

The Grapevine



HOLY WEEK and EASTER

DATE		SERVICE
Sunday, 9th April	11.15 am	Palm Sunday
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week	1.15 pm	Reflective Service in the St Rognvald Chapel
Good Friday, 14th April	12 noon to 3.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY - Walk of Witness This event will begin at St Olaf's at noon, and will go around the various churches, with a short time for reflection in each, finishing at St. Magnus Cathedral at about 2.30pm. You are welcome to join for some or all of this short pilgrimage around Kirkwall, marking the time Jesus was on the cross on Good Friday.
Good Friday, 14th April	6.30 pm	Reflective Service
Easter Sunday, 16th April	11.15 am	The Sacrament of Holy Communion. St Magnus Day. Preacher: Ron Ferguson

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We are experimenting with a new format to Grapevine in this edition and would welcome any views or opinions readers may have.

From the Manse

There are times when the injustice, suffering, disillusionment, and pain of Dark Friday seem to have won the day and we lose hope and faith in the blessing of life. But let us remember even in those bleakest of times that there is an Easter morning on the horizon that will resurrect our awe, joy, and thankfulness and give us a new lease on life. Yes, we all will one day die; but not even death can bury the love and peace we have shared. Our acts of kindness, strivings for justice, and practices of compassion are the eternal verities that give our life meaning and purpose, and will put our death in the context of a life that cannot be denied. We are a resurrection people. Nothing can keep down those

who refuse to give up the call to keep on giving. For our belief and faith is not in what we see or even what we may often experience, but is in goodness itself – that which we can bring to reality in our own lives by refusing to believe, act, and practice anything less... that which most assuredly is sacred and divine, and represents all we know of God and the Christ in Jesus... that which we are commissioned to go and do likewise – forgiving, loving, and making peace.

Wishing you a blessed Easter

Yours

Fraser

Magnus 900 Celebrations

Saturday 15 April

Re-enactment of the martyrdom of Magnus (Depart Tingwall 08.40)

We begin the weekend with a special opportunity to visit the island of Egilsay, the place of Magnus' martyrdom. The visit will begin with a short moment of prayer at the St Magnus memorial cairn before volunteers lead a re-enactment of the martyrdom. Guests are invited to participate in the script in support of either Magnus or Haakon whilst the Mayfield Singers perform a number of special musical elements at St Magnus Church.

7 Waves (St Magnus Church Birsay, 15.30)

Artists Erlend Brown and Dave Jackson will unveil a new installation based on George Mackay Brown's "Tryst on Egilsay". The 7 poems have provided the inspiration and visual imagery for the large fabric waves which will be suspended from the ceiling of St Magnus Church during the remainder of the summer before touring to Shetland. The opening will include readings of the poems by local school children.

St Magnus; a commemoration of his life and death (Birsay Community Hall, 18.30)

The Birsay Drama Group will present a new series of works composed by Orkney writer Pam Beasant. The evening will include a traditional Orkney supper followed by music from members of the

Song Shop Choir and Kirsty Drever.

Sunday 16 April (St Magnus Day)

Easter Sunday/St Magnus Day Communion Service (St Magnus Cathedral, 11.15)

We are delighted that our former minister, Ron Ferguson, has agreed to preach on this auspicious occasion. This will be Ron's first time back in the pulpit since his retiral in 2001. The Cathedral choir will also premier a new choral work based on the St Magnus poem.

Official launch of the St Magnus Way (Broch of Gurness, 13.00)

The St Magnus Way is a new 51 miles walk inspired by the Magnus story. The walk will be officially launched at 13.00 at the Broch of Gurness with the opportunity to complete a 4 mile circular walk, finishing at Evie Kirk for refreshments and an opportunity to hear a little more about the development of the walk.

St Magnus Day Service (St Magnus Church, Birsay, 19.30)

Join the 21st annual St Magnus Day service at St Magnus Church. The service will be taken by Reverend David McNeish and Reverend Roy Cordukes. The praise will be led by the Stromness Church Choir.

Monday 17 April

St Magnus Way – Gurness to Birsay (Meet Broch of Gurness car park, 10.30)

This is the first opportunity to walk stage 1 of the newly created St Magnus Way. Join us for a pilgrimage of 12.5 miles that takes in some of Orkney's finest scenery and coastline, retracing the route by which Magnus' body was transferred from Egilsay to his place of burial in Birsay. Share in the story and learn more about this fascinating part of

Orkney's medieval history.

The Inspiration of Magnus (St Magnus Church Birsay, 19.30)

The St Magnus Church Birsay Trust host an evening of Music, Visual Arts and Literature including contributions from The Orkney Schola, Shona McInnes, Alison Gray, Gaby Barnby, John Mooney, Fionn McArthur, Paul Francis and Gilbert Markus.

The Guild

Every 3 years The Guild Project Partnership Scheme nominates projects for individual Guilds to support. We are encouraged to support at least three of these and for the 2015-2018 strategy, "Be Bold Be Strong", St Magnus Guild chose to support all six.

These are;

Street Pastors Scotland, Street Pastors go out in all weathers, typically from 10pm until 3am on one or more nights at the weekend.

Let's Stick Together, working with *Care for the Family*, aims to promote strong family relationships by providing support services to new mums and dads.

Caring for Mother Earth, which supports the work of *Christian Aid*, working with over 700 families in Bolivia.

Breaking the Cycle, Feed the Minds, using education of girls in Kenya to address the horrendous practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Haiti Project, *Mission International's*, project aims to construct a multi- purpose building to be used as a school, community centre and new church centre in Haiti.

All Friends Together, with *Prospects*, which offers advice and support to churches welcoming and including people with additional support needs. Since 1969 The Guild, nationally, has raised well over £6,000,000 for the projects.

The Cathedral Choir

Music plays a large part in Sunday services in the Cathedral, much more so than in the churches I have attended before I came to live in Orkney. Apart from a weekly introit and almost weekly anthem the choir is there to lead the singing for the hymns, particularly if the tune is less well known.

To be asked to join the choir at St Magnus is a great honour and privilege, yet something I had aspired to, having sung in church choirs for most of my life. I have always had great enjoyment from my singing and hope to continue for a wee while yet.

Wednesday evening practices are carried out in a fairly relaxed manner, yet we are still expected to concentrate. Our two choirmasters each bring their own style and of leadership and are not satisfied with second best. They select the music for us, bearing in mind the time of year and the approach of special occasions like Easter. At these times we would start looking at a new piece some weeks

before, going over short sections at first, giving attention to the separate voice parts before bringing it all together.

Our repertoire is quite varied and it is always good to try something new. Some of the works by more avant-garde composers are challenging to say the least but we will always give it a go. How successful we are is for others to say but it is always nice to have positive comments from members of the congregation.

Being a member of the cathedral choir does involve a certain amount of commitment which everyone seems happy to give. Business and holiday arrangements do mean that we can't all be there for every rehearsal or every Sunday. Balance is usually more important than numbers.

Derek Bristow

St Magnus Cathedral Outreach

Over many years members of our congregation have given of their time, energy and skills, individually and collectively to support others in need, for example through the Easter chicks for Malawi and The Shoebox appeal.

In the last few years congregational funds have been boosted in a number of ways, such as income from the votive candles, increased plate income through greater use of Giftaid and a higher return from our investments. Congregational funds are healthy; we are now generating an annual surplus after all necessary payments and expenses have been met.

Charities do not exist to accumulate funds but rather to use their funds and talents in pursuit of the aims of the charity.

The Kirk Session have therefore decided that an annually agreed sum from any surplus will be used to support Outreach projects and activities at an individual, local, national and international level.

Need exists in so many areas of our society. Often there is scant hope of meeting that need and

frequently it is through the voluntary sector that relief is provided in one way or another. As a Christian community we have a call to help those in need.

Over the past year we have started down this track by donating the collection on Remembrance Sunday to The British Legion; Soup lunch collections have been donated to The Food Bank, Marie Curie, Malawi and Crossroads; the 2016 Pancake Stall proceeds were donated to The Food Bank. Specific notification will be given of the cause to which money will be donated if collected through the open plate or through other events. A notice displayed beside the Votive candles in 2017 will state that monies donated will be used for the good of those in need at a local, national and international level.

Your help is now being sought to identify any areas of need within the congregation and to give your ideas for Outreach locally, nationally or internationally.

Suggestions about how the funds might be used can be placed in the comments/ suggestions box at the West end of the Cathedral, discussed with your elder, church officials or the minister. We look forward to receiving your ideas and will of course keep you in touch with donations made and feedback received from beneficiaries in future editions of the Grapevine.

Parish register.

Funerals

8 Nov	William A. Cload - 1 Slater Street	14 Jan	Billy Johnston - 8 Thoms Street
10 Nov	Betty Lennie - Donisla, Pipersquoy Road	30 Jan	Coralie Raeburn - 36 White Street
15 Nov	Bessie Ritchie - 6 Eunson Kloss	6 Feb	George Williamson - 6 Castleyards
26 Nov	Jim Cursiter - Earlsfield, Brandyquoy	8 Feb	Gary Mowat - Danvia, Holm Branch Road
9 Dec	Connie D'Hoir - St Peter's House, Stromness	21 Feb	Jim Tait - 1 Pickaquoy Place
16 Dec	Charlie Rendall - 3 Papdale Crescent	25 Feb	Margaret Lanni - Bennachie, 5 Viking Place
20 Dec	Jim Laughton - Chalmac, Holm Road	27 Feb	Keith Donaldson - 18 Dundas Crescent
6 Jan	Ken O'Connor - 4 Grimond Place, Finstown	1 Mar	Derek M. Walker - 39 Pickaquoy Loan