

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 2015

Dear People of St Mary's,

Warm greetings from hot Phoenix, AZ. I'm very grateful you have called me to be your Rector. As I anticipate joining you in May, I thought I would send a note ahead to introduce myself a bit more. You know that I spent over 3 years in Aberdeen completing a PhD in Divinity at King's College while also serving as an Assistant Priest at St John's, Crown Street. You also know that I have been teaching in the university in the years since, while also being involved in a part-time capacity at my parish as the "Theologian-in-Residence."

You may wonder why I am leaving the academy for the church. The last 3-4 years have contained a series of promptings, some obvious, some subtle, that I should return to the church as a full time minister. It's a bit difficult to explain, as spiritual matters are typically profound yet intangible, but I have developed a longing to journey deeper into devotion to Christ. Ever since being ordained almost a decade ago, I have enjoyed ministry, and, thankfully, I've had a number of opportunities to be involved in a variety of churches. But since I thrived in the academic context, I had always assumed that my ministry would be academically focused. These last few years have forced the realization that my academic interests are rooted in deeper pastoral and spiritual interests.

I have experienced a strong desire for community, for a life of service and sacrifice, for a life dedicated to things that have lasting truth and beauty. I have grown tired of talking about values

and beliefs in the classroom that I don't have the vocational context to pursue practically. I have found the parish rather than the classroom setting the most exciting, stimulating, and rewarding.

I am particularly excited about Aberdeen and St Mary's being the context to pursue this calling. While in Aberdeen, my wife, Allison, and I gained many values from the culture, making us somewhat ill-suited for life in America. We have always felt that Aberdeen was our true home. We also have great affection for the Scottish Episcopal Church; both our children were baptized at St John's.

I was immediately attracted to the St Mary's rich history, fine building, and reverent form of worship. What I find most compelling is St Mary's reputation for being warm and friendly. I experienced this when I interviewed in January, and as I have worked with the Vestry to prepare, I have been encouraged by their consistent generosity and kind concern.

So I am eager to meet you, to learn about St Mary's from you, to worship and pray with you, and to work creatively and faithfully with you on the next chapter of grand story of St Mary's and, indeed, of the Christian church.

In the peace of our Lord,

James



Holy Week services

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday

8:00am: Holy Communion
10:15am: Sung Eucharist

Monday 30 March

5:00pm: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 31 March

7:30am: Morning Prayer
12:30pm: Open4Prayer followed by a light lunch
5:00pm: Evening Prayer

Wednesday 1 April

10:00am: Holy Communion
5:00pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday 2 April

7:45am: Morning Prayer
7:30pm: Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar followed by night prayer and overnight vigil. *Please stay for as long as you wish. The hourly vigil readings will begin at 11:00pm and continue through the night.*

Friday 3 April

(at the Cathedral): The Three Hours' of Addresses and Devotions from Noon to 3pm are being led this year by the Revd Professor David Brown, FBA FRSE. David is Professor of Divinity at the University of St Andrews. His title for the addresses is 'What difference does the death of Jesus make?' In these addresses he'll be reflecting on this through hymns, poetry and art from across several centuries.

(at St. Mary's) The doors will be opened at 6:30am, and the last of the vigil readings will be at 7:00am. The vigil will end with:
8:00am: Morning Prayer

Saturday 4 April:

8:00pm: Easter Vigil including the lighting of the Paschal Candle, and the renewal of baptismal vows, led by Bishop Bob

Sunday 5 April (Easter Day):

8:00am: Holy Communion
8:45am: Easter Breakfast
10:15am: Sung Eucharist
6:00pm: Prayers of Healing and Wholeness Eucharist

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. This is a lovely pause for fellowship in the day with shared worship and contemplation, and a light lunch to follow. The next service is on 28th. April, at 12.30p.m.

* * * * *

Prayers for Healing

The next month's Prayers of Healing service, a Healing Eucharist, will be held on Sunday, 5th. April at 6p.m., Prayers for Healing are usually held 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 25th February when the following items were discussed.

Parking by members of the public in the grounds of the church continues to be a problem. David Rose is to contact the sign-makers to ask them to fit the sign indicating that the grounds are private. Repainting of the Sanctuary, sacristy and toilets has been completed. Simon is to contact the painters to ask for a quote to paint the 5 white panels on the walls of the church and also the ceiling and top half of the choir vestry. D&D Slating has cleared gutters and down pipes of the choir vestry which will hopefully fix the leak from the roof of the south side of the choir vestry.

The treasurer circulated a balance sheet for the previous month. The cost of insurance for the Church will increase compared with last year and the insurers want a complete electrical safety check done as well as ensuring that the locks on all the doors are of an acceptable type and details of the type of safe and its security.

A member of the congregation has donated £500 to purchase an item for the church. The vestry are considering what might be appropriate.

The vestry noted with regret that our organist Kyle McCallum had resigned due to ill health. It was agreed that a collection would be taken to give him a gift and donations can be given to Lydia or any member of the vestry. The vestry will put steps in place to try to find a replacement for him as soon as possible.

Some rooms in the rectory will have to be repainted before the new Rector takes up his position. The secretary is to contact a painter who has done some work there previously to get a quote.

Some members of the Friday opening group have asked to be taken off the rota so as there are now very few people willing to undertake this duty it has been decided that for the present we will not open Saint Mary's on Fridays and will discuss with the new Rector.

The choir vestry will be used again this year as a voting centre for the General Election on May 7th.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

* * * * *

Treasurer's Report

December 2014

Income:	7,085
Expenditure:	<u>5,371</u>
Net result for month:	1,606

Balance at month end: £81,937

January 2015

Income:	5,812
Expenditure:	<u>3,797</u>
Net result for month:	2,010

Balance at month end: £83,947

Lydia Ross
Treasurer

* * * * *

Bishop's Lent Appeal, 2015

The Scottish Episcopal Institute is the training agency for the Scottish Episcopal Church and forms people for service as competent and confident public ministers, whether as Lay Readers, Deacons or Priests. Currently there are 24 students in its midst, drawn from all seven dioceses. SEI is poised to launch new courses and fresh ways of formation to fit the changing Scottish context. To find out more about its ethos and courses, please go to <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/>. You can help to build the Church of the future by investing in the ordinands of today through the work of the Scottish Episcopal Institute. Please give what you can so that we can equip the Church for its mission.

N.B. The Bishops this week were remarking that unlike the Catholic Church and Church of Scotland, we are well supplied with candidates for ministry at present and there is a keen air of enthusiasm about the S.E.I. How blessed we are!

* * * * *

Sunday School

A very happy birthday to Lisa Cuthbertson, who will reach the grand age of eighteen on the 15th. April.

Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney

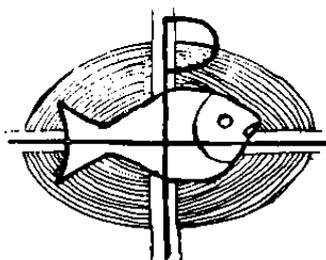
You are invited to an
**Easter Fun
Afternoon**
on Holy Saturday (April 4th)
in St. Margaret's Church,
Gallowgate.
from 2.00 p.m. till 4.00
p.m.

Games, Craft, Worship – the Story of the Cross –
Refreshments

Enquiries to Stephanie Brock
(londonbrocks@yahoo.com)
or Carole Phelan (carole.phelan@talk21.com)

Friday Openings

Because of the loss of some volunteers from the rota, Friday Openings have been suspended until the arrival of the new Rector.



Mothers' Union launch Bye Buy Childhood 2015

Over the past decade, Mothers' Union has played a significant role in speaking out against the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood and in 2010 we launched our Bye Buy Childhood campaign. The campaign and its accompanying report sought to influence those who shape childhood – government, the commercial world, parents and the wider society - calling them to take a responsible attitude towards images and information that is geared towards children.

The Buy Bye Childhood 2015 report that we are launching today highlights new research findings, as well as the results of in-depth interviews with a number of parents and the six recommendations at the end of the report call for continued support for and investment in the area of commercialisation of children from government.

We have been thrilled with the progress that has been made in tackling the issues raised in our 2010 report. However, our latest report demonstrates that there is still much to be done and we are aware that issues raised in the first report are still relevant to parents today. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said "I've supported Mothers' Union's Bye Buy Childhood campaign since it was launched in 2010 and I know just how thrilled Mothers' Union members have been to see the response from Government, Industry and the Third Sector, as they take measures to protect children. But it is right that Mothers' Union continues to be vigilant on these issues, and encourages all of us to continue to play our part in not only ensuring that everyone adheres to government regulations, but also strives for best practice to support parents and children."

We know how much our members have supported this campaign and how it was key to the successful outcomes of the 2010 report. To encourage further support this year we have produced an accompanying engagement pack which has been designed to enable all members to engage with the issues raised in the report and think about how they can join in with the campaigning activities.

The pack has sections designed to help people 'pray', 'be enabled' and 'campaign': there should be something for all members from those wanting to support through prayer, those needing extra

support and guidance for their family and those who want to be empowered to campaign actively about the topic. Remember we are always happy to hear from members about how they have supported the campaign.

The report and engagement pack can be downloaded from <http://www.byebuychildhood.org/>.

* * * * *

To the Congregation from Kyle

It was with great sadness and a heavy heart that I came to the conclusion after surgery in my back in January that I had to relinquish my beloved post as Organist at St Mary's. The operation was bigger than expected and the recovery period therefore longer than anticipated. Being urged by everyone around, including the doctors, to have more or less complete rest, I was finding it impossible to continue arranging cover, preparing hymn lists, selecting appropriate organ music and last but not least, practising! I was sore and exhausted a lot of the time after I came home from hospital and realised I just couldn't continue.

The Bishop wrote a beautiful, lengthy letter accepting my decision. I also need to say how overwhelmed I have been to receive so many wonderful letters, cards, phone-calls, emails and texts from so many loving members of the congregation, urging me to get well soon and expressing sadness at my resignation. This has been such a comfort to me and hugely contributory to my continuing recovery I'm sure. I will miss you too. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Your support, interest, encouragement and exceptionally fine singing over these (almost) ten years have been absolutely amazing and have made my job such a pleasure. As I think you know I have loved my time at St Mary's and have tried faithfully to serve the congregation to the best of my ability. It has been an honour and great privilege to be your organist, a vocation and a time of my life which I shall fondly remember with huge gratitude for ever.

KM

Preparation for the Merricks' Arrival

As the new Rector and his family will be arriving with the minimum of luggage, we need a few things for the Rectory to make it comfortable and habitable. Does anyone have any curtains or lampshades spare, as there are only nets on the windows and only a couple of lampshades? Curtains need to be at least a 90 inch drop and 2 pairs need to be 90 inches wide also.

We would also like to have some non perishable goods for the family to start them off when they arrive in Aberdeen. Contact Mary Allardyce for further information or donations.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

The Joys of Womanhood

Women over 50 don't have babies because they would put them down and forget where they left them.

One of life's mysteries is how a 2 pound box of chocolates can make a woman gain 5lbs.

My mind not only wanders, it sometimes leaves completely.

The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

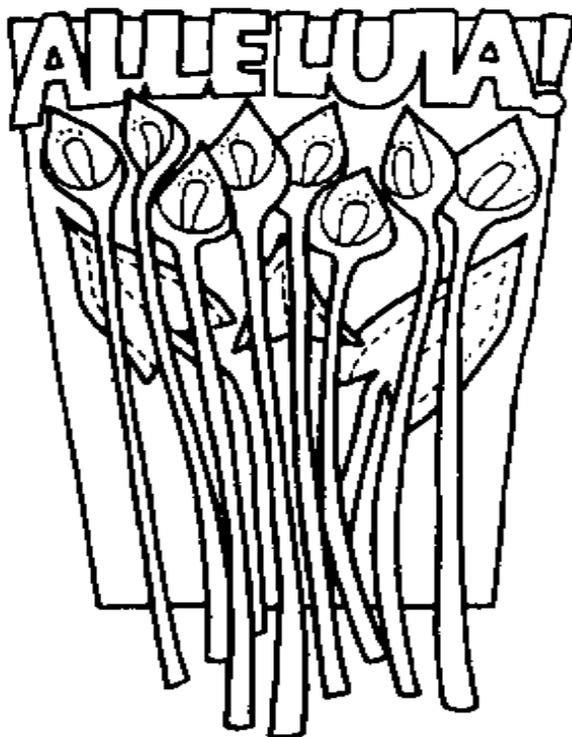
The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.

Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.

Sometimes I think I understand everything, and then I regain consciousness.

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: 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 May magazine must be with the Editor by 20th. April, 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).