

# The Grapevine

*The Newsletter of St Magnus Cathedral Congregation*

## \*\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*

*In light of the ongoing crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus,*

*ALL congregations have ceased public worship with immediate effect until further notice and to ensure that the Government advice regarding avoiding non essential contact with others is adhered to;*

*The congregation is encouraged to continue pastoral care of their members using other means of communication such as phoning, Skyping, Facetime etc. and to seek ways of offering any practical support that they can for vulnerable members of the community;*

*We encourage everyone to uphold in prayer all who are suffering as a consequence of the virus.*

*Please keep up to date with announcements and on line worship by visiting our website*

**[www.stmagnus.org](http://www.stmagnus.org)**

*or the congregation's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation](http://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation)*

**As CATHEDRAL SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED** you might like to know that Radio Orkney will be broadcasting a half hour "radio church" at 3pm on Sunday afternoons for the next few weeks at least.

**Ministers from various churches and denominations will be in the studio in the weeks to come. We'll try and play some hymns and songs everybody knows, so you can join in and sing your heart out!**



# From the Manse



If there's one word that summarizes Easter, it's the word, 'Surprise!' All four gospel writers, while emphasizing different aspects of the Easter story, all make one thing clear: Jesus' resurrection was a big surprise not only for his enemies, but even for his closest followers. So perhaps one fitting way to celebrate Easter, then, is to surprise people. We can begin by surprising ourselves, by doing something we don't ordinarily do. If we never read short stories, we might read one. If we've never eaten tofu, we could try it. The options are almost unlimited: we could write a poem, sign up for a pottery class, play cards, go dancing, visit an museum, work on our family tree, buy a hibiscus plant. What's the point of surprising ourselves during the Easter season? It is one way for us to get out of our rut or (if you will) out of our "tomb," that is, our usual way of doing things. Surprising ourselves is one way for us to grow, to be enlivened, and to stretch beyond where we are. What an Easter kind of thing to do!

Let us remember too that resurrection is more than mere resuscitation!

It is life transformed!

It is faith in possibilities, when others are convinced of inevitability.

It is the courage to love others, when they don't love us in return...

to show compassion, when others are heaping judgment...

to live by peace, when others are being violent...

to work for justice, when others are working for wealth...

to respond with gentleness, when others are reacting with rage...

and to trust that life, well-lived, even if short-lived,

is preferable to longevity without virtue.

let's not remain caterpillars when we can become butterflies!

Live beautifully! Birth goodness in all we think, say, and do!

For we are called to life abundant!

God's blessings be with you this Easter.

Fraser

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## YOU MAY BE INTERESTED.....

**That some of the recent themes of Sunday sermons have included, a short series on Jesus...  
the land and people in which he lived and worked, citizenship, and loving our true selves.**

**All of these are available by email from [fmacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:fmacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

# Michael Mappin joins the organist team

Two years ago, Michael realised a long held dream, and moved to Orkney. Born in Edinburgh, he moved to Caithness with his family when he was seven years old. His father was for many years minister in Watten and Bower, and Michael taught himself to play the organ in his dad's church. He studied French and Music in Aberdeen University where he was also Organ Scholar, then went south to London. Initially he worked as a presenter in the newly-formed Classic FM, and later moved into primary school teaching which he found far more interesting if not quite as well paid. Having taken early retirement in 2018, Michael made the move north and has settled in St Margaret's Hope. "I was drawn strongly to the cathedral from the time I set eyes on it when I first came here on holiday," he says. "I am so immensely privileged to be one of the music-makers in this amazing building. The Choir is first class, and the organ is an absolute dream to play."



Michael is one of the four musicians who make up the Cathedral's music team. Michael will be taking on much of the Sunday morning playing, sharing this responsibility with Heather Rendall and Iain Campbell. Heather will continue to play for weddings and funerals, whilst Iain will conduct the choir when Music Director Michael Bell is away. "Working in this team is I suppose the musical equivalent of St Paul's

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## The Choir (continued)



Mark Rendall has been in the choir for over thirty years. Music has always played a big part in his life. In his school days he performed in the premiere of 'The Two Fiddlers'. He played the cello with KAOS and sang with The Male Voice Choir which his father conducted. He sang tenor for years but is now singing bass in the choir.

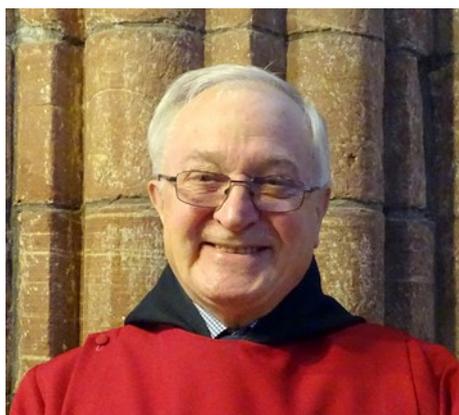
David Austin just joined the Cathedral Choir this year but he is no stranger to the Cathedral. His grandfather Bill Cant was the minister here for years. David grew up in Orkney and moved back last year. He is a big support to his grandmother Margot Cant. He enjoys church music but also gets great pleasure playing drums in a rock band.





Freya Hunter has been in the choir since 1991. Her family has a long association with the Cathedral: her grandfather Albert Thomson was custodian for thirty two years and he, her grandmother and both her parents sang in the Cathedral Choir. Freya taught for many years in Papdale Primary.

Sheila Campbell is a retired head teacher. While working south, she and her family had many holidays in Orkney, and, in 2001, she and Iain moved here to make it their home. Sheila takes an active part in many community activities, one being a trustee of the Malawi Music Fund. She loves singing and considers it a great privilege to be in the Cathedral Choir.



Iain Campbell has been in the choir since 2001. He became Choir Master when Ed Holt left and held the post for many years, retiring in 2017 after the big celebrations of Jutland and Magnus 900. Iain is hugely involved in music-making in Orkney. He plays viola in Camerata and in the Orkney Orchestra in which he also shares the conducting. Over the years he has played, sung, acted and directed in many productions.



# Christian Aid

If you have been collecting in the Smarties tubes please hold onto them until things improve. All of our fundraising activities will be affected but we hope you will be able to support the Smarties appeal later on. People in other countries will be affected by the drop in charitable giving as well as coping with the Covid-19-virus.

Thank you for your support.

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## QUOTES and SAYINGS

We can do no great things - only small things with great love.

*Mother Teresa*

You never touch the ocean of God's love as when you forgive and love your enemies.

*Corrie ten Boom*

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

*Winston Churchill*

The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future.

*Wendell Phillips*

Of all earthly music, that which reaches farthest into heaven is the beating of a truly loving heart

*Henry Ward Beecher*

### Contacts

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Scottish Charity SC005322/CCL No 119086

[www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation](https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation)

# St Magnus Centre



An informal Cheese and Wine evening was held in the St Magnus Centre on 28th February to celebrate the completion of the Centre refurbishments. A wonderful buffet was laid on and Highland Park came along to offer free drams to all who were able to partake!

Because of the generosity of Orkney Cheese, and Highland Park plus various others in contributing to the food, drink and raffle, we were able to make an unexpected profit on the evening. A lot of hard work went into making the evening a great success and was greatly enjoyed by those who were able to go.

The St Magnus Centre not only serves the congregation but is an important part of the outreach of the Cathedral to the local community who hire the meeting rooms and to numerous visitors from all parts of the world who access the free film about St Magnus and the Cathedral.

The Centre is now twenty years old and has recently undergone some refurbishment. The main hall has been refurbished with added ceiling insulation and is much more energy efficient and, after a very successful fund raising campaign, a new top of the range kitchen has been installed improving the catering facilities for congregational events and for those hiring the kitchen. Huge thanks must go to Elspeth Linklater, Shona Linklater and Mervyn Tait for bringing the kitchen project to fruition.

Damien Barnett, the Centre Manager, is in charge of the running of the Centre. He takes bookings, collects payments, makes sure those hiring rooms have all they need, and ensures the building is clean and deals with day to day maintenance and admin.

The St Magnus Centre Management Committee oversees the running of the Centre. Chairman, Mervyn Tait, has been in post for 4 years and has worked tirelessly for the good of the Centre and its users. His quiet determination, resilience and encouragement have been greatly appreciated by those on the Management Committee. Mervyn is to stand down at the AGM in May and a new chairman will take over.

## **We need your help!**

Why? Several of the Management Committee are due to retire this year and the search is on for people to replace them. It is not an onerous task - an evening meeting every two months - and the tenure is for three years. If you are an elder, a member of the congregation or someone who attends services, then you are eligible to become a committee member. No special skills are required, just a desire to see the Centre continue as a congregational resource and an outreach to the community. If you would like to volunteer or you need some more information, please contact the Secretary, Helen Killeen: [hmkilleen@talk21.com](mailto:hmkilleen@talk21.com) Tel: 878262. or the Chairman Mervyn Tait: [mervyn\\_tait@hotmail.com](mailto:mervyn_tait@hotmail.com) Tel: 873973



Centre Management Committee Chairman Mervyn Tait with Jordan Low, the Economic Development Officer at the OIC with the plaque, suitably placed outside the new door into the kitchen, acknowledging the grant aid from the Community Development Fund, OIC.

## St Magnus Cathedral Outreach 2019

We are fortunate that we continue to collect a substantial sum from votive candle donations. In 2019 the following charities benefitted for the monies collected:

**Locally - Riding for the Disabled Association Orkney Group** whose objectives are to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being in the Orkney area.

**Orkney Foodbank (fuel vouchers)** the Foodbank makes sure that no one in the local community has to go hungry by providing three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred in a crisis.

**Nationally –Alzheimer's Research UK** is the UK's leading **dementia research** charity, dedicated to causes, diagnosis, prevention, treatment and cure. They fund a broad range of research projects to understand dementia and drive us towards better diagnosis, preventions and treatments.

**Diabetes UK** is the leading charity for people living with **diabetes** in the UK. Their vision is a world where **diabetes** can do no harm.

**Internationally- Thyolo Malawi Partnership** - Thyolo (pronounced "choe-loe" is the name given both to the township and to the wider district, which lies about half an hour's drive south of Blantyre. It is predominantly rural, but the municipal district is the most densely populated of all the rural areas in Malawi. The presbyteries of Orkney and Thyolo Highlands first forged links with Thyolo in 2008.

**EMMS International** is a non-denominational Christian Non-governmental Organization that provides medical aid to countries around the world and operates field offices in the UK, Malawi, India, Israel, and Nepal. Founded to provide clinical education to missionaries and medical aid to people in need in Scotland, it later expanded to the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa through sponsoring the construction of dispensaries and hospitals. Its educational mission expanded from training missionary physicians in Edinburgh to training local nurses and physicians in the countries where it works. EMMS continues to provide resource assistance at all its sites. Based in Scotland, its vision is "health for today, hope for tomorrow."

# Parish Register

## WEDDINGS

- 2 November Abigail Suttie and Lewis Ross  
14 December Lorraine Shearer and Alan Stout  
15 February Rachel Crooks and Andrew Moar

## FUNERALS

- 21 December Kenny McGregor - South Quatquoy, Firth  
7 January Jessie Shields - Cairnie Lodge Care Home, Arbroath -  
8 February Linay Linklater - Brekka, 32 Scapa Crescent, Kirkwall  
14 February Ena Bain - Kalisgarth Care Home, Westray  
28 February Lorna Stanger - Millstane, 23 Reid Crescent, Kirkwall



May the raindrops fall lightly upon your brow,  
May the soft winds freshen your spirit,  
May the sunshine brighten your heart,  
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you,  
And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.

Irish Traditional