



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.

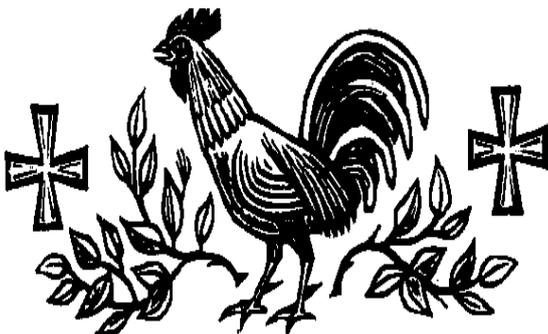
March 2016

Dear Friends,

Many of you have approached me about having a small group or home group study. Some are looking to get to know members of the congregation through a more personal forum. Others want to learn a bit more about the Bible. Still others are interested in learning about Anglican beliefs.

There are a few who are working on creating a home group, and if you are interested in this, let me know so I can make introduction. I also want to make you aware of two opportunities. After Easter, we will run a discussion and study group on Christianity on Sunday evenings. Additionally, over the summer we will have a Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew.

I do encourage you to set aside time to join these. I know we are all very busy, with many things vying for our attention. But some things are more rewarding and refreshing than others. Hearing different perspectives and learning new things can be a great source of encouragement.



I'm very grateful that several of you have attended and enjoyed the two Choral Evensongs we've hosted, one on All Saints' Day in November and one more recently on the 21st of February. We will have a special Evensong service on the 20th of March for Passion Sunday, followed by Cheese, Wine and other Refreshments. This service will be a bit unique and shouldn't be missed. Do feel welcome to invite friends and family.

Yours,

James

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday: 6pm
Easter Vigil: 11pm
Easter Day: (joint service)
10.15

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.

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Lent Study Group

On Wednesdays in Lent we are having a study group together with Queen's Cross Church, based on material on Pilgrimage produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The discussions so far have been lively and interesting!

Open 4 Prayer

Open 4 Prayer resumed on 26th. January – watch out for further announcements!

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Evensong with Cheese and Wine

On 20th March, there will be an Evensong at St. Mary's followed by cheese, wine and other refreshments – watch out for further details!

Vestry Report

The vestry has not met since the last issue.

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Bishop's Lent Appeal: THE LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP

My Lent Appeal for 2016 is the Langham Partnership. Founded in 1969 this Trust has successfully raised Biblical literacy in the developing world in three ways. It:

- Develops Biblical Resources
- Cultivates Theological Leaders
- Equips Bible-teaching Pastors

It does this by providing accessible materials to resource pastors and catechists (teachers) in the developing world. It funds higher degree opportunities for emerging biblical scholars in the developing world to come to the UK and America (particularly). And it provides context based training for pastors and teachers for congregational use and development.

The Langham Partnership has a very good website which I urge you to look at as you prepare for Lent and for, what I hope, will be a very generous response to this appeal. I will write more and circulate further material in the new year.

My blessings and thanks to you,

†Bob

The Bishop's Lent Message video is now available online. You can watch it on the website at:

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A Lent Reflection

Written by Margaret McKinnon at the Lent Quiet Day on Breaking Down Barriers, led by Elspeth Strachan on 13th. February 2016 at the John Skinner Centre, Aberdeen.

Love

No one but self will say you are not welcome
No one but pain will say you are unworthy
No one but lies will close your eyes
No one but terror will harden your heart
But who is this 'no one' where is their origins?
But who is this 'memory' that clouds your judgement?
But who is this 'thing' that keeps you running?

The Lord God came not to judge or separate you from yourself. He comes, and He is present in unity with your Body, Mind and Soul. So stop running and allow God's Love to truly unite you in Love, Truth and Honesty - be humble.

Crosses

It is okay to enjoy yourself and to expect and to be open to the unexpected...
Dorothy Soelle "Every acceptance of suffering is an acceptance of that which exists"

Dawn from on High

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am Love
Be still and know that I am Hope
Be still and know I LOVE YOU
There is no fear in LOVE
Does the sun fear rising in case it witnesses disaster?
No it rises because it desires to bring light and hope where there is none
It rises because it enjoys seeing the joy, appreciation and delight in the faces of those who take the time to look up
So wherever I or we are be still, be appreciative of the lightness but importantly **LOOK UP**

Lent Book Review

I Am With You Kathryn Greene-McCreight

This Lent book was commissioned as such by the Archbishop of Canterbury for this year, and is set out as an eight-part course, inspired by the eight Hours of the Benedictine day. The themes include ‘the contrast of light and dark; the mediating presence of God in the angel; the identity of Jesus as tied to the house of David; the key role of Scripture in introducing Jesus to us; the everydayness of our encounter with Christ in the trappings of our own earthly life; and the Jesus who at the end of the Gospel according to Matthew promises his own presence with us.’ Though specific parts focus on these themes they all recur through the book, where the writer comes back frequently to the protection and reassurance of God’s presence in our lives, beside us on the journey. There is also some analysis of the relationship between God and Jesus, the book of Job, and martyrs in the modern world, the latter two both suitably Lenten in tone.

It would be useful to have the internet or a good art book nearby to look at some of the paintings she mentions, and she also makes interesting reference to and quotes from hymns and songs which echo through the text. Quotations from (I assume the American) Book of Common Prayer are very welcome. There are questions at the end of each chapter for further thought, but they seem a little mundane on the page - perhaps they would have worked well in a group discussion rather than for individuals reading the book.

Though Archbishop Justin recommends it be read as one chapter a week, and not barged through, I did read it quickly and while it struck me as a simple book, it is not therefore straightforward. There is plenty to think about, even if some of her leaps of logic are unsustainable. And she really needs to go and take a closer look at honeycomb!

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Church Heating – can we meet the challenge?

Many of us are uncomfortably aware that our old heating system is gradually failing us. It is now impossible to get parts for the gas heaters, and some of them have stopped working altogether, while others sometimes seem to overheat.

Obviously this is going to be an expensive undertaking, but here’s an idea to kick-start the fundraising. Can we pledge £10 a week for a year? Some can, some can’t, but even if forty people do, we’ll have £20,000 and a great start to a new heating system that will look after our building and our wellbeing for years to come!

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Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Many thanks to the Merricks for hosting and to everyone who helped make the pancake party a roaring success!



The Lay Representative

In our ongoing short series, we are looking at the roles in our church and what they actually involve – sometimes it seems like a mystery until you’re actually doing them! This month we look at the Lay Representative.

The Lay Rep, along with their alternate, is elected annually at the A.G.M., and is an ex officio post on the Vestry. The Lay Rep represents the congregation at Diocesan Synod at least once a year, and is also eligible should the need arise to represent the congregation on the electoral synod for a Diocesan Bishop. They should assist the rector in disseminating information from the diocese to the congregation and report on any important issues at Synod. They can also form contacts with other churches in the diocese and

share information and help with other congregations. It's a fascinating post which gives the opportunity to see how our church works at other levels.

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Sunday School

Just the one birthday in February: Amber Tarling will be six on the 21st. Happy Birthday!

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Choral Workshops Continue!



Jason continues to run entertaining Tuesday evening Choral workshops that will help us learn the hymns for upcoming services as well as other music. Come along at 7p.m. for an hour – no experience required, just enthusiasm!

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Fair Trade Fortnight – 29th. February – 13th. March

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

The people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast.

When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

The Fair Trade stall is still at the back of the church and is a little low on stock at the moment as some lines had not been selling well and had to be removed as out of date. If there is any item you would like to see on the stall please let Nicola Mills know – apologies to those who like to buy their honey there as Traidcraft are having a little trouble with suppliers at present. Purchasing fair trade products directly through Traidcraft and Just Trading Scotland (who supply the Eswatini products) benefits the suppliers more than buying such products in supermarkets, so please support them and our stall!

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Immanence

I come in the little things, saith the Lord
Not born on morning wings of majesty,
But I have set my feet amidst the delicate and
bladed wheat
That springs triumphant in the favoured sod
There do I dwell in weakness and in power
Not broken or divided, saith our God
In your straight garden plot I come to flower;
About your porch my vine, meek faithful doth
entwine;
Waits, at the threshold, love's appointed hour.

I come in the little things, saith the Lord
Yea! On the glancing wings of eager birds
The softly pattering feet of furred and gentle
beasts
I come to meet your hard and wayward heart.
In brown bright eyes that peep from out the
Brake, I stand confest. On every nest
Where feathery patience is content to brood
And leaves her pleasure for the enterprise of
motherhood
There doth my Godhead rest.

I come in the little things, saith the Lord
My starry wings I do forsake
Love's highway of humility to take:
Meekly, I fit my stature to your need
In beggar's part about your gates I shall not cease
to plead
As man to speak to man –
Till by such art
I shall achieve my immemorial plan
Past the low lintel of the human heart.

Evelyn Underhill

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Training

PVG training Friday 4th March Westhill Community Church 4:30-8:30 pm. All involved in activities covered by this legislation e.g. pastoral visiting, children's ministry, are strongly encouraged to attend. For more detail on the content and how to book a place, check the Diocesan website (go to the calendar for March and click on the date). If you are attending, could you please also inform Elizabeth.

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Learig Orchestra

Learig Orchestra will be holding its spring concert in aid of Cardiac Rehabilitation Aberdeen on Sunday 13th March at 7:30 pm Holburn West Church. Programme: Beethoven Symphony No. 1, Dvorak "The Noon Witch" and Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla by Glinka. Tickets on the door.

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Questions we wish they wouldn't ask!

Jack (aged 3) was watching his mum breast-feeding his new baby sister. After a while he asked: 'Mom, why have you got two? Is one for hot and one for cold milk?'

Melanie (aged 5) asked her granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember, you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

Steven (aged 3) hugged and kissed his mum good night. 'I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window.'

Brittany (aged 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her mum explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

Susan (aged 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'it makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (aged 4) stepped on to the bathroom scales and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

Clinton (aged 5) was in his bedroom looking worried when his mom asked what was troubling him. He replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

Marc (aged 4) was engrossed in a young couple who were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

Tammy (aged 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled, woman her mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

James (aged 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

The sermon I think this mother will never forget... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face, 'without You, we are but dust...'

He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening intently leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill, little four-year-old girl, voice, 'Mum, what is butt dust?'

Upcoming Events

Some things to look out for – details to follow!

Easter Breakfast

Beetle Drive

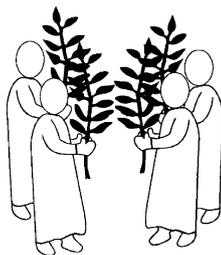
International Evening

Quiz Night

Paper Aeroplane competition

Saints' Days in March:

- 1st. St. David of Wales
2nd. St. Chad of Lichfield
3rd. John and Charles Wesley
4th. St. Adrian and Companions
6th. St. Baldred
7th. St. Perpetua and Companions
8th. St. Duthac of Tain
10th. St. Kessog
16th. St. Boniface of Ross
17th. St. Patrick of Ireland
18th. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
19th. St. Joseph
20th. St. Cuthbert
22nd. Thomas Ken
24th. Paul Couturier
25th. The Annunciation of the Lord
29th. John Keble



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)
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Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: Mary Allardyce

Vestry Secretary: Dave Dillard

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
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Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:
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Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Administrator: Avril Scott (561383)
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facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace

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