

St. Mary's *News*

consisting usually of sausage and cheese rolls, cake, fruit, and coffee or tea.

Before Graham left St. Mary's, he expressed the hope that we continue to hold the service each month and with your help we hope to do so. If you have any questions about 'Open 4 Prayer', please contact one of us.

Margaret Miller, Lucy Fleming, Peggy Connell

Our Mission Statement:

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

December 2014

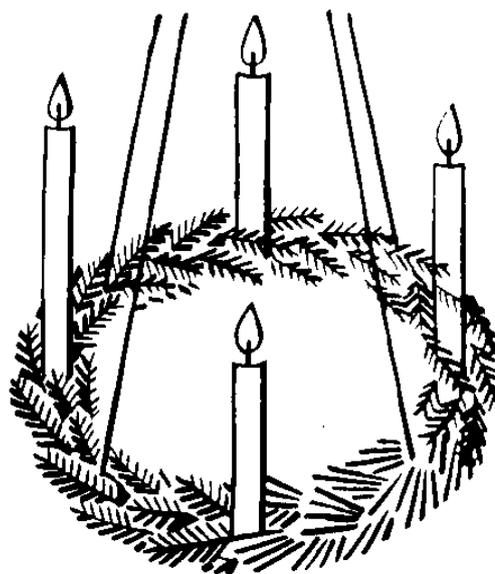
Dear Friends,

We are happy to respond to a suggestion from the Editor, Nicola Mills, to say something about our 'Open 4 Prayer' service.

This was started by our fairly new Rector, Graham Taylor, in December 2006, and has continued monthly ever since. The intention was to provide a lunchtime service that could be attended by office staff and other people who worked or dwelt in the vicinity of the church. So far we have had little response from these people but quite a few members of our own congregation have taken advantage of this service and attend regularly, the numbers varying between 10 and 20.

The service is held at 12.30p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month, apart from December when the special services for Christmas tend to disrupt the usual schedule (unfortunately, this means we shall have no service in December this year).

Each service follows a theme, often a saint whose festival day falls around that time. There is a Bible reading, prayers and a few minutes of reflection centred on the theme. We also say a prayer for the community around the church, and the Lord's Prayer. The service starts and ends with a well-known hymn. Those present are encouraged to take an active part in the service by reading some of the prayers and joining in the hymn-singing. It lasts about 20 minutes, and is followed by a lunch



Interregnum News

Due to various circumstances there has of course been some slippage in our ideal schedule for seeking a new Rector for St. Mary's, and interviews are now likely to happen at the end of January or even the beginning of February. However, things are still moving along and there is plenty for the vestry to consider. Please remember that vestry members can't give any information about the candidates from now onwards.

Christmas will be a particularly difficult time for the churches in Aberdeen this year with so few clergy to go around. Please continue to remember St. Mary's in your prayers, and keep supporting each other and the church through the vacancy, particularly Jason, the churchwardens, and Vestry secretary who will act as points of contact between the church and the Diocese throughout.

Nicola Mills, Editor

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.

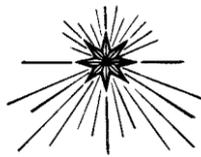
worshippers welcome! The next service is on 27th.
January, at 12.30p.m.

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Prayers for Healing

The next months' Prayers of Healing services, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness, will be held on Sunday, 7th. December, at 6p.m., **then on 1st. February**, 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.

Christmas Services in Aberdeen

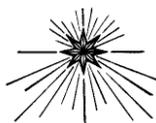


There will be a Christmas morning said Eucharist in St. Mary's at 9.45a.m., celebrated by the Bishop.

Midnight services will take place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Margaret's, and St. John's.

Bishop Bob will also celebrate Eucharist at St. Ninian's at 10.45a.m. on Christmas morning.

Nine Lessons and Carols will be celebrated in St. Mary's on 28th. December at the 10.15a.m. service, with a collection for Aberlour.



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

Advent Bible Study

Tuesdays 7.30p.m. finishing with Compline 9 – 9.30p.m.

Each week will follow a theme based on the readings for the following Sunday so they can be more deeply appreciated and understood.

All very welcome.

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 12th November.

Mary McKinnell and Carol Graham will lead a programme of Bible Study each Tuesday evening during Advent starting on 25th November at 7.30pm. Each session will end with Compline at 9.00pm.

Mary and Carol are also going to open a Facebook page for Saint Mary's. This will be controlled by them with security built in to control the content of the page.

Tickets for the Christmas Raffle are selling disappointingly slowly this year. Please return all counterfoils and money to Mary Allardyce by Sunday 7th December at the latest to allow time to fold up the tickets. The draw will take place on Wednesday 10th December at 1pm at a soup lunch as usual.

Quotes have been received for painting the Sanctuary, toilets and one wall of the Choir Vestry and it is hoped that work will commence soon. Water is leaking from the roof of the Choir Vestry. This has been inspected and several minor problems identified:-

- There is one broken slate and 3 loose slates.
- Pigeons' nests are on the roof and it is thought that this will cause a build-up of water behind them
- There are 2 blocked downpipes.

It will be arranged for pipes to be cleaned and for slaters to see to the roof.

Rev Jason reported to the vestry that he is impressed by the initiatives from members of the congregation during the vacancy such as the Advent Study programme and people filling the sermon slot on Sunday mornings.

The annual Carol singing will take place possibly on 18th December. Look out for further details.

As the Assistant Priest will be away over Christmas and there is a lack of clergy in the Diocese, there will not be a Midnight Eucharist at Saint Mary's this year but the Bishop will be there at 9.45am for a short service as he has to be at Saint Ninian's at 10.45am.

The Bishop will also be the Celebrant at a Eucharist on Sunday 21st December.

The Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 28th December.

There will not be a Christingle this year.

There will be several events taking place next year.

Con Anima has asked if they can hold a summer concert.

Queen's Cross wish to have a Choral Evensong in the early summer.

There will be an Organ recital to mark Kyle's 10 years as organist at Saint Mary's.

Further details of all these events will follow.

Saint Mary's will be the host church for the City Centre West service for the World Day of Prayer on the first Friday of March next year. Donations of home bakes will be needed for this as well as some help on the night to serve teas. Please see Mary Allardyce if you can help in any way.

The Bruce Nursery Nativity Play will again take place in Saint Mary's this year on Tuesday 16th December at 6.30 pm.

Lucy has advised the vestry that the flower fund is very low and it will be difficult to maintain the standard of flower arrangements at their present level for much longer. If anyone would like to give a donation towards a flower arrangement on a specific date or simply towards flowers at any time, please see Lucy or write your name on the list at the back of the Church.

Two of the coffee helpers have taken their names off the rota and Rachael is having difficulty finding volunteers to provide this important part of fellowship on Sunday mornings. More volunteers are also urgently needed on the sides-people rota and also on the cleaning rota. If anyone can help with sides-man duty, or coffee, please speak with Rachael as soon as possible as the new rota will be prepared soon. If anyone can help with cleaning the church, see Mary Allardyce.

There has not been much response to the advert for a new Rector but the Vestry are discussing the possibilities.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

October 2014

Income:	5,322
Expenditure:	<u>6,549</u>
Net result for month:	-1,227

Balance at month end: £77,395

Lydia Ross
Treasurer

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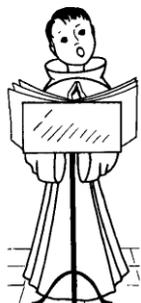
Big Clean-Up for Christmas

We need as many volunteers as possible to clean the church on 20th December. We might not be having as many services as usual, but it's still Christmas and we want St. Mary's looking lovely as can be!

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Carol Singing

The annual Carol singing will take place on 18th December at 7p.m. Look out for further details nearer the time!



Come and be part of the team!

Our keen and expert teams providing welcome, counting the money, cleaning the church and making coffee are now recruiting! Here's your opportunity to be part of something exciting. Full training is given and job satisfaction is guaranteed. Contact Mary Allardyce for the specialist cleaning services, and for all other teams contact Rachael Cormack.



Institution in Perth

Thanks to Mary Allardyce for organising the bus to Perth for Graham's institution. It was a lovely evening in a beautiful church and the coach and driver made the journey as painless as possible!

... and a message from Graham

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful painting of St. Mary's, which I will always treasure and for the very generous cheque, given to me on my move to St. John's in Perth. I am getting settled in here and really enjoying it. It was so good to see so many of you at my Institution, I'm sure you will agree that it was a wonderful evening,

although a late night for those of you who travelled back to Aberdeen!

Thank you, most of all for nine happy years with wonderful memories in Carden Place. I will always keep you in my prayers as I ask you to pray for me.

If you are ever down this way or passing through Perth, I would love to see you!
Take care and all good wishes,

Graham.

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Blytheswood Shoeboxes

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Blytheswood shoeboxes this year.

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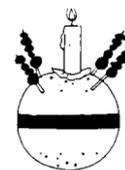
Friday Openings

Please remember that there are no Friday Openings until March (too cold to sit in the church for three hours!).

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Sunday School

Happy Birthday to Camille Forth, who will be eight on the 5th. January, and her sister Talya who will be six on the 29th. January. They are very welcome newcomers on the Sunday School list!



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Cathedral Service for Anniversary of Women's Ordination

On December 17th there will be a Eucharist in the Cathedral to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of ordination of women priests in

Scotland. It will begin at 6pm. I am delighted to say that my predecessor, †Bruce, will be preaching.

This occasion will also be the final service for Richard, as our Provost.

Do please encourage as many from your congregation who can come to do so, both to join in the commemoration and also for you to be able to thank Richard personally for his ministry at the Cathedral and to wish him and Kathy well in the future.

Every blessing,

+Bob

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Christmas Raffle

After your last-minute rush to sell tickets (and there are more still available at the back of the church!), please return all counterfoils and money to Mary Allardyce by Sunday 7th December at the latest to allow time to fold up the tickets.

The draw will take place on Wednesday 10th December at 1pm at a soup lunch as usual.



Flower Fund

The Flower Fund is running short: all contributions would be gratefully received. Many make a donation to mark a special date, while others simply donate to keep the church beautiful. Please support this important part of our church life.

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Church Grounds

Does anyone know of a gardener who would be willing to take on some work keeping the grounds in order? Someone prepared to double as a general handyman would be particularly appreciated. Any ideas, please, to a vestry member.



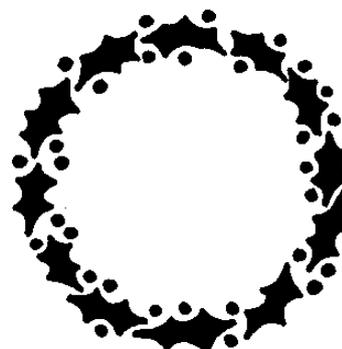
A Thought (written in 1984, by Jonas Salk)

If we can be courageous one more time than we are fearful; trusting one more time than we are anxious; appreciative one more time than we are competitive; forgiving one more time than we are vindictive; loving one more time than we are hateful, we will have moved closer to the next breakthrough in our evolution.

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Dates for your Diary

World Day of Prayer in 2015: the service for City Centre West will take place in St. Mary's on the first Friday in March. Mary Allardyce is our representative and will be looking for help with catering as well as participation in the worship.



**A very merry Christmas to all
at St. Mary's and a happy and
peaceful New Year!**

Saints' Days in December:

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

Saints' Days in January:

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

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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: Vacancy

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

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 February magazine must be with the Editor by 19th. January, 2015. 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).