

St.Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Newsletter



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Spring 2024

Dear Friends,

Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

There's something about this time of year that lifts the spirits.

The days are getting longer, nights are getting shorter; we begin to sense God doing a new thing: Spring is approaching. The assurance that winter is finally over makes us feel somehow more hopeful. We notice that people are wearing less clothing, turning down the heating and spending more time outdoors; buds are blossoming on the trees, and green shoots are appearing in places where there were once no signs of life.

We're drawing nearer to Easter, the season of new life, renewal and new beginnings. As a church, we are presently in a season of new beginnings with me, your new rector. This brings hope and anticipation for renewal within the worshipping and missional life of the church. It brings new energy, enthusiasm and a rekindled sense of purpose to us, the people of God, called to serve the community of Bridge of Allan.

I've been here as your rector for two months already, which is almost impossible to believe. It seems like only yesterday that I was standing in front of you, admittedly very nervous, about to lead my first service of Holy Communion. It's a privilege to be present among you, to serve and lead, to pastor and preach – and I hope and pray that I can offer something of real worth to every one of your lives, because it is only in doing so that I believe I can begin to fulfil my vocation as a priest.

However, we're only human, and we must be mindful that our expectations for a better future, and our expectations of those who are called to lead us will not always be met. I will let you down, even if I try with all my might to avoid doing so.

As Christians, we must remember and make peace with the truth that our hope is found in God - that God is the only One who will never fail us or let us down. But even this very same God, the God who was revealed in Jesus, defied all expectations by giving his life on the cross – a most publicly humiliating demonstration of failure. And this same God continues to defy our expectations as we try to perceive signs of Divine presence in our lives. The challenge for us is to remain open to God's unexpected invitations to follow His call as we enter into these new beginnings, individually and as a community of believers.

So in a spirit of the hope that is embodied in Jesus, I encourage you to courageously step into the unknown, trusting that, just as spring emerges from the cold grasp of winter, God is orchestrating a beautiful and transformative new season for each of us, and for the people we are called to serve.

Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman



News from the Vestry

Alastair Duncan writes:

The St Saviour's 2023 AGM was held on 11 February and chaired by our new Rector, Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman. Alison Logie and Sue Power announced that they were not seeking re-election to the Vestry and were warmly thanked. In their places were elected Liz Colman and Mel White. They join Graham Barrett, Alastair Duncan, James Gardner, Jean Kelly, Vicky McDowell and Terry Moran as elected members of the Vestry. As Lay Representative, Margaret Price is an ex officio member. The Vestry re-elected Alastair Duncan as Secretary and Bill Logie as Treasurer.

At the first meeting of the new Vestry on 14 March, the main item of business was to consider the timing of Sunday morning church services. In the light of comments received from members of the congregation, three options were considered: continue the present arrangement of a 9.15 service at St Modoc's and 11 a.m. service at St Saviour's; alternate these times between the two churches; keep the present times but include a joint service monthly. The second option was felt to be confusing particularly for occasional attenders and visitors. When the early week was at St Saviour's it would preclude holding a choir rehearsal before the service. Some blend of options one and three may be adopted. The joint services might not be monthly but concentrated on church festivals, such as Pentecost. Further discussion will take place with St Modoc's to ascertain their preferences. A decision, which could be reviewed after a year or so, will be taken after Easter.

The Treasurer's Report

Bill Logie writes:

This report follows quite closely on the report published at the time of the AGM, so I am reluctant to repeat a lot of what was then written! The sharing of significant costs with St Modoc's enables us to go forward in the prospect of balancing our books. If things stand still we might even earn a small surplus in the year. But there's the rub! Even if we wanted it, things do not stand still as we have seen over the past several years – buildings decline, people come and go, enhancements are sought, inflation continues and outstrips congregational giving. Currently we have a sound church building and the rectory has had extensive work done to it (with such valuable work coming from St Modoc's). The hall, however, has been rather neglected and the use of upstairs rooms discontinued because of health and safety issues. It would be good to develop it and make it more attractive for St Saviour's and the wider community – and that takes money!

Having dismissed the financial position in a paragraph I thought I might reflect on the work of the treasurer! There is a conception that it requires an accountant or a bookkeeper to do the job. What really happens is that the bank does a lot of the work (they are not totally bad!). They keep a record of what is received, and from whom and when. They take note of who is paid and set it all out neatly. They add up the income, take off the expenditure and tell you what is left in the account. What the treasurer has to do is to rearrange these numbers into different classifications such as money from cash donations, from special events, which of them qualify for Gift Aid, and on the expenditure side arrange them into, for example, repairs, improvements, travel costs. But that has already been done – it's just fiddling about and trying to remember to check meter readings, to check invoices, to make payments. In short it is nothing more than what we all have to do in our domestic lives, admittedly with the pressure that others will be looking at it. What most people lack - I imagine – is the very thorough set of spread sheets that Robert Franks developed to keep track of all the transactions. Then the Annual Report and Accounts is just another rearrangement of the figures into a layout already established. And OSCAR, and Gift Aid – the same again. It can look quite daunting, but as with so many things, it's all in the presentation! In short, what is called for in a treasurer is an orderly mind and a familiarity with spreadsheets – and this treasurer manages without the former.

In the old days (when I was treasurer before!) there was the rather scary part of trying to remember to pay the Rector promptly after having worked out PAYE returns. Now that is all done centrally. Again, looking back, there did not seem to be so much red tape, but that could be because it didn't bother me so much then!

Holy Week Services

Sunday 24th 11am - Palm Sunday service

Monday 25th 7pm - Compline

Tuesday 26th 7pm - Stations of the Cross

Wed 27th 7pm - Final Lent course session

Thurs 28th 7:30pm - Maundy Thursday service
(Bridge of Allan Parish Church)

Friday 29th 2pm - Good Friday meditation

Saturday 30th 7:30pm - Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st 9am - Ecumenical Easter service
(Allanwater Park)

Sunday 31st 11am - Easter Sunday service,
Sung Eucharist Whole Church service.

Followed by The Easter bonnet
competition and Easter Egg
Hunt in the garden.



Church Flowers

Linda George & Sylvia Broomfield write:

Linda and Sylvia have now taken over from Sandra in the organising of flowers in church. We are grateful for all Sandra has done during her time in charge and are very happy she is still on the rota and arranging flowers in church.

The Church at Christmas looked wonderful thanks to everyone who came and helped decorate. Suddenly we are thinking about and looking forward to Easter! The church will be decorated on 30th March, Holy Saturday. We welcome anyone who would like to come and help or just pop in for a chat and see what is going on. There will be lots of flowers and plenty of vases if you would like to do your own arrangement, we would love to see you! Drop in between 10am and 12noon.

Following Easter we will continue to decorate the church weekly so do let us know if you would like to get involved with that, young and old, ladies and gentlemen!

Fun & Fundraising

Alison Logie writes:

The Fundraising Team, Terry Moran, Vanessa Berridge and Alison Logie have been, taking time to reflect on what the next event should be. They decided that a Bingo night would be a good idea and this took place on 23rd February. Alistair Duncan was the inventive Bingo Caller and Vanessa was the Numbers Checker. Much fun was had and many good prizes were won. Refreshments, sandwiches and fruit were produced at half time and proved very popular. The Event made £339.66.

The Team were also involved in the refreshments after the Institution of the new Rector. These were served in the Chalmers Suite, of the Parish Church and involved some quick thinking as the Rainbows didn't leave the Hall till people arrived after the Ceremony! The whole event involved working with members of St Modoc's who brought refreshments and who really helped a great deal with serving the food and drink and clearing up after the event.

The bag of goods for Recycling for Good Causes was collected and we await the money for the items. They take time to sort out the offerings and some were not suitable. Can I remind you again that four types of items are recycled – Jewellery, Currency, Stamps. They don't accept any electrical items other than Mobile phones, Cameras, Sat Navs, Games consoles, iPads, MP3 players, Tablet computers. The collecting box is still in the Church Hall so please add more items.

The Idea of a Wedding Fair was discussed with the Rector who seemed agreeable to the idea.

At present the Fundraising team is looking for ideas which do not involve a huge amount energy. Any Suggestions are very welcome!



The Church Garden

Maggie Moss writes:

The church garden year will begin on March 16th with the garden team's first work party. Some snowdrops will be split and there will be a general tidy up, with weeding and dead-heading. Thereafter we shall meet from 10.30-12.30 on the third Saturday of each month until and including September. We then have an autumn work party on the last Saturday in October.

St Saviour's is again hosting a plant sale in the church garden on May 19th when some Bridge of Allan gardens will be open under the Scotland's Garden Scheme. If any of you are splitting plants or bulbs this spring and have any surplus to your own requirements, please consider potting them up and contributing them to this sale. They can be brought to the church garden any time and the garden team will make sure they are kept watered. Thank you.

*Some photos from the Installation
of Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman*



The Book Group

Maggie Moss writes:

The Book Group meets six times a year and discusses two poets and four books (fact or fiction). We now tend to meet at 3pm and have an afternoon tea after the discussion. Members of the group take it in turn to host the afternoon.

The following choices were made for 2024.:

January 11th - Seamus Heaney (poet)

March 14th - The Noise of Time by Julian Barnes.

May 9th - Doublecross by Ben MacIntyre.

July 11th - Kenneth Stevens (poet).

September 12th - Daniel Deronda by George Eliot.

November 14th - The Black Angels by Maria Smilios.

We usually choose a "classic" to read over the summer and in November we bring ideas of books/poets to read the following year and make our choices.

Anyone is welcome to come to any meeting if a particular book or poet is of interest.

Carpet Bowls Group

Pam Bridgewater writes:

**Friday Carpet Bowls. - The Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Friday afternoons 2pm - 4pm.**

Last November a small group of us started weekly Carpet Bowls sessions for gentle exercise, plenty of laughter and friendly company. We are mostly raw beginners - some bowls still veer off the carpet as if they have a mind of their own but others manage to stop near the jack! There is a half time break for tea or coffee, biscuits and a chat.

If you would like to join us either speak to Pam Bridgewater (01786 464635) or come along to the Allan Centre on a Friday afternoon.



A Point of View

Maggie Moss writes:

I am reading an interesting book by Judi Dench about the many Shakespeare roles she has played. She objects to people playing around with Shakespeare 's language (e.g. for film versions) feeling it lost "the poetry and the fizz". She goes on to say "It's like the King James Bible," which set me thinking. And I agree. I find it's particularly at Christmas that I miss the King James version, perhaps because those passages are so familiar. How can one compare for example : "She was great with child" with "She was pregnant"? The former creates such a beautiful picture of Mary with her rounded belly containing the Holy Child, the latter simply defines a woman who has been impregnated. There is no poetry and nothing to awaken the imagination. As Judi Dench writes : "Why can't we be made to work a bit ?"

Reply to Point of View

Catriona Duncan writes:

Since I had access to this newsletter before publication, I was able to read Maggie's Point of View re the King James version of the Bible. I just thought I'd point out that Alastair and I have been enjoying, thanks to Vanessa, her father's great collection of 80s and 90s DVDs of the BBC televised performances of all Shakespeare's plays. What struck me was the extraordinary vividness and especially comprehensible appeal of the original language when delivered by capable modern actors who had taken minute care to study their lines and deliver them AS IF they were speaking modern English.

I do actually remember being quite shaken in St Saviours once, when an Easter reading was given with absolutely stunning vividness.

Here's a suggestion for those who favour Maggie's love of King James - we could organise a special reading in early December. What do you all think?

Parish Breakfast

Catriona Duncan writes:

I think everybody agrees that our institution of Parish Breakfast (morning coffee) after the Sunday service, not only refreshes and cheers, but also welcomes newcomers, returners, holidaymakers, the curious, the wary or tentative, especially if they have been directly approached at the service by some of us and encouraged to come round. This was certainly the case with us when Alastair and I visited St Saviours for the first time in the early eighties. Normally drinks are made and served by 2 gallant members from the coffee rota which is prepared a few months in advance; these good people know that if they are unable to do a certain date, they are welcome to contact other rota names and rearrange/swap as necessary. From time to time, if someone has a special birthday, or there is some other good excuse for a general celebration, something extra special, liquid or solid, appears miraculously. And after all this, as the two or three helpers wash up and tidy away, they find themselves chatting to people they maybe didn't know very well before, and thus new friendships are formed.

At some point the Vestry decided to donate to a variety of charities the money members left in the saucer rather than use it to purchase new coffee etc when needed. Personally, I feel there should be some sort of modest central fund which could be used for this, so that for example students or young couples starting out in life should not feel hindered from offering their services as organiser. The coffee service ground to a halt during Covid until, once it was safe, I started bringing flasks to the back of the church to remind people how they treasured the institution, then all of a sudden, we were back to normal. Keep it up folks! You know it's worth it!

The only thing is....we really could do with a few more helpers: the truth of the matter is of course, that the more names we have, the less work we all do. Just another handful of offers could mean that everyone only needs to do one duty a term. Otherwise, to be realistic, we run the risk that some overworked helpers begin to feel a touch resentful, or occasionally on a Sunday, we may have to announce that there will be no coffee today....

Young Adults Group

James Gardner writes:

It has been a busy term for the Young Adults group, we have welcomed two further new Young Adults into the group over the last couple of weeks. We have a core group of 4 who meet each week, with 13 young Adults who are connected to the group on the groups WhatsApp. The value of the group though has proved to be a lot more than just weekly numbers. We have had a couple of situations which have led to a positive outcome by initial contact with the group and the group members responding quickly and offering advice & guidance.

My thanks to Bartholow from Holy Trinity Stirling for his support with the running of the group, with me most weeks, and to Rev Rachel Wright and Rev Rebekah Sims, for their support in the background organising guests to come along, and supporting the group when work commitments allow once or twice a month, which allows Bartholow or me to have a week off, or in my case look at some of the administrative & promotional tasks and plan.

Programme: This term (January – April) we have been focussing on social and well being as our main theme for the group. This has been in response to feedback evaluations from group members and also from what has been discussed by the group. The need to have a space to chat openly about things happening in their lives and the prayerful and sometimes direct support of each other has also proved an important aspect of the group. Up until April we have plans to make Easter Gardens, have a Quiz night, and we will be encouraging members of the group to attend the Stations of the Cross Service on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

This term we have enjoyed a Chinese takeaway together while learning about the traditions of Chinese New Year from one of the groups. A pancake party and making pancakes (thanks to a small portable stove and pan in the Community Learning & development Store in Crieff) and an arts and craft night making Lenten Eggs. Each Egg represents a Station of the Cross.

Finance: In December the leaders met in St Mary's Rectory over Lunch to look at our budget for the coming year. Based on the costs of the pilot April – June 2023. The following table is our budget and where we are currently with our finances. Our Refreshment expenditure so far has been less than forecasted due to an Amazon catering order of individual packs of biscuits that are often purchased by hotels and conference venues, and the purchase of long-life milk sticks, which has reduced the requirement for weekly purchases of refreshments. We are also very grateful for any leftover gifts from the St Saviours Winter Drop-in, which we have been able to share.

The Diocesan Mission Board and Diocesan Synod approved the Diocesan Children & Youth Officer 2024 Workplan and the development of the Young Adults Group, and a wider Provincial Network are key objectives in the Workplan for 2024, therefore access to Diocesan Support for the group has also now been achieved.

Let's Get Together

Vanessa Berridge writes:

"Let's Get Together" continues about every 3 to 4 weeks, usually on a Monday morning or a Wednesday afternoon with an open invitation to St. Saviour's friends and neighbours for a social cuppa and chat at John and Vanessa's home. All are welcome to come and join us. Please ring 07740178689 for details. The next is likely on Monday 8th April at 10.30 but please ring or check church service sheet for confirmation. Hope to see you soon.



Movement and Dance classes

Maggie Moss writes:

For nearly two years St. Saviour's has hosted a wonderful teacher on Thursday mornings. Her class exercises, dances, sings, laughs and comes away feeling better and looking forward to the following Thursday.

Julie Symmonds and her husband and three children immigrated to Scotland from South Africa nearly five years ago and settled in Killearn. Julie trained as a dancer in South Africa and studied dance at the University of Cape Town, graduating with a 3 year Dip. in ballet and then took a further degree, Hons. BMus. specialising in dance. She became a ballet and tap teacher, principal of her school for 17 years.

The training that is pertinent to us comes from Julie's time in Brooklyn, New York when in 2015 she trained under David Leventhal at the Mark Morris Dance Studio. David felt that people with Parkinson's deserved help that was fun, brought joy and did not involve medication. He devised the "Dance for Parkinson's" exercise routine

known as "Dance for PD".

The award-winning programme came to the U.K. and in Scotland is based at Dance Base in Edinburgh. To date Julie is the only certified Dance for PD teacher and trainer in the UK. This internationally acclaimed programme offers research-based dance classes in over 300 communities in 29 countries. It brings joy as well as countless physical and mental benefits to those with Parkinson's.

Julie freelances as a Dance Health Specialist with Scottish Ballet and at Dance Base and Stirling University as well as taking private classes in Killearn. She also makes and sells good soup and, occasionally, excellent brownies.!

We are fortunate indeed to have her. The classes offered at St. Saviour's are for anybody, with or without mobility issues and are not strictly for those living with Parkinson's. They last an hour and end with tea, coffee and chat.

Winter Drop-in

Elaine Cameron writes:

The Drop-in has now been running successfully every Tuesday and Friday for the last 2 winters. It will continue until the end of April this year. With an active team of volunteers led by a steering group, we have had the pleasure of receiving an average of 10 to a dozen people from the church and community, when we are open. Some just for a chat and some looking for support. Soup is shared, games played, and we occasionally craft.

The Drop-in has provided a valuable, regular income to the hall enabling improvements to be made. These include upgrading the kitchen, new heating, secondary glazing and LED lighting. Our lovely new curtains were a generous donation.

As a group we are now looking toward the future of the Drop-in. Over the next few months we will be inviting members of St. Saviour's to share their thoughts on how the Drop in might be run next winter.

If you have any ideas you would like to share, please feel free to approach Aaron (our Rector) Terry Moran, Kathleen MacTaggart or Elaine Cameron.

Additionally, if you would like to be more involved or volunteer please do not hesitate to make yourself known

Young Church Rota

St. Saviour's Young Church: March to May 2024

24/3/24	Sarah and Gillian	Palm Sunday – Easter crafts
31/3/24	Sarah and Beth	Easter Sunday - crafts
7/4/24	Holiday	
14/4/24	Holiday	
21/4/24	Jean and James /Jacquie?	 
28/4/24	Jean and James/Jacquie?	
5/5/24	Sarah and Gillian	Coffee – decorating cakes: Spring
12/5/24	Sarah	
19/5/24	All Age Service	
		Pentecost

Next YC organisation meeting: Wednesday 1st May, 7pm, Jean's.

Scotland's Gardens

Bridge of Allan Open Gardens 19th May 2024

Sylvia Broomfield writes:

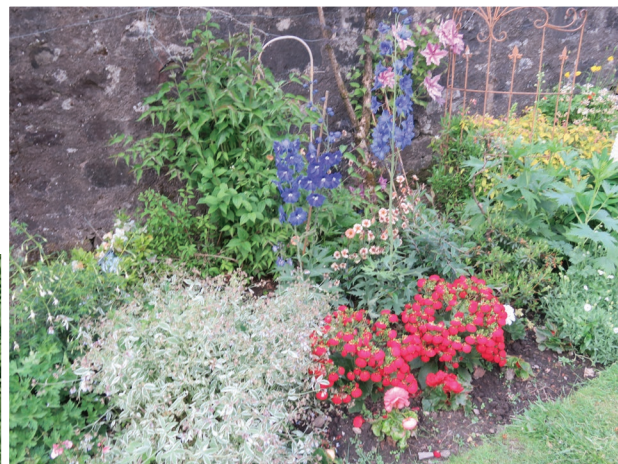
The lovely displays of spring bulbs around the town remind us that we are emerging from winter and Easter is round the corner. If you enjoy gardens, either for the exercise and well-being you get from working outside or just admiring other people's handiwork, you will probably know that there have already been gardens open to show off their snowdrop displays.

Although we don't have the excitement of appearing on TV on Beechgrove this year, there will be a number of gardens in Bridge of Allan open for charity on 19th May. St Saviour's has been involved for many years with some members of the Congregation in the past opening up their own gardens, including one year the Rectory Garden, and now by taking the entry ticket money, running a Plant Stall in the Church garden and serving teas. Whilst a lot of hard work is involved, this is a very enjoyable afternoon out for all and is also one of our major fundraising events. As well as raising money for St Saviour's and introducing people to our church, a lot of money is also raised for other charities too. The garden owners' choice recently has been Artlink and every SGS opening raises money for Maggie's, The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland and Perennial.

There is a copy of the "Yellow Book" in the church Hall for you to browse through (or purchase your own copy for £5) or free summary leaflets with all the openings listed. Openings are advertised on Facebook over the season and there is also a website scotlandsgardens.org which is particularly useful for late additions to the calendar.

If you are able to help in any capacity on Sunday 19th May or with preparations on Saturday 18th May, please speak to Sylvia Broomfield (general enquiries) or Maggie Moss (plant stall). We are fortunate in that this year we hope some of the Girl Guides may be able to assist by serving in the tearoom.

Please support not only the Bridge of Allan opening but others locally. There are 12 fixed date openings in Stirlingshire starting with 3 Southfield Crescent Stirling on Sunday 28th April and ending with Bannockburn House on 25th August with a number of others opening by arrangement throughout the year. Many serve teas. I guarantee you'll have a good afternoon out whilst supporting worthy charities.



The Walking Group

Anne Williamson writes:

Following the happy success of our largest ever Christmas lunch, involving walkers and friends from St Saviour's and St Modoc's - and our Christmas holidays- walks resumed in mid January, with our traditional circuit of the University campus.

By the end of the month we visited our farmer friends Sheena and Roy, to see their latest flock of Hampshire Downs lambs, always so cute (especially when we don't have to cover night lambing duty!)

A February highlight proved to be another very popular walk, when 16 people went to view the carpet of snowdrops in the grounds of Gargunnoch House and then to hear about the work of "Green Roots" in the Walled Garden of the House. Liz Colman (St Saviour's Church garden team member, bin tsarina and all round girl friday) volunteers with the Gardens project and told us more about its work with special needs students.

Walks this term also included Tillicoultry, Dunblane and Kings Park favourites, with great lunch stops after each.

We continue until 19 March and resume after Easter for a summer term. Do join us, anytime.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jean Kelly writes:

We have had a busy time over the winter months and our team have produced some more beautiful shawls in shades of Pink, Blue/green, Autumnal and Burgandy, which are ready to go out to anyone who you think could benefit from them. We have also given out three more to members of our congregation and community, who very much appreciated the work that goes into them.

Some of our team have produced quite a number of shawls over the years and are about to call it a day and I thank them sincerely for their valued hard work. But I'm glad to say that some new members have joined us.

Please get in touch with me, jeankelly@live.co.uk if you have someone in mind who would benefit from this wonderful Ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



St Saviour's Groups and Organisers

Rector:	Rev. Aaron Moffat-Jackman		
Lay Readers:	Nick Price - Sue White		
Vestry Members:	Graham Barrett, Liz Colman, Alastair Duncan, James Gardner, Jean Kelly, Vicky McDowell, Terry Moran, Margaret Price & Mel White		
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:	Sylvia Broomfield
Communications:	Andrew McDowell		Linda George
Magazine:	Andrew McDowell	Environmental Co-ordinator:	Elaine Cameron
	Catriona Duncan	Church Cleaning:	Christine Caldwell
Pew Slip:	Margaret Price	Church Garden:	Maggie Moss
Music:	Sue Horne (Choral)	Readers:	Graham Barrett
Safety Officer:	Sylvia Broomfield	Welcomers:	Margaret Price
Fabric Team:	Brian Bridgewater	Intercessions:	Alastair Williamson
	Alex Glover (Convenor)	Bin Tsarina:	Liz Colman
	Mel White	Sunday Coffee:	Catriona Duncan
Walking Group:	Anne and Alastair Williamson	Property Letting:	Terry Moran
			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 Aaron Moffat-Jackman
e-mail: rector@saint-saviour.org

Please note the Rector is unavailable on a Monday & Tuesday.

