

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.

February 2014

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a really nice time over the Christmas season and if I haven't had the chance to see you yet, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and happy 2014.

Christmas was especially good in St. Mary's this year, with all the different events and services being very well supported. This greatly encouraged me, so thank you for all your help and support.

As we begin another New Year together, we pray for God's continual guidance and blessing on us, giving thanks for all that has passed and reaching out with hope to all that the future will bring. We have lots to look forward to this year in St. Mary's as we celebrate 150 years in this building and of worship together in this place.

One of my Christmas gifts this year was a fabulous book called *The Swallow, The Owl and The Sandpiper* (words of courage, wisdom and spirit). I try in my quiet time to read a little story from the book each day. Today's thought is very apt as I write these words:

**Remember the Church
A.G.M. today after the
10.15a.m. service!**

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star. And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.



As in the famous words of Minnie Louise Haskins:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into

the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way'.

My love and blessing to you all.

Graham

Normal weekly services:

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

Tuesday:
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

Wednesday:
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Thursday:
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

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 25th. February, at 12.30p.m.

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Prayers for Healing

The next Prayers of Healing service will be held on Sunday, 2nd. February 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.

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Vestry Report

At the last meeting of the vestry, the following matters were discussed.

The software on the computers in the office is old and very slow. Advice has been obtained and new software to be purchased and installed.

The recent gift day has raised approximately £1,600 so far with more to be added to the total. To mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the church, a special Eucharist will be held at 6pm on Sunday 30th March when the Primus will travel to Aberdeen to preach at it. A small group from the Vestry has been set up to discuss arrangements. Nicola has prepared a book on the history of the Church to mark the anniversary and proceeds from it will all come to Saint Mary's.

Unauthorised parking in the grounds is becoming more of a problem and the Vestry is trying to find a solution to it.

Some members of the congregation have commented that they cannot hear what is being said from the lectern. Jenny Cruickshank volunteered to hold a session on public speaking for anyone interested in attending.

During a recent unusually heavy downpour of rain with strong winds coming from the west, there was a fairly major leak from the rose window at the west end of the building. Photographs were taken on the day and the situation will be monitored.

Quotes have been received for repainting the hallway and staircase of the Rectory. One of the quotes is to be accepted and hopefully work will begin soon.

The Publicity and Communications group has met when discussions included placing the time of funerals etc. on the web-site so that members of the congregation can access them. The group also discussed the possibility of getting leaflets advertising services in hotels and guest houses.

The Rector advised the Vestry that due to very heavy work commitments, our assistant priest Rev. Jason Hobbs will be taking a break from participating in services at Saint Mary's for a few weeks but that he will be back with us soon.

The choir of Queen's Cross Church along with Geoffrey Atkinson, their organist, are to sing at a choral evensong in Saint Mary's on 16th March.

The Rector reported that he was delighted with the number of people attending the Christmas Services when the weather had been very bad on the evening on the 24th and especially with the service on the morning of Christmas Day when the number was double that of last year.

The Tuesday evening services have been very poorly attended for the last few months with very often only two people in the congregation. It is felt that we cannot justify the cost of heat and light for this small number and so it has been decided that this weekly service will stop in the meantime but there will probably be a service held during Lent and it will be reviewed after Easter.

Some complaints have been received about applause after the music at the end of the 10.15am service as during this time, prayers of healing or silent prayer may be taking place. The Memorial Chapel is, at that time, a sacred space.

The AGM will be held on Sunday 2nd February. There are two vacancies for Vestry members this year and nomination forms to be returned by 26th January are available at the back of the Church.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

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Financial Report

November 2013

Income:	6,482
Expenditure:	<u>6,998</u>
Net result for month:	-516

Balance at month end: £66,164

December 2013

Income:	6,875
Expenditure:	<u>7,023</u>
Net result for month:	-2,551

Balance at month end: £63,097

Lydia Ross
Treasurer

Christmas Gifts for Our Church

The Christmas Gift Month for St. Mary's has already raised £1,600, with more to come. This is invaluable income for the church and very gratefully received.

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Notes of Appreciation

To everyone who helped with decorating St. Mary's this Christmas - thank you.

Also, thanks to all who have given so generously to our flower fund.

Lucy

Thanks as always to Graham, Jason and all who helped to make Christmas at St. Mary's special in 2013.

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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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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).

Links / SECMA

Subscriptions are now due for Links. This is the magazine which gives news of the Scottish Episcopal Church Missionary Association, which does great work in India and Africa, chiefly, in medical centres, education and care of orphans, and increasingly with refugees. It is invaluable work, and quite apart from requiring funding from us, the missionaries really value support and contact from home. The magazine makes fascinating and inspiring reading. Subscriptions are still only £5 for the year: these are being collected now by Gillian Rose, and if you're interested in joining, speak to her, too.

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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 or Aaron aaron.mccarthy.6989@gmail.com for details

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle made a wonderful £835 with a £30 donation amongst the prizes. The lunch at which the Raffle was drawn itself made £94. Thanks so much to Mary Allardyce and all those who distributed tickets or donated prizes.

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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.

Josie Duncan

The collection taken to purchase something in memory of Josie Duncan raised £200: many thanks to all who contributed.

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Lexophiles (Lovers of Words)

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
6. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
7. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
8. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
9. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
10. A calendar's days are numbered.
11. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
12. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
13. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.
14. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
15. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
16. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
17. When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
18. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
19. Acupuncture: a jab well done.
20. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.
21. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
22. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
23. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
24. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of maths disruption.
25. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.
26. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
27. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
28. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
29. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

30. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

31. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

32. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said 'No change yet.'

33. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

34. Don't join dangerous cults: practise safe sects.

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Dates for your Diary.

23 rd . February	Bring and Buy
16 th . March	Choral Evensong in St. Mary's with the choir of Queen's Cross
30 th . March,	6p.m. 150 th . Anniversary Service for St. Mary's – Primus to preach. Services in the morning are subject to cancellation – please see information nearer the time.

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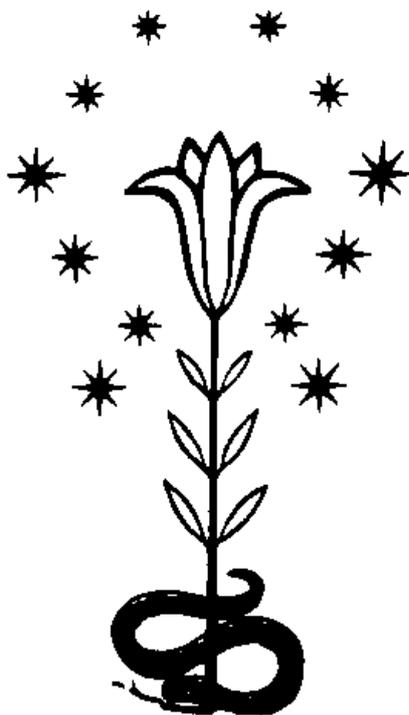
Caption Competition



Here's Jason bravely handing out wet mince pies as the Carol Singing went on. Any captions?

Saints' Days in February:

- 1st. St. Bride of Kildare
2nd. The Presentation of Our Lord
6th. The Martyrs of Japan
10th. St. Scholastica
14th. Ss. Cyril and Methodius
15th. Thomas Bray
17th. St. Finan of Lindisfarne
18th. St. Colman of Lindisfarne
19th. Martin Luther
23rd. St. Polycarp of Smyrna



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

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 8-11a.m.,

Fridays 1.30 – 4.30p.m.

office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

All copy for the March magazine must be with the Editor by 17th. February, 2014. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to palaeography@aol.com. Thank you!

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