



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.

May 2016

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The God who we meet in Jesus Christ is a God full of life. He is a God who introduces himself as YHWH, Hebrew for 'I am who I am' or 'I will be who I am'. He is a God of eternal life. So rich and plentiful is God's life that it was fitting for God to give life to the world in creation. The scriptures variously portray God as a God of life, who works ceaselessly to bring things to life and renew life against the forces of death and decay.

In Eastertide, we celebrate the most wonderful work of God's life, his restoring of Jesus Christ to life. Of course, people have very little time for such a belief today. Most are convinced that such a belief is foolish or childish, a myth we've collectively outgrown.

Meanwhile, our society in various ways unwittingly keeps hope for eternal life alive. While our culture has largely written off the notion of life everlasting, it has nevertheless continued to pursue it through science and technology. Of course, all medical research is built on the premise that life is superior to death and that we should actively try to overcome through medicine the processes of death.

There is an active pursuit of living forever. In the field of genetics, there is real research being done on whether death is programmed into our genes and, further, whether the switches that trigger death can be turned off.

It's not only genetics that pursues the notion of everlasting life. Futurist Ray Kurzweil has written of how our personality is but a mere algorithm in our brain that, one day, we will be able to

download onto a computer and run like software. He suggests that we could literally live on artificially as a computer programme after our bodies have failed.

The Christian hope of everlasting life haunts and enchants the western world. Yet it is a shadow, a mere residue of the truth. Contemporary notions radically underestimate life and death. For Christians, life and death are far more than biological processes. One can be dead and yet very much biologically alive in the scriptures. Look no further than the story of Adam and Eve, who 'died' the day they ate of the forbidden fruit. Or look at St Paul who repeatedly tells us we are all 'dead' in sin.

So often we think of death as something that awaits us. Yet from a scriptural perspective, we are already experiencing death; we live death. No wonder why Paul, amidst a profound meditation on Christ's resurrection, writes: 'If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.' (1 Cor. 15.19, NRSV). For St Paul, life here and now is not life at all, but death, and the resurrection of Christ represents not a continuation or prolongation of this life but a radical reconstitution of it. It is an event of new creation. It is, as he says in the chapter just referenced, the first fruits of a new world.

Here is where the belief in the resurrection turns from be a nice idea to being a pretty serious and perhaps terrifying thing. Again, if we hope in Christ for this life, we are to be pitied. That is, if we think of Christ as someone who merely enhances or secures our standing in this world, in our present life, then the resurrection will be unpleasant.

The fact is that while we hope for the resurrection, we spend so much of our time concentrating on this life. We work hard to secure ourselves here and now, to plan for our future, to ensure a comfortable retirement, to garner a good reputation, etc., etc. We should rather be attempting to experience the life of God which we will enjoy forever. We should be working hard at living lives like Christ, who gave away his life in this world for others in his crucifixion. We should be working to grow in love and holiness, so that when we enter into eternity, we do not find it foreign or frightening but our true home.

God help us.

James

Treasurer's Report

March 2016

Income:	3,791
Expenditure:	<u>4,339</u>
Net result for month:	- 548

Balance at month end: £93,326

February 2016

Income:	9,097
Expenditure:	<u>8,630</u>
Net result for month:	467

Balance at month end: £93,793

March 2016

Income:	9,085
Expenditure:	<u>4,299</u>
Net result for month:	4,786

Balance at month end: £98,579

Lydia Ross
Treasurer

* * * * *

International Evening

The International Evening on 15th. April was busy and entertaining, with tables from Hong Kong, Malawi, Texas, Mongolia, northern India and Scotland (and further contributions from Tyneside!). New dishes were sampled and interesting souvenirs inspected. Thanks to all who contributed or just turned up!

* * * * *

Choral Workshops Continue!

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 7.30p.m. for an hour – no experience required, just enthusiasm!

The benefits of these workshops are already being seen in our weekly services, with new musical settings, sung psalms and short anthems featuring since Easter. It's lovely to see our choir growing in numbers and confidence again!

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:

Deaths

Andrew Armstrong, O.B.E., 25th. March, 2016

May he rest in peace, to rise in glory.

* * * * *

Open4Prayer

Open4Prayer is back with a new name: Lunchtime Fellowship. Do join us in the Choir Vestry on the last Tuesday of each month as we come together to share in worship, followed as usual, by a light lunch.

On April 26th., we'll explore the Easter them of 'New Life', and on May 31st., we'll celebrate the feast day of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. Do join us if you can!

* * * * *

Vestry Report

The vestry met on the 13th. April, and accepted the resignation of David Brown. The vestry are seeking a replacement.

Dave Dillard
Vestry Secretary

* * * * *



Christian Hutcheon, the oldest member of our congregation, meets Magdalene Merrick, the youngest, at the Easter Sunday breakfast! Thanks to Malcolm Hay for the shot.

* * * * *

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!

* * * * *

The World According to Student Bloopers – read and learn! Part I

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Desert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain. The Bible is full of interesting cariacatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, once asked, 'Am I my brother's son?' God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birth mark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his twelve sons to be patriarchs but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharoah forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns, Corinthian, Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a feminine moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became 3ntolerable. Achilles appears in the Illiad, by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer, but by another man of that name. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbours were doing. When they fought with the Persians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

(thanks to Mary Allardyce)

Saints' Days in May:

1st. Ss. Philip & James
8th. Dame Julian
12th. Thomas Rattray
14th. St. Matthias
21st. St. Helena
23rd. St. William of Perth
25th. Venerable Bede
26th. St. Augustine of Canterbury
31st. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

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!

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 Office (561383)
office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at
facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace

All copy for the June magazine must be with the Editor by 23rd. May, 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).

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: Mary Allardyce

Vestry Secretary: Dave Dillard

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross (864072)