



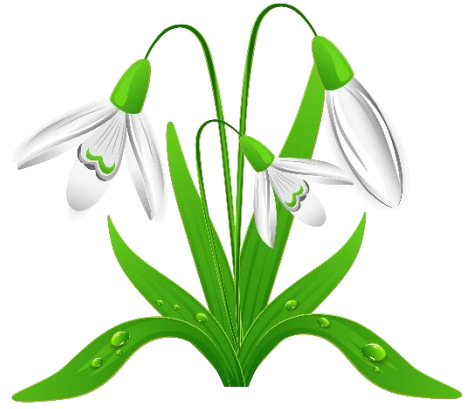
St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth



QUEST

February to March 2017

February and March



Weekly Services

Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Thursday 11 a.m. Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

Special Services

Sunday 5th February 9.30 a.m. Matins

Sunday 19th February 6 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 26th February 6-8 p.m. NiteKirk

Wednesday 1st March 7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 5th March 9.30 a.m. Matins

Sunday 19th March 6 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 26th March 6-8 p.m. NiteKirk



Lent Reflections with Compline
every Wednesday evening
from 8th March at 7.30 p.m.

Letter from the Rector

Dear friends,

What a wonderful time we had over Christmas at St John's with a variety of services, social and community events. Thank you for contributing in so many different ways to make this special season so memorable. I never cease to be amazed at your readiness to work for the church, using your gifts and talents for ministry and mission. Thank you again for all that you do. I hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends.

It seems that Christmas is only just over and we're moving into the season of Lent and looking forward to Easter, another special time of community celebration in the Church's calendar. I was delighted that so many of you made the effort to attend the Advent reflections. We intend to follow the same format during Lent and I hope to see even more of you at our Lent reflections on Wednesday evenings. These reflections will provide space for quiet devotion within the traditional framework of Compline.

I have been heartened lately to see new faces at our Sunday morning worship. Thank you for providing them with such a warm welcome. It is very important that we are a church who welcomes the stranger in our midst. It is also great that we are beginning to reach out into our community in many different ways. An important part of our mission is to walk alongside those on the margins of our society.

It has been sad to say farewell to some of our members recently. We thank God for all that they have done to add to the life of our church. We will miss them. We pray for their souls and for their families. May they all know the peace of God which passes all understanding.

God bless you all and I look forward to seeing you in church.

Peace and love to you and yours,

Graham



Advent and Christmas at St John's



The weekly Advent Reflections were well supported.

The story of Babushka was a hit with the children at Family Fun.

Santa was given a warm welcome at the Buggy Club and at Home-Start's Christmas Party hosted by St John's





The Carol Singing raised funds for the UNHCR Syria Appeal. Helix, Tim's dog was a welcome addition to the choir!

A host of young angels at the Christingle Service.



NiteKirk News

Lilian Fleming

Readers of the Perthshire Advertiser before Christmas might have spotted this photograph of some familiar faces in a recent edition.



The accompanying text explained about the Christmas tree on the railings outside the entrance to the Threshold. The article said, passers-by were invited to write the name of a person or place on a decoration, as a token of bringing God's light

and love to them this Christmas. Graham was quoted as saying that people were not only adding their prayers to the tree, but also sometimes speaking to him about their concerns. The 'prayer tree' was the inspiration of Ali Edwards, a local dentist and one of the NiteKirk team.

What is NiteKirk? It is a space for quiet reflection, a time of stillness in the Church, which is decorated and lit with candles. Each NiteKirk has a theme. The theme for January's NiteKirk is prayer. The date is January 29th from 6pm to 8pm. The prayers which were left on our prayer tree outside the church will be read out at 7pm.

You are warmly invited to this monthly opportunity to take time out from busy lives and relish the peace in the Church for a few hours. You are of course welcome to come and go as you like during the time. It is also an opportunity to bring family and friends to Church.

February NiteKirk takes place on Sunday February 26th from 6pm to 8pm. The theme will be 'Labyrinth'. It will be A-MAZING!

A word of thanks

Rev. Graham

My dear friends,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous contributions towards our steeple fund. The work has been completed on the steeple itself and on the walls of the tower. I am very indebted to David MacLehose for his diligence in overseeing the work. Unfortunately, there is more to be done. Three of the outer walls of the church need to be repointed. The Fabric Fund is now empty because of the work which has been done. We need to build this up again before we can proceed with any further renovation work. Please continue to remember the Fabric Fund in your giving and if you can contribute to it in any way, please talk to David, the Treasurer.



During the last few months collections were made for the following charities:

- Christian Aid £159 (Harvest Festival)
- Poppy Scotland £86 (Remembrance Sunday)
- UNHCR Syria Appeal £130.48 (Carol Singing and Carol Service)
- Aberlour Child Care Trust £94.60 (Christingle Service)

Many thanks for your generosity,
Graham.

1817-2017

David Willington

I like anniversaries. They remind us of our past, that is, what has made us. The year 1817 had a number of events which have significance for today. For example the element Lithium was discovered, without which our mobile phones could not work. Gaslight was introduced into London Theatres. Waterloo Bridge was opened in London. *The Scotsman* was published in Edinburgh for the first time. Sir Walter Scott published *Rob Roy*. Jane Austen died on June 18th and her novels were published for the first time under her own name. Two hundred years later her silhouette will appear on the £2 coin and her portrait on the new plastic unrippable £10 note. The Elgin Marbles were displayed in the British Museum. John Constable painted 'Flatford Mill' and Turner painted a watercolour 'The Eruption of Vesuvius', two years before he actually visited Italy. Beethoven composed his String Quintet op 104 and Rossini's opera *The Thieving Magpie* was performed.



Never mind Science and Engineering, Literature, Art and Music. By far the greatest contribution of 1817 to modern life was made by Baron Karl Drais of Mannheim who invented the *laufsmaschine* ('running machine') or, as it became known in England, the 'dandy horse', or in France, the 'velocipede'. This was the ancestor of the 'balance bike' on which my grandchildren learnt to ride, a two-wheeler with a saddle, propelled by the legs as though running. Because of the absence of springs, gentlemen preferred to ride it on walkways rather than on rough roads, for obvious reasons. Baron Drais demonstrated his new machine by covering eight miles in less than an hour. During the nineteenth century the design was developed, for example by fitting pedals and a chain, brakes and pneumatic tyres. Some designs, like the penny farthing, which was very difficult to mount and painful to fall off, did not catch on.

Even more significant than the technical improvements to the machine was the social effect of the bicycle. No longer did workers have to live in the immediate environs of their factories, and if they did, they had a ready means of escape to the country on their days off. They could cover far greater distances than they could on foot. Cycling clubs sprang up all over the country. In these clubs men and women could meet openly and share experiences. The ladies had bicycles without a cross bar so that they could get on and off decorously. Often the chain had a metal cover so that their skirts did not become entangled. Some women wore bloomers, gathered in below the knees. The bicycle was a major factor in the liberation of women by the end of the nineteenth century.

Cycling is conducive to good health. Not only is there the benefit of fresh air (not to be found on a machine in a gym) but also the benefit to the heart of the exertion. Those afflicted by arthritis can ride happily since on a bicycle the hips are not load-bearing. And, unlike in a car, one can observe the countryside over the tops of hedges. In recent years, there has been a resurrection of interest in cycling and gradually cycle routes are being developed, away from the noise and fumes of traffic. It is possible to cycle from Perth to Inverness using B roads and specially constructed cycle tracks, never venturing onto the A9.



The child who looks forward with excitement to their first two-wheeler, the elderly gentleman who explores the countryside at a leisurely pace and pushes his bike up hills, the helmeted and lycra-clad weekend racer on his light-weight machine that can cost over £5000, and not forgetting Sir Bradley Wiggins – all of these owe a debt of gratitude to Baron Drais for his invention two hundred years ago.

Getting to know Isabel Bruce

by Val Fox

Isabel was born in Ellon. Her parents lived in Peterhead but, soon after her birth, they moved to Fettercairn and eight years later to Meikleour where her father was the village blacksmith. Isabel enjoyed the rural primary school with its very small classes and friendly atmosphere but found the transfer to Blairgowrie High School an overwhelming experience and she did not enjoy her time there.

After escaping school, Isabel spent two years at the Florence Day Nursery in Perth where she trained as a Nursery Nurse. She then worked at PRI in the Maternity Unit and in the Paediatric Burns and Surgery Unit. In hospital, she became aware and concerned by the number of children presenting with unexplained injuries. Meetings with the Hospital Almoner sparked an interest in social work. She worked in children's homes for a while before formally training to become a social worker.

Isabel worked initially for Barnados in Dundee, dealing mainly with teenagers who, having been brought up in institutions, had difficulty fitting into the wider world. They needed help with social skills and



behaviour problems. Isabel then spent many years working for Perth and Kinross in child care and led the Child Protection Team. The job required stamina, both mental and physical, and she witnessed so many challenging, sometimes horrific, situations. Sometimes there are no easy solutions and the old adage that social workers are ‘damned if they do and damned if they don’t’ holds true.

Since her retirement in 2010, Isabel has not been idle. She is chairman of the tenant association for the flats above The Threshold. The scruffy plot we viewed from the kitchen window has been transformed into a very attractive garden. Isabel donated plants from the garden to Giraffe, and it was a chance meeting at the Giraffe Café which led to her taking over when Raymond retired from his cleaning job at St John’s.

Isabel is also researching her family history and getting to grips with the computer (aren’t we all?) by studying specific modules. She is the eldest of five siblings, three of whom live locally and one in Glasgow. Her elderly mother lives independently in Burrelton, near enough for Isabel to lend a hand when necessary.

Very important to Isabel is her involvement with Cleveland International, an organisation which arranges for social workers across Europe to experience first-hand how different cultures affect social work in other countries. Hosted by a local family, the visitor gains greater awareness and understanding of the problems which can arise when cultures clash.

Despite her busy life, Isabel finds time to be our official cleaning lady, who keeps our premises spick and span. Unseen by many, she is the ‘backroom girl’ who works hard to enhance our environment, and is a valued member of our church family. After all, as my grandma used to say, cleanliness is next to Godliness!

Sunday Lectionary

February 5th, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 112.1-9; 1 Corinthians 2.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20

Matins Numbers 13.1-2, 27-33; Psalm 1, 3; Luke 5.1-11

February 12th, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 119.1-8; 1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37

February 19th, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 119.33-40; 1 Corinthians 3.10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5.38-48

Evensong Psalm 10; Philippians 4.10-20; Luke 6.27-38

February 26th, Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4.1-5; Matthew 6.24-34

5th March – Lent 1

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Matthew 4.1-11

Matins

Psalm 50, 1-15; Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7; Luke 13.31-35

12th March- Lent 2

Genesis 12.1-4a; John 3.1-17

19th March – Lent 3

Exodus 17.1-7; John 4.5-42

Evensong

Psalms 11 and 12; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 10.16-22

26th March – Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 16.1-13; John 9.1-41





Thank you for your prayers and support for Family Fun events during 2016. We intend to start our programme for the new year with a Pancake Party to which you are all invited! It will be held on Shrove Tuesday, 28th February, between 4 and 5.30 p.m. There will be a quiz, crafts and games for all ages, some thoughts to help us prepare for Lent as well as delicious pancakes to eat. Please feel free to invite families, friends or neighbours with children to come with you. Fliers will be available soon.



At the end of March, we will be going on an Easter Journey, walking in the footsteps of Jesus during his last week. The date for your diaries is Tuesday 28th March, 4 – 5.30 p.m.

If you would like to get involved with Family Fun, please get in touch with Nerys.

Entertaining Angels

Some friendly advice from Joyce Murray

She isn't as able bodied as she once was; her legs don't work as well as they used to; she may have more wrinkles than she once did and her skin may no longer have the lustre of youth. However, this lady loves Jesus and it radiates from her every pore. From her seat among the small congregation she ensures that I, the visitor, am welcomed. You see, this lady believes in ensuring that everybody who visits her church feels welcome. She shows hospitality to strangers aware that one day she may just be entertaining an angel without even knowing it (Hebrews 13:2).

This lady reads her Bible and she knows that angels don't always have the appearance of lightning with their clothes (Matthew 28:3). They may be more like the angel that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome saw at the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning (Mark 16:5). He was dressed in a white robe, with not a harp nor wings in sight and his clothes were fitting for his surroundings. What can you do to ensure all who visit St John's , angels and others, know they are welcome?



A friendly good morning, a bright smile and a warm handshake at the door of the church, would get things off to a good start. Be alert to the signals though: their body language and whether they are engaging in conversation or closing it down. People visit a church for many reasons. While some will enjoy being fussed over, others may be looking for a space for quiet contemplation and reflection. Practise being a good listener as well as a good talker. For those who are ready for a chat, perhaps some friendly advice pointing out the cosy spots if it's winter or where there is a cooling breeze in the warmer days of summer will help make their experience more comfortable. If a visitor chooses a seat near you, acknowledge their presence. Everybody can manage to say good morning. Nobody is too shy, too new, too old, or too tired. If you feel more confident, there is always plenty to talk about in the weather. A word from the priest, acknowledging visitors and welcoming them to worship, goes a long way to help visitors feel they are indeed welcome, and even angels feel thirsty and enjoy a blether. What they don't know, however, is the way to the Threshold so do invite a visitor sitting near you to join you for coffee. Show them the way and introduce them to others you know. Welcoming visitors in church is not just the role of the priest or the sidespeople. It is your job, my job, our job to play our part. Let's ensure angels and all our visitors know they are welcome.

Over the last 18 months Joyce who is from Stirling, has visited more than 75 different churches and has experienced amazing welcome and hospitality. You can read more about her journey at churchwelcome.wordpress.com



St John's Fellowship News

Jean Hendry

The Fellowship has maintained its usual programme of meeting monthly, usually on the 2nd Monday afternoon of each month. In November Joyce Sampson gave a power point presentation of photos taken during the Church pilgrimage to Iona in May. For members who had been there seeing these excellent photos brought back many happy memories of that trip and possibly some of those who were not there may have been inspired to sign up for the next St John's retreat in a beautiful magical place whenever and wherever that might be.



In December we were delighted that Judy managed to round up some of the more musically talented members of St John's who once again provided us with fun Christmas themed entertainment, with the committee providing appropriate seasonal refreshments. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this afternoon.

As in previous years, for our January meeting we went to the Salutation Hotel for our 'Post-Christmas Lunch'. There was sadness on that occasion as, on arrival, we learnt that Kate Edmeades, who always attended every Fellowship meeting she could and volunteered to help whenever it was possible for her to do so, had died that morning. She had been at the November meeting just before her move to Kincarrathie.



On Monday, 13th February, Gordon Murch will share experiences and photographs from his recent walk to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino, an ancient pilgrimage route across northern Spain.

On Monday 13th March a representative of Hope Pregnancy Crisis Centre will be visiting the Fellowship to receive donations given by church members during the last year and to talk about the work of the organisation.

Both events will be held in the Threshold and start at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome.

A Date for the Diary
Spring Coffee Morning
Saturday 1st April
10 a.m. -- noon



Christian Aid News

Elaine Cameron

Malawi Food Crisis Appeal

Many thanks to all who supported the Perth Christian Aid Christmas Carol singing at Dobbies. The president of Malawi declared a state of emergency because of the food shortages resulting from floods in 2015 and the el Nino effect destroying crops in 2016. Christian Aid was one of four NGOs who agreed to raise funds which the Scottish Government would match. Together they raised £267,962 - £309 was from Perth Christmas Carol singing at Dobbies.



'Were you there?' will be the soundtrack to our journey through Lent towards Easter this year. It encourages us to pause along the way to contemplate, as Christians, who we are. Please let me know if you wish a copy of the resources before ***February 19.***

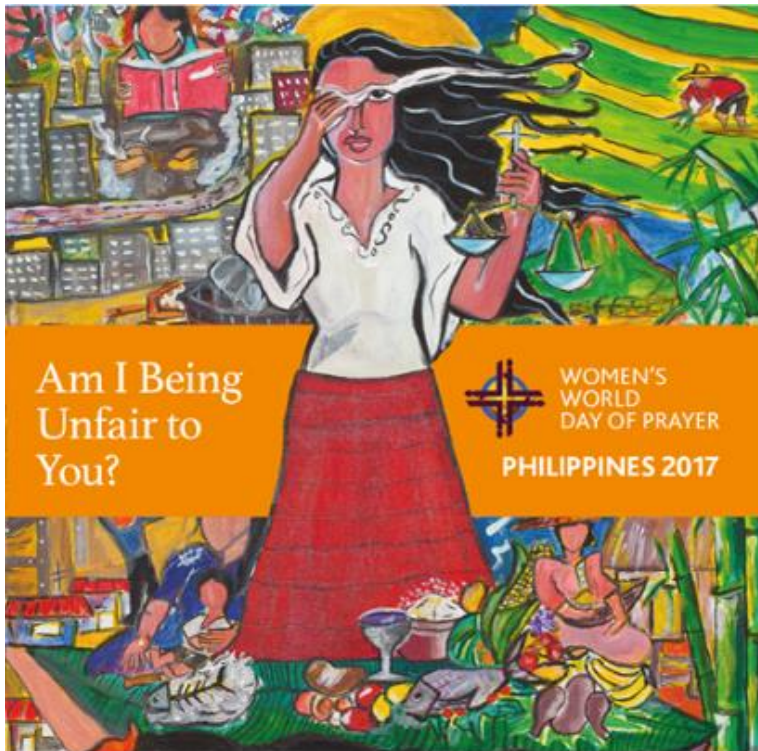
Christian Aid Week May 14 – 20, 2017

Christian Aid Week raises over £1.5 million in Scotland, almost £1 million from the famous house-to-house collections. We will be looking for collectors nearer the time – please think about helping with this.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning Saturday May 13 at the North Church. There will be various stalls: plant; cake; books; bric-a-brac. You can begin your pile for donations any time! More details in the next Quest.

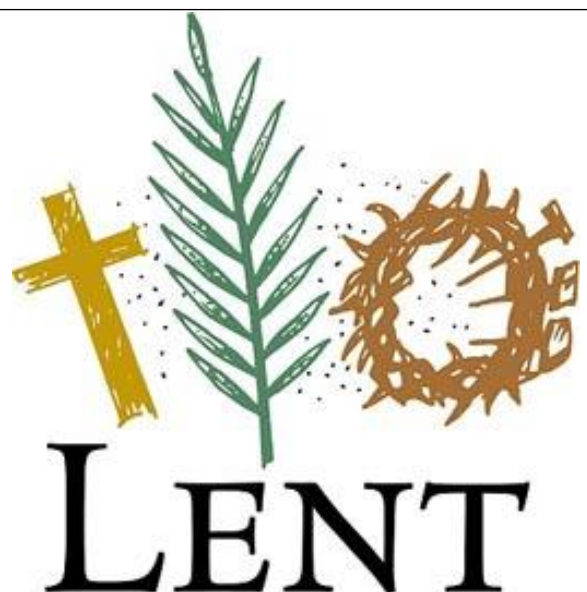
Out and About in the Churches of Perth

World Day of Prayer Services, Friday, March 3rd, 11 a.m. at St Matthew's and 7 p.m. at the Congregational Church.



World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement supported by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 100 languages. World Day of Prayer services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Keep an eye open for information about PACT's series of three ecumenical Lent Studies, on Monday 13th, 20th and 27th March.





An opportunity to volunteer

Home-start Perth is a family support charity covering the whole of Perthshire. We recruit, train and support volunteers to help families with young children.

All kinds of families can find it hard to cope for all sorts of reasons, maybe because of mental or physical illness, disability of a child or parent, or because of a parent's post-natal depression, bereavement or isolation. We support any parent with at least one child under the age of five. At Home-start Perth we believe that parents have the key role in creating a secure childhood for their children. It's just that sometimes they need a bit of help. That's where our volunteers step in...

As a home-visiting volunteer you will visit your family for two hours per week in their own home, offering whatever supports that particular family may need: someone to listen, support to integrate in the local community which in turn will reduce isolation, helping solve problems that parents can't face alone. It's what makes Home-start Perth unique – we can offer exactly what the family needs, increasing their confidence and building better lives for their children.

As a volunteer, you will receive full training, and support is offered from your coordinators throughout your time with Home-start. Our volunteers, like our families, come from all walks of life.

Interested? Our next Volunteer PREP course starts on Thursday 23rd February and will be held in our offices in Highland House, Perth, although applications are invited from anywhere in Perthshire. The course runs for six consecutive Thursdays, 0930-1430, covering everything you will need to become a home-visiting volunteer.

Please contact Tania or Jill on 01738 638847 for more information.

THE DIOCESAN GATHERING 2017



Over the last few years the Gathering has been a great opportunity for church members across the diocese to exchange ideas and experiences, to learn something new together, to worship at our Cathedral and to be re-energised in ministry and mission. This year's event on Saturday 27th May will be no exception.



John Bell of the Iona Community, the inspirational Christian speaker, hymn-writer, and broadcaster, has been invited to help us to think afresh about worship and about the way we view Jesus. There will be opportunities during the day to meet friends old and new, to find out what is going on in other churches and to explore the Cathedral.

Have fun learning new songs from all over the world, trying out a wide range of prayer activities and taking part in hands-on workshops - you may learn some new skills and perhaps discover hidden talents! The event is designed to appeal to all ages and is a family-friendly day out. If you are interested, please look out for booking forms which will be sent to all the churches soon after Easter.



Contact Information

Rector	Rev Graham Taylor	245922	rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk
Curate	Rev Nerys Brown	01786 824511	nerysannjones@aol.com
Retired Assistant Clergy	Rt Rev Bruce Cameron Rev Fergus Harris		
Church Officers Rector's Warden People's Warden Administrator Lay Representative Alternate Lay Rep Vestry Secretary Treasurer Health and Safety PVG Director of Music	Mail to be sent to Office Alan McPherson David Willington Beverly Skene Lilian Fleming Graham Kingsley-Rowe Judy Norwell David Roemmele Graham Kingsley-Rowe Malcolm Moore Robin Miller	 552337 813787 634999 632481 248120 248120 639963 625903	@episcopal-perth.org.uk church-warden@ office@ secretary@ treasurer@ hands@ pvg@ music@
Team Convenors Casting the Net Ministry Finance Communications Children Buildings and Eco Social	Hazel Murch Alan McPherson Rev. Graham Taylor Rev. Nerys Brown Jean Hendry David Maclehorse TBA	827034 552337 245922 see above 623603 636147	
Church Activities Intercessors Group Flowers Magazine Editor Fellowship Buggy Club Young Church Links Traidcraft PACT Threshold bookings SARAC	Tony Mason Christine Bracewell Rev Nerys Brown Jean Hendry Eunice McPherson Jean Hendry Ruth Harris Rhiannon Miller Jean Hendry Beverly Skene Rev Geoffrey Hall	627870 552817 see above 623603 552337 623603 621379 625903 623603 634999 636802	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue and helped prepare it for printing and distribution. Please hand or email all items for our April/May issue to me by

Sunday 19th March

email: nerysannjones@aol.com

Front Cover Photo is by Gordon Murch

www.scotland.anglican.org

www.standrews.anglican.org

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy





Patricia (Pat) Parkinson
8th December 2016

Alan George Prue
9th January 2017

Kate Edmeades
16th January 2017

May they rest in peace

*We arise and go forth
on the journey before us,
knowing that where Christ leads,
life is a journey home.
Therefore we travel in faith,
in hope and in love.*