



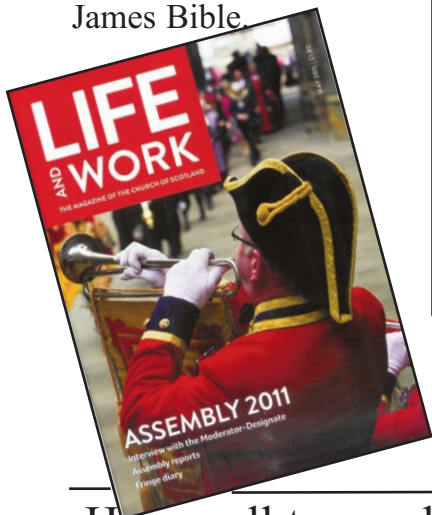
Easter Sunday at South Holburn: at the outdoor 9.45am service (above) and after the 10.30am service (below)



Monthly magazine of South Holburn Church, May 2011

Parish Press

This month's Life and Work includes a profile of the Moderator-Designate, the Rev David Arnott and an interview with the maker of a new film on the creation of the King James Bible



Our George McGillivray was surprised with a special cake to mark his 70th birthday at the Lunch Club. Happy birthday George!

How well to you know your Aberdeen streets?

For all those who recently enjoyed puzzling over the anagrams disguising the identity of 14 South Holburn members, here's another batch from Ronnie Johnstone - these are all Aberdeen street names. Answers next month!

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Recent Hesitater | 8 Dragon Sequel | 15 Queer Snakes |
| 2 Pleasant Glance | 9 Amen Distorted | 16 Vivid Derriers |
| 3 Stun or Blether | 10 Shatter Miracles | 17 Idle Gutters |
| 4 Dread Environs | 11 Petulance Rooms | 18 The Sly Nutter |
| 5 Any Cap Bell | 12 Cherub Above Lad | 19 Intense Rout |
| 6 Braw Real Curse it | 13 Treacle Termites | 20 It's the Letters |
| 7 Contracted Bores | 14 Get Reset Gore | |

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Don't whisper it, the silent auction organised by the social committee on Saturday, April 2, was a great success. A lot of people brought goods, a lot of people went home with new goods and a super £824 was raised! Thanks to all involved.



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From the manse

I am writing this article at the end of the royal wedding weekend, during which many people have enjoyed a time of celebration.

The wedding was a tremendously happy event and it was accompanied by an outstanding display of pageantry and tradition. Through the wonders of modern technology millions of people around the world were able to share in the occasion and as a result the wedding will have left many folk with lasting memories.

For me, one of the most striking aspects was the prayer that was written by Prince William and Kate Middleton and which was included in the service at Westminster Abbey:

God our Father, we thank you for our families; for the love that we share and for the joy of our marriage. In the busyness of each day keep our eyes fixed on what is real and important in life and

help us to be generous with our time and love and energy.

Strengthened by our union help us to serve and comfort those who suffer.

We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge clearly understood the spiritual aspect of their wedding day. Amid the formalities and the celebration, it was noteworthy that the central event took place in a church. Their marriage was enacted in a place of worship⇒

⇒and it was sanctified and blessed with prayer. Right at the heart of the occasion was an acknowledgement of God's presence and purpose.

In the course of its long history, spanning almost 1000 years, many great occasions have been marked at Westminster Abbey. Monarchs have been crowned there and also laid to rest there. The Abbey holds the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, rooting our acts of remembrance in a place of worship. The Abbey surely reminds us, that it is the role of every church to accommodate key events in people's lives. Our church at South Holburn

Thank you, friends

Agnes and Ian Mann would like to thank members of the congregation who assisted last Sunday (May 1) when Agnes took ill in church. We would also like to thank all who enquired about Agnes. She is now much better but it is so reassuring to know we are among friends.

helps us to acknowledge the spiritual dimension of our lives. Wherever we may have been during the previous week, our church helps us to place God at the heart of things.

Let us rejoice in the spiritual aspect of our own living, making the most of our opportunities to be blessed and sanctified with prayer.

In times of joy or of sorrow, let us look for God's presence and trust in his loving purpose.

George S Cowie



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Departing elders, new elders and data protection on the Kirk Session agenda

At their April meeting, the Kirk Session accepted with reluctance a letter from Bob and Ellen Drummond intimating their resignations as elders due to their forthcoming move to Ayr.

George Cowie thanked Bob and Ellen for their long-standing commitment and dedication as elders at both Ruthrieston South and South Holburn. Both will be greatly missed.

New Elders

The session agreed that George can make the necessary arrangements for the admission and admittance of new elders

Presbytery planning meetings

Aberdeen Presbytery planning meetings, were attended by Alan Johnston, Adeline Gray, Lesley Bills, Dorothy Smith and Pat Moir. The meetings had been well attended, but the feeling among those from South Holburn was that they did not address the specific purpose of why we were there.

There was good discussion in some of the breakout groups, but overall we were of the view that it had been a missed opportunity to provide input into the presbytery planning process.

Data Protection

Both Dorothy Smith and Pat Moir attended the March Data Protection meeting at which there was a presentation on the implications

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From Session Clerk Alan Johnston

of Data Protection Act followed by a question and answer session and an amusing and informative sketch.

Church officials were reminded of their responsibility to be mindful of how information is used, particularly names and addresses. After discussion, the session agreed to a review of how data is used at South Holburn and a working group was set up consisting of, George Cowie, Anne Stott and Dorothy Smith.

Roll Away The Stone

George reported that 27 adults and 16 children had signed up to attend the Edinburgh event in May and a bus had been booked at a cost of £600. After discussion it was agreed that the session would recommend to the Congregational Board that the cost of the bus was met from church funds.

Easter Services/Communion

The Session Clerk thanked George Cowie for leading the worship through Easter. The first early morning Easter Sunday service was well supported and may even become a regular feature of our Easter celebrations. A number of people had come along as a result of our parish invitation.

The session discussed the new Communion arrangements and some suggestions were

made regarding the serving of communion. George thanked everyone for their support and help with the Easter and services and also expressed his thanks to our Communion organisers Charlie Low and Tom Tervit.

Annual Inspection of Records

The church records were formally inspected in February and found to be in good order.

Correspondence

A letter from Aberdeen Presbytery intimated that a census will be conducted across the Church of Scotland on May 8.

A letter from the Church of Scotland reminded ministers and office bearers of the moratorium instructed by the General Assembly of 2009 regarding the Special Commission on Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry.

Presbytery Elder

With the resignation of John Gillies as Presbytery Elder, the session required to appoint a successor. An emailed was to be sent out to elders outlining the role. Both Dorothy Smith and Alan Johnston were presbytery-appointed 'balancing' elders so one of them could be appointed if no volunteers were forthcoming.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week started on May 15, and due to a number of activities that have taken place recently, a Christian Aid lunch was to be held at harvest time. The Christian Aid ⇨

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⇒lunch in March was well supported and all those involved were thanked.

Sunday duty rota

In order to keep rota swaps to a minimum, it was suggested officials could notify Alan of known holidays etc, prior to new duty rotas being issued.

Committee reports

For the pastoral care and out-reach committee, Lorraine Johnston reported that 1000 Easter invitations had been distributed within the nearby areas. The invitation was designed by Adeline Gray and Lorraine thanked all those who had helped with the distribution. The session agreed that the next invitation to be prepared will be for Christmas and that the distribution area be extended, with up to 2000 invites.

Visitors' Reports

Alastair McCulloch reported on a visit made by him to the Bowling Club in March with Douglas Merson. There were 12 members attending and he and Douglas were warmly

welcomed. The matches were keenly contested and refreshments served. The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter months and appears to be in a healthy state.

Presbytery Elder's Report

Alan Johnston reported on the March meeting of Aberdeen Presbytery. Commissioners to the General Assembly were appointed; presbytery assessments for 2011 were submitted and approved; the Rev Dick gave an interesting presentation on the work of Christ's College and the Rev Kenneth Petrie was nominated as Moderator for the coming year.

Church and society committee convener Hugh Wallace spoke about alcohol and drug misuse and the problems it causes and how the spiritual side can sometimes be overlooked. The visitation and oversight committee reported favourably on New Stockethill and how they hope to move to full status in June 2012.

Our new face - online From David Strachan

For the younger generation, Facebook is the place to share pictures and news with hundreds of friends at the same time.

For some of us slightly older folk, it's a way of finding out what our offspring are up to.....

But for a growing group of people in South Holburn it's a way of getting to know each other, sharing wee bits of information, and learning more about each other. Its light hearted and fun.

All you have to do is sign up to Facebook and join the group, and then every time someone posts a comment it pops up in your email inbox.

Makes a nice change from all those tedious work emails.... But best of all, George posts a daily prayer which is there waiting for you when you open up your email first thing in the morning.

It's a great start to the day, gives a sense of perspective as you deal with all the other stuff that comes at you.

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The story of Lucky and his treasures

Mary and her husband Jim had a dog named Lucky. He was a real character.

Whenever Mary and Jim had guests they would warn their friends to not leave their luggage open because Lucky would help himself to whatever struck his fancy.

Inevitably, someone would forget and something would come up missing. Mary or Jim would go to Lucky's toy box in the basement and there the treasure would be, amid all of Lucky's other favourite toys. He always stashed his finds in his toy box and he was very particular that his toys stay in the box.

It so happened that Mary found out she had breast cancer. She feared it would be fatal. A double mastectomy was scheduled, fear riding her shoulders. The night before she was to go to the hospital she cuddled with Lucky and worried about him.

Although the three-year-old

dog liked Jim, he was Mary's dog through and through.

She thought that if she died, Lucky would feel abandoned.

He wouldn't understand that she didn't want to leave him.

The thought deeply troubled her.

The double mastectomy was harder on Mary than her doctors had anticipated and she was hospitalised for more than two weeks. Jim took Lucky for his evening walk faithfully, but the little dog just drooped, whining and miserable.

Finally the day came for Mary to leave the hospital. When she arrived home, she was so exhausted she couldn't even make it upstairs to her bedroom. Jim made her comfortable on the couch and left her to nap.

Lucky stood watching Mary but he didn't go to her when she called. It made her sad but she realised it all must have seemed a little strange to her beloved pet.

She was tired and soon ⇒

⇒dozed off. When Mary woke for a second she couldn't understand what was wrong. She couldn't move her head and her body felt heavy and hot. But panic soon gave way to laughter when she realised the problem. Mary was covered, literally blanketed, with every treasure Lucky owned!

While she had slept, the sorrowing dog had made trip after trip to the basement

bringing his beloved mistress all his favourite things in life. He had covered her with his love.

Mary forgot about dying. Instead she and Lucky began living again, walking further and further together every day. It's been 12 years now and Mary is still cancer-free. Lucky still steals treasures and stashes them in his toy box but Mary remains his greatest treasure.

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