



St Peter's Church  
19 Townsend Place  
Kirkcaldy  
KY1 1HB

Rector: The Revd. Canon Christine Fraser

St. Peter's Rectory  
1 Longbraes Gardens  
Kirkcaldy. KY2 5YJ

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Registered Charity Number:

St. Peter's with Ss Mary and Leonard: SC010443

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# The Contact Magazine of St. Peter's with Ss. Mary & Leonard

Rector: The Revd. Canon Christine Fraser

## EASTER 2025



## Protecting one of Scotland's iconic churches

The future of the Abbey Church in Dunfermline is in danger.

Originally founded as a priory by Queen Margaret in the 11th century, Dunfermline Abbey has been called Scotland's equivalent of Westminster Abbey in London. It also contains the bones of King Robert the Bruce, which draws 40,000 visitors a year.

But now the Abbey needs repairs - about £4 million worth of them. A much-needed development plan will cost a further £4 million.

That is too big a burden for the congregation of 425, and the Abbey Church does not receive public funding. Instead, an online fundraising page has been set up. If you would like to know more, or help out, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/keepingheart>

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### Descriptions

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Raisin: Grape with a sunburn.

Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.

Beauty salon: Where women curl up and dye.

Cannibal: One who is fed up with people

Cont. from page 34

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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**"Happiness is not something readymade; it comes from your own actions." —  
The Dalai Lama**

## St James the Least of All

### On why you should never encourage your congregation

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

## Contents

Page 2	<i>Protecting one of Scotland's iconic Churches / Descriptions</i>
3	<i>Contents</i>
4	<i>Worship at St. Peters</i>
5/6	<i>Letter from The Rector</i>
7	<i>What is Mauday Thursday/ Donate a Pane</i>
8/9	<i>Synod 2025</i>
10	<i>Cartoon</i>
11	<i>Who's Who at St Peter's</i>
12	<i>Happy Easter to you / Ad. Paul Kelly Roofing Ltd.</i>
13	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>
14/15	<i>Together on Good Friday / Miscellaneous observations on life:</i>
16	<i>Ad. J.W Wishart / April Showers</i>
17	<i>Ad. John Smart &amp; Son ( Kirkcaldy ) Ltd.</i>
18	<i>Mr. Bones / Letter to God</i>
19	<i>12 Things you probably didn't know About Easter</i>
20	<i>We are Open for Bookings</i>
21	<i>Cartoon</i>
22	<i>Ad Shop Mobility fife</i>
23	<i>Where did your Easter Egg come From? / Techie Problems</i>
24	<i>Car Parking at St. Peter's</i>
25	<i>Breaking News / Church Poster in France</i>
26	<i>Chocolate— Food of the Gods</i>
27	<i>Good Friday / Letter to God / April Showers</i>
28	<i>Word search</i>
29	<i>Answers to Word search</i>
30/31/32/33	<i>10 Global Easter Traditions from Around the World</i>
34/35	<i>Letter from St. James The Least of All</i>
36	<i>Back Page</i>

## *Worship at St Peter's*

*Charity No. SCO 10443*

**Sundays**      **9.15 am**    **Said Eucharist (SPB)**  
                   **10.30am** **Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy)**

**Wednesdays**    **10.00 am**    **Said Eucharist (1982 Liturgy)**

## **Holy Week and Easter Services 2025**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April      9.15am Eucharist and Distribution of  
Palms (BCP)

Palm Sunday            10.30am Sung Eucharist and Distribution of  
Palms(1982 liturgy )

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am    Midweek Service

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April    7.00pm    Maundy Thursday Service and  
Stripping of Alter

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April      12.00noon Good Friday Service with  
Communion (RS) Good Friday

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April    10.00am    Church Decoration Holy Saturday

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10.00am    Midweek Service

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April      9.15am            Eucharist (BCP)

Easter 2                    10.30am            Sung Eucharist(1982 liturgy)

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10.00am    Midweek Service

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April      9.15am            Eucharist (BCP)

Easter 2                    10.30am            Sung Eucharist(1982 liturgy)

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***The Church, Hall and meeting room are now connected to the Internet with full WiFi access. Please check with Christine, George or Andrea for further information.***

**Halls For Hire And Rooms For Rent .**

In Poland, they celebrate 'Wet Monday' also known as Smigus-Dyngus which is the tradition that involves people throwing lots of water at each other. The tradition goes back to when boys were allowed to drench girls in water and smack them with branches of pussy willow. This was meant as a way of showing their affection and usually resulted in marriage.

### **Central and Eastern Europe**

Easter eggs are taken to another level in Central and Eastern Europe. Hard-boiled eggs are painted with beautiful designs and left on tables as decorations. The eggs are a symbol of fertility and rebirth as were thought to be a part of Pagan Spring Festivals to symbolise the bright blossoming flowers.

Another tradition is hosting huge bonfires with family and friends. An old Pagan ritual believed to bring fertile fields and protection from illness to all that the light from the fire touches.

### **America, Washington**

In the United States, the president holds the annual Easter Egg Roll on the White House lawn on Easter Monday. The tradition is believed to date back to 1878 and involved children rolling coloured boiled eggs with a large spoon.

Christine Fraser

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### **Quotes**

Four freedoms: The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want.... everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear... anywhere in the world. – *Franklin D Roosevelt*

**Cont. from 31****How Bermuda celebrates Easter**

There are many Easter traditions in Bermuda including kite flying, local delicacies, religious ceremonies and more. On Good Friday, the sky is transformed into a mosaic of beautiful shapes, colours, and sounds as Bermudians fly kites. The tradition began when a local teacher from the British Army struggled to explain Christ's ascension to Heaven, so he made a kite, traditionally shaped like a cross, to show the ascension.

Another tradition in Bermuda is eating cod fish cakes and hot cross buns. Hot cross buns are favoured in Bermuda and are directly imported from the UK for the Easter holidays.

**How Easter is celebrated in Bulgaria**

Easter is one of the most important holidays in Bulgaria and it starts on Palm Sunday, the holy week and leads up to the Great Day. Bright red eggs and Easter bread known as kozunak are the main traditions in Bulgaria for Easter.

The Bulgarian 'Good Luck Crack' is a unique tradition where people take turns tapping their eggs against the eggs of others, they are even known to throw the eggs at each other. The person who ends up with the last unbroken egg is believed to have a year of good luck.

In another tradition, the oldest woman in the family rubs the faces of children with the first red egg she has painted. This symbolises her wish for them to have health and strength.

**Hungary and Poland**

'Sprinkling' is a popular Hungarian Easter tradition that takes place on Easter Monday, which is also known as 'Ducking Monday'. Boys playfully sprinkle perfume or perfumed water on girls' heads and ask for a kiss. It is believed that water had a cleaning, healing and fertility-inducing effect.

Dear Friends

*"Easter gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with our values and beliefs"*

Easter isn't just about chocolate eggs and bunny rabbits. We all love a chocolate Easter egg, but it is also a time that holds a deeper meaning—one of renewal, hope, and reflection. Let's take a moment to think about what Easter really means to us, of course it's also more than just a religious holiday; it's a time to reconnect with ourselves and the world around us.

Growing up, Easter was always a fun time filled with family gatherings, days out together and Easter egg hunts. But as we've grown, we come to appreciate the spiritual significance behind the holiday more and more. It's a reminder that even in our darkest moments there's always a glimmer of hope, a chance for a fresh start. The disciples, as they watched Jesus on the cross, would have felt that all was lost, that it was all over. Yet the reality of Easter is the truth that from that dark moment came the most powerful new beginning for us all! Hope invaded earth, in the middle of darkness.

One of the things that is most enjoyable about Easter is the idea of renewal. The timing of Easter coincides with Spring, which feels like nature's way of hitting the reset button. As I'm sat writing this reflection, I can see the daffodils in my garden just about to bloom., and the plants that were sleeping over winter coming back to life! Just as the flowers start to bloom and the days get longer Easter reminds us that we too can shed our old habits and embrace new beginnings. It's a time to let go of past mistakes and move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. In many ways, Jesus hit the ultimate reset button for each of us, the old order of things passed away and the new has come – the resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate victory!

Cont. from page 5

Easter is also a time of introspection. It's a chance to take a step back and think about what truly matters in life. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to lose sight of the things that are most important. But Easter gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with our values and beliefs.

This Easter, take some time in the presence of Jesus, and allow Him to refresh you and be reminded of all that He has done in your life.

But perhaps the most powerful aspect of Easter is the message of hope it brings.

In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, when we turn on the news and see darkness and fear across our world, Easter reminds us that there's always light at the end of the tunnel. It's a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there's still reason to believe that things will get better. It's a message of resilience, strength and an unbreakable love that I find incredibly comforting, especially during challenging times.

As I sit here writing, I feel a sense of gratitude wash over me. Gratitude for the incredible reality of the victory Jesus accomplished on the cross and through His resurrection for us, for the beauty of nature, for the love and support of our families and friends, and for the opportunity to experience life in all its ups and downs. Easter is a time to count our blessings and to remember just how fortunate we are to be alive, and to know and love Jesus.

Easter is a time of renewal, reflection, and hope. It's a time to be reminded of the truth of Easter, embrace new beginnings, to reconnect with what truly matters, and to find comfort in the knowledge that brighter days lie ahead. So let's celebrate Easter this year, with a heart full of gratitude and a renewed sense of optimism for the future.

*Wishing you all a Blessed Easter*

*Christine*

**If my mind can conceive it, if my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it." —  
Muhammad Ali**

**Cont. from page 31**

### **Italy, Florence**

In Italy, 'The Explosion of the Cart' is a tradition that started over 300 years ago. The cart (Brindellone), stands over 9 metres tall and is pulled by a pair of white oxen from Via Il Prato to Piazza Duomo to sit between the Cathedral and Baptistery.

At 11am, the Archbishop of Florence stands at the altar and lights a dove shaped rocket to symbolise the holy spirit. This rocket is fired into the cart, causing the fireworks on top to explode. This tradition is called Scoppio del Carro and is followed by a parade in medieval costumes.

### **Sweden and Finland**

In Sweden and Finland on the Thursday before Easter, children go door to door trading paintings and drawings for chocolate eggs and sweets wearing colourful headscarves, red cheeks and carrying bunches of willow twigs decorated with feathers.

The tradition comes from a legend that the Swedish witches went to Blakulla before Easter to party with the Devil. To stop the witches from coming back, Swedish people burn big bonfires on Easter Sunday. This is also celebrated in Finland as a Nordic tradition.

### **Celebrating Easter in Brazil**

Brazil is a heavily religious country with the majority of the population being Catholic. This means that Easter celebrations are more focused on the religious beliefs.

On Easter Saturday, Brazilians host Sabado de Aleluia, which is a mini carnival held in small towns as a celebration for the end of Lent. They give gifts of large chocolate eggs either hollow or filled with tasty sweets. These eggs fill the aisle ceilings in shops up to a month before Easter.

## 10 Global Easter Traditions from Around the World

### **Easter in Britain**

Easter starts on Good Friday and is the most important celebration in the Christian church year. It's traditional in Britain to tell stories about the Easter Bunny, give chocolate eggs and Easter cards, but there are other traditions to try!

**Hot cross buns:** Hot cross buns are a favourite Easter treat consisting of a spiced sweet bun made with currants or raisins and marked with a cross on the top. The eating of hot cross buns marks the end of Lent because they are made with dairy products that are forbidden during this period. Try this hot cross bun recipe!

**Easter egg hunts:** Easter egg hunts are a fun way to celebrate Easter with your little ones. Hide eggs around the house or garden for them to find. As an alternative to chocolate, hide eggs filled with small toys or activities that will keep them busy over the Easter holidays.

**Eating lamb:** Typically, lamb is the meat to be eaten during Easter. This tradition comes from the availability of the first lamb of the season, which historically came to market around the time of Easter.

### **France, Haux**

In the town square of Haux, thousands of people gather on Easter Monday to celebrate Easter with a ginormous omelette! Dozens of cooks use over 5,000 eggs, 50kg of onions and garlic, and 4kg of salt and pepper to make this omelette! Everyone at the event gets to join in and eat some for lunch. This tradition has been taking place in France for over 30 years.

According to legend, Napoleon was travelling across southern France with his army when he first tasted an omelette prepared for him at an inn near Bessières. He enjoyed it so much that he had a giant one made for his troops the next day, and so began the tradition!

## What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

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### Sponsor a Pane St Peter's Anniversary

In advance of the upcoming celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Peter's Episcopal Church in Kirkcaldy a new stained-glass window will join the beautiful windows we already have in our beloved church. To this effect, Vestry have agreed that as part of raising funds for the window, we will be running a 'sponsor a pane' scheme whereby you can sponsor a pane in the stained-glass window for yourself, in honour of a loved one or for any other reason that you wish. The cost of each sponsored pane will be £10 and the monies raised from this will go straight to the fund for the pane. This is a wonderful way for us as the congregation who love St Peter's to be involved in another aspect of our celebratory anniversary next year.

Any donations to sponsor a pane should be given to our treasurer Judy Webster.

Bee Parkinson

### Synod 2025 Thoughts - Saturday 8 March, 2025

The Rector and I attended Synod yesterday. It was a fine dry March day – but as usual the temperature in the Cathedral felt more like winter and those gathered were well wrapped up against the chill - those used to the Cathedral wore wraps and scarves.

Synod starts promptly at 09.15 am with Eucharist so its an early start for most. And it was good to the Rev Ross Stirling-Young (known to us from his time in Lochgelly, Gllenrothes and Leven), now serving his curacy at Stanley, acting Deacon to our Bishop.

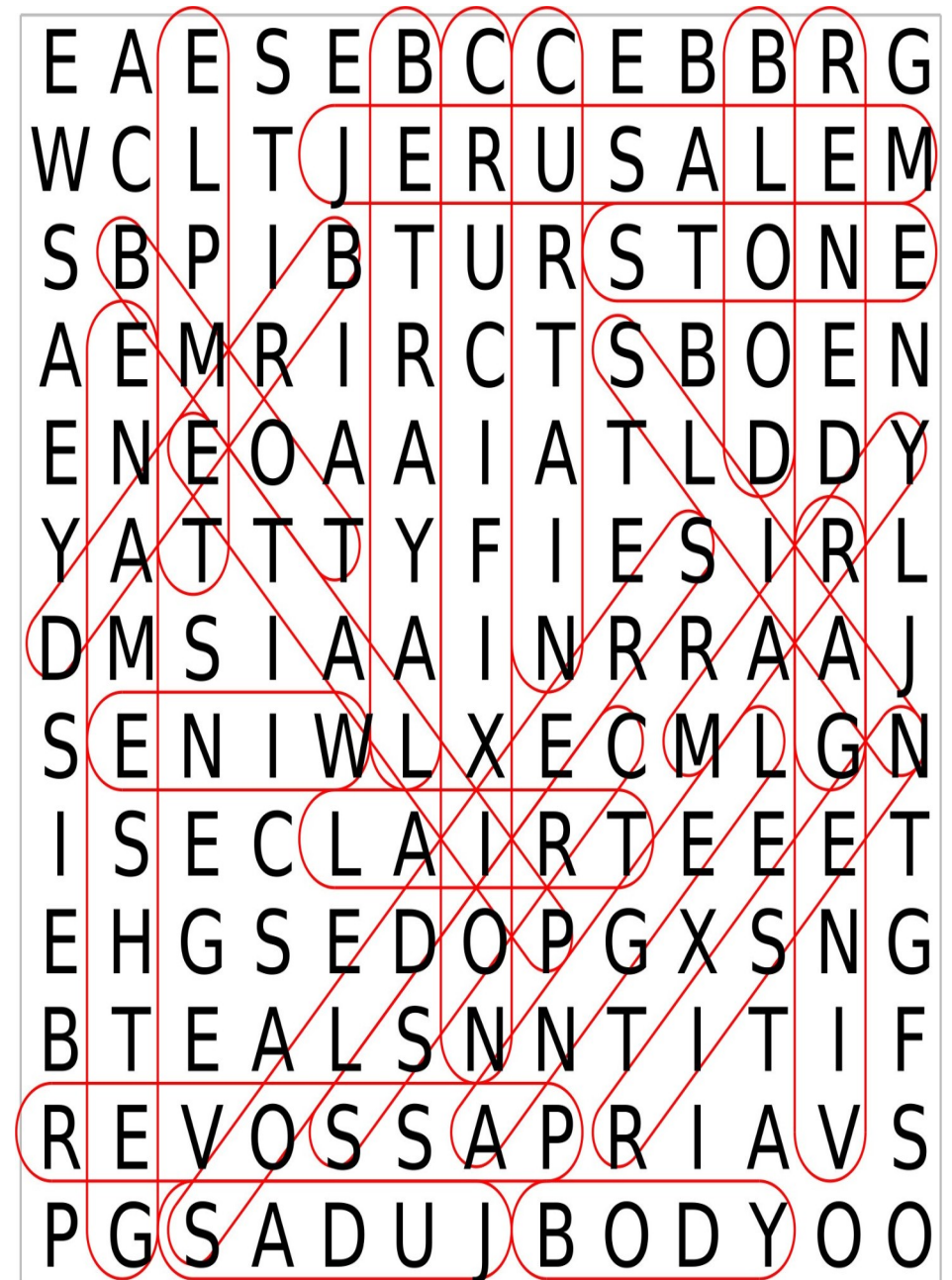
The Bishop based his charge to Synod on the story of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, about that little boy who offered all his food to Jesus which actually was enough to feed a crowd of 5,000 – and in fact there were 12 baskets full left over!

He suggested that we are like the loaves and fishes. We are a small church but with a large number of people who give so much of themselves to their churches. Nothing is too small and even the smallest offering will be enough and gathered into the baskets of God's abundance.

To further illustrate he told a story of a restaurateur – a Mr Kardini who in about 1924 discovered he had a full restaurant of diners awaiting service and realised to his dismay that his food order had not been delivered. Not wanting to turn anyone away he looked round his nearly empty shelves and gathered together what he could find. He cut up bread and made croutons, mixed a dressing of a little olive oil and Worcester sauce, found salad leaves and parmesan and served it to is diners. He was Mr Caesar Kardini and that is how the Caesar salad (we all enjoy) was created. In other words making an abundance out of very little. Certainly made me think. ...

**Cont. on page 9**

### Word Search Answers from Page 28





E	A	E	S	E	B	C	C	E	B	B	R	G
W	C	L	T	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
S	B	P	I	B	T	U	R	S	T	O	N	E
A	E	M	R	I	R	C	T	S	B	O	E	N
E	N	E	O	A	A	I	A	T	L	D	D	Y
Y	A	T	T	Y	F	I	E	S	I	R	L	
D	M	S	I	A	A	I	N	R	R	A	A	J
S	E	N	I	W	L	X	E	C	M	L	G	N
I	S	E	C	L	A	I	R	T	E	E	E	T
E	H	G	S	E	D	O	P	G	X	S	N	G
B	T	E	A	L	S	N	N	T	I	T	I	F
R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	R	I	A	V	S
P	G	S	A	D	U	J	B	O	D	Y	O	O

There were the usual reports associated with an AGM for that is essentially what Synod is.

On a difficult note we heard that the Diocese will run out of money in 5 years and to this end Quota will rise to 18 per cent over the next few years - by .5 per cent annually. Other changes will inevitably have to be made but no detail was given.

Five-Ten year plans were mentioned and it was hoped that more would be completed by the charges. You will know that St Peter's has been completed and forwarded to the Diocese some time ago. In fact your Vestry have been reviewing its first year.

Caring for creation and all the associated work towards net Zero was discussed at length and there is so much to be done but we were reassured that there is help available.

The Bishop also called our attention to his Lenten appeal which this year is for rebuilding projects in Gaza. His Appeal from last year, for various projects in the Diocese of Mumbai raised £17,000 for worthy causes.

To me the most interesting item came from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Edinburgh Leo Cushley who spoke of working with our own Bishop, Bishop Armes of Edinburgh and also the Moderator of the Church of Scotland to create 'A declaration of friendship' to be called the St Ninian's Declaration. He quoted a statement from the late Pope Benedict who said, "We have more in common than that which divides us". I'm sure we will hear more about this in the coming weeks and months before it is presented at this year's Provincial (General) Synod in June which I will be attending.

*Shirley Mann Lay Representative and General Synod Rep*



"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

## Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

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### 23rd Psalm - A Modern Paraphrase

The Lord is my pace setter, I shall not rush:

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restores my serenity,

He leads me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, and His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity

By anointing my mind with the oils of tranquillity.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,

For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord, and dwell in His house for ever.

( Taken from St. Peter's Magazine in 1997)

### Chocolate – food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is *Theobroma* – which means ‘food of the gods’?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and then the desire for another sugar-fix.

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**"Attitude is the 'little' thing that makes a big difference." —Winston Churchill**

### Who's Who at St. Peter's

*Rector: Rev'd. Canon Christine Fraser*

*Assistant Priest Rev'd Bob Barrett*

*Car Park Rentals: Maria Page*

*Child/vulnerable adult Protection:*

*Kerry Briers*

*Christian Aid: Judy Webster*

*Rosemary Potter*

*Church Treasurer, Gift*

*Aid & 100 Club: Judy Webster*

*Contact Magazine Editor: Richard Ouston*

*Email richard.16@hotmail.co.uk  
jeeta18@hotmail.co.uk*

*Duty and Tea Rotas: Shirley Mann*

*Fabric Convenor: Vestry*

*Flower Convenor: Jane Legge*

*Hall & Room Hire: Andrea Ladyka*

*Lay Representative: Shirley Mann*

*Lay Worship Leaders: Maria Page*

*Shirley Mann*

*Prayer Group:*

*Rev. Christine Fraser*

*Social & Fund Raising*

*Committee Chair: Shirley Mann*

*Vestry Chairman: Christine Fraser*

*Vestry Secretary: Maria Page*

*Website: Norman Ward*

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### **Halls For Hire And Rooms For Rent**

We welcome people/groups to hire our church, halls and rooms. Ask **Andrea** for a leaflet, details of charges and equipment available.



**Happy Easter to You**

There are those who think that our word “Easter” comes from “Eostre”, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, while some claim that it comes from an old word “oster” meaning “to rise”. It doesn’t really matter. The rebirth of the countryside and the Resurrection of Jesus both have to do with newness of life. Traditionally, people have worn new clothes at Easter as a symbol of this. I remember at St Peter’s when on Easter Sunday, you wore your *Easter* outfit which would be colourful, putting away the dark colours worn during the winter months. This outfit would be worn on most Sundays after that – you couldn’t afford an outfit which would only be worn on one day! The outfit, more than likely, included a hat (your Easter Bonnet). Some people decorated a straw hat with flowers to fit the occasion. Not so many years ago, the Ladies’ Group decorated straw hats then paraded their efforts on Easter Sunday during the service – were you one of the ladies? May Easter be a time of refreshment and renewal for us all.

Maria

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**Paul Kelly Roofing Ltd**

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**Breaking news:**

Historians believe that they've uncovered a cache of pencils that once belonged to William Shakespeare. A spokesperson said, "They're so badly chewed on the ends, we can't tell if they're 2B or not 2B."

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**Church Poster In France:**

When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "The Call of God." However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving

Norman Ward

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**Techie trouble**

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."



## Looking for a Parking Space ?

Plenty of spaces    **St Peter's Church**

With easy access at    **Townsend Place**

**Kirkcaldy**

**KY1 1HB**

**Low cost parking—£60 per quarter (less than £5 per week!)**

**Just a 5 minute walk from the High Street**

**Spaces available from 07.00 to 18.00 hrs. Monday to Friday**

**No parking on Sundays due to Church Services**

**e-mail Maria Page - [billmariap@virginmedia.com](mailto:billmariap@virginmedia.com)**

## World Day of Prayer 2025

On 7<sup>th</sup> March over 70 people gathered in St Peters Kirkcaldy for a service written by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands. The theme was taken from Psalm 139 and entitled "I Made You Wonderful". The service was led by members of local congregations from the town, all wearing lei, the traditional flower garland given to all visitors to the Cook Islands. The congregation were given paper flowers with their service booklets.

The service consisted of prayers, reflections and stories from three women from the Cook Islands. The music, interspersed throughout the service, was a mix of hymns written by the Cook Island women and traditional hymns. The World Day of Prayer Hymn "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended" was sung at the conclusion and it was wonderful to have the church filled with the glorious sound of voices raised in song.

The 2026 service, written by the women of Nigeria, will be held in Kirkcaldy Congregational Church on 6<sup>th</sup> March, and a lighted candle was presented from the Rector of St Peter's as 2025 hosts to the Revd Lynn Robertson, Minister, as a symbol of passing the baton to the next host church.

After the service the congregation continued fellowship in the hall with refreshments provided and served by St Peters. It was lovely to hear the happy chatter as people enjoyed tea/coffee and cake.

My sincere thanks to all from St Peter's who made the 2025 service possible.

Christine Fraser, Rector

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*"It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." —Queen Elizabeth II*

Together on Good Friday

By Jane Legg

Last year I was Visiting my family in Sheffield for Easter. So on Good Friday morning I set off for Christ Church, my daughter's Parish Church, for what I thought was to be a Eucharist Service. How wrong I was! 'together on Good Friday for All Ages' was how I read it in the Parish Newsletter, my grandson having chewed the rest!

I was welcomed into the Church by the Vicar, Charles, and the Curate, Adrian (another mad Welshman) minus their usual vestments. The Church was stripped of hangings etc. But a array of paint pots, felt pens, paper, card etc. was very much in evidence. What have I come to?

The congregation was truly all ages, 7 to 70+. We started by singing 'The Lord of the Dance', then we were formed into four groups with a mix of ages. My group had Sarah 7, and a lovely lady in the upper age bracket. Each group was handed a 'script' from passages of the Bible containing the events leading up to the Crucifixion. Our task was to create a scene and to act out the particular passage we had been allocated, hence the art and craft materials.

So there I was, down on my knees, not in prayer as I thought I would be, but gluing and cutting swords for soldiers and also a crown of thorns, as our group had been allocated the task of depicting Our Lord appearing in front of Pilate, then being presenting to the people and the Chief Priests.

Gathering together after a period of time, we then began our journey to the Cross. With Charles as the narrator and Adrian acting as Jesus, we moved round the church to each group, everybody had a role to play. Time was taken at each scene for prayer and reflection.

Finally coming to the Crucifixion, this had been depicted in a simple painting which needed no words. We ended the morning singing 'There is a Green Hill'.

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

*This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg or two, and join our church in donating them to our local food bank? You will make some local children very happy!*

\*\*\*\*\***MR.BONES**\*\*\*\*\*

The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his boney arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."

The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

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Cont. from page 14

It was a very moving end to a morning where people of all ages had truly come together. I was reminded of Matthew, Chapter 18, verse 20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the middle of them”

P.S.

Sarah (aged 7) Adrian, who was Jesus?

Adrian: He is my friend, I talk to him all the time. Who are you?

Sarah: I am Sarah.

Adrian: You could say, you are Sarah, daughter of Ray and Jean.

Narrator: So we can say Jesus is the Son of.....

Adrian: God

(in unison)

Sarah: Mary and Joseph

Sarah: Adrian, this is getting complicated, is it not?

(An article from St. Peter’s church magazine of 1997)

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### Miscellaneous observations on life:

In the 60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

The fastest land mammal is a toddler who's been asked what's in their mouth.

# J<sup>W</sup> W I S H A R T

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### April Showers

When April showers come along, either real ones or the little “showers” that seem to spoil life, I always recall a little poem which my Grandad taught me when I was a child.

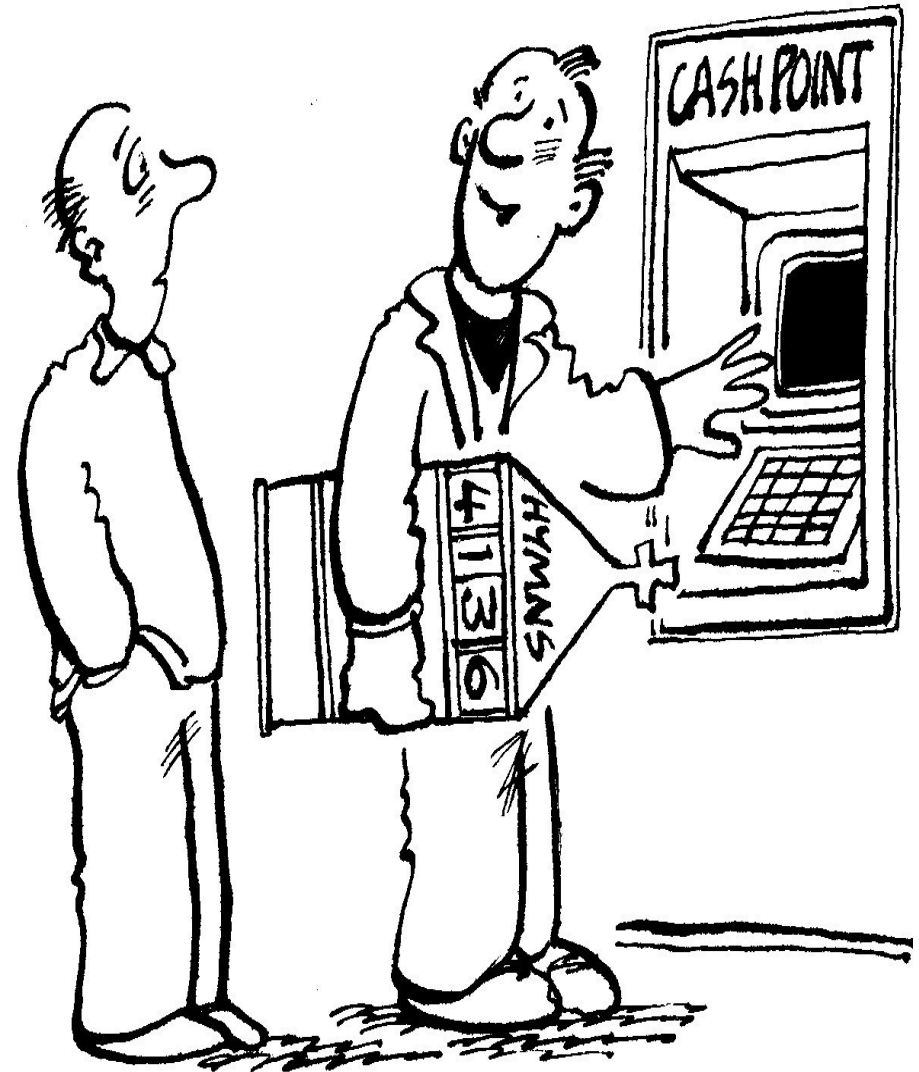
‘God sends the sunshine and the rain to make  
us think along the way

That life with all its ups and downs is like a  
changing April day.

It’s easy to be happy through all the sunny  
hours

But we must learn to smile and sing  
When sunshine turns to showers.’

Maria



*...between you and me, it's the  
only way I can remember my PIN number*





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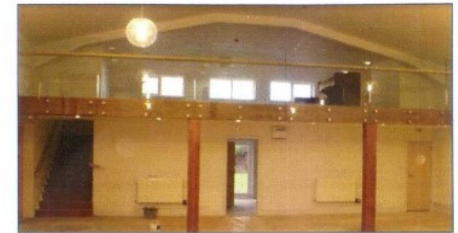
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### 1 April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1<sup>st</sup> April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

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### Letter to God

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish You could have been there."

### 12 Things You (Probably) Didn't Know About Easter

How do you tell someone the true meaning of Easter? If you struggle, this short, evangelistic giveaway may be of real use.

After all, Easter pops up in a seemingly random Sunday each year, easing you gently into Spring. The promise of candy and chocolate eggs makes it popular with kids, but it's hardly in the same league as holidays like Christmas. ... But perhaps it should be?

Anyway, here are 12 weird and wonderful facts, spanning all the way from its origins through to the present day, that show the enduring significance of Easter.

- #1 The Easter Bunny was a little late to the party
- #2 It took an emperor to pin down the date
- #3 The pagan goddess Eoestre makes a brief appearance
- #4 Eggs really do have significance, candy not so much...
- #5 Making hot cross buns was once a criminal offence
- #6 At least 18 laws were broken to condemn Jesus to death
- #7 The Romans didn't really want to kill Jesus
- #8 Good Friday was the worst day in all history
- #9 You can survive crucifixion, but Jesus didn't
- #10 Dead men do walk
- #11 Easter is to die for - literally
- #12 Jesus welcomes doubters