



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.

December 2015 – January 2016

Dear Friends,

It seems like only a few weeks ago that my family and I arrived in Aberdeen. It's hard to believe that I've been with you for a half of a year. It's also shocking, frightening, even, that Christmas is right around the corner.

It's not amazingly insightful to observe how easy it is to get swept away in the busyness of life. We've all had those moments when there are so many worries or so many responsibilities that it is difficult to focus, difficult to know how to prioritise, difficult to make sense of the work that lies ahead. It seems that part of the problem is that the future is coming to us too fast, before we can prepare, before we can have a say in the events. Oh, how we need not just time, but time to focus ourselves so we can live with purpose.

On a Wednesday, I was feeling the pressure. It wasn't just that one thing led to the next without any time to catch a breath in between. It wasn't just that pastoral and family responsibilities were being lost in the hustle. It was a sense of not knowing where to begin. It was a sense of being adrift, of doing things without any direction or intention, of doing things just because they needed doing. Just before a midweek Communion, I was feeling stunned.

There must have been some part of me that decided to forget it all for the moment and just pray my way through the Communion service. Saying the words I say several times a week, my mind still flitting, suddenly the liturgy came to

life. It was fresh and surged with deep meaning. Focus was found; hope was restored.

We shouldn't underestimate the way in which prayer and worship bring perspective to what we do. And if God can speak to us so profoundly when we aren't paying attention, how much more when we are waiting and watching for him intently?

Advent and Christmastide are an opportunity to do just that. As the beginning of the Christian calendar, they are seasons of prayerful reflection upon the coming year and preparation to see the coming of the Lord. They are times to put behind us the past, and anticipate a fresh year of life with our Lord.

Advent calls our attention to the hopes of Israelites who were anticipating a great saviour and messiah. We read the prophecies that were charging their imaginations. During Christmastide, we watch their hope as it is kindled, confirmed and deepened, as Jesus grows and Christ is recognised.

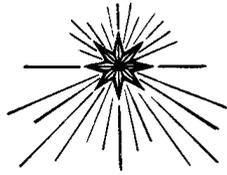
If we engage these seasons well, we catch a vision of their hope, and it becomes our own. Through prayerful reflection, we take a step back from our daily living and ask ourselves...
...what are we waiting for?
...what future is our present moving toward?
...what hope gives meaning and focus to our present?
...are we stilled and steadied by the movement of the eternal God toward us or are we swept up and away by fleeting business?

This Advent and Christmastide, I invite you to engage in prayerful reflection on the future into which you are leaning, toward which your present actions are taking you. It's a great time to take up the Daily Office. There's nothing quite like letting the hours be set into perspective by the Psalms.

A good start would be the wee booklets for Advent Allison and I prepared to aid your prayers and reflections. They will be available in church. We hope you join us as we take stock and prepare for another year of the Christian life.

Wishing you a hopeful Advent and a happy Christmas,

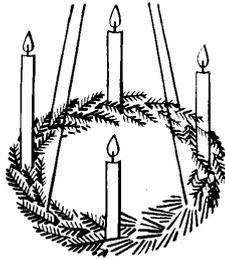
James



Christmas Services at St. Mary's

Christmas Eve:
4.30pm Christingle & Crib Service
11pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day:
9.30am 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.

From the Registers

Baptism

Adrianna Taylor, 1st. November 2015

Death:

Andrew Pirie, 17th. November, 2015. *May he rest in peace, to rise in glory.*

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Open 4 Prayer

Open 4 Prayer, which was originally intended as a service for the office workers around our church, changed over the years into a more internal event much valued by the regulars. However, several of those regulars now feel that the time has come to retire from organising the services, and their work will be very much missed. For the moment therefore Open 4 Prayer is in abeyance, at least until the new year.

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Prayers for Healing

The next Prayers of Healing, a Healing Eucharist for Wholeness, Strength and Comfort, will be held on Sunday, 6th. December, at 6p.m. Prayers for Healing are 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 met on 4th November when the following items were discussed.

The heaters in church have been serviced and two of them require new solenoids. Due to the age of them, the engineer is not sure if he will be able to get spares.

Three professionals had quoted for the quinquennial inspection but the most comprehensive one was received from David Chouman and the vestry agreed to employ him.

A quote had been received for the installation of parking posts at the gateways to the grounds. The secretary is to contact the planning department to ask if planning permission is required for these.

A new mortise lock has been fitted to the side door as required by our insurers. It is also necessary to make the west door more secure and the locksmith is to advise us on the most appropriate type of lock for it.

The microphones/sound system have been problematic over the past few weeks so Rev Jason is to arrange for someone to look at it and give us advice.

Peggy Connell and Margaret Miller have both resigned from organising the Tuesday 'Open 4 Prayer' services. Some members of the congregation have offered to assist but no-one wants to take on the responsibility of leading them. It has therefore been decided that there will not be a service during November and December but they will restart next year.

There will be an Advent study programme on Sunday evenings during Advent commencing on Advent Sunday, 29th November.

Our annual carol singing event will take place this year on 22nd December.

The vestry is looking at ways in which we might improve mission at Saint Mary's.

The Bishop has appointed the Rector as interim Priest in Charge at Saint John's Church, Crown Terrace.

The Rector would like members of the congregation to speak to the wardens regarding any issues they may have and the wardens will then feed back to him.

The Rector has spoken with Paul Mealor who has suggested the possibility of a concert at Saint Mary's during Easter. This might take the form of choral evensong but more details will follow.

The vestry will meet again on Wednesday 9th December.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary



Treasurer's Report

September 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Income: | 8,762 |
| Expenditure: | <u>5,967</u> |
| Net result for month: | 2,795 |

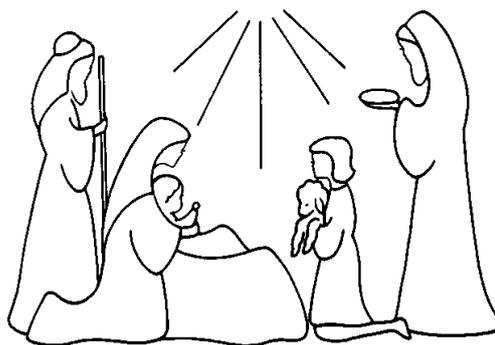
Balance at month end: £88,591

October 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Income: | 3,645 |
| Expenditure: | <u>5,309</u> |
| Net result for month: | -1,664 |

Balance at month end: £86,941

Lydia Ross
Treasurer



In a short new series, we'll be looking at the roles in our church and what they actually involve – sometimes it seems like a mystery until you're actually doing them! The first role is the People's Warden.

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What does a People's Warden do?

The People's Warden is a counsellor for the congregation. On a weekly basis he or she organises the sidespersons rota and greets visitors and new members of the congregation. More broadly, he or she provides perspective on an issue, surveys the larger congregation to see whether the issue is felt across the congregation and helps members of the congregation approach the Vestry and/or the Rector. This can be positive or negative. If members of the congregation are

concerned or confused about something, they should speak to the People's Warden. But also, if they wish to express gratitude or to offer a proposal, they should approach the People's Warden. The People's Warden does have an important job, and it is important that the people approach him or her rather than other members of the congregation. The People's Warden is vital for facilitating cooperation, goodwill and mutual understanding in the church. We have much to thank Rachael Cormack for!

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Sunday School

No birthdays in December, but in January Camille Forth will be nine on the 5th., and her sister Talya will be seven on the 29th. Happy Birthday, girls!



Volunteers Needed!

It would be great if we could have some new volunteers for coffee and sidespeople rotas! The more we have, the less often we have to do it – but really, both jobs are fun and interesting, so come along and give them a try! Speak to Rachael Cormack if you can help.

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Blytheswood Boxes

We had twenty-four shoeboxes for Blytheswood this year, a great total! Morag McPetrie is looking for someone to take this job over next year: if anyone is interested please contact her to find out what it involves. Many thanks to all!

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Choral Workshops in Advent

Jason will be running Tuesday evening Choral workshops during Advent that will help us learn the hymns for upcoming services as well as

prepare for Carol Singing. Come along on 1st. December for the first workshop at 7p.m. – no experience required, just enthusiasm!

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Carol Singing

Our carol singing event this year will be on 22nd. December. Further details to follow.

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Parking in the Church Grounds

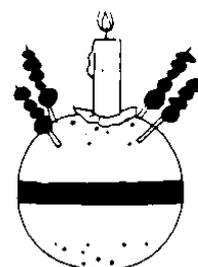
Do you need to park in the Church Grounds? Free permits can be obtained from Mary Allardyce. Please park considerately, and if you can avoid parking during the week it would be very much appreciated.

**Christmas Raffle Tickets
are due back to Mary
Allardyce on 6th. December
– the draw will be at lunch
on 9th. December.**

A Thought ...

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.

Jonas Salk, 1984



Saints' Days in January:

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

Saints' Days in December:

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

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. Dr. James Merrick (397414)
jmerrick@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: Christopher Black

Sunday School: To be arranged

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

Follow us on Facebook at
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All copy for the February magazine must be with the Editor by 25th. January, 2016. 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).