

## In the Beginning...

Baptism is essentially very simple. It involves making a commitment to a new way of living and, as a sign and beginning of that new life, water is applied.

Water is used as a sign of washing away the past and making a new start. It can be sprinkled or poured – usually on the head – or the one coming to be baptised can be fully immersed. Full immersion is a much more dramatic symbol of death to the old and rebirth to the new, as the subject "disappears" for a moment under the water and then reemerges.

Our Lord's Baptism, which the Church commemorates on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany, was conducted by full immersion. Unlike our Baptism, which unites us with Christ in His Death and Resurrection to new life, Our Lord's Baptism by John in the Jordan marked the beginning of His public ministry. Baptism marked a new life for Jesus, but not as we know it.

With Lent starting so early this year, we shall move very quickly from recalling Our Lord's Baptism in mid-January, through Candlemass on 2 February, to our annual season of intense discipleship that will lead us to Easter in March. The opportunity for a new start is fast approaching.

In the meantime, for a short period in January and February, we will walk with Jesus as He calls His disciples to Him and demonstrates His power to the multitudes, gradu-

## Lent 2016

Ash Wednesday: 10 February: Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 10 AM & 7 PM

Bible Study on Wednesdays after Mass: The Penitential Psalms

Stations of the Cross and Benediction: Sundays at 10 AM

Confession available by appointment.

ally revealing the new thing that God is doing through Him.

Will we hear again Our Lord's call to us? Will we see in some way His power at work in our lives? Will we be a means by which Jesus' power may be revealed to others?

All this may seem like a tall order, but we are not without help. At His Baptism, Our Lord was anointed by the Holy Spirit and declared publicly by the Father as God's Son. Jesus was fully equipped for His ministry. At our Baptism, we were given Christ's new life and equipped by the Spirit with the tools we need to live out that new life.

We have all that we need to hear Christ, follow Him, and reveal the new life that is ours and His.

With every blessing, *Fr. Clive* 

Cantiones Sacrae: A Christmas Celebration by Candlelight at St Salvador's Church, Sunday, 20 December 2015

The annual concert of Christmas music at this lovely venue has now become something of an institution. The church was crowded, and the candle light provided an appropriate atmosphere.

The programme compiled by the four members of Cantiones Sacrae was a skilful blend of traditional carols, medieval music and recent works composed in traditional style. The singers have been training intensively of late for the production of their third CD, and that work paid off with a beautifully mellifluous sound quality produced throughout the evening.

The concert began in novel fashion, with Palestrina intoned as the singers processed separately to their platform, the four entering down the aisles from the back of the church. The spatial separation of the four voices in the superb acoustic made a remarkably beautiful effect. The start to the second half could hardly have been more different, with a witty and traditional drinking song from Gloucestershire, in an arrangement by Vaughan Williams. As a native of the county, he could be relied on to know about its traditions where celebration was concerned.

The rest of the programme was divided into groups of three – contrasting in style but working sympathetically together. So the first item, the wonderful In the Bleak Mid-Winter, was followed by 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish music by Victoria and a recent Ave Maria by the group's regular collaborator, Nicholas Wilton.

The programme featured two other pieces by Wilton as well as a highly attractive Ad Impetrandam by his younger American contemporary Peter Kwasniewski. These composers have both cracked the difficult art of making music that sounds immediately attractive yet full of lasting interest.

Several wonderful arrangements by the late Sir David Willcocks featured, and other traditional carols that sounded well included O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Silent Night and the Coventry Carol. Of the older pieces, the Rorate Coeli by Guerrero another mediaeval Spaniard, also came over very strongly.

### **Stephen Fraser**

Louise Bowles wishes to sincerely thank members of St Salvador's and volunteers of the Drop-in for the kindness and the support shown to her during the decline and recent loss of her father Frank.

She much appreciated how many of you came to pay your respects and would like to thank those who gave their time to help in the smooth running of the funeral service.

Ed. Note: Frank Bowles was truly a oneoff, and was a frequent contributor to this magazine, both articles and cartoons. Frank also played a supportive and active part in this congregation in other ways. We shall miss him! May he rest in peace.

#### W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Easter is relatively early this year, which means that Lent will begin in the middle of February.

Easter and the holidays that are related to it are moveable feasts in that they do not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian or Julian calendars, which follow the cycle of the sun. Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. The date of Easter is therefore determined on a lunar calendar similar to the Hebrew calendar. At one time, Christians consulted their Jewish neighbours in order to find out the date of Passover, then computed Easter's date accordingly! This method meant that Easter did not always fall on a Sunday.

The First Council of Nicaea (325) established two rules, independence of the Jewish calendar and worldwide uniformity, which were the only rules for Easter explicitly laid down by the council. No details for the computation were specified; these were worked out in practice, a process that took centuries and generated a number of controversies.

One of these controversies was resolved at the Synod of Whitby in the year 664, when the Celtic Christians accepted the rules for computing the date of Easter used at Rome. Different celebrations of Easter by the different groups of Christians in these islands was one of the problems that had prompted the calling of the Whitby council in the first place.

Easter has now come to be the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or soonest after 21 March, but calculations still vary in East and West. Attempts in modern times to simplify the computation even further, and even to fix the date of Easter, have never gained wide acceptance.

#### FOOD CUPBOARD MINISTRY NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of many donors we were able to give out an extra bag of more festive treats to each of the 72 people who came to our Sunday Afternoon Drop In on Sunday Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Each bag included tinned ham, sugar, biscuits and chocolate plus one or two other items, and this extra bag was much appreciated. We also had individually wrapped slices of Christmas cake, which had been donated, plus mince pies and sweeties to share alongside the usual soup, fruit and savoury items.

On the previous Sunday, Mary Robertson, who is the ASDA Kirkton Community champion, joined us to help distribute the warm hats, scarves and gloves bought from the money granted to our ministry from the ASDA foundation. Again these items were much appreciated. Although numbers attending the Drop In at the end of December were lower than usual we know that in January they will increase again.

As we begin a new year the Rector and Vestry would like to take this opportunity to thank all who volunteer on a Sunday afternoon for their support over the past year and for the unique contribution each makes to our Drop In. Thanks must also go to those who help the Rector prepare the bags each week and keep the cupboards sorted, to Ann for all her work with the volunteers organising the rotas, keeping in touch etc and to Kirsty for all that she does to facilitate our ministry.

We also want to thank all those who donate money or goods to our ministry whether as individuals or as part of a group or congregation. Without these donations of time, goods and money our ministry would be very difficult to sustain. We also appreciate all the prayers offered for the work that we do and trust that God will continue to provide for our ministry and for the church in which it is based.

We received Christmas cards from some of our Sunday afternoon visitors expressing their thanks and good wishes for 2016.

Katie

Donations to our Heating Fund are appreciated throughout the year, and never more so during winter. There is a receptacle at the back on the table during our fellowship over coffee and tea after Mass on Sundays.

Now that a new (working!) timer has been installed, the church heating comes on daily between 2 AM and 4 AM to put some heat in the building during the coldest time of day. This means that neither the organ nor the walls go completely cold for long, which is good for both.

On Sundays, the heating is timed to come on at 4 AM to noon. We will keep this under review, based on the weather and the comfort levels of our members.

Of course, for special services and other occasions, the heating system can be boosted for the heat we require.

#### A Prayer

Let us continue to pray **daily** for the growth of our congregation. Let us continue to ask God to draw to us each week at least one person who has either never been to St. Salvador's, or who has not been with us for a long time. And let us pray that each one of us shall be able to show them something of Christ.

A Prayer for the Church (p. 66 of the Scottish BCP)

O GOD of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; and by the tranquil operation of thy perpetual providence carry out the work of man's salvation, and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to perfection through him from whom they took their origin, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 



### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

The annual subscription for CRUCIS is now due. Please use the form provided with this issue to subscribe or re-subscribe.

The annual cost is being held at the same level as last year, despite a postal increase. Your donations of stamps and C5 envelopes help us to do that.

If it is likely that—even with the best will in the world—you are unable to pick up your monthly copy in church, please arrange to have your copy posted to you by indicating it on the subscription form and paying for postage.

Thank you!

Our thanks are due to Kirsty, Phyllis, the Conlons, Arthur, Jeannette, and others, for donations making possible the beautiful decoration of our church during the Christmas season. The Christmas tree was especially large and lovely this year, the poinsettias were plentiful, and the white flowers were suitably joyful!

#### LENTEN GIFTS IN KIND

It is our custom during Lent to provide donations of items in regular use to keep our running costs down. Among the things we need are: Bleach

2nd Class postage stamps C5 envelopes and A4 paper Printer Epson Stylus SX425W black ink Toilet paper Cafetiere coffee Tea bags Sugar Many thanks from Fr. Clive and Katie to all those who gave us cards and other tokens of friendship and support over the Christmas period. May God bless us all in 2016!

# **Come Celebrate!**

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#### The Naming of Jesus (1 January)

The celebration of this scriptural festival, that has been observed since the sixth century, marks three events: first, the naming of the infant Jesus; secondly, the circumcision as the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham 'and his children for ever', thus Christ's keeping of the Law; and thirdly, the first shedding of Christ's Blood.

#### The Epiphany of the Lord (6 January)

Originally, this very ancient feast was celebrated on this day as the premier Christian celebration of the Incarnation, including both the Nativity of Christ and His Baptism. At some point, Christians in the West began to celebrate the Nativity of Christ on 25 December, and by the fifth century, the eve of the Epiphany (5 January – 'Twelfth Night') commemorated the visit of the Magi and rounded off the western Christmas festivities. Christians in the East have retained the ancient unity of this festival, as the great celebration of the revelation of the Word made flesh.

## St Kentigern (Mungo), Bishop (13 January)

Also known affectionately as Mungo, which means 'beloved', Kentigern belonged to the Welsh-speaking Britons who lived in southwestern Scotland in the seventh century. He is said to have been the grandson of a British prince, and to have attended a monastic school at Culross. Kentigern became a missionary to the Britons living in Strathclyde and was consecrated their bishop. During a period of persecution, he may have fled to Wales, but Kentigern eventually returned to Strathclyde and died in 603. He is the patron saint of the city of Glasgow, and his tomb is in St Mungo's Cathedral there.

#### The Conversion of Paul (25 January)

This feast recalls the dramatic conversion of the anti-Christian zealot Saul and his calling by Christ to become an apostle. It is one of the pivotal moments in Christian history, so great was the impact this particular convert was to have on the course of the gospel's progress. Christians have celebrated the feast of Paul's conversion since the sixth century, but it became a universal celebration of the Church in the twelfth century. In modern times, this festival rounds off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

## Ss. Timothy and Titus, Bishops (26 January)

Timothy and Titus were companions and co-workers of the Apostle Paul. Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father, whilst Titus was wholly Greek. They are honoured in the Church for their devotion and faithfulness to the gospel.

## St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Teacher (27 January)

John was born in Antioch in about 347. He was a brilliant preacher, which earned him later the surname 'Chrysostom', meaning 'golden-mouthed'. He is honoured as one of the four Greek Doctors of the Church. Against his wish he was made Patriarch of Constantinople in 398. He set about reforming the Church and exposing corruption amongst the clergy and in the Imperial administration, making him powerful enemies. Twice he was sent into exile, finally dying of exhaustion and starvation far from home in 407, with the words 'Glory be to God for everything' on his lips.

# The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (2 February)

This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the Infant to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving for the firstborn son and to meet the requirements of the Law for Mary's purification after childbirth. The Holy Child is acclaimed by Simeon as 'the light to lighten the Gentiles'. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance of this festival.

## St Finan of Lindisfarne, Bishop (17 February)

Finan was an Irish monk of Iona, who succeeded Aidan as bishop of Lindisfarne and carried his missionary work south of the Humber. He built the monastery at Whitby and vigorously upheld the Celtic ecclesiastical traditions against those coming from the south who followed Roman usage. He died in the year 661.

## St Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr (23 February)

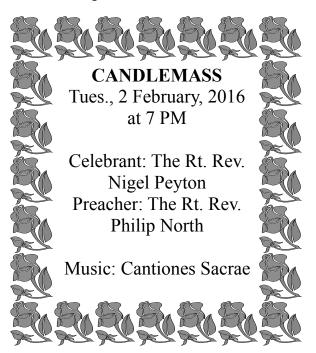
A disciple of the Apostle John, Polycarp had been Bishop of Smyrna on the Aegean coast of Asia Minor for over forty years when the persecution of Christians began. In the year 155 he was arrested and, having refused the opportunity to renounce his faith, was burnt at the stake. His remains were gathered together and buried outside the city. Soon after, the practice began of celebrating the Eucharist over his burial place on the anniversary of his death, a practice which also grew over the martyrs' tombs in Rome, a significant early development in the evolution of the Church's sanctoral calendar and devotions.



The Right Rev. Philip North CMP, Bishop of Burnley, will be our guest preacher at Candlemass on 2 Feb.

Born in North London in 1966, Bishop North is well known as a preacher and as an enabler of a number of mission initiatives.

Before being consecrated Bishop in February 2015, he received degrees from York University and Oxford, served a number of parishes, and was Priest Administrator at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham from 2002 to 2008. Since 1997, Bishop North has been a member of the Company of Mission Priests, a dispersed community of celibate priests committed to evangelism and living under a Rule of Life.



# Kalendar

Fri., 1 Jan.: The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 3 Jan.: Christmas 2: Masses at 9AM &11AM Tues., 5 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 6 Jan.: The Epiphany: Masses at 10 AM & 7 PM Sun., 10 Jan.: Baptism of the Lord: Masses at 9AM &11AM Tues., 12 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 13 Jan.: St. Kentigern: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 17 Jan.: Epiphany 2: Masses at 9AM &11AM Tues., 19 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 20 Jan.: Feria: Masses at 10 AM Sun., 24 Jan.: Epiphany 3: Masses at 9AM &11AM Mon., 25 Jan.: Conversion of St. Paul: Mass at NOON Tues., 26 Jan.: Ss. Timothy & Titus: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 27 Jan.: St. John Chrysostom: Masses at 10 AM Sun., 31 Jan.: Epiphany 4: Masses at 9AM &11AM Tues., 2 Feb.: CANDLEMASS: Sung Mass at 7 PM Wed., 3 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 7 Feb.: Epiphany 5: Masses at 9AM &11AM Tues., 9 Feb.: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 10 Feb.: ASH WEDNESDAY: Mass with Blessing & Imposition of Ashes at 10 AM & 7 PM Sun., 14 Feb.: Lent 1: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 16 Feb.: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 17 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 21 Feb.: Lent 2: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 23 Feb.: St. Polycarp of Smyrna: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 24 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 28 Feb.: Lent 3: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM

Tues., 1 Mar.: St. David of Wales: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 2 Mar.: St. Chad of Lichfield: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 6 Mar.: Lent 4: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 8 Mar.: St. Duthac: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 9 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 13 Mar.: Lent 5: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 15 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 16 Mar.: St. Boniface of Ross: Mass at 10 AM Thurs., 17 Mar.: St. Patrick: Mass at 7 PM Sat., 19 Mar.: St. Joseph: Mass at 11 AM Sun., 20 Mar.: PALM SUNDAY: Masses at 9AM &11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Mon., 21 Mar.; Mon. in Holy Week: Mass at NOON Tues., 22 Mar.: Tues. in Holy Week: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 23 Mar.: Wed. in Holy Week: Mass at 10 AM Thurs., Mar. 24: Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM Fri., 25 Mar.: Good Friday: Solemn Liturgy at 3 PM and Stations at 7 PM Sat., 26 Mar.: Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil at 9 PM Sun., 27 Mar.: EASTER SUNDAY: Masses at 9AM &11AM Mon., 28 Mar.; Mon. in Easter Week: Mass at NOON Tues., 29 Mar.: Tues. in Easter Week: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 30 Mar.: Wed. in Easter Week:

Mass at 10 AM

# Diocesan Website: www.brechin.anglican.org

The deadline for the next issue of *'Crucis'* is Sunday, 21 Feb.. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

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## Magazine

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