

# St. Mary's News

## Our Mission Statement:

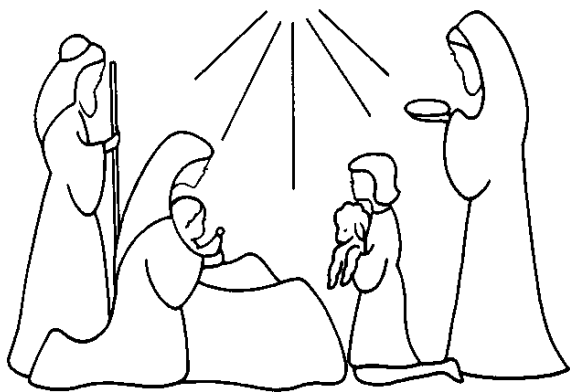
*Saint Mary's is a Christ-centred family, caring, sharing and working together, seeking to change through growth.*

## December 2013 / January 2014

Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Advent once again in our church's year, we are reminded of the special journey that leads us to the birth of Christ. As I have been reflecting on this recently, I bought a book from the Iona community on Advent readings.

This month I would like to share with you the reading, reflection and prayer for Christmas Day. I hope it touches your heart and you are able to use this as we celebrate once again the birth of our Lord and Saviour.



## Luke 2: 8-10

*This will be a sign to you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*

Years ago on a train journey, I found myself in conversation with a man who told me he was redesigning a town. He had spent the last couple

of days wandering the back alleys and forgotten places of that community. At one point he had spotted some young lads disappearing through a gap between the bent railings of a fence. Following them into the undergrowth, he had found himself in a clearing amongst a group of children. It was their secret den. Their only question: *'How did you find us?'*

The man said to me: *'I believe that if I am to plan a town, I must do so from the inside. I must find out what makes it tick and how it keeps its secrets. Any new development must be in tune with this. There must be the space and freedom for its people to create their own secret dens. Otherwise, the town will lose its soul.'*

## **God of good news,**

Today you begin again to reshape our lives and communities.

You do not start from the outside, but from within. You begin in the hidden place.

Behind the inn, before the marriage, at the wrong time.

You invite a handful of guests into your company. Shepherds. Local children perhaps. Maybe some animals.

You join the community of the invisible ones.

The homeless and hopeless. Refugees fleeing a tyrant king.

Later, you find fisherfolk and a tax collector. More children.

The small, the unimportant. The forgotten, the frightened.

These are the people you choose, as little by little you start sharing the secrets of a kingdom that will change the whole world.

From within. From a hidden place.

## **God of good news,**

As we celebrate worldwide the tidings of your birth,

As we set the heavens echoing with angel songs, As we contemplate the New Year and pray for peace on earth...

Remind us of the hidden places, of the forgotten people, of the starting-points and the time it takes, Of the pace of the slowest and the dreams of the children

And the human scale and the soul of our towns And the freedom to create secret dens.

Remind us that the great joy promised to the whole people starts with those who need it most, in places where they hide.

Remind us, with all our seasonal cheer and tinsel, that some people are left out in the cold; That it is there, with them, that you are being born into the world again; That it is there, through them, that you will change the world.

God of good news,  
Help us find you again in the hidden place.

**Amen**

I hope you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Love to you all,

Graham

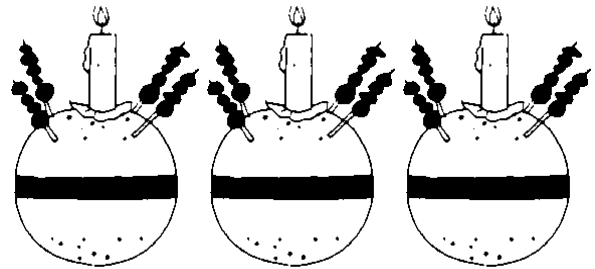
## Open 4 Prayer

Our lunchtime services continue to take place, normally on the last Tuesday of the month, aimed at attracting the office workers around us in the West End. Please support them and make our new worshippers welcome! The next service is on 17<sup>th</sup>. December, at 12.30p.m.

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## Prayers for Healing

The next Prayers of Healing service will be held on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>. December, at 6p.m., and thereafter on each first Sunday of the month. In addition, there are short prayers for healing after each Sunday 10.15 service in the War Memorial Chapel.



## Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 13<sup>th</sup> November when the following items were discussed.

Our annual gift day will be held in December this year. Leaflets and gift aid envelopes will be sent to all members of the congregation and donations can be made any time throughout December.

The Rector has arranged for the Primus to preach at a service on the Saint Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary which takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The Vestry is concerned about the number of people using the grounds as a car park when they are not members of the congregation or do not have a reason for visiting the Church. A sign has been ordered to state that the grounds are private and parking not allowed.

The Porch in the Rectory has been redecorated and quotes for the hallway and stairs are awaited.

The leak in the gents' toilet has been repaired.

## **Christmas Services at St. Mary's**

**15<sup>th</sup>. December 4p.m. Christingle**

**22<sup>nd</sup>. December 10.15a.m. Nine Lessons and Carols**

**24<sup>th</sup>. December 11p.m. Carols  
11.30p.m. Eucharist**

**25<sup>th</sup>. December 9.30a.m. Eucharist**

**26<sup>th</sup>. December 12 noon Eucharist**

### Normal weekly services:

Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 8a.m. and 10.15a.m.

Tuesday:  
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.  
Eucharist at 7.00p.m.

Wednesday:  
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Thursday:  
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

The Silent Auction this year was very successful and over £600 was raised for Church funds.

The treasurer advised the Vestry that there are not enough people undertaking the duties of sides-people and she is counting the money too often putting her in a very vulnerable position. There was a suggestion that we might separate the duties of welcoming people to Church and counting the money but before any decision is made, the congregation will be surveyed to ascertain the feeling of everybody.

Mary Allardyce  
Vestry Secretary

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### Financial Report

*October 2013*

Income:	6,684
Expenditure:	<u>5,379</u>
Net result for month:	1,305

Balance at month end: £66,164

Lydia Ross  
Treasurer

\* \* \* \* \*

### Christmas Gifts for Our Church

Instead of holding a Gift Day this year, the Vestry has decided to make December Gift Month, that time of the year when we give a little extra. More details to follow.

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### Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are urgently needed for some of the weekly duties undertaken in Church.

**Cleaning Rota** – At present, 7 people are on the rota as 2 of the volunteers have had to give up this important task. It involves coming along for 1 - 1½ hours on Saturday mornings starting at 10 am no more than once monthly but obviously with

only 7 people, someone has to turn up twice over a 4 week period to fill in.

**Coffee Rota** – Everyone enjoys a cup of tea or coffee with fellowship following the 10.15 am services but the numbers volunteering for this have been reducing over some time now and Rachael is filling in on many Sunday mornings. This involves serving hot drinks and washing cups for ½-¾ hour on Sunday mornings.

**Sides-people** – The numbers of volunteers for this duty have also decreased over the last while and Lydia is counting the collection on many Sundays mornings. As with Coffee rota, this only takes ½-¾ hour after the 10.15am service on Sunday mornings.

For all of these tasks, the more people who volunteer the less often everyone has to do them so if anyone can help do one or more of these things, please let the Rector or any member of the Vestry know.

Thank you.

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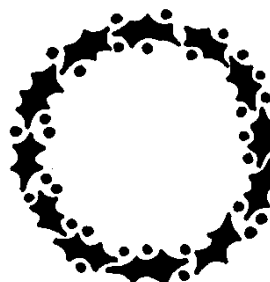
### Sunday School

Alex Christides makes his last appearance in this section as he turns eighteen on the 12<sup>th</sup>. – good luck to him as he heads off to university!

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### Bible Study

The Bible Study Group has resumed for prayer and fellowship, continuing ‘The Beloved Disciple’ study of the apostle John. Meetings will be held in Church after morning Service every Wednesday from 11am – 12.30pm followed by a light lunch. (Please bring a packed lunch).



**LEGO Group**  
(Learning and Experiencing God with Others)

A group for young adults mixing fellowship, bible study, prayer and more

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm

Contact Mary [mjmckinnell@gmail.com](mailto:mjmckinnell@gmail.com) or Aaron [aaron.mccarthy.6989@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.mccarthy.6989@gmail.com) for details

'Smoke gets in your eyes'! (David Rose himself, who ought to know!)

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**100 Club**

Some 100 Club subscriptions are still due for 2013-2014; please see Mary Allardyce if you want to renew your numbers or purchase new ones, as a draw cannot take place till all the numbers are purchased!

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**Christmas Raffle**

Remember the Christmas Raffle tickets are still (just) available from Mary Allardyce. The draw will be made at a special Soup Lunch on 11<sup>th</sup>. December, 12 noon to 1.30p.m. Good prizes will also be gratefully received!

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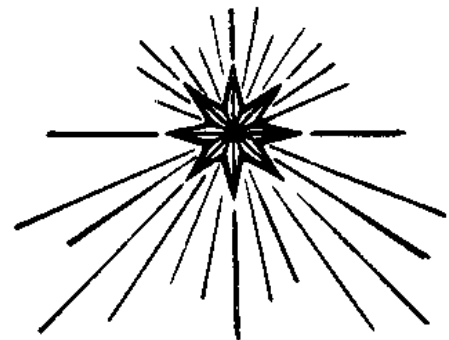
**Blytheswood Shoeboxes**

Thanks to all who filled the Blytheswood shoeboxes. The front pew is virtually full, and they will soon be blessed and on their way.

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**Silent Auction**

The Silent Auction in November made over £600, so many thanks to all who donated and took part.



**Look out for details of Carol Singing in December!**

**Friday Openings**

More volunteers are always needed to keep the church open to the public on Friday lunchtimes. This is invaluable for people in need of a church open for them to stop, think and pray, as well as those just curious about what the inside of the Tartan Kirkie looks like. If anyone can give up a little time, between 11a.m. and 2 p.m., for this valuable service, please contact the Rector.

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**Barbecue Captions**



'Holy Smoke – David praying for divine intervention' (Bobbie Sutton)

'There was a barbecue here somewhere ...' (anon)

'Now let's get those smoke signals going!' (anon)

## Saints' Days in December:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Charles de Foucauld  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Nicholas Ferrar  
3<sup>rd</sup>. St. Francis Xavier  
4<sup>th</sup>. St. Clement of Alexandria  
6<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas  
7<sup>th</sup>. St. Ambrose  
8<sup>th</sup>. Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
St. John of the Cross  
24<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve  
25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Day  
26<sup>th</sup>. St. Stephen  
27<sup>th</sup>. St. John the Apostle  
28<sup>th</sup>. Holy Innocents  
29<sup>th</sup>. St. Thomas of Canterbury  
30<sup>th</sup>. Josephine Butler

## Saints' Days in January:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. The Naming of Jesus  
2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Seraphim of Sarov  
6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany  
10<sup>th</sup>. Bishop William Laud  
11<sup>th</sup>. St. David of Scotland  
13<sup>th</sup>. St. Kentigern  
14<sup>th</sup>. St. Hilary of Poitiers  
17<sup>th</sup>. St. Anthony of Egypt  
18<sup>th</sup>. The Confession of St. Peter  
21<sup>st</sup>. St. Agnes  
24<sup>th</sup>. St. Francis de Sales  
25<sup>th</sup>. Conversion of St. Paul  
26<sup>th</sup>. Ss. Timothy and Titus  
27<sup>th</sup>. St. John Chrysostom  
28<sup>th</sup>. St. Thomas Aquinas  
30<sup>th</sup>. King Charles Stuart  
31<sup>st</sup>. Bishop Charles Mackenzie

## Your Magazine

You can order your St. Mary's News to be sent to you each month by e-mail, or ask for a Large Print version, or ask for any back copies of editions you may have missed. Just contact the Editor!

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: Rev. Canon Graham Taylor, 28, Stanley Street (584123)

[rector@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: Rachael Cormack (209380)

Vestry Secretary: Mary Allardyce (704743)

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross (864072)

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Mary Allardyce

Organist: Kyle McCallum

Sunday School: Gillian Rose

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:  
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Administrator: Avril Scott (561383)

Tuesdays 8-11 a.m.,

Fridays 1.30 – 4.30 p.m.

[office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

All copy for the February magazine must be with the Editor by 20<sup>th</sup>. January, 2014. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to [palaeography@aol.com](mailto:palaeography@aol.com). Thank you!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Carden Place, is a charity (Scottish Charity No. SCO 14062).