

CHRISTMAS 2021

# The Grapevine

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

## Contacts

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Scottish Charity SC005322/CCL No 119086

### SUNDAY Morning worship 11.15am

Capacity is limited under Covid regulations.

Booking is no longer required, but capacity is limited to 100 persons.

You will be required to scan the QR code or give contact details manually for Trace and Protect purposes.

We also provide a weekly digested form of the Sunday worship which can be found on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation/>

Join our Wednesday ZOOM meditation by signing up here:

[stmagnuszoom@gmail.com](mailto:stmagnuszoom@gmail.com)

# From the Manse



## A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

In the darkness we wait for Christmas; some of us are happy, some of us are sad. In the darkness we wait for Christmas; some of us are believers, some of us are unsure. In the darkness we wait for Christmas; some of us have houses full of presents, some of us are struggling to survive.

In the darkness we wait for Christmas; we cannot see each other's faces, we do not know each other's pains and joys. In the darkness we wait for Christmas; we wait for a baby who is about to be born.

And when the light comes, it will not be bright like a holy star, but bright in the way a face full of the good news of justice prevailing is bright. When the light comes, it will not be bright like angel light, but bright in the way the grain of harvest makes life possible for the hungry is bright. When the light comes, it will not be bright like heavenly glory, but bright in the way a song of freedom filling the lips of those oppressed is bright.

When the light comes, it will not be bright like a manger glow, but bright in the way children playing in the noisy peace after conflict is bright. When the light comes, it will not be bright like a sacred halo, but bright in the way a baby crying to fill their lungs with life is bright.

Bright like that.

When the light comes, may we be found ready for the transformation this moment brings, and witness a birth not in stables and mangers filled with straw and shepherds, but a birth of hope and justice for all people in this world who have lived in darkness far too long.

A blessed and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Yours

Fraser

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**Please note: all of these services are subject to Covid restrictions in place at the time.**

Sun 28th Nov	11.15 am	ADVENT SUNDAY
Sun 5th Dec	11.15 am	THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Lighting of The Grimstad Christmas Tree
Sun 12th Dec	11.15 am	THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.15 am 6.30 pm	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS The Cathedral Choir
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.15 am	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	11.15 am	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

# A Royal Visit

The phone rang. “Hi Wilma, it’s Elaine Grieve here. As you are probably aware, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are coming to open the hospital. You have been selected to meet them. They are interested in meeting a family whose members have gone to church. They want to meet your family.”

“Well, yes,” I said, “that would be amazing.” I thought we would be meeting them in the Cathedral.

Elaine, however, dropped the bombshell. “They want to come to your house for tea.”

A stunned silence, followed by, “What?”

“Yes, you heard me. They want to come and have tea with you. You must keep this very quiet, as they want it to be private with no press in attendance.”

I put down the phone and told Alan. As Nicky and Kirsten were involved, we called Nicky, but agreed that our grandchildren should not be told until the last minute.

The council asked me to buy gifts for the royal children. I wanted to ensure these had an Orkney theme, so I went to the gift shop in Bridge Street and bought a wooden model creel boat for Prince

George, a fluffy selkie for Princess Charlotte and a fluffy puffin for Prince Louis.

Two weeks on and it was the night before they were to come. We arrived at Nicky’s house and told Ellie, Sophie and Gregor what was happening, and that they wouldn’t be able to go to school the next morning. As they were to present the gifts, each wrote a short note to one of the royal children.

On the previous Sunday, we had been visited by the police and seven security staff from the Palace. They walked all around the house and agreed that the royal party would enter by the back gate and, because of Covid, would remain in our garden.

We had been practising curtsying and bowing all week but, on arrival, Prince William just handed me a parcel and said, “This is for you.” He also stated that they didn’t want any fuss, so they just came into the garden and were introduced to the rest of the family. We had set out garden chairs, but also took our Orkney Chair outside. There was a small discussion about who would sit on this, but when Alan announced that he didn’t want to witness an argument, the Duchess agreed that Prince William should have the seat.

I served them tea along with fattie cutties, as they are uniquely Orcadian and, with my Westray roots,



it was the obvious choice.

It was an extremely relaxing twenty-five minutes. Most of the conversation was directed at the children, as they were very keen to find out how they had got on during lockdown. The Duchess shared that home schooling was difficult at times, in particular on one occasion when their internet went down and, instead of regular lessons, the children went to a neighbouring farm to help with lambing.

We also spoke at length about the Ba', as Nicky had mentioned that the game had been cancelled owing to Covid and that only the World Wars had cancelled it before that. Prince William was very interested in the game, as they play a similar game

at Eton called 'The Wall'. When he was given a ba' to hold, he said with some surprise, "Wow, you couldn't header that!"

All too soon, Elaine Grieve announced that our time was up. The Duchess actually said, "Oh no, not already."

We thoroughly enjoyed their visit. They made it so easy to chat, and our early nerves very quickly vanished amid a lot of fun and laughter.

When they left, we opened the gift they gave us. A beautiful tea pot and four cups by Emma Bridgewater now takes pride of place in our cabinet.



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## What is Prayer?

Be awake to the Life that is loving you  
and sing your prayer, laugh your prayer,  
dance your prayer, run  
and weep and sweat your prayer,  
sleep your prayer, eat your prayer,  
paint, sculpt, hammer and read your prayer,  
sweep, dig, rake, drive and hoe your prayer,  
garden and farm and build and clean your prayer,  
wash, iron, vacuum, sew, embroider and pickle your  
prayer,  
compute, touch, bend and fold but never delete  
or mutilate your prayer.  
Learn and play your prayer,  
work and rest your prayer,  
fast and feast your prayer,  
argue, talk, whisper, listen and shout your prayer,  
groan and moan and spit and sneeze your prayer,  
swim and hunt and cook your prayer,  
digest and become your prayer.

Release and recover your prayer.  
Breathe your prayer.  
Be your prayer.

# FROM THE GUILD

The Guild has recently finally managed to hold a couple of fairly informal meetings. It was so good to be able to enjoy fellowship together after such a long break.

With Covid still doing the rounds, unfortunately our November meeting had to be cancelled but, all being well, we are hoping to have an afternoon tea for all members in December.

Sadly, our usual fundraising activities have still not been able to be held, which is unfortunate, as many local charities, as well as the national Guild projects, benefit from our financial support.

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## NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

As with every other activity, the choir has been affected by COVID restrictions, the problem being that singing is perceived as a high-risk pleasure. Be that as it may, we were able to resume choral activities at the beginning of June, firstly with just a quartet, then an octet and eventually, as social distancing restrictions have relaxed, 12 singers, bringing us up to about half strength.

Choir numbers have fluctuated, as Sheila Beaven has resigned and Jenny Lepper has decided to retire. The altos will miss them.

We welcome new members CJ Howe and Hannah Roe, and hope they will enjoy their time with us. We are currently preparing for the return of the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, to be held on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6.30pm. One more step on the way to normality. Hooray! The choir is privileged to be able to help lead worship in our splendid Cathedral.

The Music team wish you the very best for the Festive Season and the New Year.

Iain Campbell

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## WEST END OF CATHEDRAL UPDATE As at 12 November

The working group met on 12 December to hear of progress. All of the works are completed except for the glass portico, which has been held up due to supply issues [and we all know about that!] and is coming from abroad. So the west door will continue to be out of action until the glass is installed.

Four items were noted:

1. When works are substantially completed (bar the curved glass), the site will be cleared and the internal hoarding will be removed by CCL. The external 'Heras' fencing will also be removed (estimated end November 2021).
2. The West End will remain roped off, allowing the building user/visitors to see the new vestibule. Signage will be made explaining and Visitor Service officers briefed that the glazing has been delayed due to supplier issues/Brexit/Covid, etc, and the vestibule will be due to be completed 'early 2022'.
3. The West End working group will meet December 2021 to discuss operational and reinstallation issues (Plan A and Plan B, etc).
4. Inquiries will be made about establishing a loan of the large component of the old vestibule in order to keep it as intact as possible.

# Reasons to be cheerful Part 1

## Praise for the St Magnus Way

Dear Rev June,

We all really appreciated Sunday Worship at St Magnus Cathedral on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August - thank you so much. As I think we explained, we had finished St Magnus Way Pilgrimage the previous Friday and found the cathedral closed; however, joining you for the lovely service really centred us and was in many ways a better way to end. We felt very welcome. I am interested to know if the liturgy you used is a standard one.

Paul and I are now both Churchwardens at our church in Macclesfield and, with our spouses, lead quite busy lives, so long distance walks, often

designated as pilgrimages, are a great way of “escape” to restore us, combined with the walking we love. We have done several, including St Cuthbert’s Way, North Wales, and the Peak Pilgrimages. We found the reflections and challenging questions on St Magnus Way thought-provoking; especially memorable was discussing “Peace” on the day the Taliban marched into Kabul.

I asked you at the time if you could let me have the Pilgrimage circling prayer; I think we can use it in our own fellowship, so would be grateful if you could send it to me.

Many thanks and best wishes,  
Rachel Mayers

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# Reasons to be cheerful Part 2

St Magnus Cathedral – our medieval marvel – has been named as one of Europe’s top 100 cathedrals by a best-selling author and respected church historian. The only one in Scotland.

The cathedral’s magnificence has been recognised and once again celebrated in print - *Europe’s Best 100 Cathedrals* by Simon Jenkins.

Those featured range from Kirkwall to Valetta and Moscow to Leon, and St Magnus Cathedral is one of 15 British cathedrals to be selected for this, the first-ever study of European cathedrals, and is named alongside the likes of Canterbury, St Paul’s London, Westminster Abbey and York Minster.

The book, which was published by Viking on 4 November, tells the stories behind these magnificent buildings.

In choosing the top 100, Simon Jenkins pays tribute to the buildings that he sees as manifestations of Europe’s collective past.



He says: “They represent its most embedded institution, Christianity, in all its finery... Even today no other buildings on earth can compare with these structures. They are history and geography, art and science, mind and body in one...”

In selecting the cathedrals he believes everyone should see before they die, the author has created the ultimate European cathedral bucket list.

# A Christmas Recipe (with an historical twist...)

*Rosemary Moon writes...*

This is my favourite Christmas recipe and so I am delighted to share it. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of November this year was the 21st anniversary of me demonstrating it on Daytime TV. That was at 09.30, and Margaret Thatcher resigned at 10.00, presumably to have more time in the kitchen?!

A perfect mix to bake in rich shortcrust pastry made with one third bere meal to two-thirds white flour. The J Gow spiced rum is a great alternative to whisky.

## **Orange, walnut and whisky mincemeat**

Makes about 1.5kg

If you only have time to make one special food for your Christmas feasting, make mincemeat! There is a world of difference between this and anything you can buy in the shops. Even made just a week before Christmas, the flavour will still be outstanding. If you *haven't got nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves use mixed spice, but I prefer the Christmas spice triumvirate.*

- 500g cooking apples
  - 60ml water
  - 1 large orange
  - 250g sultanas
  - 250g currants
  - 100g walnut pieces
  - 100g chopped peel
  - 250g dark muscovado sugar
  - 1 tsp each of ground cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg
  - 200g shredded suet
  - 5 tbsp whisky
1. Peel, core, and slice the apples. Cook them with the water until soft, then beat them to a pulp and leave to cool completely.
  2. Grate the zest from the orange and squeeze the juice. Add to the apple with all the remaining ingredients, adding the suet and whisky last. Stir well, cover and leave overnight.
  3. Stir the mincemeat again and pot into clean warm jars, then cover and label. Mature for several weeks before use, if possible, but a few days will suffice. If you are going to use the mincemeat quickly, it can be kept in a plastic storage box in the fridge, but do pack it down well to exclude any air gaps, whether you put it into jars for long-term storage or take the quick-use option.

# Parish Register

## WEDDINGS

22 July	Jessica Burton and John Lowrie
24 July	Jocelyn Moar and Keith Forster
7 August	Sarah King and David Warden
29 August	Song Su Williams and Michael Dewar
18 September	Shari Cramb and Alex Kansour
25 September	Helen Norquay and Ross Wilson

## NEW MEMBERS

26 October	By resolution of the Kirk Session David Brown and Mrs Helen Brown, Berkana, Cusiter Close, Kirkwall
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## FUNERALS

Below is a list of Cathedral funerals which, in normal circumstances, may or may not have taken place in the Cathedral but which were conducted by the Cathedral clergy.

30 March	Iris Miller, Smiddy Brae, formerly Queen Sonja Kloss, Kirkwall
26 July	Ian McLeod, 4 Palace Gardens, Kirkwall
7 August	Calvin Slater, 21 Craigie Crescent, Kirkwall
16 August	Ronald Logie, 'Beverley', Pipersquoy Road, Kirkwall
27 September	Muriel Anderson, 9 Lynn Park, Kirkwall
9 October	Mary Firth, 17 Kirklands Road, Kirkwall

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

13 November	Benny and Sheila Logan, formerly 11a Royal Oak Road, Kirkwall
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Go gently,  
feel the good earth beneath your feet,  
celebrate the rising sun  
listen to the birds at dawn  
walk gently under the silent stars  
knowing that you are on holy ground.

*Peter Miller*

