

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.

April 2014

Dear Friends,

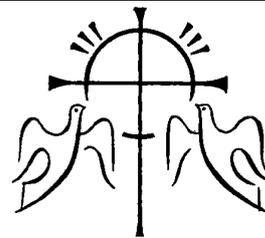
I write this month's letter to you in great anticipation of our momentous celebration of 150 years of worship in this building.

Oh, if these living stones could only tell us all the stories of the past! However, we are very grateful to Nicola Mills for all the research and work put in to producing our book *The Tartan Kirkie* for this occasion.

If you haven't purchased your copy yet, I assure you it's well worth it and on sale at the back of the church.

In anticipation once again, I offer my thanks to all who have been involved in the preparation for this Sunday evening. I assure you, I appreciate all that you do to make this place the living church that it is today.

This past month has seen the feast day of the annunciation to Mary, the one to whom our church is dedicated. Throughout our celebrations may we ever marvel at the wonder of Mary, of all that she was and the Saviour she brought into the world. We must strive to be like Mary with her dedication and obedience to God.



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

Mary asked the question 'Why me?' and this is a question which we often ask ourselves when we are called by God to a particular task.

In my book, *No Ordinary Man* by Nick Fawcett, I read this beautiful prayer which answers this question.

Loving God, sometimes we cannot help but ask 'Why?' 'Why me?' 'Why this?' 'Why anything?'

There is so much we do not understand, so much that apparently contradicts our faith and so much that leaves us groping for answers.

And all too easily we feel guilty about having such questions, afraid that somehow we are letting the side down through doing so.

Yet, in our hearts we know there is no point in pretending, for we can never deceive you.

So help us rather to admit honestly there are things we cannot make sense of, and to trust that, though we may never understand, you do.

Like Mary, may we ever be obedient to the will of God even though we don't always understand.

Here's to our 150th as we give thanks for all that has been, and all that is to come.

Blessings, as ever,

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 29th. April, at 12.30p.m.

* * * * *

Prayers for Healing

The next Prayers of Healing service will be held on Sunday, 6th. April 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.

The next Divine Mercy Service, to be led by Aaron McCarthy, will be held on Sunday 27th April at 6pm in St Mary's.

* * * * *

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 6th March when the following matters were discussed.

The main service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Saint Mary's will be held on Sunday 30th March at 6pm when the Bishop will preside and the Primus will preach. This will be followed by some light refreshments and donations to help to purchase savoury items for the event can be given to Bobbie Sutton.

Donations of small individual cakes will also be very welcome on the day when it is thought that around 200 people will be present. Invitations have been sent out and replies have started to be received.

Donations to purchase something in memory of Josie Duncan have been received. The Vestry think that a suitable item would be something for flower arranging and the Rector has asked Lucy Fleming if she can suggest a suitable item.

A contractor has visited the Church to assess the possibility of fitting rails on the steps leading to the Altar and a quote has been received.

A sign to state that the grounds are private and are not for illegal parking is to be ordered.

Jenny Cruickshank is to hold a workshop on public speaking for anyone who is already taking part or anyone interested in taking part in weekly readings or leading intercessions. More information will be given later.

There is a fairly major and urgent problem regarding the area around the windows in the sacristy where the paint and it appears also the plaster are flaking and crumbling. An inspection by a suitably qualified contractor will be arranged. A programme of fund-raising events for the year has been drawn up and will be available to the congregation soon.

This year we will again use the York Study Programme on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm during Lent when it is hoped that we will have a good attendance. A separate and different programme is available on Wednesday afternoons at Holburn West Church to any members of the congregation who wish to join with them there. A list of services to be held during Holy Week and Easter will be available soon.

The Rector will be taking part in the Good Friday devotions between 12noon and 3pm at Queen's Cross when all members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a combined sunrise service with Holburn West Church at Saint Mary's at 6am followed by breakfast (this is in addition to the usual breakfast held between the 8am and 10.15 services). There will also be a combined service at Holburn West Church at 6pm following church café there at 5.30pm. It is hoped that a good number of Saint Mary's congregation can attend the service at Holburn West.

The Vestry wishes to thank Jean Hamilton who has offered an extremely generous donation to buy a new curtain for behind the High Altar as a 150th birthday present to the Church.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

* * * * *

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2014

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is continuing 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.

* * * * *

Bible Study

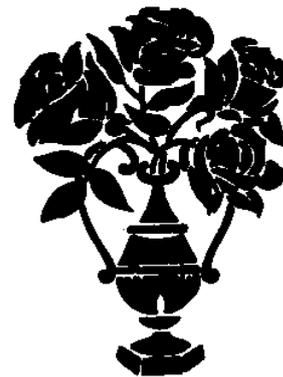
The Bible Study Group has been discontinued until further notice.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *



Sunday School

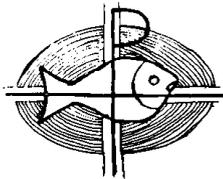
Last month Amber was four, and this month we go to the other end of the Sunday School age scale. Lisa Cuthbertson will be seventeen on the 15th, and Laura Ross, appearing in this section for the last time, will be eighteen on the 21st. A rather more grown up happy birthday to both!



Book review

Roddy Goes to Church, by Derek Osborne

This is a playful reflection on life in the modern church, inspired by Enid Blyton's 'Noddy' books! Roddy goes reluctantly to join his local church, but is captivated by what he finds. But there is a serpent in the garden: a dispute over the organ threatens to tear the congregation in two. Somewhere between a short story and a novella, this quick read demonstrates God working in mysterious ways and the remarkable power of prayer.



Derek Nichols decided to post online a poem written by his younger brother, Jordan, who seems to be wise beyond his years.

Here's the transcript of the poem:

Our generation will be known for nothing.
Never will anybody say,
We were the peak of mankind.
That is wrong, the truth is
Our generation was a failure.
Thinking that
We actually succeeded
Is a waste. And we know
Living only for money and power
Is the way to go.
Being loving, respectful, and kind
Is a dumb thing to do.
Forgetting about that time,
Will not be easy, but we will try.
Changing our world for the better
Is something we never did.
Giving up
Was how we handled our problems.
Working hard
Was a joke.
We knew that
People thought we couldn't come back
That might be true,
Unless we turn things around
(*Read from bottom to top now*)



A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyse myself:
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop;
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake;
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not;
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain;
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze;
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall;
The orange ones, very big and bright,
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know
Is what tells each one where to go!

(passed to the Rector by Alistair and Ada Reid in
Buckie, from NESS News).

A Challenge

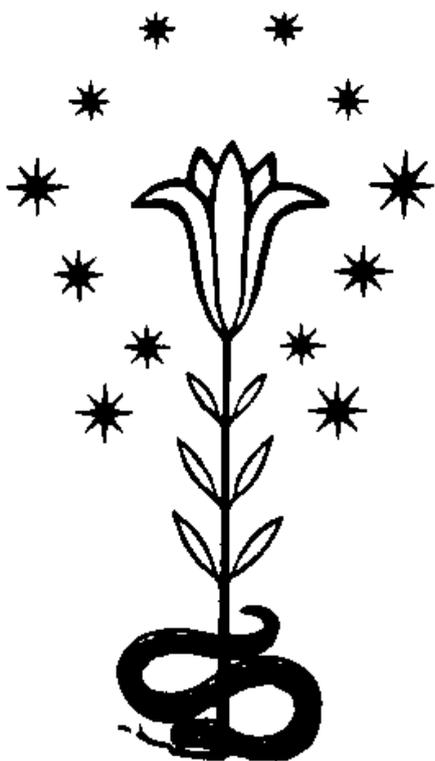
Take your time and see if you can read each line aloud without a mistake. The average person can't.

This is this cat.
This is is cat.
This is how cat.
This is to cat.
This is keep cat.
This is an cat.
This is old cat.
This is person cat.
This is busy cat.
This is for cat.
This is forty cat.
This is seconds cat.

Now go back and read the **THIRD** word in each line from the top down!

Saints' Days in April:

- 1st. St. Gilbert of Caithness
9th. Dietrich Bonhoeffer
11th. George Augustus Selwyn
12th. William Forbes
16th. St. Magnus of Orkney
20th. St. Maelrubha of Applecross
21st. St. Anselm of Canterbury
23rd. St. George
26th. St. Mark



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

LEGO Young Adults Group: Mary
mjmckinnell@gmail.com or Aaron
aaron.mccarthy.6989@gmail.com

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

Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

All copy for the May magazine must be with the Editor by 21st. April, 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).