South Aberdeen Churches of Scotland Magazine



FEBRUARY 2024



Will be celebrated at South St Nicholas Church on Sunday 25th February 2024 at 10.30am

Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on Sunday 25th February 2024 at 11.00am.

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

LETTERS FROM THE MINISTERS

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter, it will be weeks into 2024. Allow me to wish you all a Happy and blessed New Year! We hope that this year will be a year of fulfilled promises and hopes in your personal life, your family life and Church life.

We thank God for all that was accomplished, last year, as a Church Family, within the different groups which operate in the church, within our families and friends. There have been great losses but there have also been additions as well. The thing that remains as a hallmark for Torry St Fitticks Church is the friendship, the generosity, the support and love among members, evident at all times and in all circumstances despite some challenges.

As we progress in this New Year, we wonder what the future holds, and we approach it with a combination of excitement and a bit of apprehension. We might be excited about what 2024 might mean for us, and for the same reason we're aware of possible challenges and difficulties. Certainly, both reactions are appropriate especially as we have entered a time of uncertainty in many fronts. It could be personal or family issues to deal with, or global social and political issues.

The obvious question is what will this New Year bring?

For a start it's a Leap Year, so we get one extra day to enjoy ourselves. It's also the year of the next Olympics, so in late July and early August many will no doubt be watching favourite sports transmitted from various stadia around Paris. This will be followed later in the month with the Paralympics, where it is always an inspiration to see people persevering against physical challenges.

Another feature of 2024 is that there will be two eclipses of the sun, but unfortunately not a full eclipse for us. April's will be in North America and October's in the southern hemisphere. An interesting thing I also discovered is that during this year 8 out of the 10 most developed countries will be holding elections, so there could be enormous global and political changes.

Talking about changes, later this year, there will be the Union between Torry St Fitticks Church and South Saint Nicholas Church to form a new congregation of the Church of Scotland in the south of Aberdeen as stated in the Presbytery Mission Plan. We will have a new name, new Kirk Session and a new start! Also, Rev Eddie McKenna will be retiring at the same time. Eddie's last Sunday will be the 21st July and the Union will take place on the 1st August 2024, if all goes well with the timings

This will mark the start of a whole new chapter in the life of our community of faith and encompasses the Church of Scotland's presence along the South side of the river Dee, covering Torry, Kincorth, Cove and Charleston, including the Altens industrial area as well.

The process will not be easy but requires commitment to changes knowing that God's plan for his Church is always good. Things will never go back to how they were; the time is changing.

The preparations for the Union are underway and relevant joint task groups have been set up as follows:

- The steering Task Group in charge of the overall process of the Union and to which all other task groups will report to.
- The Property task Group to deal with buildings and all material assets
- The Finance Task Group to deal with monetary assets
- The Mission and Pastoral Task Group to deal with Missional arrangements and pastoral care provision across the new Parish boundaries.

The Presbytery and the steering group have put together the draft Timeline leading to the actual Union as follows:

1. DEVELOPMENT OF BASIS OF UNION DOCUMENT		
Function	Target Dates	
Basis of Union (BoU) Draft Prepared	January	
Final Draft deemed as "Fit document" by Presbytery and 121	January	
BoU shared with the 2 Kirk Sessions (KS)	February	
2 Kirk Sessions meet to approve the Basis of Union, by show of hands	February	

2. PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL REGISTERS	
The Kirk Session will create an Electoral Register. Edicts will be read to invite anyone not already on the Membership Roll who wishes to vote to let the Kirk Session know by the end of March.	March
A date will be set to call a Congregational Meeting to Vote on the Basis of Union. We hope this will be on the 21 st April 2024, see below.	April

3. CONGREGATIONAL VOTE TO COMFIRM SUPPORT FOR BASIS OF UNION		
Function	Target Dates	
First reading of the Edict from Presbytery. Notice of Vote	07 April	
Second reading of the Edict	14 April	
2 Congregations Votes held by secret ballot	21 April	

4. APPROVAL AND ESTABLISHEMENT OF UNION		
Function	Target Dates	
Presbytery approval at their scheduled meeting or PPDC delegated Powers	14/16 May	
	15 June	
Ratification by 121	June/July	
Final Sunday at South St Nicolas Church Building	21 July	
Service of Union (Arranged by Presbytery)	ТВС	
Commencement of Union	01 August	
First Meeting of New Kirk Session	TBD	

As I said, this year will bring many changes which could be cause of pessimism or optimism depending on how we face it.

However, as Christians, we should be the one facing the future with optimism because we know who holds the future. We have confidence that God will guide us with His hand and his spirit.

As we navigate into this New Year, there might be things out of our control, but we are promised the presence of God with us at all times, His forgiveness for the times we mess up, and most wonderfully, His peace deep down.

I would like to suggest that we dedicate some time of prayer, individually and collectively, through this process of Union that God would give us the wisdom, the patience, the strength and above all his grace to do his will in this part of Aberdeen.

We should take time to pray for us too. Offering ourselves and this year to God. And my prayer for you is that this year you will know new beginnings filled with hope and promise; simple pleasures to enjoy and share; beautiful moments to remember always, and the deep peace of God in your heart and home.

Happy New Year

Yours in Christ

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima

Count your Blessings

In South St Nicholas Church at the turn of the year we have been looking at Grace, and particularly Blessing, as a means and way of being, or living out our Christian Life. We have sung the familiar Hymns such as, "Blessed Assurance", with its refrain "This is my Story this is my Song praising my Saviour All the day long", and we have reconnected with other Hymns such as, "Blessing and Honour".

Blessing is part of the Biblical narrative from the very start.

"So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems ... and every winged bird And God saw that it was good.

God *blessed* them" (Genesis 1:21). Every time God blesses, it's a gift of grace. The word for bless or blessing is so crucial. It's used over 400 times just in the Old Testament alone.

God starts by creating, and then God blesses. Then God creates human beings: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them" God made creation because he wanted something to bless. God created a human being because he wanted somebody to bless. On the seventh day, God rests. He loves the seventh day so much that he blesses the seventh day. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy." In blessing the seventh day, God is blessing the human race to be able to experience rest.

Then after the flood, "God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.'" God loves to bless, so he creates human beings in his image to be both *blessees* but also *blessers*—to be able to give blessing.

This gets clear when God talks to Abraham and says, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. And all people on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2).

The following is a quote from a sermon by John Ortberg, it is quite helpful!

"The writer Mark Buchanan writes about a group of children who were asked what love means. Love is very connected to blessing. Rebecca, age 8, said, "When my grandmother got arthritis, she could not bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So, my grandfather does this for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too." This is blessing. Billy, age 4, said, "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth." Isn't that a wonderful way of putting it?

Whose toenails are you painting? Whose name is safe in your mouth? Who would say they find you a blessing in their life? That's the good life. That's the blessed life. See, this is another major theme in Genesis.

There are two big take-aways here for you and me. The first is to joyfully receive all the blessings God gives us. We must look for, acknowledge, embrace, and celebrate God's blessing in our lives because we cannot give anybody else what we do not have. We must come to see ourselves as richly blessed by God. When the greatest Teacher who ever lived preached the greatest sermon ever taught, it started with a single word: Blessed.

The blessing comes to all these people who don't think it's coming to them: "Blessed are those who mourn." "Blessed," Jesus says later on, "are those who are poor." Not because it's good to mourn or be poor, but because, now, life in the kingdom of God—God's love and favour and presence—is available to you. You are blessed. Do you go through life aware of how blessed you are?"

We are called to recognise our many Blessings and to be a blessing to others. Something to consider in 2024?

Best wishes

Eddie

Communion will be celebrated at South St Nicholas on the following dates

Sunday 25th February at 10.30 am

Thursday 28th March at 7 pm

Sunday 9th June at 10.30 am

Sunday 21st July at 10.30 am

All are welcome at the Lord's table

Union of Torry St Fitticks and South St Nicholas

Important information for both congregations

Notice is hereby given that, with the intention of entering into a Basis of Union between Torry St Fitticks and South St Nicholas, the Kirk Sessions are about to make up an Electoral Register for each congregation. The Electoral Register is a list of those who will be eligible to vote, when the time comes, to decide upon the Basis of Union.

If your name and current address are already on the Communion Roll, then you will automatically be placed upon the Electoral Register. You need to take no further action. If you are a regular worshipper at South St Nicholas or Torry St Fitticks, but are still a member of another congregation, and you wish to participate in the vote upon the Basis of Union, then you should arrange to hand in, to the relevant Session Clerk, a valid Certificate of Transference, as soon as possible.

If you are a regular worshipper at South St Nicholas or Torry St Fitticks, and not a member there or of any other congregation, then the Kirk Session can add your name to the Electoral Register as an "adherent". If you wish the Kirk Session to consider this, you should obtain a form from the relevant Session Clerk –

Torry St Fitticks - <u>erobertson@gmail.com</u> or telephone 07563 682822 South St Nicholas - <u>moragsimpson1@gmail.com</u> or telephone 07939 404512

You should complete the form and return to the Session Clerk as soon as possible. Further information will be sent regarding the Union and the date of the congregational votes, in due course. It should be noted that only those attending in person, on the given date, will be able to vote.

Beth Robertson and Morag Simpson Session Clerks

Donating by Standing Order

In the last church magazine I wrote an article laying out the advantages to our church of congregational donations being made under gift aid. This quarter I would like to address the benefits of contributing by standing order.

As members of this blessed congregation, we are called to serve not only within the walls of this church but also in the wider community. Our giving plays a pivotal role in fulfilling this divine purpose.

First and foremost, giving by bank standing order offers us convenience and consistency. By setting up a regular donation, we can automate our giving, ensuring that our contributions are made faithfully and on time, regardless of our physical presence in the church. This allows us to prioritize our commitment to giving, even when life's demands may distract us. It is a powerful testament to our dedication and devotion.

Moreover, giving through bank standing order provides stability and predictability for our church's financial planning. With a reliable stream of contributions, our church can better budget and allocate resources for various ministries, outreach programs, and community initiatives. This stability enables our church to make a lasting impact in the lives of those who need it most, both within our congregation and beyond.

Another key advantage of giving through this method is the reduction of administrative burdens. By minimizing the need for manual collection and processing of individual donations, our church's administrative team can focus their time and energy on nurturing our spiritual growth, organizing impactful events, and fostering a strong sense of community.

This efficiency allows us to channel our resources towards fulfilling our mission rather than being consumed by administrative tasks.

Furthermore, giving by bank standing order promotes financial stewardship and wise money management. When we commit to a regular offering, we are encouraged to reflect upon our financial priorities and align them with our spiritual values. It allows us to cultivate a habit of disciplined giving, enabling us to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by God. By adopting this practice, we not only support our church's mission but also develop a mindset of generosity that extends into all aspects of our lives.

Lastly, giving by bank standing order provides privacy and confidentiality. While our contributions are vital for sustaining the work of our church, we may prefer to keep the details of our giving confidential. This method respects our privacy by ensuring that our donations are transmitted securely and discreetly, safeguarding our personal information and financial records.

In conclusion, giving by bank standing order brings numerous blessings to both us as givers and to our beloved church. It offers convenience, consistency, stability, efficiency, financial stewardship, and privacy. By embracing this method of giving, we can truly make a lasting impact and fulfil our divine calling to serve and uplift others.

Let us remember the words of the apostle Paul, who said, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." May our giving be a joyful expression of our love, faith, and commitment to God's work in the world.

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly for your generous hearts. Anyone who wishes to set up a standing order, or complete a gift aid declaration, please see me on any Sunday after the service.

Peter Brown, Gift Aid Convener

23rd Aberdeen Girls' Brigade



We started off session 23/24 in August with a training day & Dedication service for all leaders and helpers in Aberdeen Division, which was held at South St Nicholas church. At the beginning of the session we had 3 commissioned leaders and 1 trainee leader but we were overjoyed to be joined in September by Hayley Leys from the 24th Aberdeen company based at Torry St Fittick's Church, as they sadly had to close their company due to lack of numbers.

On the 26th August our company took part in the Celebrate Aberdeen Parade where many of our Explorers & Juniors sang their hearts out and made as much noise as they possibly could, whilst they made their way down the length of Union Street.

At the start of October, we took part in a joint dedication/family service with the Boys' Brigade where the girls/boys & leaders rededicated themselves to the work of God & promised to "Seek, Serve & Follow Christ".

The following week saw us taking part in Divisional "turn up and do" competitions. Potted Sports for Explorers, Bible drama for Juniors & dance creation for Brigaders. Although the girls didn't win, they all had great fun taking part. In November we attended the Remembrance Day Service at the church, with 2 of our Brigaders reading a passage from the Bible. We also attended the Wreath Laying Service at the War Memorial at Nigg. The girls had helped to decorate the church with lovely wreaths that the Explorers had made and beautiful poppy T'light holders that the Brigaders had created.

In December we had a craft night where the Explorers made snowmen candle holders and Bethlehem tree decorations. The Juniors made lovely snow globes and tree decorations and the Brigaders made beautiful and imaginative tree decorations from wood discs and pebbles. The year concluded with a fun packed Christmas Party with lots of games, food and of course gifts.

At the start of February all sections will be taking part in Divisional Competitions, which they have been working really hard towards and we wish them the best of luck. Then for 3 Sundays in February they will be taking part in rehearsals for the Divisional Display at the Beach Ballroom, which will be held at the end of the month. Our Open night is planned for 21st March where the girls will get to perform in front of their families and friends and receive their rewards for all their hard work over the year.

The girls have been working hard all year on their badgework, learning about new topics, taking part in crafts and practical sessions and learning new skills. The Explorers have focused on Space Exploration, learning all about the different planets, rockets and gravity and doing lots of related crafts. The Juniors have 4 areas of focus - Famous Scottish Women, where they have looked at pioneering women in Scottish History, Olympic Games, Behind the GB badge and Introducing Emergencies where they have learnt about the different emergency services and had a visit from a member of Mountain Rescue and his dog and a hands on visit from the fire brigade, which the girls loved.

The Brigaders also have 4 areas of focus: Get Crafty- where they have made quilted heart decorations, air dried clay mobile phone holders and ostrich puppets. Indoor games where they have had loads of fun taking part in different individual and team games. Foodraising where they have learnt about food banks and budgeting, have had a visit from a representative of the Trussell Trust and have a visit to Kings Church Food Bank booked for February, so that they can see first-hand the amazing work that food banks do.

For their Spiritual they looked at "The Good and the Bad", learning about good and bad characters in the bible, good and bad celebrities and the influences that they have over teenagers, and looking at themselves and their families.

We currently have 32 girls enrolled in our company - 16 Explorers, 9 Juniors and 7 Brigaders and continue to grow from strength to strength.

Angela Wilson

46th Aberdeen Boys' Brigade – South St Nicholas



Back to BB after the holidays and our Christmas parties and movie night. We have now moved to the Kincorth Community Centre in anticipation of the Church building closing and are getting settled in.

We have some visitors in the new year with the Critter Keeper and Aberdeen Science Centre instructors coming along. Boys are working towards their advanced badges and are attending BB leadership sessions as well as residential weekends away. Volunteering for the badges includes working with younger age groups and we have Boys out in the Community volunteering with CFINE and the Gordon Highlanders Museum.

Michael Aberdein

Torry St Fittick's Christmas Card Exchange

Sincere thanks to all who used this service and for the generous donations given. The fantastic sum of £80.00 was raised and has been passed to our Minister, Rev Dr Gatima, who will forward to Burundi Orphanage.

Torry Summer Club 2024

Week commencing Monday, August 12th, 2024, during the last week of Aberdeen City schools summer holidays, we will host the Torry Summer Club for all primary school age children. Please check Weekly Intimations for planning meeting dates.

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Youngsters

We meet every Sunday during Morning Worship and enjoy hearing more of Jesus through our bible story, puzzles, songs and games. Please encourage any youngsters you know to come and join us.

Lynda Hunter, Sunday School Superintendent

Torry St Fittick's Charity Shop

This year we will have the charity shop from the 6th to 10th of May 2024.

We will be looking for good quality clothing (men's and women's), bedding and bric-a-brac. It would be helpful if donations could be deposited at the Church no sooner than April. We will also be looking for car owners to transport the goods to the shop on George Street, and helpers in the shop. If anyone needs help to take donations to the church, ask any of the Guild ladies.

Lorna Thomson, Guild Secretary

Torry St Fittick's Long Service Certificates

Two Long Service Certificates were presented to members of Torry St Fittick's on Friday 9th February at Kingshill (Trinity) Church by the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly.

We offer our congratulations to:

Hazel Duncan Elder 30 years Elizabeth (Betty) Thomson Elder 40 years

Torry St Fitticks Guild Projects

The Guild had a very successful fundraiser on Saturday 14th October when we were entertained by singing hands. Our thanks to all who supported this event. During the year 2023 we raised £538 by saving with Smartie Tubes, donations and our fundraiser. Overall curing 2021-2023 we have raised £1,028 which was shared by all six projects. We have one year left to give to these projects. The Guild nationally from 2021-2023 have raised £325,881.66.

Hazel Duncan, Project Partner

Torry St Fittick's Church Guild

Why not come along for a night of worship and fellowship and hear some very interesting speakers.

We meet in the small hall at 7.30pm finishing at 9pm and this includes a cup of tea or coffee. The following is a list of all that will be happening between now and April. You are all welcome.

March 5th Katrina Blackwood: Insight into Health Care Chaplaincy

March 19th Wendy Buchan: Mary's Meals

April 2nd Ruth Falconer: The Scripture Cake

Torry St Fittick's Church Heating

Many church members will be aware that heating in the church is currently running at half power. The current heating is provided by "Air Source" pumps (2) powered by electricity. In November it was identified that one unit was not working. To repair it was going to be £2,500+.

As the underfloor heating system that we have has never been a success (the temperature never rising above 16C) we have already installed secondary heating to try and make it a bit more comfortable for people in the church. The Stewardship Committee proposed to the Kirk Session that the repair should not be done, and that we should investigate an alternative system of heating. The Kirk Session agreed.

Currently we are awaiting estimates for a new system.

It will be fairly costly, but we will be able to apply for grants to cover some of the cost. We

are appealing for your help towards the rest of the cost. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.

The electric underfloor heating has always been expensive to run. In November 2023 the bill was £1,500 and in December 2023 the bill was £1,965. These are costs that we cannot sustain. We will keep members up to date with costs etc.

Lorna Thomson, Stewardship Committee

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Teas

Thank you to everyone who donated to Sunday teas in the year 2023. £600 has been given to the Fabric Fund and £80 to Christian Aid. Expenses were £187.38. Thank you to all the helpers who give of their time so willingly over a 4-week rota. New helpers to go on the rota would be much appreciated (male or female). More helpers means less weeks on the rota. If you are interested, please speak to me.

Hazel Duncan, Tea Convenor

Torry St Fittick's Monthly Coffee Mornings

Last Saturday of each month. Teas and Coffees served from 10.00am until 12 noon. Variety of stalls and many unusual items for sale.

January 27th
February 24th
March 30th
April 27th
May 25th (all proceeds to Christian Aid)
June 29th Summer Fayre

If any organisations would like to run a stall at the Summer Fayre to help with fundraising, please get in touch with Mary Forbes.

Come along. Bring family and friends. Everyone Welcome. The Monthly Gang

Torry St Fittick's Messy Easter - for Families

The very popular Messy Easter event will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, 2024, from 4.00 pm until 6.00 pm.

Lynda & Mary

Kincorth Rainbows – South St Nicholas



We have started our new term with 22 girls and although I thought we had finally cracked our waiting list, it is creeping up again and we have limited places until after Christmas because a lot of our older girls have birthdays at the end of the year so will not move on to Brownies until next year. We are in a little bit better a position with adults, as we have one new adult and although we lost a parent helper, another parent has offered to help on a regular basis. A younger helper, who used to be Guide, has come on board.

We joined together with the Brownies for a Halloween party after the October break, and I think the girls' best bit is turning someone into a mummy using toilet paper. We had a visit from the Science Centre in November which was funded through the Port of Aberdeen Trust. The girls had a whale of a time doing the different activities and, because it was all hands on, they were getting to touch everything. Part of this counted towards their Construction badge and most of the girls have gone on to make a model at home to complete it. Hopefully the last few will do so before Easter. We have posted lots of lovely pictures of models on our Facebook page. We had our Christmas party in December with a visit from Olaf which the girls really liked.

At the end of the year, two of our girls completed their Rainbow Silver Award and one managed to complete the Gold. We were very proud of the hard work that got them this.

We have moved to the Community Centre which means having to change our time to a bit earlier and meeting the last part of our evening in the smaller hall because Zumba comes in to use the big hall. We are just trying to find our feet and build up a routine at the moment.

We are hoping to have our next Rainbow Sleepover in April, as the last one went well. We are looking to take eight of our older girls or, if we have enough adults, possibly 12 but we just have to see, as adult to child ratios are much higher for an overnight event. We have a facebook page where we put pictures up of things the girls have being doing - https://www.facebook.com/kincorthrainbows

Rona Kennedy

South St Nicholas Blankets for Charity

Many of the ladies from South St Nicholas Church have been knitting or crocheting squares to make into blankets, for the charity AberNecessities. Mairi Gair has, for some time, been sewing together squares when necessary and delivering all the blankets to AberNecessities. However, Mairi has now decided to stand down from this role and will not be accepting any more squares or blankets. If anyone feels they would like to take over this role, please get in touch.

Morag Simpson. Session Clerk

Hospital Visiting – Update – South St Nicholas

It has become apparent that hospital visiting, for church visitors, has recently become more difficult. Hospital administration will now only give information about in-patients to relatives. Hospital visitors will therefore require to know the ward number / location of those who wish to be visited. We do understand that patient confidentiality has to be maintained, but it does make it more difficult for hospital visitors.

Celebrating South St Nicholas Church and Fellowship

The following events are being organised, at South St Nicholas. More events might be added in due course. We want to celebrate all that South St Nicholas and the fellowship has meant to so many over the past 70 years.

Everyone is welcome!

More information will become available in due course but this is just to give everyone an idea of what will be happening.

'Messy Church' Saturday 20th April

Spring Afternoon TeaTuesday 14th May 2–4 pm

Songs of Praise Saturday 8th June 2–4 pm

Minister's Retirement Event Thursday 18th July at 7 pm

Last Service at South St NicholasSunday 21st July at 10.30 am

Exhibition to be arranged

Music Night – through the years from 1953 to be arranged

Holy Week Services at South St Nicholas and Torry St Fittick's Churches

Date	South St Nicholas	Torry St Fittick's
Palm Sunday 24 th March	at 10.30am	at 11.00am
Holy Week 1 25 th March	at 7.00pm	N/A
Holy Week 2 26 th March	at 7.00pm	N/A
Holy Week 3 27 th March	Join with Torry (at TSF)	at 7.00pm
Maundy Thursday 28 th March (with communion)	at 7.00pm	at 7.00pm
Good Friday 29 th March	at 7.00pm	at 7.00pm (Torry UF will host)
Easter Sunday 31 st March	At 10.30am	Early morning service at 9.30am followed by bacon roll. Traditional service at 11.00am

World Day of Prayer 2024

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing together annually, on the first Friday in March, millions of Christians from over 100 different countries to pray, worship and learn. The service is produced by a different country each year and highlights the challenges faced by the women of that country.

The services are always very accessible, informative and relevant. This year's service has been written and produced by the Christian women of Palestine and will be held on **Friday 1st March at 2pm in Devana Holburn Parish Church**.

Due to the decreased number of Church of Scotland churches, the World Day of Prayer committee have restructured their own areas. The Torry and Kincorth areas have now become part of a wider South Aberdeen area with now more participating churches. These include, Torry St. Fittick's, South St. Nicholas, Devana Holburn, Devana Fonthill, Sacred Heart RC church and Torry UF church. We look forward to working with members of our fellow churches to deliver our service.

More details will be posted on Torry St. Fittick's website, social media pages and intimations closer to the date of the service. All are very welcome and we hope to see you there.

Jennifer Brown and Mairi Gair

What God Hath Promised!

God hath not promised Skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways All our lives through; God hath not promised Sun without rain Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain. But God hath promised Strength for the day, Rest for the labour, Light for the way, Grace for the trials, Help from above, Unfailing sympathy, Undying love. —Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932)

Contacts

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Deadline For Contributions To The Next Magazine 26th May 2024