

The Grapevine

The Magazine of Saint Magnus Cathedral Congregation

ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL

WORSHIP AT THE CATHEDRAL THIS SUMMER
Services are held in St Magnus Cathedral
Every Sunday at 11.15 am

Summer Services

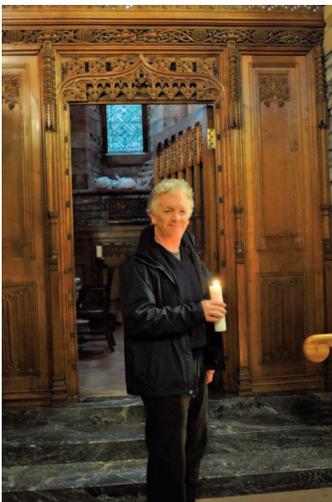
19th June	11.15am	St Magnus Festival Service: Music by the Cathedral Choir and members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.
26th June	11.15am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion
31st July	11.15am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion
28th August	11.15am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion
4th September	11.15am	Science Festival Service
25th September	11.15am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

GRAPEVINE

The magazine of St Magnus Cathedral
Summer Edition 2011

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Material for the Autumn Grapevine should reach
Fraser McNaughton by August 22nd 2011



A Smile

A smile costs nothing, but gives so much. It enriches those who receive it, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that they can get along without it, and none is so poor but that they can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as those who have no more to give.

Cathedral congregations still on the rise

Attendance levels at regular weekly services in Church of England cathedrals have increased significantly again this year, by 7%, say the latest statistics from the Archbishops' Council's Research and Statistics Unit.

Since the turn of the millennium, they have steadily grown by a total of 37%, which is about 4% on average each year.

The Rev Lynda Barley, Head of Research and Statistics, said: "Cathedrals are proof of the benefit of being open and available throughout the week. Attendance at services outside Sundays has grown more significantly, by 10%, over the past year and will soon double Sunday congregations. Steady growth since the beginning

of the millennium is encouraging cathedrals to explore the unique position they hold in the life of the nation and is restoring confidence in mission.'

Other newly published statistics include:

- More than 3,150 specially arranged services were conducted by cathedrals in 2010 which attracted almost one million people
- Regular services attracted nearly two million people, while 1.63 million people attended about 5,150 public/civic events arranged in cathedrals
- Over the last ten years both the numbers of public/civic events and specially arranged services have considerably increased. In particular, the number of public/civic events has almost doubled.

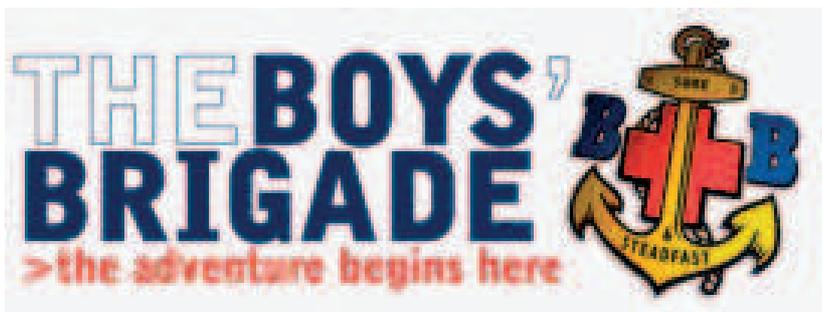
The ministry of cathedrals is valued by many people. They have a treasured place in the heart of the nation and are actively used at key moments in individual lives and on public occasions.

FESTIVAL EVENT:



Music in Malawi

During the St Magnus Festival, Glenys Hughes will be giving a talk about the Malawi Music Fund and her work with orphaned children in Malawi. She will describe the ways in which the Likhubula Children's Choir, formed in 2007, is transforming the lives of some of Malawi's most needy and vulnerable children. Glenys will also introduce a short film – The Dance and the Drum – which celebrates the achievements of the project in its first four years and relates the children's personal stories through words, music and dance. The event takes place in the Pickaquoy Cinema at 5pm on Tuesday 21st June. Admission is free and donations towards the Malawi Music Fund will be gratefully accepted. Do go along if you can and hear more about this project which demonstrates how music and the arts can change lives.



The 1st Kirkwall Company Boys' Brigade held its Annual Display & Presentations on Friday 6th May 2011 in the Papdale Infant School Hall with "Special Guest", Councillor Bobby

Leslie, inspecting the Company and presenting the awards. The evening is the culmination of the BB year, where badges, promotions and trophies are awarded to the boys of the 1st Kirkwall Company for the previous seven months' work. We have three age sections – Anchors (age 6 to 7 years), Juniors (age 8 to 10 years) and Company (age 11 to 19 years), making a total of 94 boys on the roll. Captain Stuart Gray welcomed the parents and friends, Councillor Bobby Leslie and Chaplain Fraser Macnaughton to the Display and invited Fraser to conduct the opening address. Captain Gray, along with Councillor Leslie, then inspected the Company. First in the hall for the various display items was the Monday night Anchor Boy section, with Officer-in-Charge Derek Tait, who played a running game. One of the teams was "helped" by Rev Macnaughton. Second saw the Tuesday night Junior Section. With Officer-in-Charge Neil Gordon. Presenting a sketch about Noah building his Ark, with the boys dressed up in hard hats and carrying various tools and planks of wood. Next came the Thursday night Anchor Boys, with Officer-in-Charge Kevin Kingston. The boys sat in a circle and sang a funny song, which involved lots of movement and knee-slapping. Lastly, the Wednesday Junior Section, introduced by Officer-in-Charge Olwen Aitken, gave a faultless display of figure marching that involved many different and complicated movements, all carried out without any commands from the officer.

Captain Gray then gave a brief review of the session's work. He also thanked the parents for supporting the 1st Kirkwall Company and for all they do in getting their boys well-turned-out for parade nights.

The evening continued with the Fall In of the Company and the Badge Presentations by Councillor Bobby Leslie. He congratulated all the boys on their awards and thanked the officers and helpers for the time and effort they put into the Boys' Brigade. He commented on how well-turned-out the boys looked, and especially on the well-polished shoes he had seen during the inspection.

The Display finished at 8.45pm with the command: "Company Fall Out".

The recent Spring Fayre held on 16th April once again proved very successful in raising £1,200 for Company funds. The 1st Kirkwall Company now has a page on Facebook. Check it out for information, meeting dates and photos.

Captain Stuart Gray.



Comes After The Dawn

After a while you learn the subtle difference
between holding a hand and chaining a soul.
And you learn that love doesn't mean security,
and you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts
and presents aren't promises.

And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes open,
with the grace of maturity, not the grief of a child.

And you learn to build all your roads on
today because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans, and futures have
a way of falling down in mid-flight. After a while you learn that even sunshine
burns if you get too much.

So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting
for someone to bring you flowers.

And you learn that you really can endure –
that you really are strong and that you really do have worth.

And you learn and learn and learn – With every goodbye you learn.

Veronica A. Shoftstall

AN OLD ORKNEY WEDDING
BY
GREGOR LAMB

Let me transport you back a hundred and fifty years ago to a traditional Orkney wedding which was a truly festive occasion and which always ranked in importance with the great festivals of the year such as Yule or Lammass.

The whole ceremony was imbued with ancient ritual to promote fertility in which the number three, the horse, the trolls, the sun, moon and tides played a part. The minister arranged for the couple to be 'cried' in the kirk on three successive Sundays or, if there was any hurry, (which happened sometimes!) he would oblige and make three similar announcements on the same day!

An auspicious time for the wedding was during any of the three winter moons but the moon had to be waxing and the vow could be taken only at the time of flowing tide. Tuesday, the third day of the week was the favoured day and the ceremony lasted three days. The week before the wedding the bridegroom and best man delivered the invitations riding on beautifully dressed horses. On the eve of the wedding the bride and bridegroom's feet were riotously washed in water or wine and the blot poured onto the mound of the hogboon who guarded the house and the family fortunes.

On the wedding day the guests assembled at the bride's house and at the appointed hour, after a hectic scramble, the young couples paired off and, led by a fiddler, all set off on a circular route following the path of the sun to the manse where they were to be married. To scare off hilder-bogies well-wishers in the party fired off shotguns and those at the rear of the party armed with besoms swept away evidence of the procession lest these evil trolls followed in its wake. Whenever possible, young men with their chosen partner joined the procession to the manse riding bare-back and on return to the bride's house a violently contested horse-race called a broose took place, the winner being awarded the bride's handkerchief - or maybe a garter if he were lucky!

At the bride's home there was a hush before a large oatbread shortcake was broken over the bride's head and a scramble ensued for all the lucky pieces. Then the wedding feast began in earnest and it was truly a feast of mutton, geese, ducks, rabbits and beef but never pork. At the beginning of the feast three trenchers plates of meat were placed on each table and the so-called 'trunch gilts' had to sup out of the same trencher. Meanwhile home brew flowed freely from the three lugged cog.

After their fill guests took themselves to the barn where the fiddler, having consumed a specially made big fatty pudding to counter the effects of alcohol, struck up the notes of the first dance. In the early hours an exhausted party lay down side by side on the straw floor, the so-called 'lang bed'.

And so the celebrations continued for another three days; any deviation from the ritual brought bad luck. As the guests began the weary trek home the hunger of the bogglan kye and the few clankan hens left was appeased and the pig gobbled up the scraps of the feast with a wry smile on its face.

A LETTER FROM A VISITOR

My Danish friends Mr and Mrs Johannes Bang and I would like to thank the community of St Magnus for their warm welcome to their fine morning service on 8th May. The music added greatly to the service, with which none of us was familiar. A highlight was the brilliant interaction of the minister with the children. You are lucky to have him.

We sat surrounded by the beauty of your great cathedral, its past and present congregations, and thank you for your welcome. God bless Orkney.

Margaret Devitt (Roman Catholic)



“To God, How did you get invented?”

Alex Renton is a non-believer who sends his six-year-old daughter Lulu to a Scottish church primary school. Her teachers asked her to write the following letter: “To God, How did you get invented?” The Rentons were taken aback: “We had no idea that a state primary affiliated with a church would do quite so much God,” says her father. He could have told Lulu that, in his opinion, there was no God; or he could have pretended that he was a believer. He chose to do neither, instead emailing her letter to the Scottish Episcopal Church (no reply), the Presbyterians (ditto) and the Scottish Catholics (a nice, but theologically complex, answer). For good measure, he also sent it to “the head of theology of the Anglican Communion, based at Lambeth Palace” – and this was the response:

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It’s a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

‘Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn’t expected.

Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – especially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I’m really like.

But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!’

And then he’d send you lots of love and sign off.

I know he doesn’t usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf.

Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan

Easter Chicks Fly South in Time for Greek Celebrations



It all started with the knitted chick complete with crème egg which Elsie asked me to take to my daughter, Jackie, in Greece early in March. The chick was received with delight, and Jackie phoned Elsie that night to thank her and ask if there were any chicks left. She wanted to give them as presents at Easter when she visited her boyfriend's family on the island of Naxos. Elsie soon went into action, and when I arrived back in Orkney 10 days later the chicks were ready for me to send, thanks to the kind ladies of The Guild. I posted the box of chicks and accompanying crème eggs 'airmail' but didn't feel the need to pay for the more expensive 'signed for' option. There were several weeks before Easter and the box was sure to only take a week or so! Two weeks passed and still no sign of the precious chicks. Jackie's birthday box, posted after their one, had arrived within a week. We were starting to panic, and with the weather warming up out in Greece, the state of the chocolate eggs was a bit of a worry too.

Just when we had given up hope of the box ever arriving, I received a text from Jackie saying that there was a parcel at the Post Office for her. She went as soon as she was free and phoned me to tell me it was indeed ‘the box’ and on it was a big orange sticker saying ‘DO NOT FLY’! It must have been scanned somewhere in Britain and the contents considered questionable! The poor chicks were taken over land and sea to Thessaloniki. Happily, they arrived in perfect condition, as did the chocolate eggs. Jackie wondered if the chicks, being so small and their wings not developed, the Post Office thought they weren’t fit to fly all that way!! Within a few days they were off on their travels again, this time flying with Jackie to Athens and then by ferry to Naxos. Vangelis’ mother found a basket for them and put in some of the beautifully painted eggs the family had done. As you will see in the photo, one of them must have hatched and produced a chick much bigger than the Orkney chicks!

A happy ending for the beautifully knitted chicks which travelled from one island to another with a few adventures on the way.

Anne Flint

EASTER CHICKS HELPING MALAWI

The sale of jams and tablet in St Magnus Centre has contributed £105.00 to funds for Malawi. In addition, the Easter chick sales have raised £255.00. This is a commendable effort by two ladies of our congregation, Mrs Jenny King and Mrs Violet Grieve – and as we were told by the Westray group who visited Malawi last year, “Always multiple your sum by seven to give the true value there”!



A SUMMER PRAYER

“God of rest and relaxation,
we welcome summer with joy
and excitement in our hearts.

Be with us as we enjoy
summer activities, swimming,
boating, and fishing. Bless
us and grant us time to relax
and enjoy life together, as we
rejoice in You – Amen.”

