

The Grapevine



The Magazine of Saint Magnus Cathedral Congregation

SERVICES THIS AUTUMN

***Services are held in St Magnus Cathedral
Every Sunday at 11.15 am***

7th September

Science Festival and Communion Service

14th September

Sunday Club resumes

5th October

Harvest Family Service for All Ages

2nd November

Communion Service for All Saints Sunday

9th November

Remembrance Sunday

30th November

Advent Sunday

GRAPEVINE

**The magazine of St Magnus Cathedral
Autumn Edition 2008**

Minister:	Rev Fraser Macnaughton	Tel: 873312
Associate Minister:	Rev Christine Farrington	Tel: 871859
Grapevine Editor:	Sally Heddle	Tel: 731285

EDITORIAL

In late July, I was driving northwards from London through a golden landscape. On both sides of the motorway stretched field after field of ripe grain ready for harvest.

We are all worried about the economic downturn and food prices but are the problems greater than we realise? In 2005, the world population was estimated at 6.5 billion. Half of that number - 3 million - live a marginal existence. World population is expected to be 9.2 billion in 50 years time.

In the 1980s we had beef, grain and butter mountains. Now we produce too little food worldwide. The worldwide price of food has risen by 83% since 2005. The world's poor just become poorer. Climate change with its unstable weather patterns means that the land grows less food. Years of drought in Australia have devastated their production of grain.

The rapid increase in growing crops for bio fuels meant that in March this year, global grain stocks were at their lowest levels ever – just 40 days from running out. Scientists predict we can no longer assume we can grow all the food we will need.

If half the world is hungry now, what will the situation be in 50 years?

***Material for the Christmas Grapevine should reach the editor by
October 26th 2008***



KEEPERS OF THE SACRED

Here's a provocative statement about the church: "Society has fired us as keepers of the sacred."

That doesn't come from vociferous atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, who have had books riding high in bestseller lists. It comes from Bruce Sanguin, Minister of Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver.

Once upon a time, "keepers of the sacred" described the Christian church fairly well. The church – more accurately, its clergy – dispensed history, tradition, education, healing... Often, it was the last resort for justice, when people sought sanctuary within its walls.

But times have changed. The church has handed over history to universities, education to public schools, justice to the courts, healing to governments and professional associations. The church still upholds its own traditions, but fewer and fewer people seem to care.

In the UK, the fastest growing religion is "none." Fifty years ago, less than two per cent of census returns indicated "no religion." Today, nearly 30% do nationally in Scotland. A quotation often attributed to British author G. K. Chesterton says, "When people stop believing in God, they don't believe in nothing – they'll believe in anything." So other things become "sacred." Lottery sales suggest that many transfer their faith to the mighty pound. The volume and content of my spam e-mail suggests that vast numbers now worship at the altar of sex. A significant number have raised nature to the status of god.

Meanwhile, church membership has plunged. The Church of Scotland now has fewer adult members than it used to have children in Sunday schools. If the church has become just another service club, then I'd have to say that service clubs do a better job. Rotary has almost eliminated polio worldwide.

I admire Rotary's motto of "Service above self." I support their adherence to four principles: truth, fairness, goodwill and friendship, beneficial to all. But with no disrespect, I rarely hear much examination of "Why?" Why give so generously? Why serve? Why care? It's just taken for granted that we should. I guess if you don't, you would never join Rotary.

The churches I know are the only places that regularly ask, "Why?"

Every week, in church, someone makes the effort to explore why we take certain principles and values for granted. Contrary to some assumptions, our system of ethics did not spring fully formed from The Enlightenment in the 18th century. It was shaped over centuries by what people considered encounters with God. With the holy. With the sacred. Some people wrote those encounters down. Christians call that record their Bible. Others reflected on the implications of those encounters. We call that theology.

As long as churches continue to explore the significance of those encounters, churches will continue to be "keepers of the sacred."

Whether or not society cares.

I seek peace; let me be peace.

I seek justice; let me be just.

I seek a world of kindness; let me be kind.

I seek a world of generosity; let me be generous with all that I have.

I seek a world of sharing; let me share all that I have.

I seek a world of giving; let me be giving to all around me.

I seek a world of love; let me be loving beyond all reason, beyond all normal expectation, beyond all societal frameworks that tell me how much love is "normal," beyond all fear that giving too much love will leave me with too little.

Rabbi Michael Lerner

RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS;

A thought by Bishop Jack Spong

Raising consciousness is not easy. It brings deep appreciation from many people, but it also brings deep hostility from those who do not see. Every change in thinking involves the death of a previous way of thinking and human beings do not do well in the dying — even when death turns out to be the doorway to resurrection. It always helps to see progress in the human value system, but sometimes it takes a lifetime before people notice.

I grew up in a radically segregated Episcopal church in North Carolina.

I lived through wrenching battles in that church as racism began to die.

I lived to see the Episcopal Church in North Carolina elect as their only bishop a gifted African-American priest, Michael Curry, who was at that time the rector of a Baltimore church. He has been directing the affairs of the Diocese of North Carolina now since 2000.

I grew up in a sexist church where girls could not serve as acolytes and women were not allowed to function liturgically or to sit in on any decision making body of church life. I lived long enough to see 40% of our clergy become women, 60% of our seminary students become women and to see my church choose a woman bishop (in Nevada), Katharine Jefferts-Schori, to be our Presiding Bishop, the highest office our church has.

I grew up in a homophobic church where gay and lesbian people were treated as if they were either mentally ill or morally depraved. I have lived long enough to see openly homosexual clergy serving our church with distinction and honour, and one of them, Gene Robinson, to be elected and confirmed to be the Bishop of New Hampshire. Bishop Robinson is not either the first or the only gay bishop in my church, as the press likes to pretend so that it looks like news; he is our first and only honest gay bishop.

Those are the things that make it worthwhile to endure the tension, the conflict and the hostility that change always brings.

Coming soon: the next instalment in the series '*Living the Questions*'.
Please look in the order of service for dates in November.

Seventeen billion dollars is spent each year by the West on pet food. Thirteen billion dollars would provide everyone in the world with a basic diet.



Have you noticed these imps in the tiles of the Cathedral floor?

BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mum, look what I found", the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

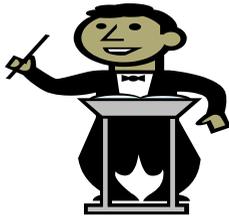
ED HOLT

Edmund Holt, our choirmaster for thirteen years, has decided to retire. Given that he only planned to try the post for a month when first invited, he is to be congratulated on his fortitude, and the choir has been most fortunate in enjoying the skills and humour of such a knowledgeable musician. Not only has Ed been a wonderful choirmaster, but he has also looked after the choir members as if they were his own family. (Many of them are!)

He has brought to the choir many years of musical experience, having been a choirboy in his youth, and he would often relate experiences with well-known conductors that he came into contact with whilst at university. The choir has enjoyed the many different styles of anthems and introits that he has taught them over the years, and he encouraged the members to tackle challenging pieces to extend their repertoire. Highlights of our time with Ed have included our island trips, where we led the services on Westray, Papa Westray, Stronsay, Flotta and Shapinsay with Ed's skills as a lay preacher coming to the fore. His knowledge and understanding of the scriptures was always apparent in the prayers said before choir practices and in his choices of hymns for particular services.

Ed enlivened practices every Wednesday evening not only with the choice of music, but also with his sense of humour and inability to read hymn numbers! Some of Ed's favourite sayings that we will miss are 'turn to hymn number 493, no I mean 349', 'sing this a bit slower just like a lorry coming over the top of a hill' and 'let's be upstanding'.

And now finally, to quote Ed, 'Let's call that an evening!'



We wish him well as he braves another cruise.

Written by an Alto and an Organist

SUNDAY CLUB NEWS

We continue to have a small but enthusiastic group coming to Sunday Club each week. Highlight of this year was the annual picnic and we all had a good day out. We visited Corrigall Farm museum, where the children were introduced to Orkney's past, as well as a number of ducks, hens and North Ronaldsay sheep. After an ice cream, kindly given to the children by Dennis Bichan, we proceeded to Aikerness beach. We were lucky to have decent weather, and following the fiercely competitive sandcastle competition the races commenced.

The following day was the end of session presentation of books, and the children very much enjoyed performing the 'Wise and Foolish Man' for the congregation.

Sunday Club resumes in September. If you know of anyone who might like to join us, please contact Wilma Bichan, tel. 874743, or just tell them to come along at 11.15 on a Sunday morning. They will be made most welcome.

REPORT FROM ST MAGNUS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group has, as its name suggests, enjoyed this year making new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

We are saddened to report the loss of one of our faithful members, Daisy Oddie, and we thank her family for the generous support they have given the Group.

Each Christmas we distribute money to a variety of charities, and as this is our first report since then, you may be interested to know that we gave donations to Ken and Alice Milligan for continuing work at the Riara Health Project in Kenya, Send-A-Cow, Smile (Widows in Kosovo who make lace to earn a livelihood), the Salvation Army, Women's Aid (Orkney), the Blide Trust, Crossroads, CLIC Sargent, Age Concern, Dial-a-Bus and the St Magnus Centre (for we do appreciate the facilities it offers).

We have had interesting and informative visits from various people in the community, and we thank them for giving their time for our entertainment. Christine Ferguson took us on a trip to Malawi, which she visited with other members of Stromness Church and friends. It is good to know the work they began there is continuing, and we remember the people of Malawi at this time. Karen and Harold Esson visited us and provided a most interesting programme. Harold showed slides of Fair Isle, while Karen linked the film show to the earls who ruled in Orkney. It was particularly fitting to hear of Earl Rognvald in this anniversary year of his death. It seems power and wealth created similar problems then to those it creates today! Continuing on the Norwegian links, Leslie Burgher showed us some pictures from Bergen and Voss, and these were much enjoyed by the Group. Helen Muir very kindly spent an afternoon with us and entertained us with a very varied programme. It was a good fun afternoon,

and surely it is good to switch off from the worries of the outside world and enjoy a good laugh. The year is moving on, and we look forward to our outing to Appie's Tearoom at the beginning of August. Neil Leisk spent a most interesting evening with us when he came armed with boxes of a wide variety of things from the past. These conjured up many memories for members, as well as stimulating conversation. Neil, of course, is a great raconteur, so had stores to tell about some of the items.

We had a very successful Plant and Pancake afternoon, and this is an opportunity to say thank you to all our gardeners who faithfully support us every year. Without your generous contribution the day wouldn't be the success it is. We also thank everyone who came on the day and supported in any way to help raise nearly £500.

We have just received the literature for the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal for 2008. Can we really be thinking ahead to Christmas already? Well, it takes a lot of planning and effort, but the Group enjoy working together to make this happen. We ask for your support again, and it isn't too soon to start gathering bits and pieces. Some of our members have been busy during the winter knitting. It would be most helpful if you stick with the items listed:

NEW clothes	underwear/socks/tights; hat/scarf; gloves
NEW stationery	pens/pencils/sharpener; notepads/colouring books; rulers/rubbers; small toy
Toiletries	soap/shampoo/shower gel; face cloth/moist wipes/sponge; deodorant; moisturising cream; comb/brush; sanitary products; shaving foam/razors; toothbrush and toothpaste
Miscellaneous	new makeup; sewing equipment; household candles; screwdrivers/pliers; kitchen utensils
Other items	t-shirts/pyjamas/jumpers/shirts, sweets, etc

And remember – they do have to fit in a shoebox. Some people may wish to give cash donations, and this is very acceptable as it helps to pay for transport costs. Leaflets will shortly be appearing in the Cathedral, when you can read what Blythswood have to say about their appeal.

If you wish to know more about the Friendship Group please contact Leslie on 878196 or Freda on 873250.

ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL GUILD SYLLABUS 2008/2009

Theme: *Let's Live; Body, Mind & Soul*
 He Restores My Soul

All meetings are held in St Magnus Centre at 7.30 pm

Tues, Sep 9	"And What Is Your View?" Matter of Opinion – Opening Meeting – Everyone Welcome Visit to Lambaness
Sat, Oct 4	Coffee Morning
Tues, Oct 14	"Lat 25°04 South, Long 130°06 West" – Pitcairn Island with Malcolm and Gwen Gilbert
Thurs, Oct 16	Orkney Presbyterial Guild Council Winter Rally - Firth Church
Tues, Nov 11	The Guild Theme – He Restores My Soul – Rev Graeme Brown
Tues, Dec 9	"Helping Others" – Allocation of funds; followed by "What Christmas Means to Me" – Talk by Rev Don Currie
Tues, Jan 13	"Let us Sing" - Songs of Praise – "To Sing is to Praise Twice" With guests from Salvation Army Home League
Sat, Feb 7	Coffee Morning
Tues, Feb 10	"Let us Share the Bread and Wine" Fellowship Meal with Friendship Group
Tues, Mar 10	"Everyone Present" Business Meeting and Members' Night
April	"We're Stepping Out" Annual Visit
June	Orkney Presbyterial Guild Council Summer Rally



WHAT DO YOU SEE?? 11 SHIPS OR 3 SHIPS & 8 ARCHES?

YEAR PLAN FOR SERVICES - 08/09

Month	Date	Sunday	S Club	Event
SEPT	7	ORDINARY 23	N	Science Festival Communion
	14	ORDINARY 24	Y	Sunday Club starts
	21	ORDINARY 25	Y	
	28	ORDINARY 26	Y	
OCT	5	ORDINARY 27	N	Harvest family service
	12	ORDINARY 28	N	
	19	ORDINARY 29	N	
	26	ORDINARY 30	N	
NOV	2	ALL SAINTS	N	Communion
	9	ORDINARY 32	Y	Remembrance
	16	ORDINARY 33	Y	
	23	CHRIST THE KING	Y	
	30	ADVENT	Y	

DEC	7	ADVENT 2		Tree Lighting
	14	ADVENT 3	Y	
	21	ADVENT 4	Y	Nativity. Lessons and Carols 8.00pm
	24	CHRISTMAS EVE	N	Watchnight 11.30pm
	28	1 st OF CHRISTMAS	N	
JAN 9	4	1 st OF EPIPHANY	N	
	11	2 nd OF EPIPHANY	Y	
	18	3 rd OF EPIPHANY	Y	
	25	4 TH OF EPIPHANY	Y	
FEB	1	5 th OF EPIPHANY	N	Communion
	8	6 th OF EPIPHANY	Y	
	15	7 th OF EPIPHANY	N	
	22	LAST OF EPIPHANY	Y	
MAR	1	FIRST IN LENT	Y	
	8	SECOND IN LENT	Y	
	15	THIRD IN LENT	Y	
	22	FOURTH IN LENT	Y	
	29	FIFTH IN LENT	N	
APR	5	PASSION/PALM	N	
	12	EASTER DAY	N	Communion
	19	EASTER 2	Y	
	26	EASTER 3	Y	
MAY	3	EASTER 4	N	
	10	EASTER 5	Y	
	17	EASTER 6	Y	
	24	EASTER 7	Y	

	31	PENTECOST	N	Communion
JUNE	7	TRINITY	Y	
	14	ORDINARY 11	Y	SUNDAY CLUB CLOSING
	21	ORDINARY 12		Festival service
	28	ORDINARY 13		
JULY	5	ORDINARY 14		
	12	ORDINARY 15		
	19	ORDINARY 16		
	26	ORDINARY 17		

ASSORTED OTHER PIECES OF INFORMATION

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services throughout the year will be held at 11.15 a.m. full details can be found on the Year Plan.

COMMUNION SERVICES

We have an open Table at Communion services, which means that all are welcome to share in the Sacrament. This includes children.

COMMUNION DATES

Holy Communion is celebrated on the significant dates in the Christian Year, namely Science Festival Sunday [1st in September] All Saints Sunday [1st in November, Christmas Day [jointly with Kirkwall East Church, Candlemas [1st in February] Easter Day, Pentecost. There is also a Communion service held on the first Sunday in August.

HOME COMMUNIONS

Any member wishing to have the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated at home is asked to contact their District Elder who will make the necessary arrangements.

BAPTISMS

We conduct baptisms for both children and adults. Family and friends are invited to be a part of this significant church occasion.

In accordance with Church practice, baptisms are conducted during the main Sunday service and parents, or grandparents or another close family member will be required to confess their faith as part the service.

It is also possible to arrange to have a Service of Blessing for a child at which no promises are required to be made in the way required at baptism..

Preliminary enquiries about baptism or blessing should be made to the Minister in the first instance.

WEDDINGS

All weddings must be booked through the Minister. Please contact the Minister **before** booking a venue for the reception, in order to ascertain the availability of the Cathedral and Minister. You will then be issued with the Cathedral Wedding Guide providing you with the necessary information for your wedding.

FUNERALS

In the event of a death the Minister should be contacted as early as possible. It is of the utmost importance that the day and hour of the funeral service should not be fixed without prior consultation with the Minister.

VISITATION

The Minister seeks, so far as time and circumstances allow, to visit members in need of any kind. If requested to make a special visit, he is happy to make arrangements to call.

CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Minister is available to provide an opportunity for anyone wishing to discuss the responsibilities of confirmation of their baptismal vows.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS	
23 March	Sophie Grace McCartney 13 Warrenfield Crescent
30 March	Hannah Louise Smith Lyking Rendall
30 March	Robert William Smith Lyking, Rendall
6 July	Beth Christine Cameron 68 The Cairns Muir of Ord

WEDDINGS	
1 March	Erica Nicholls and Adam Clarkson
29 March	Lee-Anne Wylie and Stewart Gray
19 April	Kerry Sutherland and Richard Stevenson
3 May	Debbie Ross and Adrian Walker
13 June	Dawn Wood and David Stout
20 June	Tracy Foubister and Barry Leslie
28 June	Sharon Miller and Magnus Scott
4 July	Lianne Sutherland and Graham Mackay
11 July	Carly Simpson and Erik Tait
12 July	Caroline Fergus and Ian Heddle
17 July	Katharine Beaven and Steven McCullagh
19 July	Laura Stevenson and Ben Daniel
1 August	Emma Drever and James McConnachie
2 August	Lynne Kirkness and Darren Bentham
8 August	Mandy Ross and David Gill
15 August	Linzi Dowell and Leonard Mowatt
16 August	Jacqueline Moar and Barry Garden
30 August	Lisa McAlister and Thomas Kirby

FUNERALS

Irene E. Campbell - 8 Gunns Close, Kirkwall - 7 Feb

Daisy Oddie - Laverock Cottage, Union Street, Kirkwall - 4 March

Edith W. Raeburn - Lindisfarne, Westray - 21 March

Jane Sutherland - 27a Eunson Kloss, Kirkwall - 28 March

John H. Wilson - St Clair, Cromwell Crescent, Kirkwall - 28 Mar

John R. (Jackie) Miller - 48 Kirklands Road, Kirkwall - 7 April

Ethel M. Linklater - 15 Eunson Kloss, Kirkwall - 24 April

Olive Herdman - St Rognvalds House, Kirkwall - 9 May

Sylvia M. S. Dennison - St Rognvalds House, Kirkwall - 29 May

William H. Raeburn - 25 Glaitness Park, Kirkwall - 31May

Bobby Nicholson - 14 Slater Street, Kirkwall - 7 June

Christopher A. Findlay - Bennicuml, Stronsay - 9 June

Donald A. MacLeod - 23 Craigie Crescent, Kirkwall - 21 June

Doreen Cormack - 12 St Catherines Place, Kirkwall - 27 June

Louie McDonald - 15 Thom Street, Kirkwall - 12 July

Stuart Watson - 6 Highbury Villas, Kirkwall - 23 July

Bryce Donaldson - 47 Reid Crescent, Kirkwall - 25 July

Elizabeth M. Stevenson - 70 Meadowbank, Kirkwall - 5 August

Raymond Flett - Pow, Evie - 7 August

Greta Keldie - 19 White Street, Kirkwall - 14 August

Ronnie Johnston - 6 Rosebank, Kirkwall - 16 August

Kathleen Bews – Seamoor, Greenigoe Orphir – 25 August

Billy Tait - 49 Meadowbank - 25 August

Patrick Sullivan - Kincraig, Galaha, Orphir - 26 August