



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 2017

Dear Friends,

'The goal of human life is not death, but resurrection.' This was the caption that appeared beside the theologian Karl Barth when he appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* in April of 1962. Barth was a rather revolutionary theologian. He was kicked out of Germany in 1935 for wryly saying that it would be bad taste to begin classes on Christian theology with the mandated 'Heil Hitler'. After being ousted, he attempted to speak in Germany, but was arrested by the Gestapo. At the age of 54, he joined the Swiss army to protect his homeland against German invasion.

But perhaps the most crucial piece of Barth's resistance was theological: he resisted modern theology's rejection of divine revelation in history and staunchly defended the necessity of a real, historical resurrection for the integrity of Christianity, and, indeed, humanity. Barth believed the rationalism of modern theology, which rejected the miraculous as unreasonable, led to Nazism, or at least, could not sufficiently resist it. The notion that reason saves - that if we devote ourselves to reason alone and above all and follow it purely with all our hearts in the form of science, economics and politics - lent itself too easily to the policies of a master race. For Barth, belief in the resurrection meant disbelief in the supreme power of human beings. Indeed, for Barth, the only way to resist fascism was to recognise the limits of human power through encounter with the absolute power of God. This is in part what the resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates.

Barth insisted that the resurrection of Christ is not a simple guarantee that life as we know it will continue or will be restored. Rather, the resurrection of Christ is the introduction of new life. It is an event on par with the creation of the world. It is an event of new creation, what the Book of Revelation refers to as the 'new heavens and new earth.' It is a moment of the Kingdom of God, not the kingdoms of this present world.

As our world becomes increasingly troublesome, we cannot give in to hopelessness. We, as Christians, must remember our faith in Christ. We must remember that there is a power beyond the present powers. We must remember that what Christ promises us by his resurrection is not just longer life, but new life - life on a different plane, life that is governed by a different set of rules, priorities and values, life that cannot be conquered by death, life, therefore, governed by faith not fear.

As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter, let us remember to step lightly in this world. Let us guard our imaginations from becoming too captivated by the horror or glamour we see now. Let us keep ourselves from becoming too fixated on the present appearance of things. Let us remember the goal of our life is resurrection.

In Christ's peace,

James

Normal weekly services:

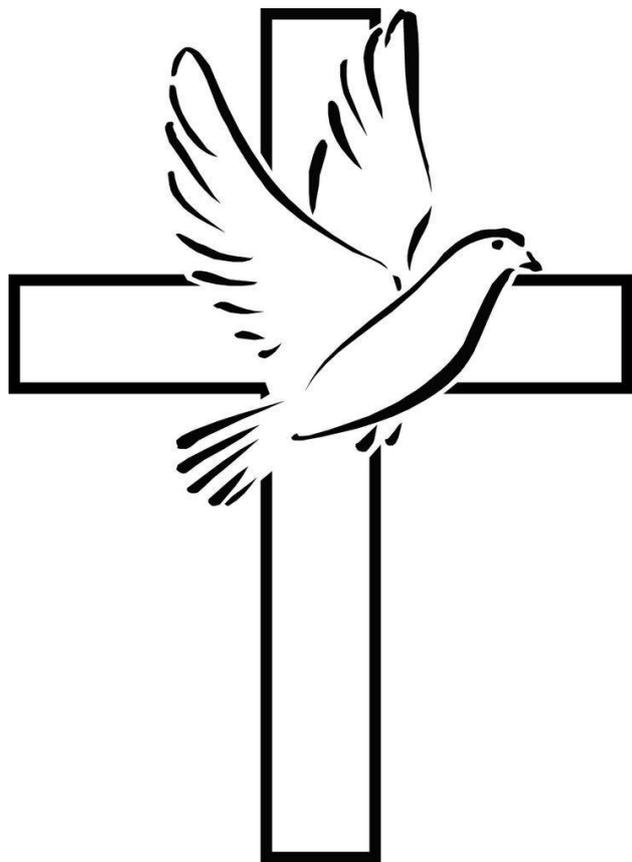
Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 8a.m. and 10.15a.m.

Wednesday:
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Change to Office Hours

Due to a change in his university commitments, Austin's new office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays, 9a.m. to 12 noon.

Easter Services



Maundy Thursday 6p.m.

Good Friday 6p.m.

Easter Vigil 8p.m.

Easter Sunday joint service, 10.15a.m.

Lunchtime Fellowship

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

On 28th. March the theme will be the Stations of the Cross.

On 25th. April, we'll move from journeying with Christ with the Cross to journeying with the Risen Christ on the Road to Emmaus.

Mary McKinnell

Vestry Report

The vestry has not met since the last magazine.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

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Our Favourite Hymns

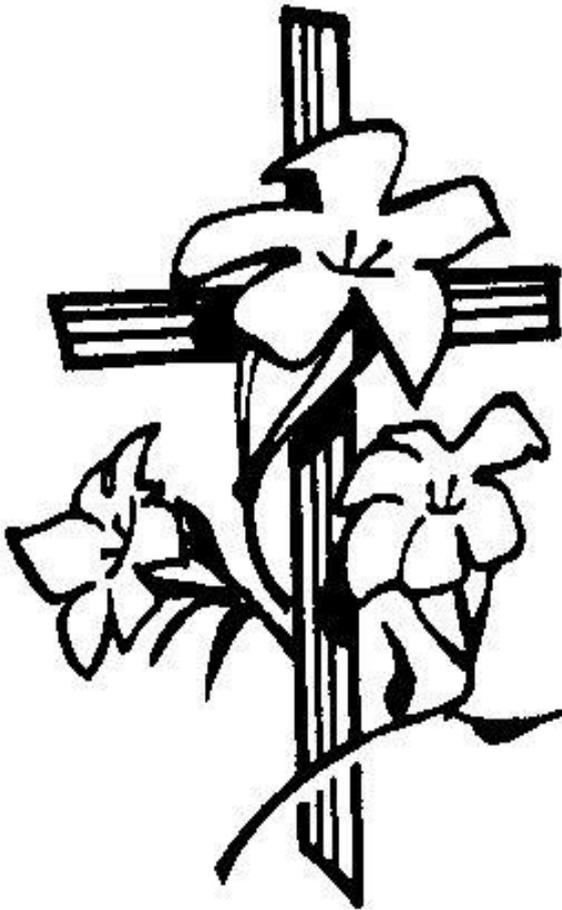
*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways,
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.*

Probably one of the nation's favourite hymns, and popular at weddings, this was written by John Greenleaf Whittier, an American Quaker. Whittier was a poet, acknowledging the influence of Robert Burns, rather than a hymnwriter, and he was a fervent campaigner against slavery in America. He was born in Massachusetts in 1807, the son of a poor farmer, and worked as a shoemaker to fund part of his education. He was briefly a teacher, but spent most of his days as a campaigning journalist, political activist and poet on temperance and Whig newspapers. His life was dogged by ill health, and he lived his last years in retirement. He died in 1892.

The hymn we know today is part (the last six of seventeen verses) of a longer poem, 'The Brewing of Soma', which was, odd as it sounds, something of an anti-drunkenness poem. Soma was a drink brewed and drunk by worshippers in the Vedic religion, in order to feel they were experiencing divinity. Whittier contrasts this with Quaker practices, as described in what is now the hymn, and their effectiveness in experiencing God's peace. The adaptation was made by Garrett Horder in his 1884 Congregational Hymns. The hymn often includes a fourth verse which is in the original, though our hymnbook omits it:

*With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down.*

In the U.K., the hymn is usually sung to C. Hubert H. Parry's Repton. This is a happy marriage of tune and words, for the tune is from Parry's oratorio *Judith*, and was only matched to the poem in 1924 by the director of music at Repton School for use in the school chapel.



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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Painful Puns – you have been warned!

A thief who stole a calendar... got twelve months.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Acupuncture: A jab well done.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all-right now.

I was going to look for my missing watch, but I could never find the time.

I used to have a fear of hurdles, but I got over it.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how the Mercedes bends.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. Really it was just a play on words.

I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm clean now.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.

Need an ark to save two of every animal? I Noah guy.

A new type of broom came out, it is sweeping the nation.

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said "No change yet".

The new weed whacker is cutting-hedge technology.

When William joined the army he disliked the phrase 'fire at will'.

Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.

(thanks to Prue King)

God's Plan for Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Seven Important Facts to Remember As We Grow Older

7 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

6 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid one day, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

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Pluscarden Pilgrimage Concert

The Benedictine monks of Pluscarden Abbey (an abbey which provides a retreat centre for other Christian denominations including Episcopalians) will be assisting in a classical music concert at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral on Wednesday, 12th. April at 7.30p.m. Tickets £12 (children under 12 admitted free).

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Remembering Whose We Are: Theological Reflections on Dementia, Faith and Personhood

The first in a new series of Christ's College Divinity Lectures, which are free and open to the public. The first lecture, on Thursday, 30th. March at 6.00p.m., will be delivered by Rev Professor John Swinton at King's College Centre, High Street, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3UB. Admission is free, but please register by emailing clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk

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Good Friday Devotions at St. Andrew's Cathedral

Professor Tom Greggs will lead the Good Friday devotions from noon to 3.00p.m. on 14th. April. This is a flexible session which people can attend parts of as their time permits. All are welcome.

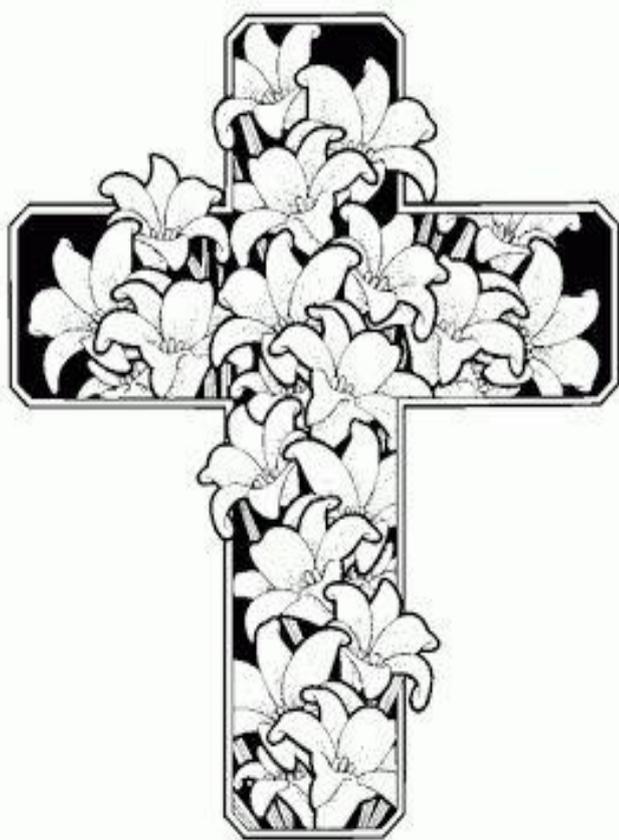
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Children's Fun Afternoon at St. Margaret's

This drop-in event for children will run once again this year on 15th. April at St. Margaret's, Gallowgate. All are welcome: the activities start at 2p.m.

Saints' Days in April:

- 1st. St. Gilbert of Caithness
9th. Dietrich Bonhoeffer
11th. George Augustus Selwyn
12th. William Forbes
16th. St. Magnus of Orkney
20th. St. Maelrubha of Applecross
21st. St. Anselm of Canterbury
23rd. St. George
26th. 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

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
tofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Office (561383)
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Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at
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All copy for the May magazine must be with the Editor by 24th. April, 2017. 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).