



**SAINT MARY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Newsletter

### Our Mission Statement:

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

### September 2015

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of our Patronal Festival (16 August), I announced that I had modified the 1970 Liturgy to include the sharing of the peace. The way we share the peace at St Mary's is one of the things I've quickly grown to love. It is, of course, amusing how the crowd swirls around and around. I confess I've been trapped or dizzied a few times. But I love the smiles. The atmosphere exudes genuine kindness.

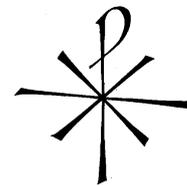
Despite the fact that it is not a standard part of the 1970 Liturgy, the sharing of the peace is quite traditional. It goes back to Jesus himself, who greeted people with the expression, 'Peace be with you' (John 20.21). The apostle Paul often opened his letters with, 'Grace and peace to you.' Similarly, the author of 1 Peter sends along the greeting, 'Peace to all who are in Christ' (5.14). Other sources indicate that the earliest Christians found it important to follow this New Testament pattern and greet each other with words of peace.

Why? One reason is that peace was very much lacking in the ancient world. Whether it was the numerous regime changes that occurred in ancient Palestine, the ruthless expansion of the Roman Empire, or the barbarity of the gladiatorial games, the first centuries of the Common Era were filled with hostility. In this environment, early Christians were convinced that the *Pax Christi* (Peace of Christ) was more true and real than the so-called *Pax Romana* (Peace of Rome).

Being peaceable was essential to faithful Christian practice. Jesus declared, 'Blessed are the

peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5.9). St Paul took this seriously when he later wrote, 'If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all' (Romans 12.18).

The earliest Christians were most likely what we would call 'pacifists' today. They would rather be martyred than violently resist persecution. They refused military service. Tertullian (155-240CE) said that when Jesus disarmed Peter during his arrest, he 'unbelted every soldier'. After his conversion, St Martin of Tours (316-397CE), a ranking military officer, donated all of his back pay to the poor since he believed he obtained it illicitly by being a soldier. The *Apostolic Constitutions* stipulated you could not be a candidate for baptism if you were an active soldier.



Christian peace goes deeper than nonviolence. For Christians, inner peacefulness is the precondition of being peaceable toward others. The peace of Christ is first and foremost an inward peace resulting from a profound spiritual experience of God's love and forgiveness. It is God's forgiveness that gives a person the comfort necessary to face his or her faults and failures.

Facing them rather than suppressing or excusing them is the key to peace, both internally and externally. You see, when we are troubled and distressed by our sin, whether because it is causing difficulty in our lives, because we feel guilty, or because we are going to lengths to hide it from others, we will often be irritable and contemptuous toward others. When we aren't at peace in ourselves, we find it difficult to be peaceful with others, especially those who seem to remind us of our sins.

But when we are at peace with our sins through God's forgiveness of them, we can be kind toward those who sin against us. This is why the sharing of the peace with others usually follows the confession of and absolution from sin.

The sharing of the peace during our service is not a mere pleasantries, then. It certainly isn't an interlude or interruption. It is an ancient custom

that expresses the very core experience of Christians in relation to God and neighbours. When we look at each other and say 'Peace!', we are speaking and practising the Gospel of Christ. We are acknowledging that it is through peace with God that we can be at peace with each other. We are reminding ourselves that no matter our differences, no matter what we might have against each other, no matter the offences we have suffered or caused, we in the church are to 'make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4.3).

Our world is seemingly becoming more violent. This makes our sharing of peace all the more important. We have an opportunity to show our world the meaning and power of our faith. But we have to be at peace with each other in our own community. So let us continue to share the peace and let us be at peace, both in ourselves and with others.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

James



### **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 29<sup>th</sup>. September, at 12.30p.m.

### **Prayers for Healing**

The next Prayers of Healing, Wholeness and Strength services will be held on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup>. October, at 6p.m. Prayers for Healing will now be held on the first Sunday of every second 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**

The vestry has met twice since the last Newsletter was produced, first meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July and second meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August when the following matters were discussed.

David Rose welcomed the new Rector Rev Dr James Merrick to his first vestry meeting since his Institution on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Car parking by members of the public continues to be an occasional problem and discussion took place regarding the feasibility of fitting post barriers at both entrances. This will be discussed further at a later meeting.

The small organ from the Choir Vestry has been sold after the Rector and Allison, his wife, put an advert in Gumtree. Many thanks to them on behalf of the vestry and the congregation for this. The performance by Con Anima held on 6<sup>th</sup> June had been very successful as had the events held by the Music Festival during the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June. In total these raised almost £700.00. The tapestry representing 'The Creation' has been hung on the wall adjacent to the Green Organ. Many thanks to Nicola and all the ladies who stitched this beautiful piece of work, it is absolutely beautiful and has been admired by all of us and also by visitors to the church. The walls and ceiling of the choir vestry have been repainted to a very high standard apart from the wall of the recess which unfortunately cannot be painted at present as the wall of that whole area is very wet and the paint would not hold. The painting company will arrange for a slater is to inspect and hopefully find a solution.

The web-site is being updated over the summer months. Mary McKinnell has stepped down from her responsibility as web-site manager and Carol Graham is to take on that role. If anyone is

interested in giving some help to Carol, please let the Rector know. Facebook is reported as being very successful with many visits to the site. Any member of the congregation who wishes to learn more, please contact Mary McKinnell who has offered to explain about it.

The communications group are producing a calendar for 2016. The church will be open again this year on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September for 'Doors Open Day' and it is hoped that it will be completed and available for sale then.

Now that we have a number of children in the congregation, the Sunday school is to be revamped. Allison Merrick, Tiffany Forth, Gillian Rose and Lydia Ross are to discuss how this might be achieved. If any member of the congregation would like to help with any aspect of Sunday school, please contact the Rector or any member of the group as named above.

The Rector advised the vestry that have the responsibility for interviewing and assessing the suitability of all people who deal with vulnerable groups e.g. Sunday school, Pastoral Care visiting.

The Rector is to prepare a five year plan for him and the church requiring things that require focus and attention.

A temporary organist has been appointed for the summer months. It has been suggested that the vacancy for an organist might be advertised at the university in the autumn when students return to their studies.

Our quinquennial inspection is due in the autumn at which time several matters will be brought to the attention of the inspector such as the grit which falls every week at the east end of the church and from the pillar above the choir stalls on the south side. As Saint Mary's is a listed building, the inspector must be a conservation approved professional.

The Gallowgate Fair this year raised in excess of £500.00 – a record by quite a bit. Thanks to everyone who baked goods for us to sell, helped on the day or who bought from us either on the Saturday or after the Sunday services.

Following the resignation of Kyle McCallum, our previous organist, a sum of money was donated by members of the congregation and we were unsure what to give him. It was found that he is very fond

of Crathes Castle and the he might like a framed picture of it so it was decided that we would try to find one. Freddie Stephen advised us that Ed's mother painted and had done some of Crathes so we had one of her paintings framed to donate to Kyle along with a framed photograph of Saint Mary's.

A member of the congregation had asked the Rector about the possibility of having rails fitted in both of the toilets to assist any handicapped people. The vestry agreed to this and hopefully these will be fitted soon.

Lastly, if any member of the congregation is interested in helping with any aspect of the life of Saint Mary's, please contact the Rector or any member of the vestry. A list of the names of members of the vestry is displayed on the notice boards in the porch and in the choir vestry for anyone who is not sure who they are.

Mary Allardyce  
Vestry Secretary

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### **Sunday School**

A special Happy Birthday this month to Ellie Smith, who will be eighteen on the seventh: many congratulations to her! Elizabeth Mills will be eleven on the fifth, and Sarah Burney will be fifteen on the fourteenth. Happy birthday to all!

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### **Storytime Service**

On 27<sup>th</sup>. September at 6p.m. there will be an outreach event for children and families in the city. Children come to hear stories, sing songs, say prayers and sip hot cocoa. Please consider telling a friend. If you'd be available to help or to prepare cocoa, let the Rector know.

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### **Doors Open Day**

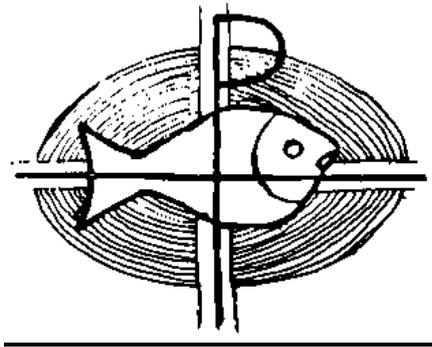
We have been asked to participate in Doors Open Day again this year – it is unusual for a church to be asked two years in a row so we're privileged! It will take place on 12<sup>th</sup>. September and contributions of fancy pieces, help with teas or

help greeting people on the day would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nicola Mills for details.

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### **Parking in the Church Grounds**

Do you need to park in the Church Grounds? Free permits can be obtained from Mary Allardyce. Please park considerately, and if you can avoid parking during the week it would be very much appreciated.



### **Gallowgate Fair**

The Gallowgate Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup>. August made an unprecedented £500, a great boost. Many thanks to all who baked, helped or bought!

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### **Diocesan Communications Day**

There is to be a Diocesan Communications day on **Saturday 3 October** at St Devenick's Church Hall, Bielside. It is likely that the day will run from approximately 10:00am to 3:00pm, and lunch will be provided. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to sign up, please do send names (with any dietary requirements for lunch) to me.

Mary McKinnell

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### **A Plea to the Churches to Act**

As Traidcraft announces its fourth consecutive year of trading loss, the Chair of Traidcraft, Ram Gidoomal, has published an urgent call to action to UK churches.

He says “despite the growth of total Fairtrade sales, we’ve seen Traidcraft sales significantly decline. Why? People buy in supermarkets instead

of buying from Traidcraft. Traidcraft and Fairtrade are not the same thing, and so the decline in our own sales means Traidcraft’s pioneering mission is now under serious threat.”

Visit [traidcraft.co.uk/churchaction](http://traidcraft.co.uk/churchaction) to find out **why** we need your help, **and how** you can help, or call us on 0191 497 3999.

Support us, so that, together, we can continue to make trade fairer for the world’s poorest producers who still desperately need our help.

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### **Suicide Prevention Week in Aberdeen**

To mark Suicide Prevention Week an Act of Remembrance will be held at the Town & County Hall, Town House, Aberdeen at 2p.m. on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September to which the public are invited. The event is hosted by the Lord Provost and refreshments will be provided.

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### **Congregations Encouraged to support Initiatives agreed at General Synod 2015**

The Church in Society Committee received approval from General Synod to encourage congregations to join Eco-Congregation Scotland (ECS) and to work collaboratively with other concerned organizations on issues of climate change by exploring ways to engage with local “green” initiatives and to consider both personal and congregational impact on the climate. Eco-Congregation Scotland has excellent resources for congregations including worship materials and an Eco Chaplain, Trevor Jamieson, who is more than willing to meet with congregations and/or preach. See [www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org) or call on 0131 240 2274.

The General Synod also commended those Scottish Episcopal Church congregations which pay the Living Wage, including to part time and temporary staff, and urges all congregations to pay the Living Wage to all staff by 2016.

In addition, General Synod welcomed the establishment of the Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU) in February of this year and urges member churches to support the CMCU by making its work and the financial support it offers

known to members in parallel with continuing their support for local credit unions.

The Liturgy Committee has completed its work on a *Service of the Word* which is now an approved liturgy of the SEC and has been added to the Schedule to Canon 22: *Of Divine Worship and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church*. This service is of particular use for those congregations who do not have a priest regularly leading the worship or for ecumenical services and brings with it a wealth of resources that can be used in other services. The *Service of the Word* will be available in hard copy from the General Synod Office and also downloadable from the SEC website.

The Provincial Overseas Committee has been renamed the Global Partnerships Committee (GPC) and General Synod approved the GPC motion that members of the Scottish Episcopal Church be encouraged join the Scottish ecumenical initiative, promoted by Christian Aid, in praying for Israel/Palestine on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of every month. This initiative was supported by a motion which called for the recognition and support of the Pope's recent recognition of the State of Palestine and his call for reconciliation.

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### **St. Mary's and the R38 Disaster, 1921**

In the *Banffshire Journal* of 13<sup>th</sup>. September, 1921, it was reported that Aircraftsman Charles Watt Donald had been buried in Nellfield Cemetery after a funeral at St. Mary's, Carden Place, attended by Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard. Charles was the son of a granite cutter or monumental mason who had worked in Canada and married in New York: Charles himself was the fourth of six children. His father had died almost exactly a year previously from pernicious anaemia in the Infirmary, and his widowed mother was living with some of the family still at 13, Rosebank Terrace. Why was one of the most high-ranking air force officers of the day at the funeral of a humble aircraftsman, in northern Aberdeen?

Charles Watt Donald was thirteen when the First World War broke out, and he had to wait before he enlisted in the Royal Navy as a boy rating engine fitter. He joined H.M.S. President a drill ship moored at the West India Dock in London, on 11 January 1918, but was only there a couple of

days before it was scheduled for other work, and he moved to two other postings before his last day of naval service on 31 March, 1918. The next day the R.A.F. was formed from the old Royal Flying Corps, and that was where he had moved to, in Letchworth. According to his enlistment papers, he had brown hair and blue eyes, was 5'6 with a fresh complexion and a 34" chest!

Two months later, the Admiralty decided that to finish the war it required more long range airships, and it ordered the R38 class to be built so that it could patrol six days from its bases across the North Atlantic. There were originally intended to be four airships in this class, but when the war ended three were cancelled and for a while it looked as if the R38 itself would also cease construction. However, the Americans were becoming interested in the potential of rigid airships like the German Zeppelins, and agreed to buy the R38 on its completion. It was over 700 feet long and contained 14 hydrogen gas bags, and was powered by six Sunbeam Cossack engines, with which Charles would have become very familiar when he was appointed to the composite British and American crew for the craft's test flights.

The R38 had its maiden flight on 23-24 June 1921 from RAF Cardington in Bedfordshire. It was not entirely successful: the balance of the craft was wrong, and work continued to adjust the rigid frame. Further test flights followed in July, but the poor balance caused oscillation which twisted some of the frame, and the craft had to fly to Howden in East Yorkshire and be adjusted once more. On 21 August it was intended to fly the ship from Howden to RNAS Pulham in Norfolk, travelling over the Humber Estuary, but even within sight of land the structure failed completely, folding and collapsing. A fire began in the front section, which must have ignited the gas bags, for there was a terrific explosion and the rags and bones of the craft fell into the Estuary. Forty-four out of the forty-nine crew, including Charles Watt Donald, died.

Charles is commemorated on the R38 Memorial in the Western Cemetery, Hull, as well as in Nellfield Cemetery. This was the first of the great airship disasters, followed by the R101 in 1930 and the Hindenburg in 1937, prominent tragedies that led to airships being abandoned as a major form of transport.

## Relative issues:

A man goes into a zoo and sees a gorilla intently studying two books – one is the Bible, the other Darwin's *Origin of Species*. He looks confused. The man asks the gorilla what is puzzling him, and the gorilla replies :

"I can't work out whether I am my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother!"

(Thanks to *Friends of Blairs Newsletter*.)

A sign was hung in an office window. It read:

Help wanted.  
Must type 70 words a minute.  
Must be computer literate.  
Must be bilingual.  
An equal opportunity employer.

A dog was ambling down the street and saw the sign. He looked at it for a moment, pulled it down with his mouth, and walked into the manager's office, making it clear he wished to apply for the job.

The office manager laughed and said, "I can't hire a dog for this job."

The dog pointed to the line: "An equal opportunity employer."

So the manager said, "OK, take this letter and type it." The dog went off to the word processor and returned a minute later with the finished letter, perfectly formatted.

The manager said, "All right, here's a problem. Write a computer program for it and run it."

Fifteen minutes later, the dog came back with the correct answer.

The manager still wasn't convinced. "I still can't hire you for this position. You've got to be bilingual."

The dog looked up at the manager and said, "Meow."



## Some definitions from our Catholic brethren in Las Vegas:

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-sync.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JESUITS: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good sports teams.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in Catholic churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

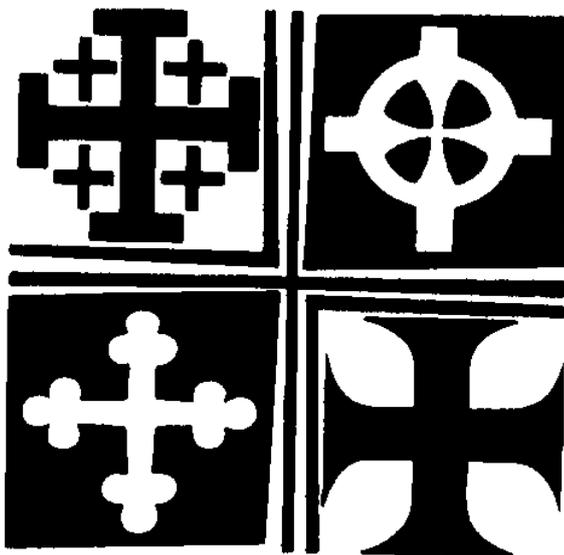
RELICS: People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

Little known facts about the Catholic Church in Las Vegas :

There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During Sunday services at the offertory, some worshippers contribute casino chips as opposed to cash. Some are sharing their winnings - some are hoping to win. Since they get chips from so many different casinos, and they are worth money, the Catholic churches are required to send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted into the respective casino chips, one junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to the casinos turning chips into cash. And he, of course, is known as The Chip Monk.

## Saints' Days in September:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Martyrs of New Guinea  
3<sup>rd</sup>. St. Gregory the Great  
8<sup>th</sup>. The Birth of Mary  
13<sup>th</sup>. St. Cyprian of Carthage  
14<sup>th</sup>. Holy Cross Day  
16<sup>th</sup>. St. Ninian of Whithorn  
17<sup>th</sup>. St. Hildegard of Bingen  
20<sup>th</sup>. John Coleridge Patteson  
21<sup>st</sup>. St. Matthew  
23<sup>rd</sup>. St. Adamnan of Iona  
24<sup>th</sup>. St. Finnbar of Caithness  
27<sup>th</sup>. St. Vincent de Paul  
29<sup>th</sup>. St. Michael and All Angels  
30<sup>th</sup>. St. Jerome



## 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

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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: Vacancy

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Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Administrator: Avril Scott (561383)  
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All copy for the October magazine must be with the Editor by 21<sup>st</sup>. September, 2015. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to [palaeography@aol.com](mailto:palaeography@aol.com). Thank you!

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