

# The Grapevine



*The Magazine of Saint Magnus Cathedral Congregation*

## WORSHIP AT ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL THIS SUMMER

### SPECIAL SUMMER SERVICES

24th June	11.15am	St Magnus Festival Service: Music by the Cathedral Choir
1st July	11.15am	Celebration of Holy Communion
29th July	11.15am	Celebration of Holy Communion
26th August	11.15am	Celebration of Holy Communion
2nd September	11.15am	Science Festival Service
30th September	11.15am	Celebration of Holy Communion

Services are held in St Magnus Cathedral every Sunday at 11.15 am

# GRAPEVINE

*The magazine of St Magnus Cathedral  
Summer Edition 2012*

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*Material for the Autumn Grapevine should reach  
Fraser Macnaughton by August 26th, 2012*



**From the Manse**

## ***Find you own Sophia Wisdom***

I have been long fascinated [ever since I studied Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University] with the concept of Wisdom in the Hebrew Scriptures – known as Sophia in Greek – not least because it is deemed to be feminine, a very unusual occurrence in a very patriarchal culture. But it is a time-enduring concept which in many ways has been overlooked in our technologically driven society, where the next new thing is held up as the best thing since sliced bread, with little thought as to whether it is actually any good/use/benefit to anyone. Wisdom seems to be conspicuously absent.

Socrates believed that we all carried our own wisdom deep within and that it just needed to be coaxed out, usually with a series of questions. He demonstrated this one day on a small boy walking by. He asked him a series of questions and the boy answered, revealing to Socrates' disciples that he already had the knowledge.



Jesus was no different. What did Jesus usually use in his teaching? Stories – everyday stories that people already understood. Simple parables . . . like the one about flowers not worrying about what to wear.

***Of course! We already knew that. SIMPLE.***

There are some who would like us to believe that we are completely dependent upon them for knowledge and wisdom. They would like to keep us sucking at the breast of addiction to teaching. They would like us to believe they have the secret.

As the drawing shows, the feminine Sophia is discovering, even in the dead of night, that she carries within her a deep and valuable wisdom. She wasn't allowed to access it or live by it. But now she is going to tap into her wisdom, her namesake, and live it. Fiercely! The many owls, also symbols of wisdom, confirm her conviction.

Yours,  
***Fraser***

# The trip of a lifetime



In November 2012 Joan and Clarence Musgrave, on behalf of Friends of St Andrew's, Jerusalem, and in conjunction with the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland, are leading a visit to Israel and Palestine. The 11-day itinerary includes Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity; Al Shurooq for Blind Children; Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum; the Mount of Olives – associated with the time when Jesus wept over Jerusalem; Gethsemane – associated with The Passion of Christ; The Church of The Holy Sepulchre – associated with the Crucifixion, Burial And Resurrection of Christ; and to Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast. Then to the area around the Sea of Galilee, including a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and visit to Capernaum, and the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, followed by a visit to Nazareth Village – a reconstruction of some of the elements of a village in the time of Jesus.

The estimated cost at present: approx £1,300 – to which will have to be added approx £100 for lunches, gratuities, etc.

If you wish more information, Shona Linklater has been on a similar visit, or contact Clarence Musgrave: Tel: 0131 332 6337, email: [clarencejoan@talktalk.net](mailto:clarencejoan@talktalk.net)

# **A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY!**

*You've got to love this judge!*

You must read this – a proper decision by the courts...  
for a change.

## **A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY**

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel, declaring "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling saying, "Your honour, how can you possibly

dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others; the Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah; yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

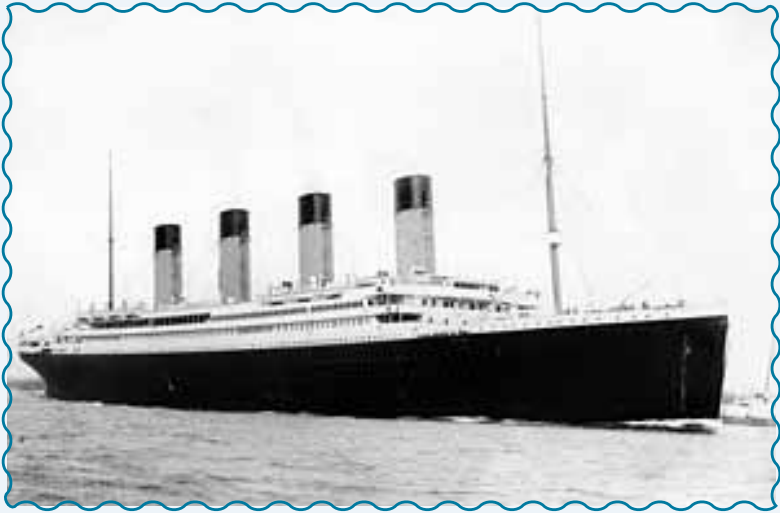
The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsellor, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

COURT IS AD-  
JOURNED..."

You've got to love a judge who knows his scripture!

# A TITANIC EXPERIENCE

By Kathy Danby



Although I was born just over 30 years after the *Titanic* sank beneath the waves of the North Atlantic, I have been a *Titanic* fan for some time. I have collected a number of books about the greatest liner ever built, and wondered at the folly of man that could allow this disaster to happen.

I also love Liverpool. It is a city that holds many happy memories for me. Although *Titanic* never visited Liverpool, it was her port of registration, and I decided the place I wanted to be on 15th April 2012 was inside that other “titanic” structure, on which building started soon after 1912 – Liverpool Cathedral. I decided to attend the special Centenary Commemoration service at 19.30 and then travel directly to Crewe for the Caledonian Sleeper and home. I carried with me good wishes from Heather. I have previously purchased a Liverpool Cathedral guide book

for Heather, and also presented the archivist at Liverpool Cathedral with a St Magnus Cathedral guide book. I arrived in the Cathedral as a communion service was half way through, and so was able to relax and enjoy the sound of the magnificent Willis organ – about three times the size of the St Magnus Willis organ – and afterwards view the rather modest *Titanic* exhibition. I was taken charge of by a very kind lady called Fiona Martin, who was amazed at how far I had travelled, and insisted on reserving me a special seat in the second row, right behind the VIPs! Later she introduced a lady called Averyl to me. Averyl wanted to tell me she had been on a cruise which took in Orkney a couple of years ago. The cruise passengers had visited St. Magnus Cathedral, and Averyl was very impressed. I also met a member of the Cathedral clergy, who was fascinated to hear that although Liverpool Cathedral has not quite reached its century, St. Magnus Cathedral is celebrating 850 years. We may not be able to beat them in size, but in age we certainly can!

The Centenary service itself was very moving – with readings by some of the great and the good of Liverpool, and a “Soundscape” which began with the sound of the *Titanic* whistle and the noise of people boarding the ship, and continued with various ladies from the Cathedral taking their places in specially laid out chairs – first, second and third class – to illustrate the numbers of each class who were lost in the disaster. Fiona was very anxious that I should not miss my train, and arranged for someone to take me to Lime Street station as soon as the service ended. I was whisked away out of a side entrance, and arrived at the station to begin my journey home. There is just one regret about the whole experience. I am a great fan of Ken Dodd, and he was at the service, but due to my rapid and unceremonious exit I was not able to seek him out and renew the acquaintance made in Manchester some years ago! Ah well, another time, perhaps.

# St Magnus Cathedral

## Easter Labyrinth, 2012



“What about a labyrinth in the nave of the Cathedral during Holy Week?” So asked Fraser, and so began an exciting, surprising, creative and mildly terrifying project. But, from the very beginning, from this apparently innocent suggestion there was always a sense of enormous privilege: to be trusted and encouraged to build something new in that venerated sacred, secular space was very special indeed.

What a range of decisions had to be made: designing the labyrinth; working out the logistics; ensuring the breadth of the pathways allowed people to walk along them safely; deciding how to edge the pathways; thinking through communication and how to do this effectively and widely; creating ways of accommodating visitors who would find walking around difficult; making the experience meaningful for children; wondering how to encourage visitors to record thoughts and feelings should they wish to do so; judging whether music, live or recorded, would be helpful; agreeing times to set up, be ‘open’ and take down the labyrinth; involving volunteers and organising a rota; deciding-who-was-going-to-do-what!

The space between the cathedral pillars is surprisingly small, which meant that our initial labyrinth design had to be modified so that visitors could at least walk around, one foot in front of the other, with care. Our friendly mathematician solved that problem for us! The suggestion about and supply of thrice-dishwashed (empty!) scallop shells with a generous



supply of sparkling jam jars and 550 battery-operated tea lights solved the problem of how to edge the pathways.

(And very effective it looked too!)



The wonderfully creative construction of two finger labyrinths, and the supply of books and thought-provoking readings and extracts for reflection, would mean that visitors could sit and ‘walk’ a labyrinth with their finger or simply sit, be still, watch, or read or write.

The support of the custodians and some members of the congregation to move chairs and help set up the labyrinth and the surrounding space on Easter Thursday evening meant that the task was shared by many and so never onerous.

Walking the single labyrinth path for that first time in the twilight of Easter Thursday evening was more than special.



‘Taking the winding but clear path to the circle’s centre, spending time there for reflection and then returning along the same path somehow offered a sacred and alive place for contemplation’. *St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012.*

During Easter Friday and Saturday more and more people came, about 350 in all, and walked or sat, or used the finger labyrinth. or read and walked again some three or four times over the two days. Many commented on the powerful effect the experience gave them. ‘The labyrinth was a special experience as Mum cried, and my two sisters, H and P, walked around together, whereas they usually argue and don’t get along. P carried H around to help her’. *St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012.*

A 10-year-old boy wrote, ‘The Labyrinth is fascinating and also very confusing, but I got there in the end. I tried the finger labyrinth twice, once with my eyes open and once with my eyes closed. I don’t know how I did it with my eyes closed!’ *St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012.*

Many wrote and placed their thoughts in the scallop shells as they walked the path, some placed objects of special significance along the way, and many wrote in the book of reflections after they had completed their journey.

‘I don’t know why but the labyrinth is powerful and beautiful’. *St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012.*

Some were unsure and stood and watched, some shed many tears, some came to sing, and some simply sat in quietness, enjoying the silence or the music.

At 3.00pm on Good Friday Fraser invited the congregation to contemplate the single nail and piece of wood they had been given on their entrance to the Cathedral whilst he walked the labyrinth’s single path, leading us, through his words and silences, to a deeper understanding of the time, the place

and the events of that day over 2,000 years ago.

‘It started, and when one walked others followed and so it continues.’ St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012

And in the end? If the experience of labyrinth touched one single soul it was a good thing.

‘I never walked into a labyrinth before. To me it suggested how complicated life can be. But when you are in the middle of problems and can’t continue you can always find your way back to loved ones. It has been a very beautiful experience’. Or, as one teenager said, ‘Possible metaphor for life. Looks complicated from the outside, but inside there is one premeditated path. Kind of weird.’ St Magnus Cathedral Book of Reflections 2012

And for us, a huge sense of privilege, satisfaction and enjoyment.

Sheila Campbell, Helen Cunningham, Helen Killeen, Lesley Poulton, Jennifer Thomson and the wonderful Fran Hollinrake.



# Disestablishment in Norway

Major steps toward the disestablishment of Norway's state church, the Church of Norway, were passed recently by the government. The proposals will make changes in the country's constitution and in church legislation. In Norway the Church of Norway has had a privileged position within the state, much like the Church of England. Now the constitution will no longer prescribe that 'the Evangelical Lutheran religion should remain the state's public religion' but only that the country's basis will be our 'Christian and Humanist heritage'.

In practical terms this means that the appointment of bishops and deans will be transferred from the government to the church. Also, the government minister of church affairs, and civil servants handling such matters, will no longer be required to be Church of Norway members.

The changes were welcomed by the Church of Norway National Council Moderator, Svein Arne Lindoe. He said 'this is a necessary and most welcome step on the road to a more independent church'.

We wish our Norwegian friends every blessing as they adjust to what may well be a very significant change in the life of their church and nation.

Time for the Church of England to follow suit?



# ***‘WAITING FOR DAPHNE’***

***... Mmmmm***

21 April, and people were put out of their misery. After weeks of intrigue and being pressed to buy a ticket, the full house turned up at the St Magnus Centre to see what on earth ‘Waiting for Daphne’ meant . . .





Mystery solved. A hilarious sketch based on two twee ladies of a certain vintage and the poor victims of their strident opinions, served tea [eventually] by a wonderfully crabbit waitress the like of whom Orkney does not possess.

This kicked off an evening of music, song, tales and rhymes, before the audience were thrilled by the first appearance in 11 years of the legendary Jumpin' John Knox and the Calvinists.

The evening was rounded off by delightful array of home bakes and sandwiches, washed down with copious cups of tea and coffee. Conversation buzzed around the tables and by common consent the event was deemed a great success.



