



ST MARY'S MAGAZINE EASTER 2017

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS (Bob's Bit)

'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'

Jeremiah 29. 11-12

Jeremiah 29 offers hope for a prosperous future. In the original context God encouraged the exiled Israelites by telling them that he had plans to rescue them from captivity and to restore them to their homeland. This must have set their hearts leaping with joy.

Easter is a time for us to be full of joy, as we remember and celebrate that God has fulfilled his plan to rescue humanity from the captivity of sin and to restore us to fellowship with him. The resurrection of Jesus is God the Father's endorsement of the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and provides the source of our hope for a joyful future in God's presence. Jesus satisfied the requirements of God's law and his resurrection is the pledge that we too shall be raised to new life.

Like the Israelites we are imminently expecting a restoration in St Mary's. The building refurbishment is about to start. Scaffolding will be erected on 10 April. This will take two weeks. Building work will commence on 24 April and should be finished by early September. The church will be out of bounds. We shall have our Sunday services at 10.00am in Kirkton Court Lounge (from 9 April) with the occasional other service in the Church Hall.

I hope that you will be able to join us for this year's celebrations. I leave you with the best expression of joy: Happy Easter!

EASTER SERVICES

13 April Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth,
at 11.00am

13 April Maundy Thursday Eucharist in St Mary's Church Hall at 6.30pm

16 April Easter Day Eucharist in Kirkton Court Lounge

The Army visits St Mary's



Earlier in the year the Rector had a call from Sgt Tommy Stewart, who asked if he and a group of his Army colleagues could visit St Mary's to look at the brass plaque commemorating Lord Lyell's award of the Victoria Cross. They were based temporarily at Barry Buddon Camp and had been touring Scotland to raise awareness of service in the Reserves. A festive time was had in St Mary's. Photographs were taken, a cup of tea was enjoyed in the Hall. Tommy asked what the Rector's title was. The Rector explained the difference between a Rector and a Vicar. The latter was a substitute in the days of Christendom for Rectors, who spent all their time in Rome. It is connected with the word, 'vicarious'. The Captain said, 'The next time I write a report I must remember to use the word "vicarious"'. Tommy said, 'Every day is a School Day!' Tommy's female colleague said, 'More tea, Vicar?' Tommy took the group photograph so unfortunately he doesn't appear in it.

The Rector meets Sinai and Jordan Domingo at Dr Graham's Homes



On Sunday 12 March the Rector arrived at Dr Graham's Homes as part of a McCabe's Pilgrimage. Alistair McCabe had been born at the Homes while his father was serving there as the Farm Manager. This was the second expedition to the Homes led by Alistair (and thus the Rector's second visit too). Almost immediately on arrival the Rector spotted Sinai (on the Rector's left in the photograph), recognising him from his picture on our collecting jars. Sinai was thrilled to be spotted. Younger brother, Jordan, arrived a little later. We all then went into the Jarvey Hall for the morning service. The Chapel had been declared unsafe because of further damage done by a second earthquake (Kathmandu in 2016). At the invitation of the Chaplain, the Revd Henry Simon, the Rector participated in the service by introducing the visitors at the beginning and by pronouncing the blessing at the end. There was opportunity in the afternoon to spend time with the boys. On Monday 13 March there was another slot for a tour of the campus with the boys this time accompanied by some of the older pupils. The Rector also managed to visit Sinai in his classroom and met his teacher and classroom assistant. Meeting the boys was the high point of the Rector's visit to India. It was lovely to see them looking so well, so smart and so happy.