

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.

March 2014

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe I am writing to you about Lent, Holy Week and Easter when it seems that Christmas has just passed. Please look out for details of the Lent Study (hopefully joining with Holburn West again), Holy Week and Easter Services in the Pew Sheet. I hope you will support these events and services. It is a really important time of the year when we journey again to the Cross and into the Resurrection.

For a reflection this month, I would like to share with you a message from a new book I have called *Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group.

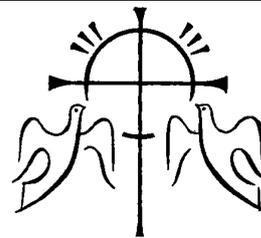
In one of the chapters they look at different characters who were witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. This particularly touched me as I reflected on the times *I* doubt.

I hope the following account gives you the encouragement that it brought to me.

Thomas reflecting.....

Thomas:

I expected him to give me a row,



*1864 - 2014:
150 Years of St.
Mary's, Carden
Place*

*Not – as you might think –
for doubting.*

*We had all doubted, at different times,
And he was never angry.*

*Indeed, he doubted himself, sometimes, or, if
he didn't,
he certainly understood how it felt,
because he would sing the psalms of doubt
with great fervour.*

*Doubt wasn't an enemy of him.
He could stand us doubting.*

*It was indifference he couldn't stand,
indifference and apathy.*

*I expected him to give me a row
perhaps, for making conditions.*

I did do that and I won't deny it.

*'If only I see this and do that....then I
believe.'*

*Fancy me, thinking I could make conditions
with God. But he didn't take me to task.*

*He saw that I was happy because I had seen
and he said that they were also happy who
believed without making conditions,*

without saying 'if only' or 'unless'.

*I expected him to give me a row
because I wasn't there when he came.*

*The others were present, I was absent.
It wasn't their fault or his fault.
It was mine.*

*I had - for whatever reason -
decided that it was all finished.*

He came back to say it was all beginning.

*I expected him to give me a row.
But he didn't.
He gave me his hand
And, more than that,
He gave me his peace.*

I hope therefore, in the times we doubt, we gain strength from the knowledge that Jesus will always understand our weaknesses and in his strength we will find peace. I hope Lent and Holy Week is a special journey for us all.

Love and prayers,

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. March, at 12.30p.m.

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Prayers for Healing

The next Prayers of Healing service will be held on Sunday, 2nd. March 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 has not met since the last magazine.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

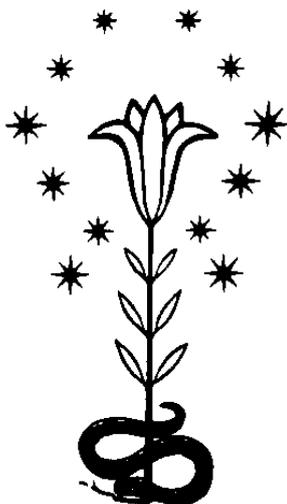
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St. Mary's 150th. Anniversary

The 150th. Anniversary of St. Mary's, Carden Place, will be marked by a service on 30th. March at 6p.m., at which Bishop Bob will officiate and the preacher will be the Primus, the Rev. David Chillingworth, Bishop of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. This date marks the actual anniversary of the opening of St. Mary's as a proprietary chapel in 1864.

On the morning of the 30th., there will be only one service, at 9.30a.m.

To have the church looking its very best for this occasion, there will be a big clean on Saturday, 29th. March – as many volunteers as possible, please!



We are to have many guests and friends old and new at the service, so in order to cater for them afterwards Bobbie Sutton is collecting donations to pay for savoury dishes and names of volunteers to bring cakes and sweet dishes.

On the occasion it is hoped that copies of the new history of St. Mary's will be available to purchase: these can also be ordered from Amazon under the title of *The Tartan Kirkie: 150 Years of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen*. All proceeds go to St. Mary's.

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Bishop's Lent Appeal 2014

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is to raise money in support of the Church and Community Mobilisation Process of the Mothers' Union in Zimbabwe, alleviating poverty, increasing self-reliance, building community cohesion and increasing the awareness of the link between faith and living. Please support this appeal if you can.

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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 11 am – 12.30pm followed by a light lunch. (Please bring a packed lunch).

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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.

* * * * *

Pat Valentine

It is with regret that we mark the death of Pat Valentine, who was for many years a much-loved member of St. Mary's. Pat died on 7th. February in hospital near her family's home in England where she had been living for some years. She was eighty-eight.



Message of thanks

Isobel Taylor (Graham's mum) would like to thank the people of St Mary's for cards, flowers, gifts, enquiries and visits during her recent fall and recuperation at Stanley Street. This was very much appreciated. I am now on the mend and back in Buckie, but look forward to seeing you all in St Mary's soon.

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World Day of Prayer, 2014

The World Day of Prayer Service for our area will be held in Rubislaw Church on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm.

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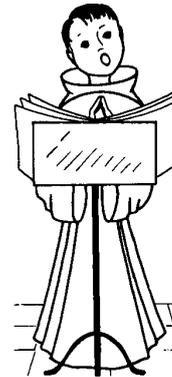
Sunday School

Amber Tarling's birthday is on 21st. March – Happy Birthday to her!

Sunday 16th March at 6.30 pm

Choral Evensong

by the joint choirs of
Queen's Cross Church and St Mary's
Choirmaster Geoffrey Atkinson
Organist Kyle McCallum



The content will reflect the forthcoming 150th anniversary celebrations and will include:

Introit: Behold the Tabernacle of God
Harris

Anthem: Greater love hath no man
Ireland

Epilogue: Except the Lord build the house –
Atkinson



Book review

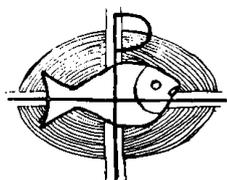
Three Days in Holy Week, by Robert A. Gillies, Haddington 2014.

The ten meditations in this book are based on reflections given at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Fifth Avenue, New York, in 2012, with additions.

The first, intended for Maundy Thursday, looks at the washing of the disciples' feet, in the historical setting and as a symbol of humility and love, an example for us and a preparation for the journey to come. The next seven meditations look at the last words of Jesus from the cross. They examine in turn the 'stark brevity' of the Gospels' accounts of the Crucifixion; forgiveness; remembrance and recognition; Jesus' family relationships and the pain of love; human despair and the problem of suffering; the gift of the spirit; sacrifice and submission; and the undeserved love and forgiveness of God.

The penultimate meditation reflects on the visitors to the empty tomb and how the account differs between the four Gospels, even between the three synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. This meditation dwells on the significance of the differences and their possible causes and purposes. In the final meditation, the author draws together the themes of all the others into a focus on the mission of the church today, under the headings of leadership, evangelism, deepening faith and discipleship.

The book is filled with a deep sense of the liturgy for these days in Holy Week, with the introduction setting the context. The short 'chapters' are scholarly but approachable, with personal memories and encounters alongside interpretations of academic exegesis. As befits a book intended for personal contemplation at the darkest point of the Christian year (though it could be read with benefit at any time), the mixture is rich, the thoughts focussed, the experience of reading it a valuable and encouraging one.



Actual call centre conversations

Customer: 'I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number from, sir?'

Customer: 'It was on the door to the Travel Centre.'

Operator: 'Sir, those are our opening hours.'

RAC Motoring Services

Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?'

Operator: 'Doesn't the product name give you a clue?'

Directory Enquiries

Caller: 'I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff please.'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?'

Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off.'

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: 'Woven? Are you sure?'

Caller: 'Yes. That's what it says on the label: "Woven in Scotland".'

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.'

Customer: 'OK.'

Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'

Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I

wrote 'click'.²

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'

Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.'

Operator: 'What sort of trouble??'

Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'

Caller: 'They disappeared.'

Operator: 'Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?'

Caller: 'Nothing.'

Operator: 'Nothing?'

Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'

Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'

Caller: 'How do I tell?'

Operator: 'Can you see the C: prompt on the screen?'

Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'

Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'

Caller: 'There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type.'

Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator?'

Caller: 'What's a monitor?'

Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'

Caller: 'I don't know.'

Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?'

Caller: 'Yes, I think so.'

Operator: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall.'

Caller: 'Yes, it is.'

Operator: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Caller: 'Okay, here it is.'

Operator: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer.'

Caller: 'I can't reach.'

Operator: 'Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean right over?'

Caller: 'Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark.'

Operator: 'Dark?'

Caller: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'

Operator: 'Well, turn on the office light then.'

Caller: 'I can't.'

Operator: 'No? Why not?'

Caller: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Operator: 'A power..... A power failure? Aha, okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?'

Caller: 'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet.'

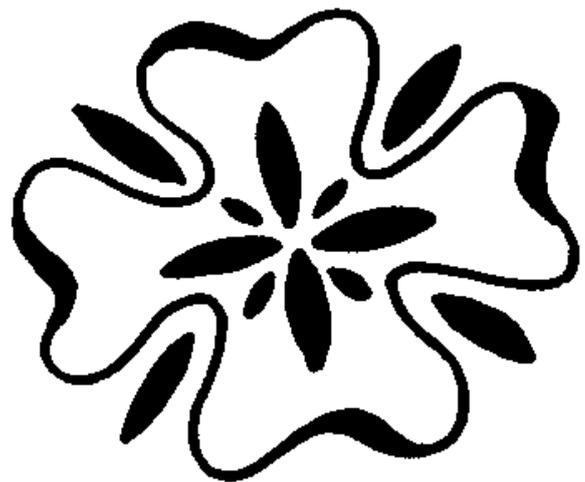
Operator: 'Good. Go and get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just as it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'

Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'

Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'

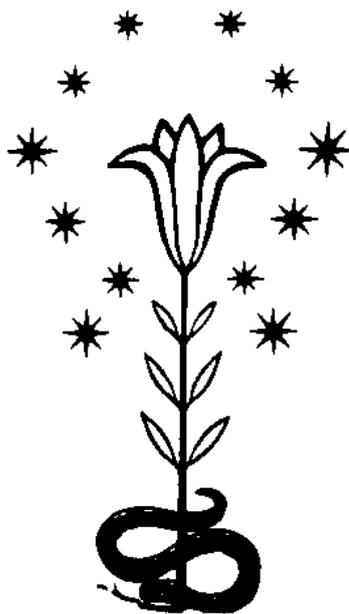
Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?'

Operator: 'Tell them you're too darn stupid to own a computer !!!'



Saints' Days in March:

- 1st. St. David of Wales
- 2nd. St. Chad of Lichfield
- 3rd. John and Charles Wesley
- 4th. St. Adrian and Companions
- 6th. St. Baldred
- 7th. St. Perpetua and Companions
- 8th. St. Duthac of Tain
- 10th. St. Kessog
- 16th. St. Boniface of Ross
- 17th. St. Patrick of Ireland
- 18th. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19th. St. Joseph
- 20th. St. Cuthbert
- 22nd. Thomas Ken
- 24th. Paul Couturier
- 25th. The Annunciation of the Lord
- 29th. John Keble



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!

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Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross (864072)

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All copy for the April magazine must be with the Editor by 24th. March, 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).