



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.

July - August 2016

Dear Friends,

Thank you once more for the many kindnesses you have shown me and my family throughout the difficult loss of my father – for cards, for friendship, for food, for flowers, for travel help and for caring for Allison and the children whilst I was away. As painful as this time is, your presence has made it easier to bear and demonstrates that love is stronger than death. Thank you very much.

By no means am I alone in facing difficult times. As a church family we have experienced much loss in my first year. (Am I the Jonah?) And the world around, due to violence and misfortune, has seen a lot of death and disruption in recent times. Many are indeed of the opinion that our world is becoming increasingly precarious – old institutions are no longer working, the climate is changing, politics are becoming divisive and sensationalised, the economy is contracting and terror is expanding. People everywhere are increasingly on edge – fearful, anxious, tired and angry.

How are we to respond to our changing and increasingly unstable world? As Christians we have a faith and a hope that should inform our judgements and console our worried hearts. We cannot be governed by fear, as sensible as it might seem. Last autumn, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and essayist, Marilynne Robinson wrote an essay for the *New York Review of Books* on fear. Among her many insights was the observation that 'fear is not a Christian habit of mind'. She explained:

As children we learn to say, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.' We learn that, after his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, 'Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.' Christ is a gracious, abiding presence in all reality, and in him history will finally be resolved. These are larger, more embracing terms than contemporary Christianity is in the habit of using. But we are taught that Christ 'was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.... The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' The present tense here is to be noted. John's First Letter proclaims 'the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.' We as Christians cannot think of Christ as isolated in space or time if we really do accept the authority of our own texts. Nor can we imagine that this life on earth is our only life, our primary life. As Christians we are to believe that we are to fear not the death of our bodies but the loss of our souls.

(<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/09/24/marilynne-robinson-fear/>)

What would it look like to face our increasingly troubled world with faith rather than fear? What would it look like if we truly believed that 'all things work together for the good of those who love God' (Rom. 8.28)? How would our response to the issues of the day differ if we believed that Jesus Christ is the one 'by whom and for whom all things were made' (Col. 1.16)? How would our lives differ if we trusted in all of our decisions that Christ is the creator of a new world and a new life in which his life was the most sane and sensible because the world was his true home?

It is so easy to give into fear. It is a powerful feeling. And part of its power is the feeling of paralysis, of powerlessness. All we can do is just give in to it. Some times, of course, acting out of fear seems very sensible. If things go pear-shaped, it seems right to try to protect oneself.

But faith is a fundamentally different response. It is not naiveté. Faith is a confidence that, come what may to our selves, God's goodness will

triumph in the end. We may lose our lives, but we will not lose our souls.

Is this not how Jesus lived? Surely in the months and weeks leading up to his arrest and crucifixion, he knew his time was coming. The Gospels say as much. He was aware of the controversy surrounding his teaching. He was aware that the religious and political authorities felt threatened by his following. Yet, he did not fear what people could do to him in this life. He feared only God. 'Nevertheless, not my will, but yours.'

As we face uncertain times, let us live by the light of our faith rather than the darkness of our fears.

In Christ's peace,

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.

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Lunchtime Fellowship

Lunchtime Fellowship continues on the last Tuesday of the month, at 12:30pm in the Choir Vestry.

Do join us if you can for a short time of worship followed by a light lunch and more conversation. Our themes in the next few months are:

June 28th. Seafarers

July 26th. St. Olaf

August 30th. The Lord's Prayer

Mary McKinnell

Vestry Report

Due to the Rector's absence, the vestry has not met since the last magazine.

Dave Dillard
Vestry Secretary

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Sunday School

Natasha Steward will be eighteen on the 9th. July (congratulations to her!), and Hugo Stephens will be fourteen on the 30th. In August, Hamish Thomson will be three on the 19th., and Bailley Cormack will be a teenager on the 20th.! Happy Birthday everyone!

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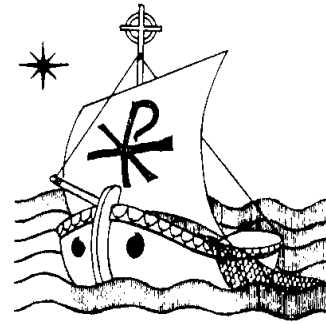
Visit of Bishop Sitembele – memories







and bring them to the haven where they would be;
through Christ our Lord,
Amen



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!

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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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Gallowgate Fair

Don't book your holiday before you plan your baking for the Gallowgate Fair! First Saturday in August – stand by for further details!



Sea Sunday – 10th. July, 2016

O Eternal Lord God,
Creator of earth and sky and sea
Be pleased to receive into your protection
All who go down to the sea in ships,
And occupy their business in great waters
Preserve them in body and soul;
Prosper their labours with good success;
in all times of danger be their defence

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

The last installment – an education!

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltare invented electricity and also wrote a book called Candy. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him.

Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this. France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French Revolution, and it catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish Gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks.

Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the east and the sun sets in the west. Queen Victoria was the longest queen.

She sat on a thorn for 63 years. Her reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts.

The invention of the steam boat caused a great network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick raper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code of telepathy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.

(thanks to Mary Allardyce)

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A tip for the holidays –

Little Johnny was walking down the beach, and he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, 'Are you a Christian?' 'Yes', she replied. 'Do you read your Bible every day?' She nodded her head, 'Yes'. 'Do you pray often?' little Johnny asked next, and again she answered, 'Yes.' With that he asked his final question: 'Will you look after my things while I go swimming?' (from Web Evangelism Bulletin June 04)

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What is the total?

The answer here is a sum of money in good old £.s.d. Answers in the September magazine.

1. Type of pig
 2. Sun, moon and star
 3. Singer
 4. Unwell sea creature
 5. Type of headwear
 6. Bicycle
 7. Ruler
1. ---'s your uncle
 2. Small horse
 3. Leather worker

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Book Review: *Blessings of St. Benedict*, by John Michael Talbot

I have to admit to a soft spot for the Benedictine Order, possibly founded in reading the Brother Cadfael books! This simple, gentle book looks in short chapters at the different headings of the Rule of St. Benedict and applies them to life today, not just monastic life but our everyday lives. You don't need to be familiar with the Rule to draw good advice and spiritual comfort from the book, particularly for anyone who has to work in any close team of people. It is easy to read a chapter in a quiet moment of the day and draw some inspiration from it. The addition of a brief history of the Rule and how to read it is also useful.

Saints' Days in July:

1 st .	St. Serf
3 rd .	St. Thomas
6 th .	St. Palladius
7 th .	St. Boisil
11 th .	St. Benedict of Nursia
12 th .	St. Drostan of Deer
21 st .	William Wilberforce
22 nd .	St. Mary Magdalene
25 th .	St. James the Apostle
26 th .	Ss. Anne and Joachim
27 th .	John Comper
29 th .	Ss. Mary and Martha of Bethany
30 th .	St. Silas
31 st .	St. Ignatius of Loyola

Saints' Days in August:

5 th .	St. Oswald of Northumbria
6 th .	The Transfiguration of the Lord
7 th .	John Mason Neale
8 th .	St. Dominic
10 th .	St. Lawrence
11 th .	St. Clare of Assisi
12 th .	St. Blane
13 th .	Jeremy Taylor, Bishop
14 th .	St. Maximilien Kolbe
15 th .	St. Mary the Virgin
20 th .	St. Bernard of Clairvaux
24 th .	St. Bartholomew
25 th .	St. Ebba of Coldingham
27 th .	St. Monnica
28 th .	St. Augustine of Hippo
29 th .	The Beheading of John the Baptist
31 st .	St. Aidan of Lindisfarne



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: 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

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

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All copy for the September magazine must be with the Editor by 22nd. August, 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).