

BUILDING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP,



# *The* Cairn



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

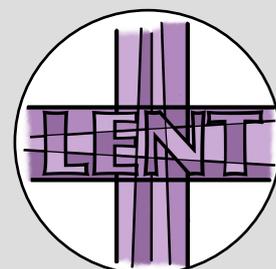
## Rector's Letter

This month sees many Christians observing the season of Lent. It is a chance to deepen our understanding of who we believe in and how to live out our faith. It is an opportunity to spiritually journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross, by reading and reflecting on Gospel readings, devoting more time and space for prayer, giving up certain foods, or taking part in special Lent studies.

In St Anne's, some of us are reading a book called 'Dancing to the heartbeat of God'. It is a collection of writings by Christians around the globe who are connected with the Anglican Communion. These writings are helping us to see the world and our faith from different perspectives. These perspectives are drawn from different countries, cultural contexts and lived

### Lent reflections

p 3



### Mothering Sunday

p 10



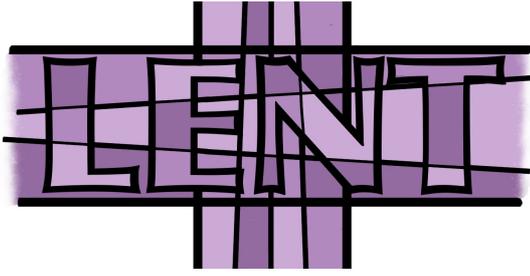
experiences. By engaging with these writings, we are journeying together into a fresh understanding and deeper appreciation of God's work in people's lives.

Lent is a time to journey inwards; a season of self-examination where we become keenly aware of our need for forgiveness and renewal. It is also a journey outward, as we become better able to identify with the struggles and suffering of others. Our contrite hearts break at the injustice, strife and disaster that befalls people. Our tender hearts seek to understand and help where possible.

Jesus invites anyone who is thirsty 'come to me and drink'. Anyone who feels parched, whose faith is running dry, is invited to come to Jesus and experience 'rivers of living water flow from within them', (John 7:37-38). I encourage you to join with me in saying yes to Jesus' invitation to drink from the deep wells of God's spirit. I pray that you find this season a deeply enriching one for you. As the days lengthen and you journey forth from your homes into gardens, woodland and around the shoreline, I hope you will be refreshed by new ways of seeing our world and encountering the One who created and sustains all of us in it.

God bless you.

Harriet



### **A Lenten prayer by Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 -1153)**

Let me hold fast to You, beautiful Lord, whom the angels themselves yearn to look upon. Wherever You go, I will follow You. If You pass through fire, I will not flinch, I fear no evil when You are with me. You carry my griefs, because You grieve for my sake. You passed through the narrow doorway from death to life, to make it wide enough for all to follow. Nothing can ever now separate me from Your love.

### **A Lenten poem by Jean M Watt**

Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf  
Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep  
All unadorned. Unlike Christmas which decrees  
the setting-up, the dressing-up of trees,  
Lent is a taking down, a stripping bare,  
A starkness after all has been withdrawn  
Of surplus and superfluous,  
Leaving no hiding place, only an emptiness  
Between black branches, a most precious space  
Before the leaf, before the time of flowers;  
Lest we should see only the leaf, the flower,  
Lest we should miss the stars.



## The Way of the Cross

*'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.'* (Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenged the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (Luke 9:18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to the events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples?

*To deny ourselves:* this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will but Yours be done.'* (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

*To take up our cross:* this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of the cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

*Revd. Canon Paul Hardingham (editor Parish Pump)*

## **Stand up, Stand up For Jesus**

In 2019 I went to a talk at St Paul's Cathedral given by Bishop Michael Curry, who you may remember preached at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding. I remember clearly 2 things he said after 7 years. In response to a question about national leadership (at the time Trump and Johnson) he wryly said " we could do better". But most powerfully, he said he would not, in the USA, call himself a Christian, as the term had become utterly politicised. " God Bless America" had become conflated with " Make America Great Again". Bishop Michael would call himself a follower of Jesus of Nazareth.

Mike and I lived in Missouri from 1985 to 87; a red neck Republican voting state. I was aware then that Christianity in that area felt very insular..... prayers for us, much less often for others, a desire for God's protecting hand to hover over "us" and our nation.

I was in my 20s, I did not have a vote, everything we encountered in our time-limited stay was culturally alien so I did not appreciate where this might lead.

Our son-in-law is an Anglican curate. At a recent ecumenical event he noted a group called " The King's Army" had arrived and were leafleting and recruiting attendees. Their self-description, from their website, is "a non-denominational Christian evangelism movement".

Their expressed Christian beliefs are doctrinally uncontroversial; they claim not to be a political movement. But, they are openly affiliated to far right political figures (e.g. Tommy Robinson), and a brief Google search shows them “invading” Downing Street and marching, in military style uniform and formation, through Westminster and Soho, with violent rhetoric and behaviour in regard to immigration, asylum seekers, Muslims and the LGBTQ+ community.

Their online presence is polished and attractive, littered with out of context biblical quotations and Latin phrases.

This is the British outworking of what Charlie Kirk fostered in the USA..... Christian nationalism.....and it’s spreading rapidly in the UK. It is a threat, even in sunny Dunfermline; we need to be aware.

With time to rest, pray and think here in Provence, two separate God given things happened yesterday as I pondered my response to these developments.

In solidarity with my Thursday friends I read week 1’s offering in our Lent book and the Most Revd Justin Duckworth’s words jumped out.

“ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3) He describes a friendship with another pastor, despite being on polar opposite sides of most of the hot topics that take

up church time and energy. This included views on the war in Israel-Palestine, and right wing political leadership.

I prayed about this and I confess I struggled. "Othering" is certainly a trap of which to be wary, but I suggest that deception is also a trap.

On the same day, I continued listening to the Bible in a year read by David Suchet (my New Year's resolution is still holding!). I heard words from Matthew's gospel (24:4-6, 23-24).

" Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name saying " I am the Messiah" and they will lead many astray" and " then if anyone says to you Look! Here is the Messiah ! Or There he is! . Do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect"

In the global church, in the midst of our differences, it is important to remember we have common ground with all those who have declared a choice to follow Jesus: common ground we can speak about and views we can exchange. But we must also be prepared to call out differences so fundamental and propositions so distorted , in order that others are not led astray as Jesus prophesied.

What about us here at St Anne's? It's tempting to look the other ways as these developments unfold, hoping it will blow itself out. Or dismissing this as an American issue, or even just an

English one, and will not affect us. But I think God calls us to live out the gospel positively, in words and actions, not sending out a message of denial or fear, nor speaking only of what we oppose.

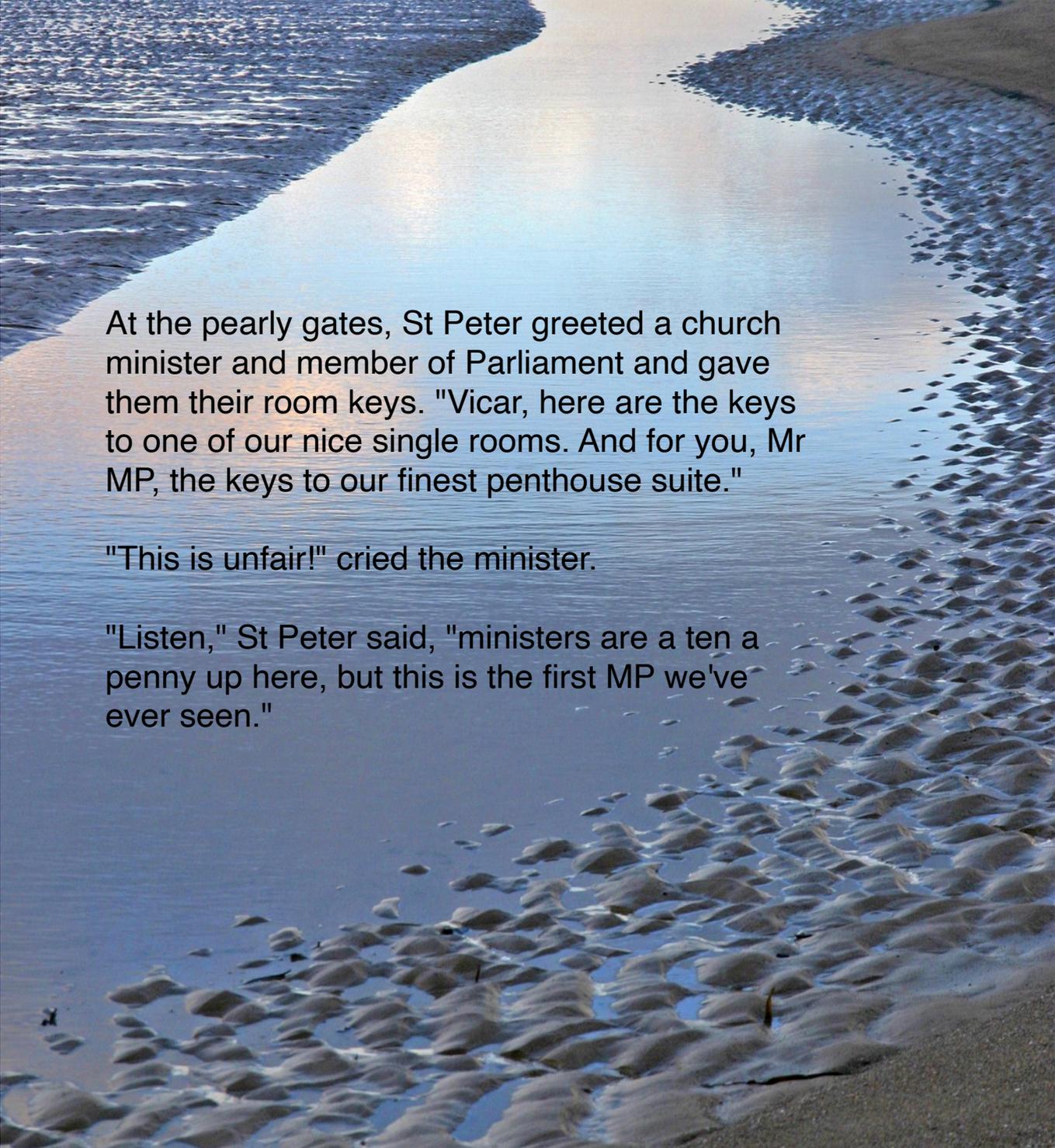
Be clear where we stand. God is the ground of our being. Jesus is our inspiration, our companion, our Saviour. Love of God and our neighbours, local, national and international, is absolutely and incontrovertibly evident in our lives and in this church family.

Jesus cannot be the co-opted property of any national or political group. The Servant King, the Prince of Peace is ours to proclaim to all peoples and all nations for all He is and more.....yesterday, today, tomorrow..... and we should and must stand up for that.

These words are my personal views, and should be regarded as such.

Anne

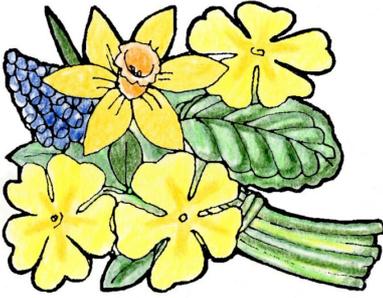
## Smile lines



At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a church minister and member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nice single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

"This is unfair!" cried the minister.

"Listen," St Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."



# March 2026

March 15th is Mothering Sunday, when we think of motherhood in general....

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. - *Sophocles*

What's done to children, they will do to society. - *Karl Menninger*

For a wife, take the daughter of a good mother. - *Fuller*.

Simply having children does not make a mother. - *Anon*

Her children arise up and call her blessed. - *Proverbs 31.28*

What is Raphael's Madonna but the shadow of a mother's love, fixed in permanent outline forever? - *T W Higginson*

One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters. - *George Herbert*

## A Sanctuary for Harbour Lights

We all have our own ideas of what a sanctuary is. Within the church, the word can sometimes unintentionally cast the building as a place so "sacred" that we feel unworthy to even be near it. If we do pluck up the courage to step over the threshold, we often do so fearfully—afraid of doing the wrong thing or upsetting someone... perhaps even God Himself.

I experienced an extreme version of this while visiting the relic of St. Catherine of Bologna. What I hoped would be a mysterious, holy experience turned out to be an intimidating, high-tension encounter. Hostile signage warned against photography, speaking, or touching, all while a sister kept me under a fierce glare. The environment was so unfamiliar and unwelcoming that I was simply glad to leave.

### Changing the Landscape

On Friday afternoons, St. Anne's hosts the DACYP open youth group, **Harbour Lights**. Most of the young people attending do not come from a church background, so entering a church building is a new experience. In fact, hosting a youth club in an actual sanctuary is rare; I can't recall seeing a pool table in the aisles anywhere else!



When Harbour Lights moved from Dunbar Methodist Church to St. Anne's in 2018, we knew there would be concerns about bringing young people into the sanctuary—likely more than were ever voiced! There was a fear that they wouldn't know how to behave. Would they touch things they shouldn't? Would something get broken? Would they somehow tarnish the holiness of this special place?

## **A Sanctuary of their own**

Those fears were largely dispelled. Certainly, there were moments—I once literally had to stop a child from climbing the walls, and occasionally the music they play features "choice" lyrics—but like most people who come to church, they have found their own way of inhabiting the space.

But is it a **sanctuary** to them? I believe so. Here are three moments that emphasise it:

**1. The Crib Service:** This year, no Harbour Lighters were officially involved in the service, so I wondered if any would attend. Not only did they show up, but at least three brought their families with them. They chose to include a faith element in their Christmas traditions, and they chose to do it in *their* sanctuary.

**2. The Exam Paper:** One young man had a health scare and shared his anxiety with our volunteers (it helps that two are retired GPs). While looking through the literature at the back of the church, he spotted a Christmas card featuring Matthew 4:16: "*The people living in darkness have seen a great light.*" Those exact words had appeared in his English exam earlier that day. This led to a deep discussion about their meaning. In the sanctuary, he found God's word waiting for him

**3. A Safe Haven:** Recently, one of our boys was assaulted. Though his physical injuries were superficial, the ordeal was traumatic. Leaving the house while gripped by fear was a massive hurdle. Yet, the following Friday, that is exactly what he did. It was with a sense of profound gratitude that we watched him and his friends walk through our doors. He found a place to be free from his fears—a true sanctuary.

## A Living Space

The list goes on. From the pulpit becoming a quiet space to be calm, to the chapel where young people light candles during times of loss, these



It makes me wonder: **What is it that you value about the sanctuary?**

For more information about DACYP and how to support its work, head to [dacyp.org.uk](http://dacyp.org.uk)

Richard Taylor

# An Even Warmer Welcome at St. Anne's?



## Your Voice Matters: The HALO Heater Vote

In a drive to move towards Net Zero, lower our energy costs and encourage greater use of our church building, we instituted a trial to see if [HALO](#) heating could meet our needs. The HALO system is specifically designed for historic buildings, providing energy-efficient, carbon-neutral infrared heat that warms people directly without the need to heat the vast air space above.

Vestry feels that the trial has been a success and would like to extend the system by adding another Halo heater to the pew area plus two, smaller linear heaters behind the rood screen. The cost for heaters and controls will be £22k which will be met by grants and fundraising.

We want to know if this move would have your support.

## Your VOTE counts!

We invite every member of the congregation to cast their vote in the ballot box at the back of the church, **anytime before 6pm on 8<sup>th</sup> March**:

- Use a **GREEN CARD** if you are **FOR** the installation of the heaters.
- Use a **RED CARD** if you are **AGAINST** the installation of the heaters.
- Comments on the cards will be welcome.

You may also email your comments to: [secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

# Murder à la Carte:

*A Recipe for the Perfect Detective Novel*

By Rab Shields

**Serves:** One hungry reader

## Ingredients

- 1 detective, lightly bruised. Choose your cut:
  - American rare:** *grizzled, cynical, with a jawline forged from perfect teeth clenched in regret, probably seasoned with alcohol and old mistakes and wives.*
  - British well-done:** *understated, war-scarred, makes sarcasm a food group, drinks tea like a tactical weapon, and files every human flaw away for later use.*
- A crime nobody wants to touch (ideally involving, flickering neon signs, rain, alleyways and a loyal secretary who knows more than she reveals).
- 2–4 suspects, marinated in secrets and garnished with alibis.
- A setting that reeks of buzzing signage, cheap cigarette smoke, and the aroma of late-night regrets laced with cheap booze
- Sharp dialogue that carves confessions from silent witnesses
- Red herrings (organic, sustainably sourced)
- A romantic liaison to add spice

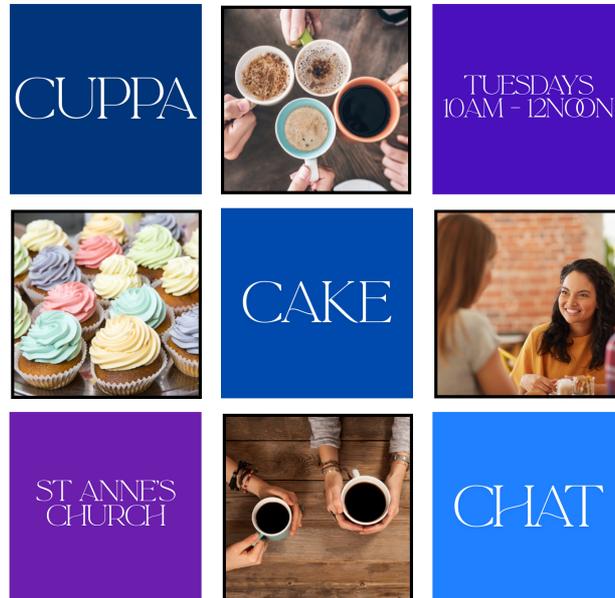
## Method

- 1. Prep the detective.** Remove all signs of emotional stability. Tenderise with heartbreak, alcoholism, or a tragic backstory involving a dog.
- 2. Add the mystery.** Sprinkle clues sparingly, too much and you've spoiled the plot.
- 3. Layer suspects.** so readers feel dizzy but sure they know who did it, until the twist bites
- 4. Pour in the setting.** Dark alleys, greasy spoons, dive jazz joints, anything that smells of cheap beer or bourbon, depending on the cut, and sprinkled with regret
- 5. Turn up the tension.** Let simmer with regular explosions, car chases, or fist fights.
- 6. Taste-test dialogue.** If it sounds wooden, add more swearing. If it sounds too clever, kill someone off.
- 7. Toss in a few red herrings.** Make them juicy. Nobody wants undercooked misdirection.
- 8. Bring to the boil.** The climax should bubble over with danger, revelations, and possibly bullets.
- 9. Serve with a twist.** The ending must be shocking yet "obvious all along." Readers should curse themselves for not guessing sooner.

## Chef's Notes

- Never overcook the resolution. A burnt ending leaves a bad aftertaste.
- Best served at night, with whisky/scotch on the rocks and regrets on the side.

# What's on at St Anne's



Come on in, the kettle's hot!

Take what you need  
Give what you can  
Everyone is welcome

[www.stannesdunbar.org.uk](http://www.stannesdunbar.org.uk)

## Volunteers' Coffee Morning

For existing volunteers and anyone interested in volunteering with DACYP ~ there are many ways to volunteer.



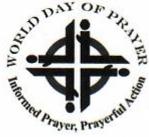
Friday 20th March ~ 10:00-11:30 am  
in St Anne's Church

Connect with other volunteers, chat with our Youth Worker or one of the office bearers.

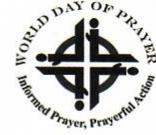


How many cakes should we bake?  
please **RSVP** to Alison:  
[dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com](mailto:dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com)





# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



**Friday 6th March 2026**



**St. Anne's Church, Dunbar**  
**Service at 2.30pm**  
**Followed by refreshments**  
**ALL WELCOME**

*Further details from Sharon Morgan 01368 864582*

***“I will Give you rest: - Come”***

**Written by Christian Women  
of Nigeria**

World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee SC020446

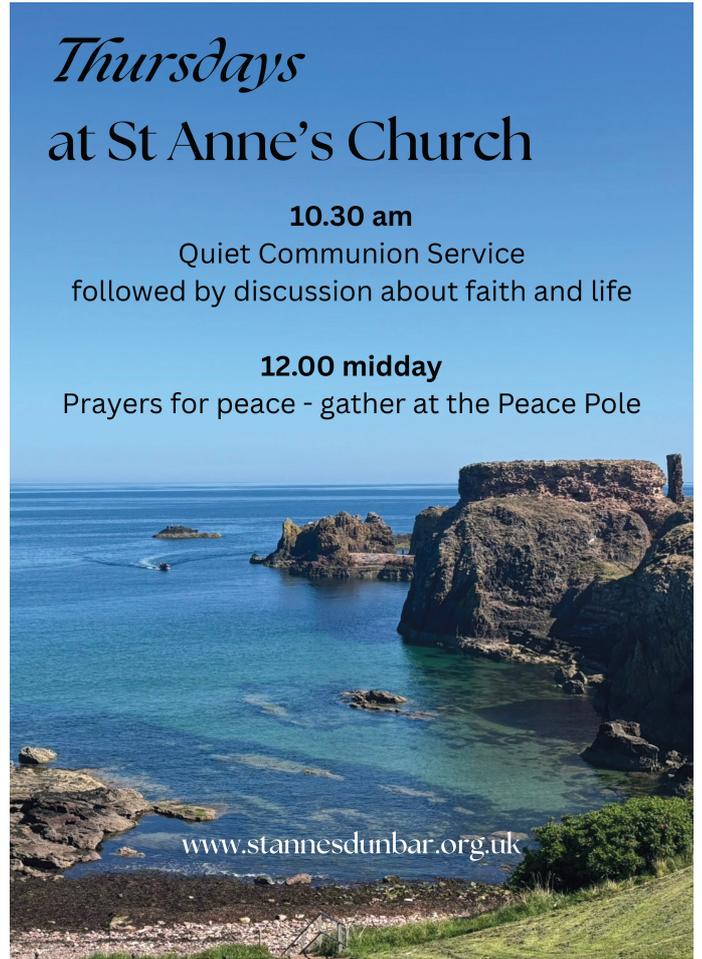


**Silent reflective  
mornings at St Anne's**

**First Saturday of the month at  
1030 for an hour**

3<sup>rd</sup> January  
7<sup>th</sup> February  
7<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> May  
6<sup>th</sup> June

*All welcome*



*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.stannedunbar.org.uk](http://www.stannedunbar.org.uk)

## **Scotland Circuit News**

Do you want to receive regular emails from the Scotland Circuit, containing information from across the Methodist Church? Typically, e-newsletters are sent weekly, and will include news and details of events from Connexion, District, Circuit and local churches. Sometimes we also share information from third party organisations recognised by the Methodist Church. Moving forward, we hope to share stories of mission and journeys of faith from around Scotland.

If you would like to sign up, please email [communications@methodistchurchinscotland.net](mailto:communications@methodistchurchinscotland.net) with your name and email address.

# **Holy Week services**

**Maundy Thursday at 7pm**

**Reflections at the Cross**

**Good Friday at 3pm**

**Easter Sunday at 10:30am**

## What's on elsewhere

Date for your Diary- On Wednesday 22nd April all are invited to a Hustings at Dunbar Parish Church to hear from our local political candidates for the Scottish parliament elections due on 7th May. Event organised by Dunbar Churches Ecogroup in collaboration with Sustaining Dunbar. More details in April's Cairn





### Prayer Breakfast

Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project

Continental breakfast, conversations around the table and time to pray for the project & the young people we serve.

8:30-10:00 am ~ Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Stables at Belhaven Church

~ no need to RSVP, just come if you can ~

**OSCR**  
 Scottish Charity Regulator  
[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

**Registered Charity**  
**SC036138**

questions or queries to Alison:  
[dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com](mailto:dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com)  
[dacyp.org.uk](http://dacyp.org.uk)

# Readings and Rotas

## **Sunday March 1st (Second Sunday of Lent)**

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17,     John 3: 1-17**

Readings: Rosemary

Intercessions: TBC

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Diana

## **Sunday March 8th (Third Sunday of Lent)**

**Exodus 17: 1-7,             John 4: 5-42**

Readings: David

Intercessions: Robert

Chalice: Robert

Organ: Brian

## **Sunday March 15th (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

**Ephesians 5: 8-14,         John 9: 1-41**

Readings: Alasdair

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Mark

Organ: George

## **Sunday March 22nd (Fifth Sunday of Lent)**

**Romans 8: 6-11,             John 11: 1-45**

Readings: Alison

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: Brian

## **Sunday March 29th (Palm Sunday)**

### **The Passion Narrative**

Readings: Chris

Intercessions: Anne

Chalice: Anne

Organ: Diana

All readings use the  
New Revised Standard  
Version of the Bible

# Services at St. Anne's

## Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

## Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



## Rector: Revd. Harriet Johnston

email: [rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk) Tel: 07511 876294

*Rest days Friday & Saturday*

## Useful Contacts

**Vestry Secretary** Pam Shields: [secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Treasurer** Rab Shields: [treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**PVG Coordinator** Rev'd Geoff Shutt:

[safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk) / 07485 238663

**Young Church** Diana Greene:

[youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Event Bookings** David Robins: [events@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:events@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Organ Enquiries** Brian Dale: [organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

**Magazine (subscriptions and contributions) and Social Media**  
[comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

*Please send Cairn contributions by the last Sunday of the month*

**Website Enquiries** David Robertson:

[webmaster@stannes.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stannes.org.uk)

## Pastoral Care Enquiries

[pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk)

Sharon Morgan 01368 864582 / Harriet Johnston 07511 876294

Find us on 

[www.stannesdunbar.org.uk](http://www.stannesdunbar.org.uk)

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