



**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.*

### April 2016

Dear Friends,

Allison and I are beyond delighted to announce the birth of our daughter, Magdalene Avila Skye on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. She's been a real joy. Rowan is a proud big brother, while Evie is excited, but adjusting to the decrease in time with Allison. Thank you for your very kind cards and generous gifts, including the gift of earplugs, which so far I haven't needed! We look forward to introducing her soon.

As I write this, there is news of another terrorist attack in Brussels. How awful. How outrageous. Love your enemies sounds great. But did the Good Lord know about ISIS? I watch the response, and how quickly the news balloons out with articles and data going in every direction. I watch too how people scurry to learn and see as much as they can – gruesome pictures, eye-witness video, political response, journalistic commentary, etc. It's as if we think we can arrive at comprehension through sheer information.

Of course, we can't comprehend the incomprehensible, no matter how much data is available, and eventually we tire out and go back to life as usual. But have we truly come to terms with the horror and pain or have we just distracted ourselves long enough so that the tragedy dissipates?

Also as I write this, we are in Holy Week, having just commemorated the Passion of Christ on Sunday. We Christians say a lot of strange things, but one of the strangest must be that it is through

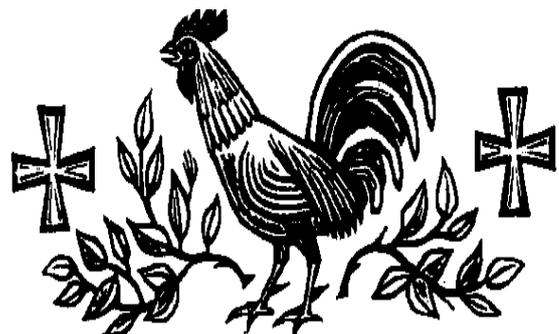
Christ's suffering and death that the world is healed, reconciled, renewed. How?

This event is not merely historical. It is liturgical. It is something that is re-presented to us in our worship. We remember Christ's passion and death, and it is through that remembering that we are forced to face the evil and pain of the world. We cannot be a people who escape or distract ourselves from tragedy. Our liturgy forces us to stare at it and seek salvation in it. We do not worship a God who can only relate to us when everything is going well, when we are perfect or when we are pain free. For Christ's Passion teaches us that God enters into suffering and death to be with us there. We do not have to hide our pain from God, but we can seek God's healing in our time of trial. This is not to say that we must suffer in order to be healed, only that in a broken world salvation can only mean healing from trauma.

What we do each time we worship is bring to the altar, bring to the broken body and shed blood of Christ our own trials, traumas, sorrows and sins. As we offer them to the Lord in prayer, we make a link between our personal crosses and the cross of Christ. Far from being a crutch or an escape, Christ's suffering gives us the confidence to take our own suffering and that of the world more seriously. We can face it. And yet, when we give our sorrow and sin to God at the Eucharistic altar, when we acknowledge our pain and our weakness, we open our deepest self to the presence of God and are thereby readied for healing. We are given a sense of relief, not in the sense that we no longer suffer or feel the pain of the tragedy, but a confidence that God is there, that God will renew all things in due time as surely as he resurrected Christ from the grave after 3 days.

### **Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

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.

**Welcome to New Merrick!**

Baby Magdalene Avila Skye was born on 15<sup>th</sup>.  
March and her first appearance in church is  
eagerly awaited! Mother and baby doing well.  
Congratulations to James and Allison!

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**Vestry Report**

The Vestry met on 25<sup>th</sup>. February.

Most of you will have noticed the fresh paint job  
in the choir vestry. This came after several  
attempts by contractors to eliminate the water  
ingress issue in that area. We still have some  
issues with water ingress in other areas that are  
being evaluated with the assistance of an architect.

Apologies for the on-going sound system issues  
and we are working toward having this addressed  
soon. A few components have been replaced in an  
attempt to correct the issues, but mostly to no  
avail. Our current system is showing its age and  
is operating at the very limits of its capability. We  
are working with a couple of companies to try and  
find an economical replacement suitable for our  
facilities.

Dave Dillard  
Vestry Secretary

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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!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fear Not, God is the 'I in I am'**

I share with you the excitement of Palm Sunday  
I walk with you through the unfolding plan of  
your life  
I teach you the meaning of eternal life through the  
sharing of bread and wine  
I enable you to be at peace with your accuser  
I wrestle with you in the discerning of the way  
I hold your silence in my heart  
I support you with the burden you are given to  
carry  
I feel your pain of humiliation  
I reassure you in the darkest moments of agony  
I ensure you will not be broken in body, mind or  
spirit  
I lay you down to rest  
I restore you  
I reunite you with loved ones  
I open the eyes and hearts of those who are willing  
to listen  
I unite you to me to live forever  
I say 'we will never be separated again'  
Fear not, I LOVE YOU

Margaret R McKinnon

\* \* \* \* \*

## **International Evening**

On 15<sup>th</sup>. April we're planning an International Evening at St. Mary's. The plan is that a few people or families with a strong connexion with another country present a table with food or drink, games or music, to represent the country, and everyone else who turns up gets to tour the world in one evening! If you would be interested in hosting a table, please talk to David Rose or Nicola Mills: otherwise, come and have some fun!

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## **Choral Workshops Continue! (but they've moved!)**

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

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## **Calling All Aeronauts!**

Is your paper-folding aerodynamically sound? Do you always hit the wastepaper basket with your paper aeroplanes? Come and join our competition in the church at 2p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup>. April: at a pound a go (all paper provided) you can try your hand at longest distance, through the loops and precision landing, to win thrilling prizes! Bring your friends and see which of you is the champion aeroplane folder!

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## **Some sound advice**

Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either, just buzz off and leave me alone!

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tyre.

The darkest hours come just before the dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbour's milk and newspaper, that's the time to do it.

Don't aspire to become irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

Never forget that you are unique, like everyone else.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

If you think nobody cares whether you're dead or alive, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.

Before you judge someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you judge them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

If at first you don't succeed, avoid skydiving.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Have you ever lent someone £20 and never seen that person again? It was probably worth it.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Some days we are the flies, some days we are the windscreens.

Good judgement comes from experience, experience comes from bad judgement.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

There are two theories about how to win an argument with a woman. Neither one works.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much if your lips are moving.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

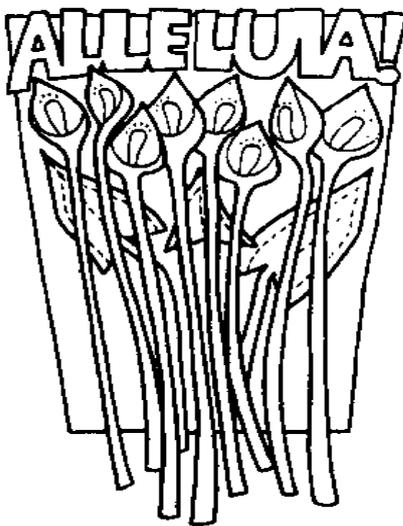
Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

The most wasted day of all is the one in which we have not laughed.

Remember not to forget that which you do not need to know.

## Saints' Days in April:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Gilbert of Caithness  
9<sup>th</sup>. Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
11<sup>th</sup>. George Augustus Selwyn  
12<sup>th</sup>. William Forbes  
16<sup>th</sup>. St. Magnus of Orkney  
20<sup>th</sup>. St. Maelrubha of Applecross  
21<sup>st</sup>. St. Anselm of Canterbury  
23<sup>rd</sup>. St. George  
26<sup>th</sup>. 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: Rev. Dr. James Merrick (397414)  
[jmerrick@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:jmerrick@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

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  
[mjmckinnell@gmail.com](mailto:mjmckinnell@gmail.com)

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:  
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Office (561383)  
[office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

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All copy for the May magazine must be with the Editor by 18<sup>th</sup>. April, 2016. 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).