

Holy Trinity, Elgin with St Margaret's, Lossiemouth

Welcome to the Scottish Episcopal Church.
This parish welcomes members of other denominations to share in
its worship

Sunday 8 May 22 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday services are at 9.30 am in St Margaret's, Lossiemouth and at 11.15 am in Holy Trinity, Elgin. The requirement to wear face coverings at services has now lifted. If you would prefer to continue wearing one, please feel very welcome to do so. The person distributing communion will continue to wear a face covering. As cases in our area are still quite high, please be kind and give each other space.

This leaflet comes out weekly, by e-mail or post and on our website. Please make sure your friends receive theirs.

A recorded digital Service of the Word is usually available each Sunday on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYhBaWnrmXOvc1HgDzlm_g

You'll also find a weekly Scottish Episcopal Church service at:

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

For any contact, questions or queries please get in touch with Tembu
01343 547505 or rector@trinityelgin.org

Mon 9 May

Julian of Norwich (from 8 May)

Tue 10 May

Wed 11 May

Thurs 12 May Thomas Rattray

Fri 13 May

Sat 14 May MATTHIAS

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Easter 4 Daily Prayer: New Life: The Lord

Collect

O God, the light of whose truth stretches out to those who go astray, that they may return to the path of righteousness: give your grace to all who profess themselves Christians, that they may cast out what is harmful, and pursue all that gives life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

First Reading Acts 9: 36 – 43

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalm Ps 23

Response *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name’s sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

Second Reading Revelation 7: 9 – 17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

GOSPEL John 10: 22 – 30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.’

Reflection *(from the Youth with thanks to Jenny)*

So, this is Vocations Sunday, often known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The word ‘Vocation’ itself comes in two parts ‘voca’ comes from the Latin ‘Vocare’ meaning ‘to call’, and ‘tion’ turns an action into a concept in English.

Literally this word means ‘something you are called to do’. When you hear the word ‘vocation’ what often springs to mind is a call to ministry, to be a priest. Yet vocations are not limited to priesthood alone. One could consider doctors and nurses as having a vocation, the same could be said of teachers, volunteers, emergency services, armed forces, politicians and many others. Many roles that are often considered jobs could also be considered vocations. The important aspect is that you feel drawn to do some good, often to help others. Some think of this as a calling from God. Two of our young people have asked Jenny about her vocation. Their questions and her answers will be below.

Q 1: What is your vocation?

A. To be a priest: to serve and to care for others and to enable and lead them in their worship. To celebrate the Sacraments. To be a person of prayer. When I look back over those words, I wonder how I could possibly have dared make all those promises at my ordination. But then I remember those key words that I said in front of everyone after the Bishop asked me if I would try to keep those commitments. Each time I answered, as all ordinands do at this service, *"By the help of God, I will"*.

Q 2: When and how did you feel God was calling you into ministry?

A. For me this didn't happen slowly. It was a light-bulb moment. Nigel and I had recently retired from our jobs, and we were looking forward to lots of travel and family fun ahead.

Very suddenly during an evening Eucharist on St Andrew's Day, 30 Nov 1999, when I was 55 years old, there was a dramatic moment when I knew that God was calling me to a new ministry. Now, over 23 years later, I often recall the words during that service that were speaking directly to me: one of the hymns was urging me: *"Stir up the hope that needs to be stretched"*. And the Collect for that day asked God to give me "the grace to follow you *without delay*, and to tell the good news of your kingdom". The Gospel reading that night was about Andrew being called by Jesus, and the sermon was a powerful one about vocation. Suddenly I heard God calling me, as he had been all evening, and probably for a long time before that. Until then I had not been ready to listen. But in that moment it became crystal clear to me that responding to God's call was what I needed to do. And immediately I felt a great sense of relief.

Over the next few months I was encouraged, heartened and supported by

members of the congregation and the clergy who knew me, by my spiritual adviser and by my family and friends; they all helped to confirm my growing realisation that God was calling me to a sacramental ministry.

So then I went through the process of selection and training. It was hard writing essays again, because I hadn't written one since I was at school. But finally I was ordained deacon, and then priest a year later, just before I was 60. My aim was to be ordained before I needed a Zimmer frame to get around. Whew! I made it.

Q 3: What's the most fun thing you do as a minister?

A. The most fun thing so far has been running the last Confirmation Course for some of our young people... Oh yes, and that wonderfully joyful and chaotic wedding at Holy Trinity when the six very small flower girls and page boys shredded their bunches of flowers and then made huge towers of the kneelers as the service progressed.

Q 4: What's the most boring part of church?

A. None of it... now! Although I do remember being bored as a young person during long sermons. When you get old you don't get bored so quickly.

Q 5: Why do you like doing ministry?

A. I love that ministry is a team effort. We all do ministry together... young and old... *and by the help of God we will!*

Intercessions (Carleen)

Response: **Lord, help me to follow where you lead.**

As members together of the body of Christ, let us pray to the true and living God.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Lord, you give us all we need, help us to recognise and celebrate the richness of your generous gifts which fill our lives. Help us to rejoice in who we are, instead of measuring ourselves against who we are not. Help us to keep our focus on what we really need in our lives as well as how we share your gifts with others. **R**

He leads me by still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Help us to find the silence and stillness in our lives, to leave behind the noise

of the world and the endless chatter in our own heads, so that we can seek the stillness and presence of God, hearing his voice which brings healing to our souls. **R**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil as you are with me. We pray for those whose lives are caught up in conflict and violence, especially for the people of Ukraine. We remember those whose lives are darkened by failed relationships and emotional suffering and those who struggle with stress and depression. We pray for those who known to us who are suffering pain and ill health, asking for your loving comfort in their lives **R**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. We give thanks for our community, our church and pray for Mark our Bishop, Tembu and Jenny as they encourage and care for us. Help us to serve our community in joy and offer love in the name of the one who first loved us. **R**

You prepare a table before me; you anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows.

We pray for those who have passed through death into your loving hands, remembering those we have loved and still miss every day of our lives. May we be comforted as they know the joy of your eternity. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Please pray for: Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, and Carol Wetherell.

Brew and blether after the service – in HT small hall or at the back of St M
Many thanks to our servers. New volunteers welcome.

Collect for St Matthias, Apostle 14 May

Almighty God, who, by the Holy Spirit, chose Matthias to be numbered in the twelve apostles: by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Readings for next Sunday 15 May 22 Easter 5

Acts 11: 1 – 18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21: 1 – 6

John 13: 31 – 35

Activities and Future Events

www.trinityelgin.org

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.

Tembu's normal days off are Friday and Saturday.

The Youth Fellowship If you are S1–S6 and would like to join us please get in touch with Tembu at rector@trinityelgin.org

Choir practice in church, Wed 5 pm. New singers welcome.

Mothers' Union 3rd Wed of the month, 2 pm in HT hall

Men's group Open to all. Monthly outings. Contact Graham 830250

HT Gardeners 2nd Tue of month (not winter) at back. Front – any time.

Prayer group Contact Jenny (07950 830017)

Youth Fellowship

Please contact Tembu for info on weekly Tuesday meetings.

50+ Club monthly draw Thank you for your continued support. Last year we were able to donate £500 to church funds. Our new year starts in June. It is still £12 per number per year. Members can have as many numbers as they like. Please pay by cash or cheque (made out to the 50+ club) to either Lyne Taylor or Maureen Collie.

Mothers' Union. The next meeting is on Wed 18 May, 2pm in HT small hall. Dr Jackie Mobbs will come & tell us about some of her experiences as a doctor on cruise liners. All welcome.

Gordonstoun Chapels Thurs 19 May, 4 pm at St Christopher's Chapel. Tea and a talk on Christianity in and international school from Christian Collet, chaplain. Followed by Compline in the Michael Kirk, led by The Rector. The Michael Kirk is one of the gems of north east Scotland and a place where many have found peace. For info contact Graham on 830250

Points from vestry

- Save the date: Sun 12 June, 3pm at HT. We are planning a mid-summer event: Songs of Praise followed by refreshments. Look out for the chance to vote for your favourite hymns.
- The church roof is in urgent need of repair in places. Options are being looked at.

Diary

Sun 15 May Easter Evensong

Wed 18 May Mothers' Union 2pm in HT hall. "Cruise ship doctor".

Thurs 19 May Men's group – Gordonstoun chapels Contact Graham 830250

Thurs 16 Jun Men's group & MU – Gordon Castle garden & Gordon chapel

Sun 12 Jun Summer Songs of Praise 3 pm at HT

Sun 19 Jun "Choir on tour" Choral Evensong at Aberlour. All welcome.

The money's in! the claim was submitted to HMRC at the end of last week and, just in time for the leaflet deadline, Lynne has let me know that £4096.60 has just been paid into our account. That was a combination of the tax refund on 3 months of Gift Aid donations and a top up I claim annually based on small donations. Needless to say, we're delighted that it went through so quickly. I can't say enough thanks to those who made donations, big and small, as well as the record keepers and all you who have gone to the trouble of filling out a Gift Aid form. Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org For legacies please speak to Gordon Barron. 547188

News from the nest box. The last couple of months have been confusing. Tree Sparrows seemed to getting ready to nest but were challenged by Great Tits. We had weeks of wing flapping, squawking and occasional attempts at pecking the opposition. Then Blue Tits got in on the action. We would see one bird or the other nip into the box when the others weren't around, but none seemed to make a permanent home. Just when we thought the Tree Sparrows had got the upper hand we saw the Great Tits pecking away to enlarge the entrance and taking in nesting material. But, everything's gone very, very quiet since. No birds seen! To be continued.....

And finally

PUSH = Pray until something happens.

Sent in by Lynne Taylor

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong

01343 547505

Rector@trinityelgin.org

Items for next week's leaflet should be with Kate by Wednesday evening

pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org or 01343 835133

8 May 22