



**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.*

### June 2017

Dear Friends,

I can't believe how quickly time has passed. It seems like only last week when I announced I would be leaving St Mary's. By the time you read this, the movers will have come to collect our belongings. I'm sad to say I only have 4 Sundays left and that this will be my last magazine letter.

I am very grateful for my time with you and what we've shared together. It has been a real privilege to be the Rector of St Mary's and to have the opportunity to serve Christ's church in Aberdeen. I'm very sorry to leave you, even if it is the right decision. Please know how dearly you will be missed. I will carry with me your smiles and the warmth of your homes which you opened to me. It is in this spirit of gratitude that I would like to share a few reflections about St Mary's.

One of the great blessings of St Mary's is its welcome. There have been several occasions when I watched new people walk in the doors and observed members of the congregation making a point to welcome them, help them navigate the service and invite them to tea and biscuits after. Just last week I was heartened when I saw a young woman with a baby enter and, when he began to fuss, one of our members held him so the mother could relax and enjoy the service.

Of course, when we arrived from the US we were very encouraged and grateful for the welcome we received. So many provisions were made to allow us to settle right in. Allison and I were expecting to be sitting and sleeping on the floor for a few months, but you generously provided furnishings

that made the Rectory feel like home. I do fear that perhaps my departure may suggest a lack of gratitude on our part, or make you more guarded with your welcome in the future. I trust God will encourage you to continue in this central expression and practice of our faith. I pray you don't grow weary in this great calling of St Mary's. Let us also remember that hospitality must be carried on by patience and openness to what others bring.

I have also been moved by the prayers at St Mary's. I have heard some beautiful intercessions during my time. I appreciate how after a tragedy or disconcerting news, the first impulse of the congregation is to pray, and to do so in such thoughtful ways. This, of course, is one of the principal purposes of the church, to pray for the world. This is a much different way of overcoming it. It's always a struggle to move from prayer to mission, but it has been wonderful to be a part of a few occasions when we opened up the gifts we enjoy to the larger community in Aberdeen. I think of the Storytime Services, Choral Evensongs, several public concerts, including the Lunchbreak Concerts and a few partnerships with Barnardo's. I hope St Mary's will deepen its relationship with the city as well as entertain missional ventures so that the world will experience concretely the spirit of our prayers. I really think our Lunchtime Fellowship services are ready for such outreach.

St Mary's is a very close community and the friendships within it are a great treasure. Many people have a long history at St Mary's and this means everyone has known each other for a long time. This can, of course, make it difficult for new folk to find their place. The danger is not only becoming an insider community but also having friendships and community become a substitute for the relationship that stands at the heart of the church, our union with Christ. But there is a warmth and richness of relationship that can be a tremendous support.

There are strong traditions and memories at St Mary's as well. This is a wonderful way in which the church is bonded together and people are personally invested in the life of the parish. As I commented in the previous letter, one of the things the church does is gather together time and place. It was always good to hear about people's history with the church. The challenge is for us to see that the church of Christ transcends St Mary's,

that there might be other important aspects of life in the body of Christ that would be new to and necessary for St Mary's. It is my hope that St Mary's can not only continue to value what it has been, but also embrace the broader mission and learn from the great traditions of the church as it exists in other ways.

It has been great to see how many people are involved. Almost everyone from the congregation participates in some way, whether in preparing coffee and tea after the services, creating rotas, reading the lessons, singing in the choir, serving at the altar, cleaning the church, leading the prayers, or serving on the Vestry. There is also a dedicated and determined core of people who are involved in almost every aspect of St Mary's. I hope St Mary's continues to find ways of expressing gratitude to all those who serve. I also hope that new folk will come forward and bring new gifts and insights to the ministries of St Mary's.

I genuinely have enjoyed getting to know you, being welcomed and cared for by you and learning a little bit about you. I hope my ministry has been of some encouragement to you and that it has prepared you for the next chapter. May you always have in mind the goal of the church and, indeed, the goal of every human life - to be united to God in such a way that our lives image his own excellence. May you grow in the realisation that God is not to be used but to be enjoyed. May the promised Holy Spirit, whose coming we celebrate at the beginning of this month, give you each wisdom and knowledge of the truth so that you can confidently and joyfully proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Gratefully and gladly,

James

### **Normal weekly services:**

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

Wednesday:

Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

### **Office Hours**

Austen's office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays, 9a.m. to 12 noon.

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### **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.

On 27<sup>th</sup>. June, the theme will be St. Peter.

Mary McKinnell

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### **Vestry Report**

The vestry met on 17<sup>th</sup> May when the following items were discussed.

The church is to be used as a Polling Station on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June and therefore we will not be able to gain access on that day.

The Buildings Committee is to meet with the architect to discuss a plan of access for the various works required.

Two quotes for replacement heating have been received and these will also be discussed with the architect for advice about which would be most appropriate for the building.

Our organist will be going back to England for the summer but Rev Jason will play some Sundays and Miriam on some others. There may be some weeks that we will use CD's but that is unavoidable.

There was discussion regarding clergy cover during the forthcoming vacancy but so far we are unsure what arrangements will be made. The secretary is to contact the Dean for advice.

Mary Allardyce  
Vestry Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

April 2017

Income:	4,712
Expenditure:	<u>5,203</u>
Net result for month:	491

Balance at month end:	£114,014
Heating account	14,199

Lydia Ross  
Treasurer

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## Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group, which does such valuable work in visiting the sick and those unable to attend church amongst our congregation, is seeking more volunteers. If you think you would be able to help, please contact Mary Allardyce.

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## Upcoming Vacancy

Over the next few months all the Episcopal churches in Aberdeen will be facing challenges. As we enter our vacancy, we continue to search for a new bishop, St. John's is also looking for a new rector and St. James' priest in charge is approaching the end of his time there. Several other clergy who have been available to cover midweek services and clergy absences have left the diocese. There is generally a shortage of clergy currently: there are plenty coming along to be trained for ordination, but we can't rush them through!

Because of this, clergy time is going to be very much stretched over the next while, and it will not be possible for every church to continue with every service it presently has. Lay people will be volunteering to help out where they can, either with Service of the Word or with Mattins or Morning Prayer, and in some cases celebrating the Eucharist with reserved sacrament.

These services are not always to everyone's taste, but let's bear a few things in mind here: First, the clergy are doing their best! They can't be

everywhere. Second, at a time like this we should all be pulling together to support our churches, to keep attendance up and maintain the strength of our much-valued communities of faith, fellowship and friendship. And third, if a new bishop comes in later this year and finds two or three of the city churches poorly attended, who's to say we might not find ourselves amalgamated?

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## Gallowgate Fair – help needed

The Gallowgate Fair will as usual be on the first Saturday of August. Mary Allardyce has arranged this with tremendous success for a number of years, but has decided that now is the time to take a back seat. If anyone would like to take over the task and run this ever-popular stall, which always contributes a good sum to church funds, please contact Mary as soon as possible.

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## Our Favourite Hymns

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice,  
Tender to me the promise of His word,  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice!*

This is a great example of a modern hymn that seems to fit into traditional and less formal services alike. It was written by Timothy Dudley-Smith in 1962 and was first published in *Youth Praise* in 1966, and is of course a version of the wonderful canticle the Magnificat, Mary's prayer on hearing God's message to her from the Angel Gabriel.

It was first paired with a tune by Michael Baughen, later Bishop of Chester, now retired, who also wrote the music for Dudley-Smith's 'Lord of the Years'. Later, however, it was matched with the tune we know best today, Walter Greatorex' Woodlands, written in 1916. Greatorex was music teacher at Gresham's School where he taught, amongst others, the young Benjamin Britten.

Timothy Dudley-Smith, born in 1926, is an Anglican clergyman and before his retirement served as Bishop of Thetford. He was awarded a well-deserved O.B.E. for services to hymnody in

2003. In a radio interview a few years ago he described his amusement when young couples, coming to him to be married, ask for 'Tell Out, My Soul' and then ask if he is any relation to the composer – all hymnwriters must be dead, after all!



**Gardening Day**

Many thanks to all who helped with the gardening around the church on or about the 10<sup>th</sup>. May, and all those who provided sustenance for the gardeners. The grounds are looking much better!

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

A crack team from St. Mary's faced substantial opposition at the quiz at St. Margaret's on 5<sup>th</sup>. May. Twelve teams turned up from the city churches and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. In the end we were pipped to the top spot by a team from the Cathedral – better luck next time!

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**News from the Burrows**

For those of you who remember Valerie and Adrian Burrows -

Valerie and Adrian stayed with Gillian and David recently and send everyone at St Mary's their best wishes. It was lovely to see them and catch up on

all their news. Adrian is now retired and they are currently putting their house in Hampshire on the market, hoping to move to be nearer James and his family (which now includes their two grandsons, Henry and Oliver) who live in Bristol. Rowena is a primary teacher in Crediton, Devon, and Caroline is a solicitor in Edinburgh.

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**Dates for your Diary**

*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

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**Election Dates**

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

## Saints' Days in June:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Justin  
3<sup>rd</sup>. The Martyrs of Uganda  
4<sup>th</sup>. John XXIII  
5<sup>th</sup>. St. Boniface of Mainz  
8<sup>th</sup>. St. Ephrem the Syrian  
9<sup>th</sup>. St. Columba  
11<sup>th</sup>. St. Barnabas  
12<sup>th</sup>. John Skinner  
14<sup>th</sup>. Ss. Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianus, & Gregory of Nyssa  
18<sup>th</sup>. Bernard Mizeki  
20<sup>th</sup>. St. Fillan  
22<sup>nd</sup>. St. Alban  
24<sup>th</sup>. The Birth of John the Baptist  
25<sup>th</sup>. St. Moluag of Lismore  
26<sup>th</sup>. Robert Leighton  
27<sup>th</sup>. Alexander Jolly  
28<sup>th</sup>. St. Irenaeus of Lyons  
29<sup>th</sup>. Ss. Peter & Paul

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

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:  
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

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

All copy for the July-August magazine must be with the Editor by 19<sup>th</sup>. June, 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).