



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.

October 2016

Dear Friends,

A good friend of mine was in a taxi in another country, when the driver asked him why he was visiting. He explained that he was giving a lecture on the Christian view of suffering. The driver replied that he wished he could have faith, because it would make life so much easier. My friend immediately shot back that he wasn't a Christian because it made his life easier. Rather he was a Christian because he thought Christianity was true.

My friend continued that being a Christian was not some sort of lifestyle or consumer choice, an expression of his personal tastes or preferences. It was instead a response to an invitation, a 'yes' to the summons of God, an assent of his mind to the Gospel, an amen of his whole being to the reality of God. Rather like a marriage where one has to consider the needs and hopes of one's spouse, being a Christian means being faithful to a life not necessarily of one's choosing. There are many joys of married life, but usually they are hard won.

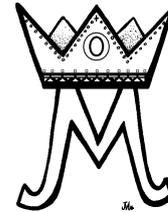
The Lord never promises exemption from suffering and trial. In fact, he promises the cross and persecution, a literal and not only spiritual reality for his first followers. It is true that we find relief and restoration in Christ. But that relief is not the same as removal of hardship.

On some level a retreat from suffering means a retreat from life in all its fullness. To live fully, to love completely will require suffering. Our lives will be conformed to the cross of Christ. So let us keep this in mind when we encounter various

trials and tribulations. Let us see them not as things to be minimised, ignored or avoided altogether, but as avenues to deeper, truer, more authentic human life. For when we are able to understand our own tragedies, we will better be able to serve others in theirs.

God bless you,

James



Normal weekly services:

Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 8a.m. and 10.15a.m.

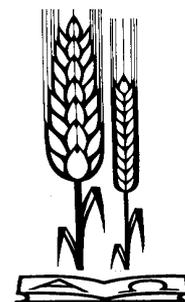
Tuesday:
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

Wednesday:
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Thursday:
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival at St. Mary's will be celebrated on Sunday, 2nd. October at 10.15a.m. , followed by our Bring and Share Lunch. Donations are very welcome to be blessed during the service: non-perishables are preferred (even though they are much less picturesque!).



Lunchtime Fellowship

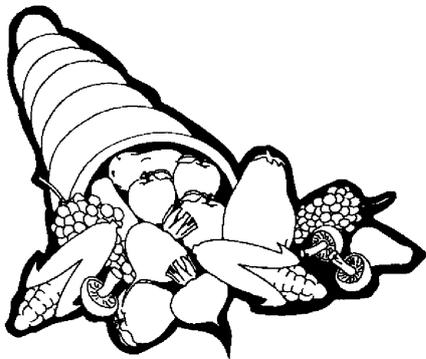
Lunchtime Fellowship continues on the last Tuesday of the month, at 12:30pm in the Choir Vestry.

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 two months are:

September 27th. Harvest

October 25th. Simon and Jude

Mary McKinnell



Vestry Report

The Vestry has not met since the last magazine.

Dave Dillard
Vestry Secretary

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Sunday School

Just the one Sunday School birthday in October: James Coutts will be fifteen on the 30th. Happy birthday to him!

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Bishop Bob's Retirement



Anyone wishing to make a contribution to St. Mary's gift to Bishop Bob on his retirement please contact Lydia Ross without delay.

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Gathering to Listen to God

A prayerful, thoughtful time together at **Westhill Community Church from 1-4pm on Saturday 1 October**. Be part of an afternoon of listening and discerning what God may be saying to us at this time of change in the leadership of our diocese.

This will include a presentation on the role of a Bishop, a considering together of where we are as a Diocese, group discussions about what our vision for the diocese is and what kind of Bishop may lead us into that. There will also be times for prayer and worship.

As the formal process of looking for Bishop Bob's successor starts to get under way it is good to take this chance to pray together and listen together to what God may be saying to us. All are welcome.

◇

Both these events are planned to coincide with those delegates travelling here for the Diocesan Synod Saturday morning at Westhill Community Church. Whether or not you are a Synod delegate, the Friday dinner and the time together Saturday afternoon are open to everyone.

And don't forget: There is a wider, community farewell to the Bishop planned for Evensong at St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen on Sunday 30 October at 5pm, which will include invited guests from city, shire, and other neighbours and friends.

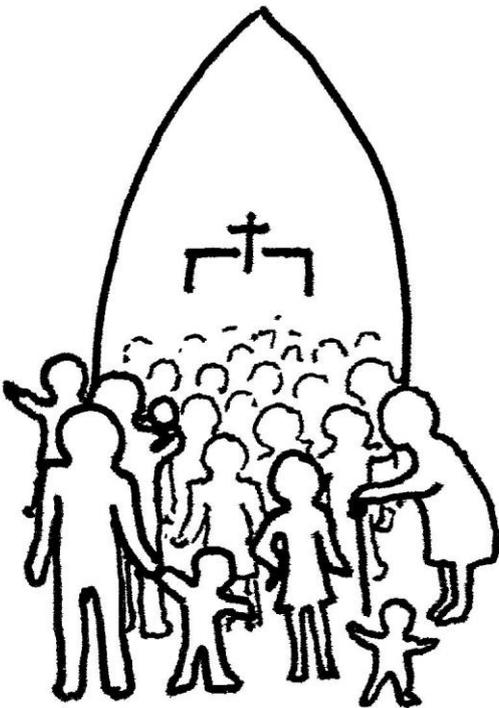
General Synod 2016

The draft minutes of the General Synod which took place in June this year have now been prepared and will shortly be available on the provincial website. They set out a fairly full account of the proceedings at Synod.

A wide variety of topics were considered at Synod but a number of the motions passed specially invite consideration or action on the part of congregations and I set out below a number of items for your information and consideration.

1. Church in Society matters

The Church in Society Committee brought a number of motions to Synod, some of which call for action on the part of dioceses and congregations.



A. Refugees

Synod engaged with a number of presentations regarding work in Scotland with refugees. These were followed by the Synod passing a motion in the following terms: -

“That this Synod welcome the establishment of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees as an interfaith body, which includes within its membership Christian churches from across Scotland together with Interfaith Scotland, the Muslim Council for Scotland and the Scottish

Council of Jewish Communities, and call on all charges of the Scottish Episcopal Church to seek ways of supporting work with refugees.”

More information regarding Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, including useful links for congregations, is available from its website:-

<http://www.sfar.org.uk/>

B. Climate Change

The subject of climate change has featured in a number of General Synods in recent years. After debate this year the Synod adopted the following motion:-

“That this Synod

- a) Welcome the historic agreement of the world’s nations in Paris in December 2015 on the need for urgent and substantial reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and recognise that creating a ‘low carbon’ future depends on practical implementation and far reaching changes throughout society;
- b) Urge all parts of the Scottish Episcopal Church to play an active part in finding means of reducing the consumption of fossil fuels, including their use in heating and transport;
- c) Call upon Scottish and UK Governments to increase financial and other incentives for domestic and housing sectors in energy saving and renewable energy implementation that will lead to the very substantial reductions that are needed and as part of this simultaneously to address the issues of fuel poverty which currently impact on over a third of households in Scotland;
- d) Recognising the importance of economic drivers in moving to a low carbon energy system, commend the joint discussions which have been taking place between the Church in Society and Investment Committees and invite the Committees to continue to work together and report to General Synod in 2017 on the complex issue of investment in the exploration, production and burning of fossil fuels.”

We have contacted both the Scottish and Westminster Governments following the passing of the motion. A response from Westminster is awaited. The Scottish Government has responded, indicating the greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland in 2014 were down by 45.8 per cent on baseline levels and that Scotland has therefore achieved its 2020 target of a reduction by 42 per

cent several years early. The Scottish Government plans to legislate for a tougher target for 2020, namely a reduction by 50 per cent. In relation to fuel poverty, the Government has indicated its intention to develop a longer term strategy as part of SEEP (Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme) and this will include the introduction of a Warm Homes Bill. A draft energy strategy is to be available by the end of this year which is intended to make homes easier to heat and to minimise energy bills as well as creating and supporting an energy supply chain across Scotland supporting around 4000 jobs a year once fully operational.

Much useful material to assist congregations in helping to reduce their carbon footprint or take other steps is available from the website of Eco Congregation Scotland:-

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

C. Living Wage

The subject of the Living Wage has featured in several General Synods in recent years. In 2015, the Synod commended all congregations already paying the Living Wage and urged all congregations to pay the Living Wage by 2016. This was followed up this year at Synod by a further motion (which does not require any specific action on the part of congregations) as follows:-

“That this Synod, aware of the level of poverty in Scotland, recognising and valuing the work done by food banks in Scotland and other work done at local level by charges in loving service to help alleviate the consequences of poverty

- a) Reaffirm its support for the minimum wage to be set at the level of the real Living Wage;
- b) Call on the relevant public authorities to ensure that benefit levels are adequate and that benefits are humanely and efficiently administered in order to reduce the need for food banks and other support services.”

We have contacted both the Scottish and Westminster Governments following the passing of the motion. A response from Westminster is awaited. The Scottish Government has indicated its support for the Living Wage.

Further information regarding the Living Wage is available from:-

<http://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-living-wage>



2. Inter-Church Relations

Synod commended materials prepared by the Lutheran World Federation in relation to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation which will take place in 2017, by passing the following motion: –

“That, in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, this Synod warmly commend the study material created by the Lutheran World Federation, “Liberated by God's Grace”, for use in congregational and ecumenical settings.”

The material can be accessed at: –

<https://2017.lutheranworld.org/content/liberated-god%E2%80%99s-grace-131>

3. Grosvenor Essay

The Church's Doctrine Committee has continued its annual production of a “Grosvenor Essay”.

This year's Essay: Prayer and Spirituality was launched at Synod. Again this does not require any action on the part of congregations but is available as a resource for you. It can be ordered from this office but is also accessible online at: -

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Grosvenor-Essay-No.-12.pdf>

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Church Heating – what’s happening?

A number of people have been able and willing to meet the challenge of kick-starting the fund for the church heating, which is wonderful. Obviously some more major fundraising is going to have to happen before a new system can be installed. At present we are waiting for our consultant architect (who has unfortunately been ill) to get back to us with some pertinent advice, and then we have to find out how we can implement that advice in the best way for St. Mary’s. It’s inevitably a long, slow process, though everyone knows it’s growing more urgent!

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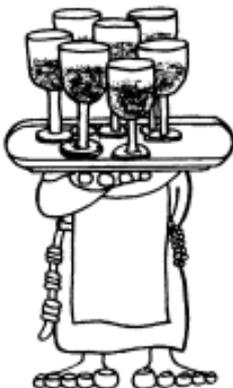
Dates for your diary

Cheese & Wine / Silent Auction

This combined event will be held on Saturday 12th November at 6.00pm in the choir vestry, with a chance to sample some excellent wine and cheese and to bid on interesting lots!

Needless to say, we are looking for donations of quality items to auction, and of raffle prizes.

Tickets will be on sale soon at £12.50 each. Please see David Rose or Rachael Cormack to book early! Remember to invite your family and friends to come along to join in this sociable fund raising event, one of those things that St. Mary’s does so well!



Saturday, 1st. October, 8p.m.

Organ Recital by John Riley of Edinburgh on the organs of St Mary’s. Works by Chauvet, Gigout, Linke and Wachs.

John is also a master of improvisation and will play some of his own compositions such as JS Bach in East London, Brahms and a Lady on a Bicycle and Postman Pat’s Bad day as well as inviting themes from the audience for further improvisation. Entry by donation to what promises to be a very entertaining evening.

For all you lovers of words (lexophilians) and puns (punters). :)

1. A bicycle cannot stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
11. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
12. A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France and resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.

(thanks to Prue King)

Saints' Days in October:

- 1st. St. Gregory the Enlightener
4th. St. Francis of Assisi
8th. Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop
11th. St. Kenneth
12th. Elizabeth Fry
15th. St. Teresa of Avila
17th. St. Ignatius of Antioch
18th. St. Luke
19th. Henry Martyn
28th. Ss. Simon and Jude
29th. James Hanington and companions



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

Lunchtime Fellowship: Mary McKinnell
itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

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Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at
facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace

All copy for the November magazine must be with the Editor by 24th. October, 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).