



**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.*

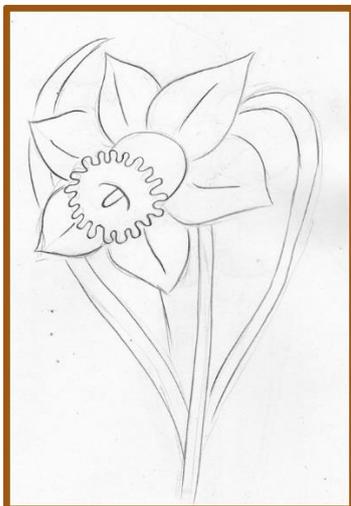
### March 2017

Dear Friends,

For various reasons, Lent is often seen to be an oppressive or dark time in the Christian life. But properly understood and engaged, Lent is quite refreshing and invigorating.

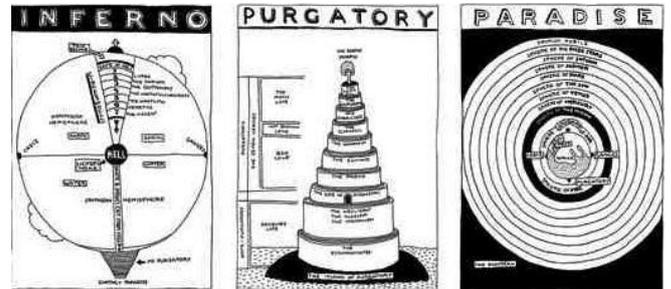
Many people today think that we are victims of our circumstances and genetics, that we cannot change. But Lent gives us a chance for change. Lent calls us to give up something prominent in our lives in order to create more space in our lives for the love of God and others.

One of the reasons why it is often so difficult to change is because it is often difficult to see alternatives. It is difficult to see how we could live our lives in a different way, according to different rules or priorities. This is why giving time for reflection is so important to a proper engagement with Lent.



This Lent we have two opportunities for such reflection. The first is our Lenten study on C.S. Lewis' class *Screwtape Letters*. This fascinating book is a series of letters written by a veteran demon to his novice nephew, advising him how to lure his human subject away from God. It's a very stimulating book on how certain patterns of thought and behaviour might present themselves to us as good or justified but are in certain ways devastating to our Christian lives. We meet beginning Sunday 5 March in the Choir Vestry at 9am to discuss the first 6 letters. I hope you can join us.

The other opportunity is on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, beginning 8 March. With our Roman Catholic friends from St Mary's Cathedral, we will be sharing a study on virtues and vices as presented by Dante's *Divine Comedy* guided by Bishop Robert Barron. Whereas Lewis calls our attention to disruptive habits of thought and behaviour, this study prompts us to consider what habits of life helps us develop in the moral life and strengthen our character. Please do consider joining with other Christians in the city to reflect upon this important subject.



Gratefully and gladly,

James

### Normal weekly services:

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

Wednesday:  
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Thursday:  
Morning Prayer at 7.45a.m.

## Ash Wednesday services

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at St. Mary's on 1<sup>st</sup>. March at 7.30p.m. For anyone wishing to attend an earlier service, we are again joining forces with St. James', Holburn Junction who will hold a service at 10.30a.m. to which all are welcome.

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## Lunchtime Fellowship

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

28<sup>th</sup>. February will be Shrove Tuesday, so we'll have a Shrove Tuesday theme with pancakes.

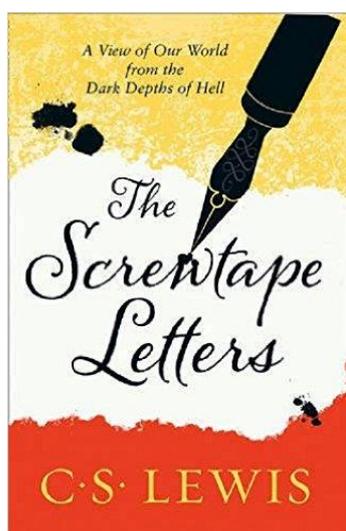
On 28<sup>th</sup>. March the theme will be the Stations of the Cross.

Mary McKinnell

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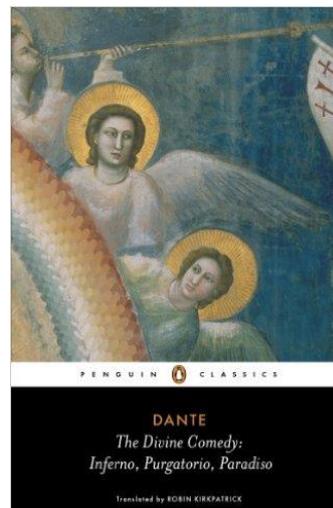
## Lent Bible Studies

At St. Mary's, at 9a.m. each Sunday during Lent, we shall be studying C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. This begins on 5<sup>th</sup>. March.



Everyone is also welcome to join the study led by Bishop Robert Barron and based at St. Mary's

R.C. Cathedral in Huntly Street (note: the first session will be held at St. Mary's, Carden Place). These will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, beginning on 8<sup>th</sup>. March, and will study virtues and vices as presented by Dante's *Divine Comedy*.



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## Vestry Report

The vestry has met twice since the last report. The first meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January when the main discussions centred around arrangements for the forthcoming AGM. At that meeting, Lydia Ross was reappointed as Treasurer for a further year but David Dillard resigned as secretary and the vestry failed to appoint a new secretary. Mary Allardyce subsequently volunteered to take on the role again and the vestry was balloted and she was reappointed.

Agreement was reached regarding repair to the perimeter wall and it was hoped that work would commence soon.

At the second meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, the Rector welcomed Graham Thomson to the vestry as People's Warden.

Quotes had been sought for a new heating system and for installation of a new sound system and feedback awaited.

There has been a request from someone who would like to hire the Choir Vestry on Wednesday lunchtimes and the Rector and Austin will liaise with her about it.

The report from quinquennial inspection which had been carried out in late 2015 has highlighted several serious problems and there was a lengthy discussion regarding prioritising the works necessary as it would be impossible to undertake all at the same time along with replacing heating. Estimates for the most urgent works are being requested before any of the work can be started.

There was also a lengthy discussion about our forthcoming interregnum. It is probable that we will not be able to advertise the post until after the Rector leaves but also because there is an Episcopal vacancy (no bishop) but the vestry will work towards updating the Parish Profile in readiness in the meantime.

Mary Allardyce  
Vestry Secretary



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### Treasurer's Report

#### January 2017

Income:	6,154
Expenditure:	<u>7,502</u>
Net result for month:	- 1,348

Balance at month end:	£112,589
Heating account	10,832

Lydia Ross  
Treasurer

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### Sunday School

Happy first birthday to Magdalene Merrick on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and happy seventh birthday to Amber Tarling on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

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### Shrove Tuesday Pancakes!

Come and celebrate Shrove Tuesday in the traditional manner at St. Mary's on 28<sup>th</sup>. February, 6.30p.m.! If you are willing to help set up, please contact the Rector.

### Our Favourite Hymns

*Angel voices, ever singing  
Round Thy throne of light;  
Angel hearts forever ringing  
Rest not day nor night;  
Thousands only live to bless Thee  
And confess Thee  
Lord of might.*

'Angel voices, ever singing' was written by Francis Pott (1832-1909) in 1861 for his friend and contemporary at Brasenose College, Oxford, William Kenneth Macrorie, who was Perpetual Curate of Wingates, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, 1860-61.

Pott was a vicar in the Church of England, serving in Bedfordshire, who was one of the editors of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. He was more noted for hymn translations than for original hymns: he gave us the form of 'Jesus Christ is risen today' that we sing most Easters, but wrote too 'The strife is o'er, the battle done'. 'Angel voices is probably his best known original hymn, and Macrorie asked Pott to write it for the dedication of a new pipe organ in his newly-built church in Wingates. The tune to which we usually sing it, also called Angel Voices, was written by another friend, Edwin George Monk (1819 – 1900) for the same occasion. Pott had been influenced by the Oxford Movement like our own F.G. Lee, and found delight in church ornament and music. The hymn celebrates that music and 'craftsman's art',

and while it is most suitable for the dedication of any musical instruments or facilities in churches, it is also a good hymn for stewardship, as it urges us to use all our talents for the worship of God.

Pott served the rest of his minister in Bedfordshire, while Macrorie went on to become Bishop of Maritzburg, South Africa, in 1869.

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### **Quiz Night at St. Margaret's**

We have the beginnings of a team to uphold St. Mary's honour at this quiz night on 5th. May. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Nicola Mills – more details to follow!

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### **Some important laws to ponder :**

1.Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

2.Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

3.Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

4.Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged tone; someone always answers.

5.Variation Law - If you change queues or traffic lanes, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

6.Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

7.Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

8.Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

9.Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

10.Law of the Theatre & Cinema - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the show. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

11.The Coffee Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

12.Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

13.Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

14.Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

15. Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

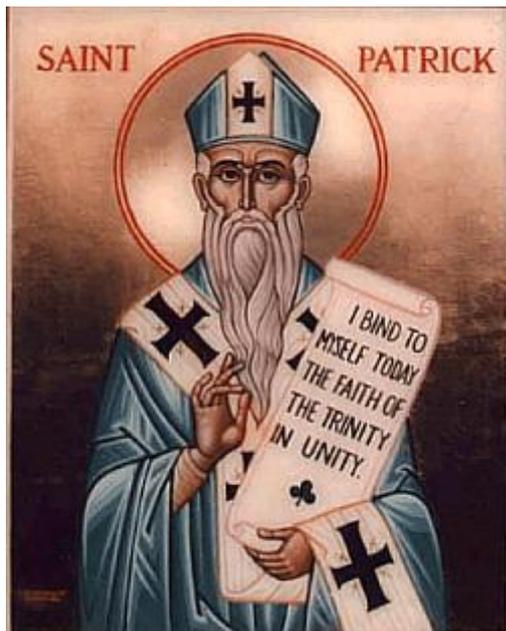
16.Law of Public Speaking – a closed mouth gathers no feet!

17.Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it or the shop will stop selling it!

18.Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor: by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

## Saints' Days in March:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. St. David of Wales
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Chad of Lichfield
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. John and Charles Wesley
- 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Adrian and Companions
- 6<sup>th</sup>. St. Baldred
- 7<sup>th</sup>. St. Perpetua and Companions
- 8<sup>th</sup>. St. Duthac of Tain
- 10<sup>th</sup>. St. Kessog
- 16<sup>th</sup>. St. Boniface of Ross
- 17<sup>th</sup>. St. Patrick of Ireland
- 18<sup>th</sup>. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19<sup>th</sup>. St. Joseph
- 20<sup>th</sup>. St. Cuthbert
- 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thomas Ken
- 24<sup>th</sup>. Paul Couturier
- 25<sup>th</sup>. The Annunciation of the Lord
- 29<sup>th</sup>. 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)  
[jmerrick@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:jmerrick@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: Graham Thompson

Vestry Secretary: Mary Allardyce

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross (864072)

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Mary Allardyce

Organist: Alex Kither

Sunday School: To be arranged

Lunchtime Fellowship: Mary McKinnell  
[iofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:iofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org)

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 April magazine must be with the Editor by 20<sup>th</sup>. March, 2017. 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).