



NEWSLETTER ❖ 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Dear friends

The author Joanne (J K) Rowling has been in the public eye for many years since the *Harry Potter* series began to be published in 1997, an event that ending an unhappy period in her life marked by upheaval and both personal and financial insecurity. The idea of the books apparently took shape while she sat on a delayed train, but she can have had no notion that her offbeat children's story, rejected by twelve publishers, was to commence what would become the best-selling book series in publishing history.

For several years, many Christians attacked the *Potter* books as a potentially corrupting presentation of witchcraft, and yet Rowling didn't accept that criticism; she still identifies as a Christian and argues that the main themes of her books are inspired by her faith. In her support, the list of Christian authors who could be marshalled as witnesses to the viability of writing in the fantasy genre about things magical is hardly short. The most obvious of these may be J R R Tolkien and C S Lewis, both of whom pre-empt Rowling in portraying magic as a neutral form of power, capable of doing either great good or great evil.

Recently, Rowling has received criticism for her questioning of the viability of transgender rights as they are currently conceived; she has been labelled 'transphobic' and 'condescending' for voicing concern over some of the risks she perceived in contemporary trends of sexual and gender identity. It's a hugely contentious and sensitive area and I - a priest of a small church in a small town - am under no illusions that I have anything profound to add to the argument.

One related issue does come to mind, however - the huge complexity of life. Some have argued that moral complexity is not always evident in Rowling's *Harry Potter* books where good characters and bad characters are defined in a rather dualistic manner, lacking the myriad ambivalent shades that we experience in the world or, indeed, within our own inner lives. It's hard not to agree with that view to some extent since the series was written to appeal to a progressively maturing audience, just like the eponymous character. Nevertheless, emerging from the latter part of the narrative is the truth of a character hidden for several books behind a mask of masterly ambiguity whose love, loyalty and self-sacrifice is kept secret from Potter - for his own good - until that character's dying breath.

In this 'optical' age when fixation with image, popularity and reputation can seem to supplant deeper aspects of human endeavour, and when courage is gauged by a person's readiness to jump onto a moving bandwagon, it is too easy to count lightly the integrity of those who hold reasonable but unpopular views, or who are willing patiently to bear the burden of unpopularity for a good and deeper cause. Generosity in judgment, as well as taking our time reaching it, may well be virtuous. While there is nothing inherently good or bad about the possession of power or influence - in reality or fantasy - our readiness to use it wisely, honestly, consistently and for the deeper good of others is a measure of how far we have progressed in living Christlike life.

Fr Alasdair

THIS WEEK

Sunday	8 am Mass 10 am Sung Mass 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm Mass	TRINITY 9
Monday	8.15 am Morning Prayer 6 pm Evening Prayer followed by Mass	<i>St Lawrence</i>
Tuesday	6 pm Evening Prayer followed by Mass	<i>St Clare</i>
Wednesday	as Monday but with Compline at 9 pm	<i>St Blane</i>
Thursday	as Monday	<i>Jeremy Taylor</i>
Friday	as Monday	<i>St Maximilien Kolbe</i>
Saturday	11 am Morning Prayer followed by Sung Mass 6 pm Evening Prayer	Assumption of BVM

Another Zoom meeting is scheduled for **1000 on Wednesday**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82546386442?pwd=Nklvc005SGINVldDSlJTZEFlkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 4638 6442

Password: 4mkGii

Audio recordings of some services (Offices and Sung Mass on Sundays, Feast days and Wednesdays) will continue to be placed on the website here:

<https://www.allsaints-standrews.org.uk/category/virtualseervices/>

Thank you to those undertaking specific tasks in the Sung Mass today.

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

How are our finances doing in this Coronavirus summer?

Introduction

I hope you are all coping with this scarcely believable experience which I fear may carry on for a long time yet, albeit with changes to the guidance and rules. Financial matters do not stop for Covid-19 however and I have been kept busy communicating with some members of the congregation, maintaining the records, working on the restoration project and successfully negotiating the let of the 35 North Street premises, the former Ladyhead venue and more recently occupied by Richmond Sport until the end of February.

The General fund

In the previous year we received income of £8,613 from Plate, Free Will Offerings, Hall lets and Agape during the four months to the end of July – this year only £605. This massive fall in income is partly mitigated by various cost savings and our property income has kept us going. The Tower Flat vacancy was filled fairly quickly and the 35 North Street premises has been let from August 1st to a newly formed company operating in medical research and life sciences for use as their administrative office. This let was secured by a significant upgrade of the premises which was much needed and we will recover the cost in just over a year.

Church restoration

The works restarted on June 22nd and are now scheduled to finish around the end of September. Good progress has been made and no unforeseen problems have so far come to light.

Interpretation

A few members have set up electronic payments and I have received one or two cheques and cash donations but help is needed to balance up the General fund as there is no end in sight to the restrictions. We are on budget with the restoration and we are fortunate in having increased our reserves and having the continuing property income but the loss of Plate, Free Will Offerings and Hall Lets is serious. In a Lent Newsletter I suggested ways you might consider reviewing your giving and I repeat these suggestions below. The situation is more serious now, of course, with lost income continuing and no summer cream tea event and possibly no St Nicholas Fayre this year. Please give this some thought and maybe talk to others too. Our Church needs all the help possible at present so please do what you can.

What can you do?

Income from members of the congregation comes in various forms and each of us can help in appropriate ways. Here are some thoughts –

- ❖ Electronic monthly giving – a great deal of our congregational giving is received this way and this source will continue. I am now in my fourth year as your Treasurer and in reviewing my own electronic giving, and yours, many of us have not made any increase over this period. If you can provide a small increase it would be very helpful indeed and this would be a significant time to do it. If you do not pay electronically but would like to do so I list our bank details at the end of this article.
- ❖ Free Will Offering – you will have seen the green envelopes in the collection plate on Sundays. The FWO system is for cash donations and if you wish to join the system I can give you a box of 52 weekly envelopes each with a date on it. If you can't attend Church all you need to do is put your offering in the envelope and bring it when next you come. If you contribute under Gift Aid I can identify your contribution by the envelope number which only each of us knows, thus ensuring confidentiality. If you would like to join the scheme my contact details are at the end of this article.
- ❖ Gift Aid – this government scheme allows us to claim back 25% of your offerings if paid electronically, by FWO or in some other manner that allows me to identify you as the donor. I can provide declaration forms if you would like to increase the value of your offerings in this way or you will find them on the table in Church. Remember that you must be a taxpayer and must pay sufficient Income tax to cover the amount we reclaim. If in doubt please talk to me.
- ❖ Legacies – there is no sensitive way to approach this subject, but legacies are a valuable way of donating to the ongoing life of the Church. There is a tax efficient aspect for many who are falling into Inheritance Tax nowadays and you should seek professional advice in this respect. Even small legacies are of great value to the Church and no Diocesan Quota applies to legacies, so it remains an asset for the local community.

- ❖ Loans – in order to provide a bottom line of cover three individuals have provided offers to lend substantial sums to assist with the restoration if needed. These offers were made before coronavirus was known about. If you could offer to provide a loan of any amount you might specify for our General fund or the Restoration, I can supply a form with details of the repayment period.
- ❖ One-off donations – if you would like to make a one-off donation by cheque or even an advance on your offerings to assist our cashflow please post me a cheque using the payee and addressee details below.

Our bank details are –

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland
Branch: 113 – 115 South Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QB
Sort Code: 83-26-28
Account name: All Saints Episcopal Church – St Andrews
Account number: 00104363

My contact details are –

Address: 8a Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL
Telephone: 01334 472358
Email: treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk

My thanks to all who contribute so generously to our Church and my good wishes for your continued safety during this difficult time.

Ian Palfrey
Honorary Treasurer

MALAWIAN RICE

A renewed supply of Malawian rice is available from Lil at the Rectory, should you wish to purchase some. With thanks to Margaret Duffy who first made us aware of this source of excellent, ethically-sourced food.

CHURCH OPENING

With the church open for public services, the significance of reopening for private prayer a few weeks ago has slipped from our memories a little. Vestry discussed the issue last week, particularly whether we wish to continue opening the church each day ostensibly for private prayer but also for those who wish to come inside and have a look: people are naturally moved towards prayer in churches like All Saints', where tourists perhaps become pilgrims rather easily. We were mindful of the amount of time that is involved for those who supervise these daily openings, but Vestry concluding that it was an important thing to keep doing.

So far, this responsibility has been fulfilled by members of Vestry but your support would be very welcome, should you be willing to spend a couple of hours in the church every so often. Sometimes several people come in during those hours, sometimes none; some are chatty, others are silent. However, the Government asks that we supervise the building to encourage people to observe protocols to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission taking place.

If you are able to help - once or twice a month would be splendid - you can use the online rota to book times here:

<https://bit.ly/allsaintssupervision>

Alternatively, if you would prefer to book a time by 'phone or email, please contact the Rector.

THAT ROOF AGAIN

Now that the lead-workers have finished banging on the roof, Morning Prayer is a little quieter in church at 8.15 on weekdays (apart from Tuesdays). Without wishing to *bang on* for too long about the merits of the work, here are two pictures showing the roof 'before' and 'after' the restoration. The first dates from 2016 and the second from yesterday.



What are you looking at? This is the roof over the Sacrament Chapel and the west end of the south aisle. As a rule of thumb with lead roofs, dark grey colours are good, white is not good, and green is worse. New lead is treated to change it from silver to dark grey to prevent the process that leads to a build-up of reactants that slowly 'rot' the lead to a white, powdery compound that is little use for keeping buildings dry.

Like large mushrooms, four ventilators help ensure that any moisture on the underside of the lead has an escape route to prevent unseen rot. Where the rot takes hold on the outer surface (the three runs washed by the drainage outlets for the last hundred years show this) rippling indicates that the lead sheet had thinned from its original thickness and become weak. Where algae had grown, the lead had become pitted, retaining moisture and even becoming permeable. Notice the small damp patch at the left-hand edge of the left picture: that was the leak that caused damage by the west door, rotting a number of rafters under the lead, which have now also been repaired.

Under the windows lead flashing has still to be replaced but this is relatively minor in comparison with the roof itself. This was a slow, noisy, labour-intensive and highly skilled task, the most expensive single element of the restoration, addressing the most vulnerable part of the roof. It is hugely significant that this has been done, and done well.

Fr Alasdair

INTERCESSIONS

In particular need

Debbie & Priscilla White, Eleanor Ross, David McLean, Anne Zweers, *Priest*, Amy Cox, Robyn Seenan, Anne Clayton, Ian Sadler, Andrew Mate, Robin White, Berenice Smith

Continuing need

Lenora Mahoney, Effie Keracher, Jonah & Chris Andrews, Gareth, Jenni & Rosalie Saunders, Judy, Ashley & Kathleen Cummins, Charles & Thomas Ware, Ann Noltie, Lawrence Reynolds, Sally-Marie Gardner, Edie, Alice Bullough, Joan Day, Janet Reid, Catherine Rowe, Bill Hyland, Samantha, Steve Scott, Angela Allaway, Lori-Mark Quate, Elizabeth Talbot, Juliet Davey, Rebecca, Beatrice & Alexander

Residential care

Catriona, Fiona Ingham, John Shillaker, *Priest*, Marie-Louise Moffett, *Priest*, Charlie Mather

Recently departed

Frances Humphries, Graham Kennedy, Andrew Macgregor, Ruth Warmer, Christiane Tissandier, , Lucy White

Year's mind

- 9/8 David Moir Gilbert Perfect, 1945, Reginald Smith, 1998
- 10 Margaret Claire Slater, 2007
- 11 Annie Wilkie Bell, 1942
- 12 Margaret Armit Martin Wilbraham, 2004
- 13 Edith Marian Hull, 1935
- 15 Etta Michael, 1998, Yvonne Ryland, 2018

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