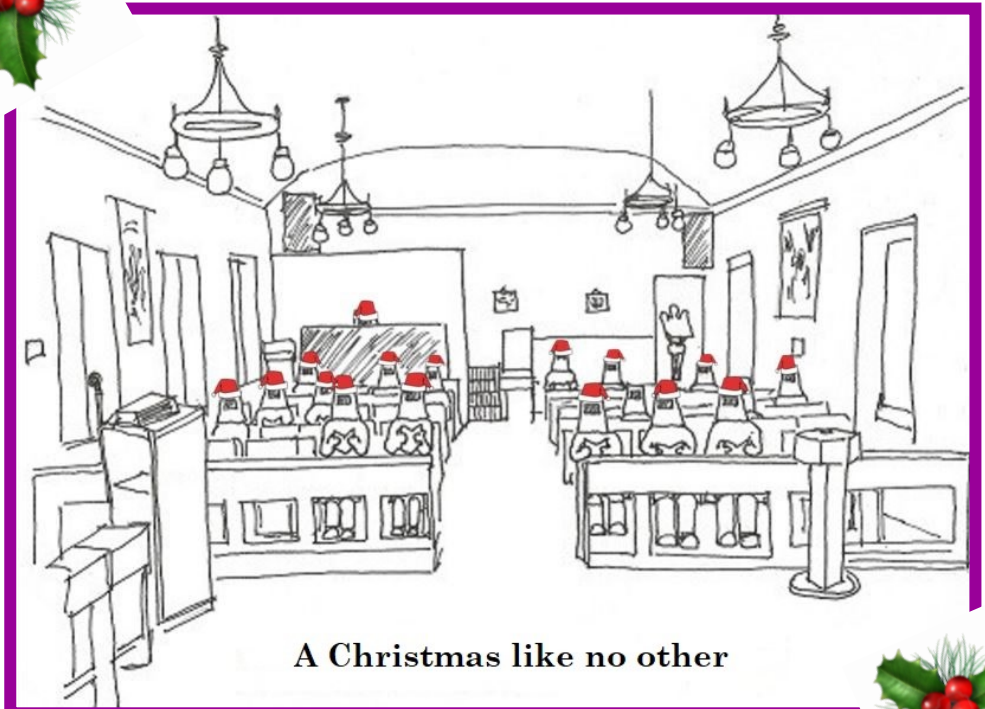


December 2020



A Christmas like no other



***The Scottish Episcopal Church of
St Andrew's
Park Road
Milngavie***

£1



Rector	Rev Andrea Hagenbuch 1 Westbourne Drive, Bearsden G61	0141-942-0029
Lay Reader	Fraser Gold	0141-956-3950
VESTRY		
Secretary	Helen Paisley 30 Grampian Way, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 4 RW	0141 533 0418 mobile: 07748938039
Treasurer	Gordon Rutherford	0141-956-2879
Lay Representative	Tim Rhead	0141-576-7576
Members	Laura Gormley, Robert Anderson	
People's Warden	Stephen McVey	0141-942-0499
Website Co-ordinator	Helen Paisley/Gail Ullrich	helenpaisley@icloud.com / gu@phonecoop.coop
Magazine Editor	Steve McVey	Steve.mcvey@talktalk.net
Child Protection	Freda Anderson	0141-955-0889

St Andrew's is a registered charity in Scotland SC008683

Web Site <https://milngavie.church.scot>



Pastoral Letter

Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch, Rector

It is a joy to be writing a letter for the magazine again – the first one since February. Little did I know as I wrote last year's Christmas letter what this year would have in store in store for us!

What a year it has been!

If anyone had told me at the beginning of the year that dodging police, as I innocently walk dogs in Mugdock, or that waking up on a Sunday morning my prayer would no longer be "please Lord fill the church this morning with your people" but more "please don't fill the church with all people this morning " would become the norm, I would have been seriously alarmed!

But here we are – the new normal! However, not for long, as news of mass vaccination programmes are underway, we fervently pray and hope for a return to normal as soon as possible.

Christmas is a time of hope and good cheer, so I shall begin this letter by reflecting on the joys of lockdown life. We were fortunate to share the early days of the first lockdown with Richard and William. After the shock and confusion of the first week or so, a routine quickly established itself: a

good dog walk in the morning followed by an afternoon of work/study, sitting in the sun in the garden (as the weather improved, which it did) brushing the dogs, discussing the dogs



This is the 'before' photo— Richard wasn't smiling in the 'after' one....!



Pastoral Letter

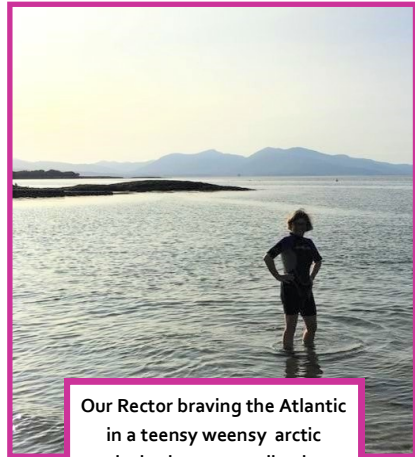
Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch, Rector

and cooking supper.

Cooking supper became a significant part of our day. We would devise a weekly plan and spend much time cooking and preparing a nightly feast. It was just as well that the boy's lockdown sojourn only lasted about a month!

We have enjoyed some lovely weather this year which has been a mercy since outdoor activity has been deemed safer and so less restricted. Meeting friends for walks and rounds of golf have been a lifeline in social interaction. My dogs also have been a great source of comfort and joy. Luckily for them they know nothing of social distancing, masks and sanitiser. Still able to dominate my lap, life for them has continued as normal, except surely, they must wonder why we never go out in the evening anymore?!

We have been incredibly lucky this year and have managed to have three sorties down south. On each occasion our timing has been incredible – albeit luck rather than judgement. We had two weeks in February, which at the time seemed reckless, but soon proved otherwise as the whole nation went into lockdown in March. Then in August, when restrictions were largely



Our Rector braving the Atlantic
in a teensy weensy arctic
survival suit—not a polka dot to
be seen

lifted, we had another visit to Dorset which was great. Before the shutters came down again at the end of October, we paid another brief visit.

A further highlight was a trip to Argyll in mid-September: we had one night in Oban and another at George and Liz's. The weather was superb, hot and sunny, thus enabling a glorious swim in the sea. Argyll was looking at its best: George and Liz's new place is super, totally magical and it was certainly magical to see them again, looking well and settled.

It was with much joy that we were able to open the church again in July for public worship. Prior, to this great

Pastoral Letter

Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch, Rector

event Robert and Tim went to some lengths to measure up the church for social distancing etc. Despite the current restrictions, we have had some wonderful worship. Many thanks are owed to the music team, (Gordon, Gail, Liz and Laura) who have worked extremely hard and whose input we have greatly appreciated.

But I do thank all of you who have been so supportive in maintaining our worship and the life of the church in these difficult times.

And they have been difficult times!

I don't mind admitting that I have had my moments! The sudden adapting to new ways, the endless changing restrictions, the necessary crash course in technology, (never my strongest point) and the general anxiety about the state of the world as a result of all this, knowing that countless lives and livelihoods have been severely affected or lost.

We are now in the season of Advent. We once again prepare for Christmas – the great celebration that welcomes the Christ child into this world. God became one of us in human form, bringing light and hope to our troubled and suffering world.

Christ lived amongst us and died amongst us, but through the resurrection he overcame suffering and

rose to new life. This is the hope he brings to us this Christmas.

This is the message of hope the world needs to hear.

Jesus said “I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly” John 10:10

A very happy Christmas to you all!



**Andrea just before a choir rehearsal of
'Ark the Herald Angels Sing...'**

Andrea

A Christmas Like No Other

On Sunday 15th November, Clare and I attended church for the first time since March. We had tried to persevere with 'virtual' services on Youtube, however like many found the early valiant attempts by the church took a bit of getting used to. All too often I found it difficult to focus on the liturgy while worrying that our Primus, Mark Strange, was going to bang his head on the roof of that tiny attic room.....



.....and some of the other celebrants in subsequent Sundays had me thinking I was watching a rerun of 'Through the Keyhole' with David Frost as they kept moving the setting to various parts of their houses so one minute you were in the kitchen, next to the dishwasher, the next the Lounge, or the Dining Room.....

So I was keen to try and get back to some sense of normality and so it was as we ventured back to the familiar surroundings of our church in November, however there were a few changes...

For a start, each member of the congregation was wearing a mask, and so everyone sounded like they were mumbling, even my mother-in-law, whose diction is usually cut glass perfect. We were also of course, all sat at 'socially distant' intervals, and although hymns were played—we were not allowed to sing. The singing on this particular Sunday was provided by Liz MacDonald as soloist behind a protective screen—accompanied by the masked organist in a guise faintly reminiscent of a scene from *The Phantom of the Opera*...

Later in the service I noticed Gail leaving the Church and going down to the Hall, however this was in order to enable her to sing with Liz on one of the hymns while still complying with Government guidelines (one singer one song per room!). As we listened to Gail's disembodied singing it did occur to me that, to continue the TV theme, it was a bit like viewing an episode of 'The Voice' - albeit without having to turn our chairs round—however she certainly got my vote anyway.

Carrots and Hedgehogs

Like for so many others, our garden has provided much pleasure and has never been so well attended as over these past months.

We ventured into growing vegetables



with a resulting crop of wonky carrots. Not a single one was straight!

Each carrot had a unique shape and provided us with a great deal of amusement as well as tasting very good. We also now have a hedgehog home in our garden but so far no residents though we know they are in the area.



After a constant battle with slugs we thought a hedgehog would be a welcome visitor. We wait with anticipation.....

Meeting with friends to explore the beautiful grounds of Dumfries House on a perfect autumn day at the start of October was one of the many walking highlights of the year. Nature and the outdoors has been a great tonic, even in the rain!



After my chemo and radiotherapy earlier in the year, I'm now feeling well and very thankful for the care I've received. My hair is now growing so you may start to see me minus my wig. At least I haven't needed visits to the hairdresser! The thoughts and prayers of friends have been very much appreciated and have really helped. A big thank-you!

Helen

A Visit to George

At the end of August, I went to Argyll to spend a week with George Farrow. Liz had arranged to go to Iona (not I think to avoid me) so George met me off the train at Oban after my longest rail journey since lockdown.

We were very fortunate because new restrictions in September prohibited household visits but August was a time of relative freedom when most activities were open, albeit with social distancing and masks.

George and Liz live in an amazing place at the end of a long single track road which crosses the Moine Mhor (great moss) and leads to the massive bulk of Duntrune castle, a few cottages and an old farm further round the coast.



The castle stands on a rocky headland just out of sight of Ormiston Cottage, the old ferryman's house where George and Liz stay. It is sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds by a low ridge and tall trees; there are three other cottages nearby which are used as



A Visit to George

holiday lets and a track leading inland to a walled garden. We visited the garden which is open to the public; it is a beautiful, tranquil place full of interesting trees, shrubs and flowers with various water features and sculptures. I was surprised to learn that it is maintained by a part time gardener who now travels from Ayrshire.

Beyond the cottage, a rough track leads round the coast with wonderful views over the sea to Jura and past a bay and on to a farm where one of the laird's sons stays. The first time I walked there I saw two otters swimming in the sea and on another occasion there were four otters which we watched for some time.

Liz and George have made several improvements to the house and garden, including a fine new shed and a

magnificent summer house which had just been erected. I helped with some drainage work and one of the pleasant features of the place is that passers-by usually stop for a blether, including the laird's son who drives an old land-rover and was always wearing paint-stained mechanics overalls. We also met the 'Lady Laird' who lives in the castle with



A Visit to George



Boat trip with seals and Jura in background

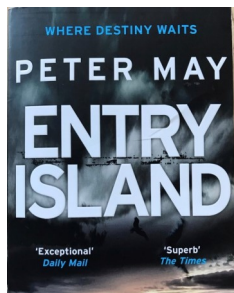
her husband; she is in her 80's and gave us a fascinating tour of the walled garden. Holiday-makers from the cottages were also friendly and one young lady helped us in the garden. I distinguished myself by asking if she was a student to discover that she was a barrister!

For someone who lives within five minute's walk of most facilities, it was strange to be over eight miles from the nearest shop and five miles from the pub, but the family are only six miles away and that is great blessing for everyone. We had a good time exploring the area, including the Crinan Canal, the native oak woods at Taynish and the ancient stone circles and rock carvings around Kilmartin. The highlight was a boat trip from Crinan to the coast of

Jura where we saw both sea and golden eagles, and back around the mysterious island of Scarba. On Sunday we went to Christ Church in Lochgilphead where George sometimes plays the organ.

On our way back to Oban where George was meeting Liz, we made a detour to the Isle of Seil across the Bridge over the Atlantic. I had never been there and was entranced by the island; the village clustered around the old slate workings, the wonderful garden of An Cala and the breath-taking view towards nearby Easdale and a host of other islands. I must add that George and I missed our wives but we managed to pass the time in an agreeable manner.

Tim



November's choice was Entry island by Peter May, a crime thriller set on two islands, Lewis in the 19th century and Entry Island, part of the province of

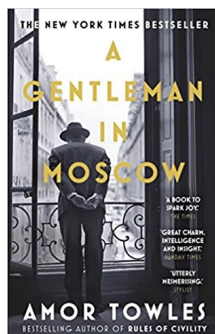
Quebec in the present day where the murder takes place.

The detective investigating the modern day murder has ancestral links to Lewis, which link the two storylines. The terrible events experienced by those who were driven from their land during the time of the highland clearances are very powerfully described as is the long journey by ship and resettlement in Canada.

Descriptions of the harsh weather conditions & exposed coastal landscape add to the tense atmosphere of the story. As well as being drawn into an exciting crime mystery, we felt we learned a lot about the daily lives of 19th islanders during this momentous period of Scottish history.

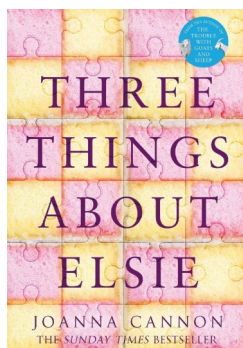
Two books that I have read—on the recommendation of the Book Club—and which I enjoyed—were 'A Gentleman in Moscow' and 'Three Things about Elsie'.

A gentleman in Moscow is about a Count in Soviet Russia who is put under



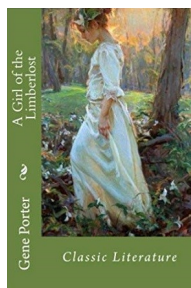
house arrest for being an unrepentant aristocrat by the Bolsheviks—in a grand hotel in the middle of Moscow. An absorbing and humorous story about the structural changes

in Russian society and one man's discovery of himself and self purpose.



Three Things About Elsie is a part whodunit, part thriller and about ageing and society's views of the aged and reminiscent of 'Elizabeth is Missing' by Emma Healey.

The next book is 'A Girl of the Limberlost'—a classic of Indiana Literature published in 1909 about a girl living in the Limberlost Swamp with her embittered mother and her development in spite of everything into a strong and resourceful young woman.



Vestry News



The Vestry has met 7 times via Zoom since March so we are becoming experts! It's been very good to be able to continue reflection and planning together over these past months.

At the AGM we welcomed new vestry members Robert and Laura and thanked James and Gail for their service. We are very pleased that Gail has agreed to attend occasional meetings in her role as our advisor on ethical policy.

Reopening After some weeks of viewing services online & Andrea's weekly letters to the congregation, detailed plans were made for reopening the church in July. We have been especially grateful to Tim and

Robert for their commitment to making this happen safely & to Freda too who has helped Robert to look after the church throughout this time.

Ethical Policy

Ethical Policy has been an on going & important focus for us. Under Gail's guidance, we have now successfully switched our energy provider to Bulb Energy, which uses 100% renewable energy as well as using 100% carbon neutral gas. Prices

compare favourably with other providers and it has been given good reviews by Which.



We very much appreciate all Gail's research and input in helping us to make this important ethical change.

Friendship House

Uncertainties over the future of Friendship House, have also occupied some thought and discussion. In the spring when the situation becomes clearer, decisions will need to be made. As Andrea has said, we need to ask the question 'What is our vision?'

Safeguarding

As well as the attention to safety for all concerning the practicalities of holding services at the current time, there has also been consideration about how we can care for those who are particularly vulnerable and who haven't access to technology.

Property

Repainting of the outside of the church and hall took place in the summer and along with the beautiful tubs of nasturtiums at the front and regular tending of the back garden thanks to Robin Milne, the church and grounds look attractive and very well cared for. The problem of attending to the dampness in the sanctuary is quite complex and a final decision has not yet been made.

Treasurers Update

As Gordon stated in his report for the AGM, this year's accounts fortunately more or less break-even but we will need to accept using some of our reserves for the coming year. The finance team led by Gordon has worked very well, in taking responsibility for managing our church finances.

Charitable Giving

This year the following donations have been made:

March - £250 Water Aid, £250 Tearfund

April - £500 Aberlour

June - £500 Glasgow City Mission (Bishop's Lent Appeal)

July - £520 Embrace following the explosion in Beirut

October - £300 MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) £300 Brain Tumour Trust

Music



Finding creative ways of including music and singing in our services has been

Vestry News

important with the singing of Laura, Gail and Liz adding a beautiful spiritual dimension to our services. We have also been fortunate that Hugh and John have played the organ for some services on occasions when Gordon has been away.

Gordon is always busy planning ahead to select music and hymns linked to the seasonal theme with Advent and Christmas now very much on the agenda. We appreciate all who have provided musical input, which so enhances our worship.

Looking forward

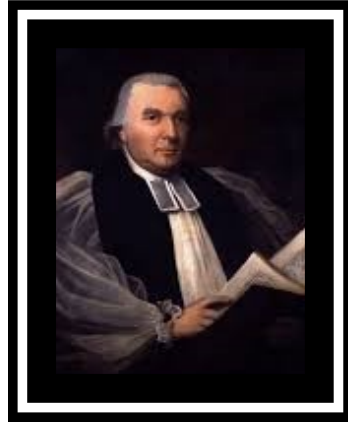
There has been an atmosphere of resilience, good humour and a positive approach to the challenges arising from the pandemic at our meetings.

New skills and creative solutions have been found to providing weekly worship, with the addition of Andrea's YouTube service recordings and weekly letters to the congregation helping to keep everyone in touch.

With good news about vaccines, some time in 2021 we look forward to our Vestry meetings being held once more in the Garden Room.

Helen

Samuel Seabury



Samuel Seabury was remembered in our lectionary on 14 November. Seabury was the first Anglican bishop in USA. Before American Independence became a reality in 1783, clergy to serve English congregations in America had been sent out by the Bishop of London. As any bishop of the Church of England would have to swear allegiance to the monarch, the church in America needed to consecrate bishops of their own without reference to London or Canterbury.

The clergy in Connecticut selected Samuel Seabury to be their bishop, but he needed to be consecrated. He appealed to the bishops of the persecuted Episcopal church in Scotland. He was duly consecrated in a room in Aberdeen by the bishop of

Samuel Seabury

Moray and Ross and the assistant bishop of Aberdeen.

The American church agreed to use the Scottish prayer book, and the links in revising orders of service continue to this day. It could be said that this consecration initiated events which led to the creation of the world wide Anglican Communion.

This was at a time of extreme persecution of our church in Scotland, when clergy could be imprisoned or deported for holding services for five or more people, and those attending could face heavy fines.

At a time when we ourselves face difficulties, it may be inspiring to think what came about in such circumstances.

Fraser

little CO2 emissions, depending on how quickly I take the stairs ..

- I have not been late for my dinner since the 18th March as my new specially extended trouser belt will testify
- I have not worn a suit or a tie since 18th March—which is just as well (see above)

But the main benefit is that I get to spend a lot more time with my wife (I **think** Clare agrees) and really it is not exaggerating to say that it has been life changing. Since the start we have been going out for walks almost every morning for 2 or 3 miles in all weathers. We started on golf courses and then out to the countryside and Mugdock, and each time we thank God that we are so lucky to have all this beautiful landscape on our doorstep for

Lockdown benefits

Like a lot of people who have been working from home over the last 9 months, one of the big benefits from not being able to commute and work in an office is,....well, not having to commute and work in an office. Some of the other benefits are as follows:

- The commute is a lot shorter, takes about 10 seconds and involves very



Lockdown Benefits

us to enjoy—even in a pandemic. We had some great weather over the early months of lockdown as these photos confirm at Mugdock..

but generally we persevere and feel the better for it, once we find our way back home.....



And Ardinning...

Almost made me wish I'd brought my swimming trunks but then I remembered I was in Scotland and had forgotten my survival suit and defibrillator. The weather of course did not stay like that, and as the year has worn on and the mornings are darker, it has sometimes been a bit of a struggle,

This is a photo I took of Mugdock Castle during one of our many walks — as I have taken it at this angle you cannot see the medieval solar panels on the roof, which I assume must have been used at one time to heat the cauldrons...

Steve

Miscellany

NHS VACCINE PRIORITISATION LIST (AS AMENDED)



**He is an absolutely Essential
Frontline Worker after all...**

Christmas Tree



Our traditional Christmas tree for the church has shrunk—symbolic perhaps of the restrictions imposed on

our Christmas celebrations this year! The upside is that only a few baubles are required, the lights will be a doddle, and there will be no problem fixing the angel at the top of the tree!

1. SANTA

- 2  Residents in a care home for older adults
- 3  All those 80 years of age and over. Frontline workers
- 4  All those 75 years of age and over
- 5  All those 70 years of age and over. Clinical individuals
- 6  All those 65 years of age and over
- 7  All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years which put them at higher risk of serious disease
- 8  All those 60 years of age and over
- 9  All those 55 years of age and over
- 10  All those 50 years of age and over

Magazine

Apologies that it has taken me a while to take up the pen again and produce the first magazine since lockdown began, however I hope to resume normal service as soon as possible! Please do let me know if you have any photos, articles, or notices that you would like included in the next issue (date to be confirmed!)

Steve

New Diocesan Centre



Some of you will be aware that the Diocese will soon be relocating the Diocesan Centre following the recent acquisition of new premises in Cochrane Street, next to the City Chambers.

The new premises form part of the Italian Centre in the Merchant City, and, as the photograph above shows, the premises back onto a lovely *piazza* with a water rill feature set into the tiled floor, and there are statues, sculptures and even palm trees ...The Piazza also links with the café/restaurant that fronts onto John Street and they put tables out in the piazza in summer—!

For those that are not familiar with the existing Diocesan Centre, it is on the second floor of St George's Buildings—an edifice that is customarily referred to as a 'rabbit warren' of corridors and doors—and the current Centre is at the very end of one of those corridors at the back of the building. The difference between the two could not be greater.

Work to commission the new Diocesan centre is scheduled to start in the New Year and hopefully it will be ready for staff and visitors by the summer—always assuming of course that the current lockdown restrictions have been relaxed enough by then.

More Miscellany

Advent Art



Well done to Edith and Martha who made these beautiful Advent Wreath collages on their return to church following the lifting of restrictions. I can't hold a candle to their creations...

And of course it was lovely to have their Mum Laura back singing for us again, accompanied by the masked organist...

It still seems strange not to be singing in church, and of course that will be all the more difficult on Christmas Eve when all our familiar and favourite carols will feature, however there will only be 'one singer one song', while the rest of us hum silently into our masks...

I do like Edith's signature on her artistic contribution (top right) - it has a style all of it's own.

More Miscellany

I was thinking about the journey Mary and Joseph made from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Jesus was born. It is a journey of nearly 100 miles and walking would have probably taken a couple of days. Of course, the whole thing would have been very different if Jesus had been born today, as the Kings would not have been permitted to travel as Israel is closed to non citizens or non residents due to Covid restrictions. The shepherds may have been all right as they were local and would have been in the open, however Mary and Joseph would not have been allowed to travel at all in the first place anyway due to the nationwide restrictions on travel within the country. So Jesus would have been born in Nazareth. Just a thought.

SERVICES CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020 /JANUARY 2021

DAY	DATE		SERVICES
SUNDAY	20 DECEMBER	4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER		CHRISTMAS EVE	10AM SAID EUCHARIST
			5PM CAROL SERVICE
FRIDAY	25 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	27 DECEMBER	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	31 DECEMBER	NEW YEAR'S EVE	10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	3 JANUARY	EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	7 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	10 JANUARY	FIRST SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	14 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	17 JANUARY	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THURSDAY	21 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	24 JANUARY	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY	10AM SUNG EUCHARIST
THIRSDAY	28 JANUARY		10AM SAID EUCHARIST
SUNDAY	31 JANUARY		10AM SUNG EUCHARIST