



The Cairn



News from St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church in Dunbar

Rector's Letter

This year April begins in the middle of Holy Week when we follow Jesus' journey to the cross. The triumphant joy of Palm Sunday is quickly replaced by danger, suffering, and death. For Jesus' followers, all seemed very bleak as they descended into the sorrow and despair of grief.

Over the past weeks we have witnessed the storm of the latest war being waged in our world. It is natural to respond with anxiety and despair. The danger and suffering are very real. Who knows how long it will last and how many lives will be lost? Who knows how it will affect our lives and those we know and love?

I receive regular emails containing devotional readings for reflection. One captivated me recently with its opening line: 'Jesus calms the storm'. It refers to the time when Jesus and his disciples were caught in a perilous storm at sea. Aware of the danger, they woke Jesus and asked him, 'do you not care that we are perishing?' Jesus' response? With the words, 'Peace! Be still!', he calmed the storm, (Mark 4:35-41).

In the storms we face, we can turn to Jesus today. We

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can ask him the questions we need to ask. We can invite him to calm our inner storms. We can receive the peace he offers us – peace that calms our troubled hearts and helps us overcome our fear.

The Message Bible makes this plain; 'Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down', (Philippians 4:6-7).

Jesus Christ accepted suffering and death so everyone could experience salvation. At Easter we joyfully celebrate Jesus rising to new life, his victory over death meaning all who believe in him gain spiritual life that is everlasting. Jesus' resurrection anticipates a time when God's kingdom of justice and peace are established. As we await his glorious return, we can pray with the expectation that Jesus hears and lovingly answers. So, I pray that the joy of Jesus' resurrection will fill your hearts and overcome the turmoil of suffering and despair. I pray you will experience the peace of God which surpasses understanding. I pray too that peace would prevail on earth, bringing an end to war.

Harriet

Notice

Please note that there will NOT be a 10:30 am service on Maundy Thursday.

Day of Prayer for the People of the Middle East

During Holy Week, the Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, had planned to visit Jerusalem and the West Bank, one of his aims being to provide the background for a season of prayer for the region. Now Bishop Mark cannot travel to the Middle East, so he has asked for a **Day of Prayer for the churches and people of the Middle East on the Tuesday of Holy Week (31 March)**, the day he would have been in the West Bank.

Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, asks us to pray:

*God of mercy, look with compassion
on all who are affected by the present conflict.
Grant insight to hardened hearts,
comfort to the fearful,
protection to those in danger,
and hope to those who are despairing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

We are invited to pray using these prompts for our own intercessions:

- An end to conflict and violence
- Everyone to abide by international law
- Negotiations and diplomacy to be intensified
- Every life to be valued
- Emergency supplies like blankets, food, sanitation and medical support to promptly reach those who need them
- Courage and persistence amongst those working for peace and justice
- Lasting peace and justice

You may find the following prayers helpful. More resources for prayer are available on the Diocese of Edinburgh website.

*Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed;
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all the true love of peace,
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that your kingdom may go forward in justice and peace,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.* **Collect from Coventry Cathedral**

Christian Aid Prayers for Peace

*God, we weep for all lives lost in conflict.
We pray for all those who mourn their loved ones.
We bring to you our deep sorrows and our fears for the future.
God, we cry out for peace and for justice.
We pray for everyone to immediately cease fire, and for war to end.
We pray that all in power would act to stop violence now.
We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.
May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.
We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.
God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.
May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and
peace.
We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.
May the clamour of violence cease,
Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.
God, in your name, Amen.*

A blessing from 1 Thessalonians

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of
the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Notes for a biography by Godfrey Rust

When Jesus went to Bethlehem
I must say it was odd—
I wouldn't have been born that way
if I was being God.

When Jesus picked his followers
a practiced eye could tell
he was plainly inexperienced
at hiring personnel.

When Jesus worked a miracle
you don't need a degree
to know that healing on the sabbath
will annoy a Pharisee.

When he went to Gethsemane
the game was not yet up—
there was time for him and Judas
to kiss and make it up.

When Jesus went to Calvary
that's the ending of the story —
one more tragic hero,
death instead of glory.

When Jesus went to Nazareth
he spent twenty years in trade—
that's hardly a career
in which Messiahs will be made

When Jesus wandered Palestine
it was awfully hit and miss—
you'll never reach your customers
with marketing like this.

When he went to Jerusalem
he rode there on an ass—
such a PR opportunity
and Jesus let it pass.

When Jesus stood in Pilate's house
he didn't realise
that politics is all about
the art of compromise.

He must have been mad—that's the
only way I understand it.
When Jesus went to Calvary
you'd almost think he'd planned it.

The repair shop

When I left my GP practice in mid Missouri in 1987 my colleagues held a 'sewing bee' and made me a quilt ; everyone made a square and signed it. It became the most wonderful thank you and farewell gift. This also stirred in me a desire to learn to quilt but until I retired there was never enough time.

Once lock down and vaccinating work finished, I found the Castle Quilters here in Dunbar and they welcomed me very warmly, and have helped me learn to create some quilts of my own. It's an odd hobby really ! You take lovely fabrics, cut them into little bits, and put them back together again in a different arrangement. For those not intrigued by quilting, it sounds quite bonkers.

In 2019 I walked part of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela. One of my fellow pilgrims confided in me that her faith was 'in tatters'. That phrase has stayed with me, and has come into sharper focus since I started learning to quilt.

There are times when our lives seem to come apart at the seams, when plans are shredded and familiar patterns are disrupted. Times when everything which felt right suddenly goes wrong.

These are the times when our faith can be tested, our trust in God's providence challenged. But if we invite God to work in us, through us, with us, then He will put things back together. This may be in an entirely different way, perhaps in a most unexpected way. God can transform all the fragments, the tatters of our faith and the shredded patterns of our lives. Such an experience can be beyond our imaginings and beyond our understanding, but bring us to deeper awareness of God's creativity and power.



Those who look to God are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame' Psalm 34:5

Anne

Dunbar, A trial run for Spring

(with a casual first line nod to Dickens)

It was one of those March days when the sun was blazing like it meant business and the east wind was cutting like it had business of its own. Summer in the light, winter in the shade.

Folk traversed between pavements, seeking out the sun, like pensioners on holiday, coats half-on, half-off, scarves carried rather than worn, just in case. Someone was brave, or stupid enough to sit outside Graze with a coffee, blinking into the wind, while everyone else clocked her and thought, *aye, definitely a visitor, we'll see how long she lasts.*

The town looked brighter, lighter, almost optimistic. But don't be fooled. This is March. This is a trial run.

Nothing really happened.

Then, at exactly 9:14 a.m. the first incident occurred.

A woman hung washing out in full sunshine. Not just socks and breeks: a proper washing. Jeans, towels, a bedsheet, all flapping confidently.

The local walking group slowed as they passed. One man actually stopped and checked the sky, then the wind, then the sky again, as if expecting an announcement. Somebody else muttered, *"bit early for that,"* which in this town is considered a full-scale weather warning.

The washing danced, the sun shone, and for a moment it felt like spring had turned up on time.

But by 9:26 a.m. a shadow cast over the line and the wind shifted. The woman came back out, frown on face, hands on hips, assessing her options. The bedsheet snapped once, as if making a point. She left it out anyway, in pure defiance.

Nothing happened.

Then, at exactly 11:02 a.m. the second incident made itself known.

A stranger walked down the High Street without a jacket. no hoodie tied round the waist. Just a shirt, sleeves rolled up, striding with a confidence that bordered on recklessness. This did not go unnoticed.

A gaggle of women outside the chemist paused mid-conversation. Someone at the bus stop gave him a long look, not judgemental, exactly, more concerned, the sort of look that says, *"that'll come back tae bite ye."*

The man himself seemed aware of the attention but pushed on, chin up, as if daring March to do its worst. A second act of defiance.

In the sunlight he looked vindicated. In the shade, less so. His pace quickened. By the time he reached Black Agnes, his hands had found his pockets, sleeves were rolled down and his shoulders had crept up around his ears. Still, he did not turn back. Pride is a powerful thing, especially in early spring when optimism arrives before the weather does.

A few minutes later the wind came in off the sea, sharper, meaner, the sort that finds gaps in your clothes and exploits them.

Somewhere, a door banged shut. A café heater clicked back on. The washing line gave a complaining rattle.

Something was happening.

Then, just after midday, came the seagulls.

Normally, by this time, they'd be in full cry: squabbling on lampposts, dive-bombing anything wrapped in paper, announcing themselves like they owned the place, which, to be fair, they mostly do. But today they were different.

They sat spaced out along the rooflines, feathers puffed, facing the same direction, like a badly organised committee. No screeching or squawking, just the occasional slow turn of the head.

A chip wrapper skittered along the pavement, entirely unchallenged. A tourist bent to retrieve a dropped scone and lived to tell the tale. That alone should have raised alarms.

A gust came through, bright sun still blazing, but the air underneath it was cold enough to nip. One gull lifted, circled once, then settled again, unimpressed. Another gave a single, irritated squeal, not a warning, more a comment on folk getting false hopes of spring.

The town carried on. Folk queued at tills. Doors opened and shut. The shirt sleeved man was not seen again. The washing stayed out, stubborn now.

Nothing happened.

But when seagulls start behaving themselves, people notice.

By early evening, the light had softened and the bravado had gone out of the day. The sun dipped lower, losing its edge, and the shade took over properly.

Coats were back on, the washing was brought in, damper than intended. The seagulls dispersed as quietly as they'd convened, meeting adjourned, drifting off towards the harbour for their tea.

By six o'clock, the pub had filled with the usual suspects. Someone complained about the price of a packet of fags, another about the state of the roads, and, without missing a beat, the roadworks, designed to fix the very thing he was complaining about.

March was mentioned only in passing, blamed for an aching knee, a stiff shoulder. A man swore blind it had been roasting earlier; his mate scoffed, said it had been Baltic. Both were believed.

The day was reviewed, as days are, in fragments. The washing. The daftie without a jacket. The seagulls, aye, they'd been a bit strange, now you mention it. But nothing that couldn't be explained away. March being March. Sun fooling folk. Sea breezes playing tricks.

Someone leaned in over their pint and said, "Felt different though."

A pause, then a shrug.

"Aye," came the reply, "but nothing happened."

And that was that. The night settled back into itself, the wind found its voice again, and the town agreed, without ever saying so, that spring had knocked, just once, then thought better of it.

Rab

Thanks to Judy Dale
for the Mothering Sunday posies
which were much appreciated



Maybe think again

At our Maundy Thursday service you will have the opportunity to have a foot or feet washed, as we remember the supper at which Jesus washed his disciples' feet. For many people this prospect results in a shuddering declining of that invitation.

Our feet are not generally our best feature. With the years, all sorts of peculiarities emerge: and feet are our body part most often in contact with the ground.

In Lent we have time to spend time in penitence and the way in which God's forgiveness washes away our sinfulness and brings salvation. We acknowledge that God knows all the parts of our life we hide from ourselves and the world; the dark corners and the secrets. As we draw close to the cross, and then the joy of Easter, can I suggest that experiencing the washing of your feet....those parts of which we are not proud and hide awaycan be a powerful way to really grasp how fully we are each known, accepted, forgiven and loved.

So, maybe think again. Come in your sandals and be washed clean.

Anne



What's on at St Anne's

Young Church

5th April (Easter Sunday) & 19th April



We will be celebrating these days with fun things to do. There may be chocolate on one of those days!

Please join in on any of these Sundays.

youngchurch@stannedunbar.org.uk

Silent Reflective Mornings in 2026

Monthly on Saturdays at 10.30am for an hour

- 2 May
- 6 June
- 4 July – *extended session for Summer Silence*
- 1 August
- 5 September
- 3 October
- 7 November
- 5 December – *extended session for Advent*



Do reserve the dates in your diary – and step aside from the busyness of life for time and space for quiet reflection. Each session is followed by coffee & conversation.

The series starts again in May because special services will be happening during April for Easter

CONTACT FOR QUERIES: Sharon Morgan 01368 864582 sharon@eh42.scot



CUPPA		TUESDAYS 10AM - 12NOON
	CAKE	
ST ANNE'S CHURCH		CHAT

Come on in, the kettle's hot!

Take what you need
 Give what you can
 Everyone is welcome

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

Thursdays
 at St Anne's Church

10.30 am
 Quiet Communion Service
 followed by discussion about faith and life

12.00 midday
 Prayers for peace - gather at the Peace Pole

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

What's on elsewhere

Scottish Elections Hustings

On the **22nd of April, 7:30-9pm** at **Dunbar Parish Church**, Dunbar Churches Eco-Group and Sustaining Dunbar will be hosting a hustings for candidates for the Scottish Parliament elections. Everyone is invited to attend and hear from their candidates. **If you have a question you would like to be put to candidates then please submit suggestions to info@sustainingdunbar.org by the 10th of April**

Scottish Elections Hustings

Wednesday 22nd April
7:30-9pm

Dunbar Parish Church



Come hear your Parliamentary Candidates!
All Welcome

Please send suggested questions for candidates to: info@sustainingdunbar.org by 10th April

Dunbar Churches
Eco-Group with



BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

SEEDLING SWAP

SUN 17TH MAY
2-4 PM

- Young plants to swap or buy
- Tours of the community garden and orchard

SUSTAINING DUNBAR



Cook, eat, chat! for P7-S5s

Prepare, cook and eat a meal together

Enjoy some Easter games and challenges

Take a moment to reflect on what Easter means to you and others

All free, but donations welcome

Booking essential via QR code or dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com



Tuesday 7th April ~ 10:30 - 2pm



Belhaven Church Hall



Explore & chat! for P7-S5s

Walk & talk ~ wander & wonder

Take a moment to reflect on what Easter means to you and others

Lunch provided

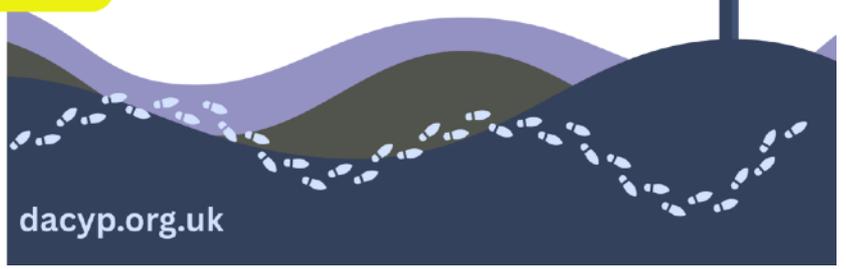
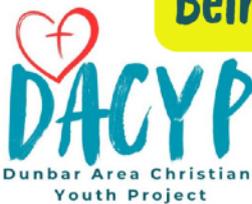
All free, but donations welcome

Booking essential via QR code or dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com



Tuesday 7th April ~ 10:30 - 2pm

Belhaven Church Hall



dacyp.org.uk

Readings and Rotas

Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

6 reflections based on Luke 23 and John 19:25-27

Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 28:1-10

Readings: Caitriona

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Mark

Organ: Brian

Sunday 12th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, John 20: 19-31

Readings: Rupert

Intercessions: Liz

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Diana

Sunday 19th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Luke 24:13-35

Readings: David

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: George

Sunday 26th April (4th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:42-47, John 10:1-10

Readings: Mike

Intercessions: Anne

Chalice: Anne

Organ: Brian

All readings use the
New Revised
Standard Version of
the Bible

Services at St. Anne's

Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

(Young Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat



Rector: Revd. Harriet Johnston

email: rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Rest days Friday & Saturday

Useful Contacts

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Please send Cairn contributions by the 25th of the month

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Find us on 

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church, Dunbar is a Scottish Charity, SC010950, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)