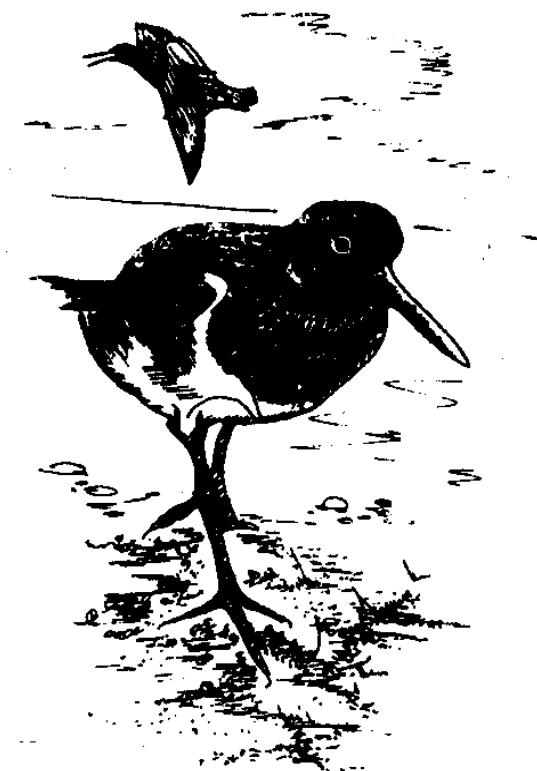


THE OYSTERCATCHER



THE MAGAZINE OF ST BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

KELVINSIDE, GLASGOW

NUMBER 449 MAY 2026

The Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

**ST BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
KELVINSIDE, GLASGOW**

69 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, G12 9UX
A Charity registered in Scotland, No. SC012625

Priest-in-Charge:

The Revd Peter Bradley
Flat 1/1, 25 Queensborough Gardens, Glasgow, G12 9QP.
Telephone: 07543 186404 or e-mail clergy@stbridesglasgow.com

People's Warden:

Miss Anne Blackwood

Rector's Warden:

Mr Andrew Lockyer

Lay Representative:

Mrs Carol Lovett

Alternative Lay Representative: Dr John Davies

North-West Regional Council

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Mrs Anne Clackson

Professor Elizabeth Moignard

Dr John Davies

Ms Moira Simpson

Mr Andrew Lockyer

Mr Alex Steele

Mrs Carol Lovett

Treasurer: Mr Paul Carberry

Secretary: Mr Jonathan Lord

11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow, G20 6RB Telephone: 07774 788844

jcl30@btinternet.com

Website:

www.stbridesglasgow.com

Webmaster:

Vacant

Safeguarding Officer:

Ms Moira Simpson

pvg@stbridesglasgow.com

07598 815707

Director of Music:

Mr Alan Tavener

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

On the first Easter morning the women who cared for Jesus make their way to his tomb. This tomb had been cut into rock, and sealed with a great stone. The three Marys—Mary Magdalene, Mary of Clopas, and Mary the mother of James—are heavy with grief and weeping. The pain of loss and despair weighs on them like a second great stone, pressing down on their hearts. As they walk, they ask themselves glumly, “Who will take away the stone?”

This heavy stone represented finality. It marked the end of Jesus’ story—or so it seemed. The one who healed the sick, who opened the eyes of the blind, who taught people to love God and one another—he was gone. The Jesus who had taught them to share the burdens of others was now firmly sealed behind a burden too heavy to move. The three Marys ask themselves, “Who will move the stone for us?”

This is a question for us as well. It’s easy to feel the weight of our struggles pressing down on us like heavy stones. We carry burdens of worry, fear, disappointment, and regret. This rubble clogs up the entrance to our hearts, sealing away the light, joy, and peace we desperately seek.

Against all this, the witness of Easter is clear: The power of Christ’s resurrection rolls away every stone that weighs down our souls. No matter how impossible our circumstances may seem, however walled off by despair or exhaustion, if we can only step towards him like the three Marys, the Lord of the resurrection brings life where there is death.

On the first Easter Day, when Mary Magdalene and her companions reached the tomb, they discovered that all their anxiety had been for nothing. The stone had already been rolled away. For those women, the first preachers of the resurrection, it was more than just a gravestone which had been removed. It was a breaking of chains, a shattering of the barriers which keep us from living fully in the light of God’s love and mercy. The resurrection of Jesus was for them—as it is for us—a revelation that no force on earth, no magnitude of sin, no depth of despair can obstruct the power of his love in Christ.

Often, I can hardly bear to watch the news; often the media reveals a world

which is bleak, riven by war, bitter and cynical. It is easier to give up hope, and to turn away from others in their need, shrugging my shoulders. In times such as these, the hope of the resurrection is the greatest gift of God to us, as it was to the three Marys.

The three Marys fall backwards in astonishment: the stone has been rolled away! The tomb is empty! Jesus has risen from the dead! Because he lives, we can face tomorrow with hope, courage, and unshakable confidence. We may still ask, "Who will roll away the stone?" The Lord answers with authority, "I did and I will."

In Eastertide, we are asked to lift our eyes up to the risen Lord, to let the power of his resurrection flow into our lives, to let it sweep away the rubble that blocks the entrance to our hearts, so that we may know the joy and peace he offers.

May we know the power, joy, and hope of Easter as we meet together the risen Lord.

Peter

Fr Peter

SANCTUARY LAMPS

We are renewing our invitation for persons to sponsor the cost of the Sanctuary Lamps at each of our Altars.

The Sanctuary Lamp signifies the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle and is kept lit at all times serving as a reminder of the continuous presence of Christ.

Each Sanctuary Lamp lasts for approximately nine days.

Donations of £5 are suggested.

Should you wish to do so please speak to myself or e-mail me on paul.carberry@yahoo.co.uk

Paul Carberry

SOUTH WALL AND NET ZERO PROJECT

Our new building project has two parts. Firstly we must develop a full project brief, including detailed plans and budgets for the building works on the South Wall and the associated Net Zero project. Drawing on this brief we will seek planning permission and Canon 35 permission. Canon 35 sets out how charges gain permission for building work. When all this is in place, we will run a tender process for the second phase of the project.

The Glasgow Building Preservation Trust was appointed as our partner for this project on 1 March. We asked four architects to tender for the project brief. In the event two architects did so. The GBPT scored the tenders against our initial brief, and John Gilbert Architects have been designated as our preferred architect. The role of JGA will be to develop our scheme in full, working with mechanical and structural engineers, a quantity surveyor, and other professionals.

Our next task is to raise funds for this first stage of the project, to cover the architect's fee. Working with GBPT and the Provincial Net Zero team we have made an application to the Provincial Building Fund. This will be considered by the Diocesan Property Committee first, and if all is well the Diocese will pass the application to the Province. We will then approach other Trusts.

We also need a name for the project as "South Wall and Net Zero Project" is too cumbersome. The Vestry has agreed on "The Swanz Project!"

The Fabric Committee has been busy. The Rectory windows are in very poor condition. They have deteriorated over many years, and urgent repairs are now necessary. We have applied to the Provincial Green Rectory Fund for a grant. If successful, this will only allow us to repair two or three windows, but at least we will have begun the task.

Fr Peter

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2026

This was again held at the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock on Saturday 7 March and things started in the usual way; a Eucharist in Holy Trinity Church just across the road followed by all the legal formalities. The major item of the day was time that the Bishop had requested to present his vision for the Diocese. He started by saying what he's seen and done since he'd arrived to take stock of where the diocese currently is. He's found a very warm welcome wherever he's been and has already visited nearly all the churches seeing some beautiful scenery across the routes he's driven. He's visited some wonderful buildings, seen faithful congregations, signs of small growth, along with fragility, uncertainty, and worries about finance and ageing congregations.

He's already started to work on the many vacancies and re-establishing the link between some clergy and their congregations. He's appointed a Rural Dean for the Galloway region and a new Canon Missioner. He'll serve and help all congregations when invited and will work alongside them to resolve issues. He's started a monthly newsletter called Together, (anyone can subscribe to this by e-mailing diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org and asking to be added to the circulation list), and "Together" is a key word for him.

He wants the Glasgow and Galloway to be a church for everyone regardless of who they are or where they come from. We need to be ready to welcome those not yet sent to us and to that end he would like us to follow the Natural Church Development programme. It's a circular programme developed in Germany which has been in use for over 25 years but is rarely used in the UK. It is not compulsory for all churches except those in receipt of Ministry Support. Many charges have already expressed an interest so the future looks exciting. The programme measures eight factors. It will enable leaders to enable others seeing the gifts match the tasks, for people to see and remove obstacles, to have a spirituality that informs the whole of life, to be a structure that works for the common good, for the worship to be inspiring, for the outreach to meet real needs, to work in groups and teams, and to have loving relationships.

Bishop Nick went on to say that there is money in the diocese, although a lot is tied up, so we can sit on it or take risks and he favours risks! He believes we're at a pivotal moment where we can either grow or fade into the night; he does not relish the former, nor does he want a strategic retreat. He also believes we should be looking at planting new churches and has a vision of a new, Evangelical style church somewhere in the centre of Glasgow. He has started a new group, called The Village, for young people 20 – 30 years old and there are plans to look at something similar for teenagers. There was so much to take in and the table groups that followed were buzzing. The rest of the day was taken up with the introduction of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. There was a short report on the Legacy of Slavery Project 22. After a short discussion it was agreed that the diocese would support this.

A long and interesting day that passed very quickly. It was great to catch up with friends not seen in a while and I'm very grateful to be your Lay Rep which allows me to do this. Thank you.

Carol Lovett

MAY DEVOTION AT ST BRIDE'S - SATURDAY 16 MAY

The Scottish Cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham will be gathering in St Bride's on Saturday 16 May for prayer and devotion and reflection from 12.00 noon. The day begins with Mass (where Father Peter will give a homily based on this year's Walsingham pilgrimage theme: Mary: Cause of our Joy), and following a picnic lunch continues with Intercessions, Healing Ministries (including the Laying on of Hands and Anointing) and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.30 p.m.



This event is open to absolutely everyone and it would be wonderful if St Bride's parish community could support the event. Some members of the congregation are members of the Society and others have been to Walsingham on pilgrimage.

St Bride's is home to a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham which is located in the Lady Chapel, most appropriately, beside the votive candle stand and Intercessions prayer station. A candle also burns for St Bride's at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.



Harry Dunlop



BASMATI RICE AND LENTIL SALAD WITH CURRIED MINT DRESSING

(serves 4 – from *New Food for Thought* recipe book by Jane Stimpson)

Our first recipe has been contributed by chorister Gilly McDougall, who says ‘A quick and easy salad which can be doubled in volume for larger groups, as at the recent St Bride’s Day lunch. I’m not vegetarian but I love this salad. The much-lamented Food for Thought vegetarian restaurant in London’s Covent Garden captured the zeitgeist of the 70s, with cheap food served at scrubbed pine tables. Rising ground rents and competition from swankier, ‘foodier’ establishments forced closure in 2015, a fate suffered by its fellow restaurant Cranks. You can still find the book on eBay (1995 edition, purple cover)!’

8oz (225g) brown basmati rice

0.5 heaped tsp turmeric

3oz (75g) green lentils

4oz (100g) peas

2oz (50g) fresh spinach, large stalks removed, washed and thinly sliced

DRESSING

juice of 1 lime

4 dessertspoons olive oil
1 dessertspoon tamari or soy sauce
1 tsp curry powder
1.5 dessertspoons mango chutney
0.5oz (12g) approx. of mint leaves, pulled off the stalks

1. Place basmati rice and turmeric in a saucepan, adding boiling water to 1 inch above the level of the rice. Bring to the boil, stirring occasionally then cover and allow to simmer for approx. 20 minutes. As it reaches the end of the time, allow the rice to steam by keeping the lid on but turning the heat off. This prevents the rice from sticking to the base of the pan but do not stir the rice again from this point. Drain.
2. Put the lentils in a saucepan with cold water (no need to pre-soak) and simmer for 20 – 25 minutes. Drain and rinse until the water runs clear.
3. Cook the peas in boiling salted water until tender. Drain.
4. Combine the rice with the lentils, peas and spinach.
5. Prepare the dressing by placing all ingredients in a food processor and blending, or by beating them together with a fork (a stick blender can also be used).
6. Thoroughly mix the dressing into the salad and chill.

If you'd like *your* favourite recipe to appear in a future *Oystercatcher*, please speak to Gilly on a Sunday, or email drgilymcd@gmail.com. All contributions welcome!

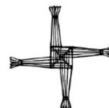
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Editor: Jonathan Lord, 11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow, G20 6RB
Telephone: 0141 946 5045 Mobile: 07774 788844
E-mail: jc130@btinternet.com

Publication date is usually the last Sunday of each month; copy deadline is the penultimate Sunday of the month. The Oystercatcher is the bird traditionally known as "the servant of St Bride". Contributions may be sent to the Editor.



St Bride's Episcopal Church
Glasgow G12 9UX



Sunday 3 May 2026 at 1.00pm

Organ Recital

Students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Free admission – donations to our Robert Lamont
Music Fund welcome, scan here to donate



Carillon de Westminster (Pièces de Fantaisie, Op 54 No 6)

played by Andy Wong

Viernes (1870-1937)

Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 547

Prélude, Improvisation and Acclamations (Suite Médiévale)

played by Ronan McQuade

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Langlais (1907-91)

Andante in F (K616)

played by Ruby Cheung

Mozart (1756-91)

Marcia (Symphonie III, Op 13)

played by Xiaoxuan Foo

Widor (1844-1937)

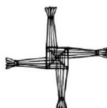
our next Organ Recital...

Sunday 7 June 2026 Pavlos Triantaris (Letchworth Traditional Anglican Church)

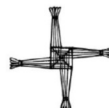
www.organrecitals.uk

**...and at 3.30pm on Sunday 17 May Choral Evensong for Ascensiontide,
sung by St Bride's Choir with William Briant (organ)**

– music by Derek Holman, William Mathias, Gounod & Bruckner



www.stbridesglasgow.com



St Bride's Episcopal Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC012625

Cappella Nova Outreach at St Bride's

Sing for Your Life!

*Boost your health and wellbeing –
have fun with like-minded people!*

Thursdays, 2.00 for 2.15-3.15pm

2025: 9 October, 13 November, 11 December,

2026: 15 January, 12 February, 12 March,

16 April, 14 May, 11 June

St Bride's Church, Hyndland Road, GLASGOW G12 9UX

... featuring a wide range of favourite songs



Led by Alan and Rebecca Tavener, this singing-for-fun session is FREE to all, requires no experience of music or singing, and is a cheerful, relaxed get-together to enjoy the pleasure and health benefits of singing. Refreshments will be available.

Feel free to make contact in advance, cappella.nova@strath.ac.uk

...or, just turn up!

READINGS FOR CHORAL SERVICES IN MAY

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday 3 May</i> Fourth Sunday after Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Acts 7, v 55–60 Psalm 31, v 1–6,17–18 1 Peter 2, v 2–10 John 14, v 1–14 <i>(I am the way, the truth, and the life)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Harry Dunlop Annie Blackwood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday 10 May</i> Fifth Sunday after Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Acts 17, v 22-31 Psalm 66, v 7-18 1 Peter 3, v 13-22 John 14, v 15-21 <i>(I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ebi Japhet Joe Mannion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thursday 14 May</i> ASCENSION DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Acts 1, v 1–11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1, v 15–23 Luke 24, v 44–53</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Viv Miller Andrew Lockyer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday 17 May</i> Sunday after Ascension Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Acts 1, v 6–14 Psalm 68, v 1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4, v 12–14; 5, v 6–11 John 17, v 1–11 <i>(Father, it is time for you to glorify me)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jonathan Moss Gilly McDougall</p>

<p><i>Sunday 17 May</i> <i>continued</i></p>	<p><i>Choral Evensong and Benediction</i> Psalm 47 Deuteronomy 30, v 11–20 Acts 1, v 1–14 <i>(Jesus taken up into heaven)</i></p>	<p>Jane Ross Elizabeth Moignard</p>
<p><i>Sunday 24 May</i> PENTECOST</p>	<p>Acts 2, v 1–21 Psalm 104, v 24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12, v 3b– 13 John 20, v 19–23 <i>(As the Father sent me, so I am sending you: receive the Holy Spirit)</i></p>	<p>Jane Ross Jonathan Lord</p>
<p><i>Sunday 31 May</i> TRINITY SUNDAY</p>	<p>Genesis 1, v 1–2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13, v 11–13 Matthew 28, v 16–20 <i>(The Great Commission)</i></p>	<p>Paul Sinclair Annie Blackwood</p>

MUSIC FOR MAY

Date	Readings	Setting	Motet	Psalms	Hymns	Voluntary Before	Voluntary After
Sunday 3 rd 10.30 Easter IV: Choral Eucharist	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14.1-14	Harris Communion Service in F	<i>Malcolm Archer</i> Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life	31.1-6, 17-18	112, 201, 383, 120	Stanley Voluntary in G minor, Op 6 No 3	<i>J S Bach</i> Fugue à la Cigue, BWV 577
Sunday 10 th 10.30 Easter V: Choral Eucharist	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13- 22 John 14.15-21	<i>Barrie Caberna</i> Mass in the Dorian Mode	<i>Purcell</i> Sing unto God	66.7-18	493, 263, 342, 397	<i>Vaughan Williams</i> Rhosymedre (words at Hymn 274)	<i>Whitlock</i> Hymn-Prelude No 4 "St Denio" (words at Hymn 377)
Thursday 14 th 19.00 Ascension Day: Choral Eucharist	Acts 1.1-11 Ephesians 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53	<i>Wills</i> Missa Brevis	<i>Mathias</i> Lift up your Heads, O ye Gates	47	134, 349, 332, Christ triumphant, ever reigning	Stanley Voluntary in E minor, Op 5 No 4	<i>J S Bach</i> Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630 ("Today God's only-gotten Son arose from death, and triumph won, Alleluja, Alleluja")
Sunday 17 th 10.30 Easter VI: Choral Eucharist	Acts 1.6-14 1 Peter 4.12- 14, 5.6-11 John 17.1-11	<i>Barrie Caberna</i> Mass in the Dorian Mode	<i>Attwood</i> Come, Holy Ghost	68.1-10, 32-35	388, 296, 308, 130	Stanley Voluntary in G minor, Op 6 No 3	<i>Guildmant</i> Marche Religieuse on the motif "Lift up your heads" from Handel's Messiah

Sunday 17 th 15.30 Choral Evensong for Ascensiontide	Deuteronomy 30.11-20 Acts 1.1-14	<i>Holman</i> Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in F minor	<i>Purcell</i> O God, the King of glory	47	128, 351	<i>Elgar</i> Vesper Voluntary, Op 26 No 4	<i>Grayston Ives</i> Processional William Briant, Organist
Sunday 24 th 10.30 Day of Pentecost: Choral Eucharist	Acts 2.1-21 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 John 20.19-23	<i>Wills</i> Missa Brevis	<i>Metricion Wynn</i> <i>Jones</i> Holy Spirit, Truth divine	104, 24-34, 35b	139, 421, 137, 431	<i>Sumsion</i> Chorale Prelude Down Ampney (words at NEH 137)	<i>J S Bach</i> Fantasia super Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott, BWV 651 ("Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord!")
Sunday 31 st 10.30 Trinity Sunday: Choral Eucharist	Genesis 1.1-2.4a 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20	<i>Wills</i> Missa Brevis	<i>Carlotta Ferrari</i> O Lux beata Trinitas	8	343, 298, 148, 146	<i>J S Bach</i> Prelude in E flat pro Organo pleno ('for full organ'), BWV 552.I	<i>J S Bach</i> Fugue in E flat pro Organo pleno ('for full organ'), BWV 552.II

KALENDAR FOR MAY

May

1	Fri	Philip & James, Apostles	Workers
2	Sat	<i>Athanasius, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 373</i>	The College of Bishops
3	Sun	Fourth Sunday after Easter	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
4	Mon	Feria	The newly baptised
5	Tue	Feria	Those preparing for baptism and confirmation
6	Wed	Feria	Christian unity
7	Thu	Feria	Mission and Evangelisation
8	Fri	<i>Julian of Norwich, c. 1417</i>	St Julian's Church, Norwich
9	Sat	Feria	Dean Reuben Preston
10	Sun	Fifth Sunday after Easter (Rogation Sunday)	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
11	Mon	Rogation Day	Dean Matthew Little
12	Tue	Rogation Day	Farmers
13	Wed	Ascension Eve: Rogation Day	The Parliament at Westminster
14	Thu	ASCENSION DAY	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
15	Fri	Matthias, Apostle	Peace in Jerusalem
16	Sat	Feria	Those who await the Spirit in hope
17	Sun	Sunday after Ascension Day	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
18	Mon	Feria	The ministries of the Church
19	Tue	Feria	The sick and those in care
20	Wed	Feria	Schools, universities, and places of learning
21	Thu	<i>Helena, c. 330</i>	Pilgrims and seekers of holy places
22	Fri	Feria	Peace among the nations
23	Sat	<i>William of Perth (or Rochester), 1201</i>	Adopted Children
24	Sun	WHITSUNDAY – PENTECOST	Life and Ministry of St Bride's
25	Mon	Monday in Whitsun Week	Church Historians
26	Tue	Tuesday in Whitsun Week	The Archbishop of Canterbury
27	Wed	Ember Day	Vocations to the priesthood
28	Thu	Thursday in Whitsun Week	Renewal of the Church in the Spirit
29	Fri	Ember Day	Vocations to the diaconate
30	Sat	Ember Day	Vocations to the religious life
31	Sun	TRINITY SUNDAY	Life and Ministry of St Bride's