Howard's End and the fields around her - early in the novel she 'approached ... trailing noiselessly across the lawn, a wisp of hay in her hands' conveying gentle contentment. Then Ruth accepts her husband's need and wish to move to a large London apartment. Her gentle character and the atmosphere of Howard's End is the backlight throughout the novel and shows how cold and materialistic others can be. One member of our book group recalled,

"I was interested in the attitudes to money, manufacturing money not quite the thing. Reminded me of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Edinburgh all professional and Glasgow looked down upon because their money came from trade!"

There is a continuing tension throughout the novel which readers are told originates in the time before the novel begins. At the time of her death Ruth leaves a note expressing her wish that Howard's End is left to her friend and kindred spirit, Margaret Schlegel. It won't spoil your enjoyment of the novel to reveal that Ruth's family destroy the note before it can be honoured. Now we want to know what happens. Will justice and honour prevail?

After what some of us thought was a rather long, slow start, with "irritating chit-chat", Forster's story really sparks as two

of the central characters have to meet after Helen Schlegel carelessly picks up the wrong umbrella on leaving a classical music concert. The shabby umbrella belongs to low-waged clerk Leonard Bast. Bast follows Helen to her house to ask for it back. Forster shows in one encounter the gulf between Helen and Leonard and how in that same scene both are attracted to classical music for differing reasons. Helen is thrilled by the music; Leonard is eager and ambitious to acquire culture; he is aware that he lacks knowledge. This encounter at the Schlegel's apartment is socially very awkward but, wishing to show they are not being patronising, they insist on inviting the young man back another time.

The imaginative, cultured and spirited Schlegel's find the Wilcox's have moved into the London townhouse opposite. Helen Schlegel's brief romance with Paul Wilcox had ended badly... thus creating another awkward twist and later yet another as it turns out that Henry Wilcox has a dirty secret. Slow start? yes, but it was worth reading on. Some of us had also watched the excellent film version from 1992 with Anthony Hopkins' edgy performance as Henry Wilcox, Helena Bonham-Carter as vivacious Helen and Emma Thomson as her older sister, Margaret.

We enjoyed our book discussion in the garden on a warm mid-May afternoon followed by tea, Fife strawberries, cream and buns.

St Saviour's 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, James Gardner, Jean Kelly, Alison Logie,
Bill Logie, Vicky McDowell, Terry Moran, Sue Power & Margaret Price

Secretary

Alastair Duncan

Fun and Fundraising:

Terry Moran

Treasurer:

Bill Logie

Alison Logie

Child Protection & PVG:

Jean Kelly

Vanessa Berridge

Young Church:

Sue White

Drop in/Warm space

Elaine Cameron

Gillian Burr

Prayer Shawl Group:

Jean Kelly

Jean Kelly

Flower Group:

Sandra Rutt

Communications:

Andrew McDowell

Environmental Co-ordinator:

Elaine Cameron

Magazine:

Andrew McDowell

Church Cleaning:

Christine Caldwell

Jacque Macpherson

Church Garden:

Maggie Moss

Pew Slip:

Sandra Rutt

Rectory Garden:

Terry Moran

Music:

Sue Horne (Choral)

Readers:

Graham Barratt

Safety Officer:

Sylvia Broomfield

Welcomers:

Margaret Price

Fabric Team:

Brian Bridgewater

Intercessions:

Alastair Williamson

Alex Glover

Bin Czar:

Liz Coleman

Mel White

Property Letting:

Terry Moran

Walking Group:

Anne and Alastair
Williamson

Elaine Cameron

Craft and Knitting Groups:

Sue Horne

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

