



**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 2017

Dear Friends,

Who we are - our sense of identity and self - is in many ways shaped by events in our lives, significant relationships and persons and the circumstances we've faced. When we want someone to understand us, we start to tell them stories about things that have happened to us. These stories identify us.

Just as individuals have a biography, so churches have a history. Each church tells a story of the times, events and people that have influenced it throughout its life. As someone becomes more involved in a church, they start to hear stories about why such and such is done in such and such a way or who donated this or that artefact and so on and so forth.

Some stories or figures loom large in the history of a church. This can be both positive and negative. We might think of the great Rector of St Mary's, William Christie. By all accounts he was a great leader and well regarded priest. But there can also be ghost stories. There are those people or events that so hurt the people of a parish that future generations are haunted and spooked.

'There is always a danger in individual stories or events coming to dominate and overtake the church's self-understanding. The church is in history but not of it. The story the church must tell in order to avoid degenerating into a social club or museum is the story of salvation. At the heart of the church's self-understanding is the character of God and the set of events God has ordained to occur to offer grace to the world. If a church

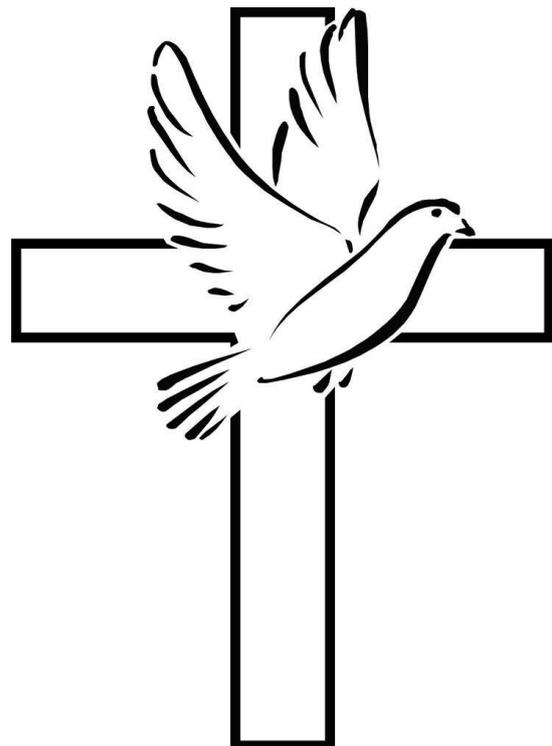
understands itself according to another story - say, of decline, or secularism, or mismanagement, etc. - then it most assuredly has lost the plot.

'A church has to be constantly on guard against allowing some other story or set of stories to overtake the Great Story of salvation. It is therefore crucial whenever the church is in transition that its story does not get subsumed into some other story, like the story of a great leader or of a great failure or of a great success. When a church begins to think about how to make decisions, if the Gospel is not the controlling story by which it understands itself, but instead it is a host of narratives about what's happened in the past or what individuals want for or from the church or how circumstances mean we can't do better, then the church has started to tell a story other than the one given to it by God. It has changed genres from a conversion narrative to a narrative of self-justification.

St Mary's is preparing to begin a new chapter of its history. My hope and prayer is that as each of you with the Vestry begin to reflect afresh on the trajectory of St Mary's, you see anew the Great Story that God revealed and calls his Church always and everywhere to proclaim. If you are captivated and identified by that narrative, the story of St Mary's will always be a hopeful one.

Gratefully and gladly,

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Lunchtime Fellowship

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

On 30<sup>th</sup>. May, we'll be looking at the theme of the Ascension.

Mary McKinnell

\* \* \* \* \*

## Vestry Report

The vestry met on Easter Sunday briefly and on 24<sup>th</sup>. April. The main item of discussion was the projected roof repair and other works to be overseen by David Chouman as our project manager, including the replacement heating (one quotation has been received and another is expected). A Buildings subcommittee is to be established to facilitate communications and volunteers are to be sought. The priority is the roof repair, followed by interior pointing and wet rot work.

We will need to find an organist for the summer holiday period while Alex Kither is on placement elsewhere. Miriam Abraham has been approached. Reports from the groups included a new programme of events from the Finance and

Fundraising group and plans for enhancing the website and Facebook pages from the Communications group.

The Rector reported on the ongoing process to find a new Bishop and future plans for cover during the forthcoming vacancy at St. Mary's.

A Montessori teacher is to use the Choir Vestry one day each week for the summer term.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Treasurer's Report

### February 2017

Income:	6,417
Expenditure:	<u>7,185</u>
Net result for month:	- 768

### March 2017

Income:	11,691
Expenditure:	<u>5,793</u>
Net result for month:	5,898

Balance at month end:	£117,179
Heating account	11,372

Lydia Ross  
Treasurer



## Our Favourite Hymns

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son  
Endless is the victory thou through death hast won!*

*Thine be the Glory* is one of those hymns where the tune was written, and very well known, before the words were thought of. It was one of the most popular tunes written by Georg Frederic Handel, in 1747, originally for his Joshua oratorio but later added to *Judas Maccabaeus*. Beethoven even composed variations on it in the late 18<sup>th</sup>. century,

but it was only in the late 19<sup>th</sup>. century that a Swiss hymn writer, Edmond Louis Budry, composed the lines beginning ‘A toi la gloire’. It was said to have been a tribute at the death of his first wife, Marie de Vayenborg, and it is still associated with funerals in several countries.

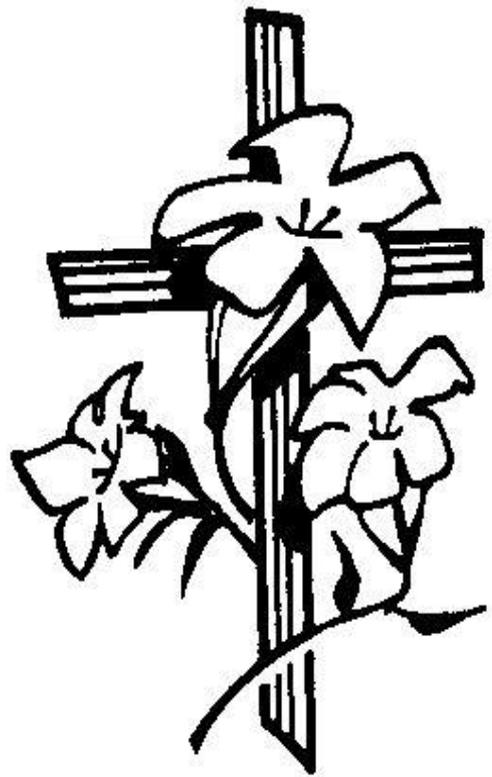
Born in 1854, Budry was a pastor at Cully and Saint-Croix in the 1880s when he wrote these lines. He was a hymn writer and hymn translator, working from German, English and Latin into French, and some of his work, including this hymn, was in turn translated into German. He was pastor of the Free Church in Vevey until his retirement in 1923, and he died there in 1932.

Richard Birch Hoyle was born in 1875 in Cloughfold, Lancashire, and became a Baptist minister, later working for the YMCA. In 1923, the year that Budry retired, he was commissioned by the World Student Christian Federation, of which the YMCA is an associate, to translate the hymn from French into English – in his career he translated about thirty hymns into English from French, and further hymns from the other twelve languages he read fluently. In the 1930s he became the pastor at the Baptist church in Kingston-upon-Thames, and died there in 1939.

We sang this rousing hymn on Easter Sunday and often associate it with Christmas, too: in other countries it is popular at weddings or in Advent, and in both this country and the Netherlands it is popular with the Royal Families. And it forms an integral part of the Last Night of the Proms!

\* \* \* \* \*

Lovely news from Janet Fisher! Elizabeth and her fiancé Jacob Dostal are to be married in the Czech Republic on 6<sup>th</sup>. May. Please pray for them in their new married life together.



### **Gardening Day**

Volunteers are needed for a spot of weeding and clearing round the church on 10<sup>th</sup>. May, and for feeding the volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Gillian Rose.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Quiz Night at St. Margaret’s**

We have a team in place to uphold St. Mary’s honour at this quiz night on 5<sup>th</sup>. May at 7.30 (tickets £5 in aid of Cathedral development fund). There’s still space, though: if you would like to be part of this, please contact Nicola Mills – refreshments provided but bring your own bottle!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### *May*

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>. Bake and Buy after church

#### *June*

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. Farewell Lunch for the Merricks

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. Church Picnic

## August

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. Gallowgate Fair

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. Bake and Buy after church

## September

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cheese and Wine Tasting

## October

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. Quiz Night

## November

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. Bake and Buy after church

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Tale of Courtship

A young Scottish lad and his lassie were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, and just gazing out over the loch. For several minutes, they sat silently, then finally the girl looked at the boy and said 'A penny for your thoughts, Angus.'

'Well, uh, I was thinking ... perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss.'

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek. Then he blushed. Then the two turned again to gaze out over the loch. After a while the girl spoke again.

'Another penny for your thoughts, Angus.'

'Well, uh, I was thinking ... perhaps it's now about time for a wee cuddle.'

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch. After a while the girl spoke again.

'Another penny for your thoughts, Angus.'

'Well, uh, I was thinking ... perhaps it's about time you let me put my hand on your leg.' The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch. After a while the girl spoke again.

'Another penny for your thoughts, Angus.'

The young man knitted his brow. 'Well, now,' he said, 'my thoughts are a bit more serious this time.'

'Really?' said the girl in a whisper, filled with anticipation. 'Aye,' said the lad. The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

'Do you not think it's about time you paid me the first three pennies?'

## A Great Lesson on Stress

A woman confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone thought she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?' But no.

'How heavy is this glass of water?' she inquired with a smile.

Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied,

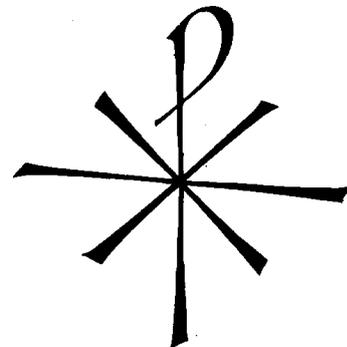
'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

'If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes,' she continued, 'and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.

'As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practised.

'So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow, when you're feeling refreshed.'

(sent in by Prue King)

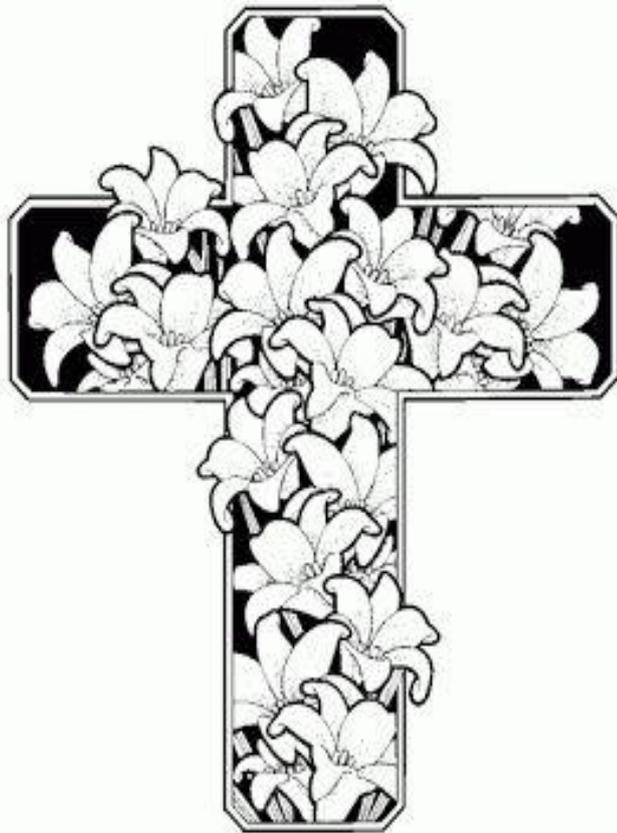


## Election Dates

St. Mary's will as usual be used as a polling station on 4<sup>th</sup>. May and probably 8<sup>th</sup>. June.

## Saints' Days in May:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Ss. Philip & James  
8<sup>th</sup>. Dame Julian  
12<sup>th</sup>. Thomas Rattray  
14<sup>th</sup>. St. Matthias  
21<sup>st</sup>. St. Helena  
23<sup>rd</sup>. St. William of Perth  
25<sup>th</sup>. Venerable Bede  
26<sup>th</sup>. St. Augustine of Canterbury  
31<sup>st</sup>. 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!

## 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  
[tofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:tofficer@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)

Follow us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace](https://facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace)

All copy for the June magazine must be with the Editor by 22nd. May, 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).