

CHRISTMAS 2019

# The Grapevine

*The Newsletter of St Magnus Cathedral Congregation  
Scottish Charity SC005322*

SERVICES		
DATE		SERVICE
Sun 1st Dec	11.15 am	ADVENT SUNDAY
		Lighting of The Grimstad Christmas Tree
Sun 8th Dec	11.15 am	THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sun 15th Dec	09.30 am	Communion Service in the St Rognvald Chapel.
	11.15 am	THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	6.30 pm	FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
		The Cathedral Choir
Tues 17th Dec	7.30 pm	KGS Carol Service
Wed 18th Dec	10.00 am	Papdale Primary School Christmas Service
Sun 22nd Dec	11.15 am	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00 pm	Community Carol Singing
	11.30 pm	JOINT WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.15 am	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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# From the Manse

## Love Actually



I thought that I would share with you some thoughts from the ‘Church Without Wall’s team in the Church offices in Edinburgh. Building on a long standing initiative called “AlterNativity” many people of faith are seeking different ways of celebrating the Incarnation.

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone’s expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and ‘remember what it’s all about’.

There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, ‘Do not open until December’.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

‘Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?

What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!’

(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

A German proverb goes: ‘The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing’. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on ‘the main thing’. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

‘The main thing’ is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus did not come with majesty and opulence, but ‘full of grace and truth’, to reveal the Way of God – love.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti’s carol puts it, ‘Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.’

I hope you simply enjoy a blessed Christmas.

Yours,

*Fraser*

# HMS Royal Oak Commemoration

Monday 14 October was a poignant day in Orkney, as we commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of HMS Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. It is now thought that 835 men and boys died that night, after the ship was torpedoed by German U-boat U47.

A Royal Navy ship, HMS Bangor, was in attendance, along with a team of RN divers, and the diving team from Orkney who have been surveying the wreck.

A special request was made to take the bell from HMS Royal Oak, which usually hangs in the cathedral as part of a larger memorial, and use it in a special ceremony at sea.

During the Sunday morning church service the bell was rung as part of a wreath laying ceremony. It was sounded eight times (once for every decade) Then, with the assistance of the RN Northern Diving Group, the bell was carefully lowered down and transported to Stromness, where it was taken on board the Northern Lighthouse Vessel Pharos.

On Monday morning a flotilla of boats and ships sailed out to where the wreck lies. HMS Bangor was there, alongside the Flotta Lass, carrying relatives and friends. Various dive boats were in attendance, and a local lifeboat. NLV Pharos was positioned over the wreck, and after a tribute of red carnations was scattered on the waves, the bell of HMS Royal Oak was again sounded eight times. The duty was carried out by Able Seaman Simon Cox of the Northern Diving Group, and it was a poignant moment to hear the bell ringing out over the waters of Scapa Flow once more.

Cathedral Custodian Fran Hollinrake was with the bell on board the Lighthouse ship, and she accompanied it back to the cathedral. Overseen by cathedral conservator Meredith Macbeth, the bell was lifted back into place by Royal Navy divers and Marines. It is believed that this is the first time the bell has left the cathedral since it was installed there in the early 1980s.

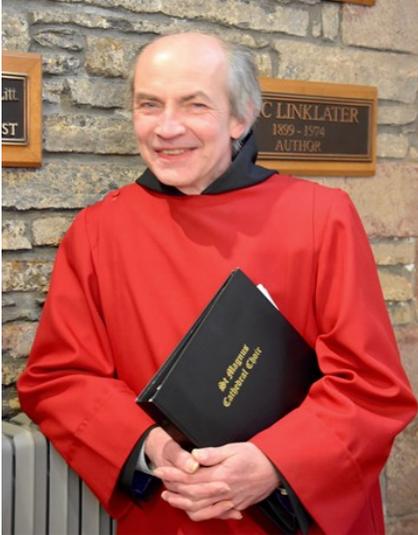


# Our Choir

Continuing our series on introducing the members of the choir, here are four more characters!

## Colin Rendall

Colin has lived in Orkney all his life and has been



singing tenor in the Cathedral Choir for 30 years. He is busy working during the day in the Orkney Library Archives and often in the evenings at the Reel or the Orkney Club.

## Margaret Sutherland



Margaret is a retired lawyer with OIC. She has been a member of the choir and an elder of the Cathedral for over 30 years. She takes on many Cathedral jobs: she has been Chairman of the Cathedral Choir and presently she is the Choir Secretary and the Session Clerk of the Cathedral. She also finds the time to take part in community drama.

## Aly Bruce



Aly is a retired solicitor. He came to Orkney in 1982 and joined the bass section of the Cathedral Choir in 1991. He takes a very active part in the community, especially in music and drama, directing and acting in many productions.

## Kate Richmond



Ever since 1988 Kate and her family holidayed every year in Orkney until 2009 when she and her husband, Rod, came here to live. She has been in the choir for 5 years. Singing and playing the fiddle give her great pleasure.

It will be of interest to many to learn that Rod's father, Robin Richmond, was a great friend of Bill Cant and spoke at the induction social in August 1968 when Bill Cant became the Cathedral minister

# St Magnus Cathedral Guild

2020

Jan 14	“Orkney Folk Tales” with Tom Muir
Feb 8 (Sat)	“Come for a Cuppa” – Coffee Morning
Feb 11	“Companions on the Road” with Val Kitchen
Mar 6 (Fri)	World Day of Prayer
Mar 10	AGM and “Silver Service on the High Seas” with Billy Cardno
April Lunch	(date and venue to be agreed)

The Guild has been enjoying a varied programme this term and were delighted to welcome Rosemary Moon along to October meeting. We had a lovely evening with her and during her talk she demonstrated how to make her Salmon Pate, which was very tasty.

## Salmon pâté

Serves 4-6

*Rosemary’s blue-print recipe: you can actually make the pâté with mackerel, trout or salmon, fresh or smoked or a mixture of both.*

- Small bunch parsley
  - 1 tbsp capers
  - 1 lemon
  - 1 large Egremont Russet apple, or a Cox or red skinned apple
  - 200-250g tub crème fraîche
  - 1-2 tbsp horseradish, grated or a hot sauce
  - 350g salmon - a mix of cooked and smoked is optional
1. Wash and shake the parsley dry. Roughly chop it, then add the capers and chop again.
  2. Grate the zest from half the lemon into a bowl, then add the juice from half the fruit too. Coarsely grate the apple, skin on, and toss the shreds in the lemon juice.
  3. Add the crème fraîche to the bowl with the horseradish, parsley and capers and beat until combined. Flake the salmon into the mix, chopping any cold smoked salmon, and stir well. Season to taste and serve on oatcakes, hot toast or on a nest of salad leaves.

It is also great with baked potatoes or stirred into hot, drained pasta as a sauce.

# A Christmas Meditation

My mind is a maze with the turns of the journey

The wise men wandered while aimed at the star

Their ears had the form of the wings of the angels

Attuned to the music they sang from afar

The shape of my spite looks a lot like King Herod's

The innkeeper's answer describes my disdain

My fear is the terror first felt by the shepherds

The birth-pangs of Mary give voice to my pain

My soul is a hole in the shape of a manger

A silence that begs for a baby's soft cry

A darkness that yearns for a child's wide-eyed wonder

On seeing that blaze in the evening sky....

Rev. Jim Burklo,



# Loss Service

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm we are holding a joint Reflective Service for those who have suffered Loss. Along with our friends from Kirkwall East and the Peedie Kirk, this year's service takes place in the King St Halls and is intended for anyone for whom Christmas may not be so merry due to some loss they may have experienced in the last year.

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The Nativity scene in the Paplay tomb of the Cathedral,  
made by the Wood B Good group at St Colm's Day Centre.

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## Reflections of Life for the end of a year

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your sorrows.

May the breeze blow new strength into your being.

May you walk gently through the world, from this day forth and for ever more.

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun, reach you and fill you.

May the beauty delight you and happiness uplift you.

May wonder fulfil you and love surround you.

May your step be steady and your arm be strong,

May your heart be peaceful and your word be true.

May you seek to learn, may you learn to live,

May you live to love ... and may you always know God holds you in the palm of his strong and caring hand. For God did love you first.

*Celtic, Anon.*

# Parish Register

## BAPTISM

10 November James Robertson

## WEDDINGS

## FUNERALS

4 October George Stout - 18 Broadsands Road, Kirkwall

18 October James S. Scott - 14 Royal Oak Road, Kirkwall.

24 October Helen M. Innes - 36 Scapa Crescent, Kirkwall.

