

Dates for your diary

1st Saturday 12noon Holy Communion and shared lunch at Meadowbank, Newtonmore.

2nd Presentation of the Lord 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

5th Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

6th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

9th Epiphany 5 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

11th Tuesday 7.30pm – Holy Communion at Hillside Ave., Kingussie.

12th Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

13th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

16th Epiphany 6 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

19th Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

20th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

23rd Epiphany 7 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

AGM after the service.

26th Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

27th Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion at Scot House Hotel.

Homegroup Tuesdays 2.30 – 4pm Meadowbank, Newtonmore.

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February 2014

St. John the Baptist Rothiemurchus

Malachi 3:3 says: 'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'



A woman, reading this, got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. So she went along to visit a silversmith to see him at his work.

As she watched, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse, '**He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver**'. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the flames. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?'

He smiled at her as he answered, 'Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it.'

So if today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you – until He sees His image in you.

Praise

When light creeps in
through the chinks of the
door,

When the mist ascends
from the mountain floor,
When the ocean
shimmers like burnished
ore,

Let me give the praise.

O God of the morning,

Christ of the hills,

O Spirit who all the firmament fills,

O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,

Keep us all our days.

From 'Morning', an ancient Celtic prayer.



Vestry update:

- ✓ Some trees have to be felled in the church grounds as they are in a dangerous condition.
- ✓ Robert Grant has completed the renovation and repair of fences on three sides of the church grounds.
- ✓ £100 a month is to be paid into Dr Sarah Pickworth's account for 12 months while she is working with Iris Ministries in Cambodia. This leaves £1400 still to be spent. (10% of £26000 income last year)

AGM

Sunday February 23rd

In the Hall after the morning service.

A message from the Hon. Treasurer:



As you know the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St John's will take place after the service on Sunday 23rd February. However, at the same time there will also be a short Special Meeting where we hope to adopt a new constitution for St John's.

As a charity St John's Church must have a constitution which governs its affairs. Our

current constitution dates from March 1997 and your Vestry wishes to bring it up to date.

A few copies of the current constitution and the proposed new one will be available for inspection in church.

The proposed new constitution has the approval of the Bishop and the Diocese Registrar. It is based on the Scottish Episcopal Church Model Constitution of 2008. The new and the old constitutions are very similar but the new version recognises the changes to Scottish charity law which took place in 2005. The new constitution will also allow us to have our accounts scrutinised by a competent independent examiner rather than by a registered auditor.

Your Vestry recommends that you vote in favour of adoption of the proposed new constitution on 23rd February.

Looking ahead:

March 5th - Ash Wednesday

Lent Groups starting – more details to follow. Next month's issue will include our programme for Lent. Please respond positively so that we may share together in a spiritually enriching Lent this year.