



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 2017

Dear Friends,

Harvest is a season of cutting down, baling and harvesting crops. It is a time when farmers and gardeners discover whether their crops have grown to their full potential, or not. Let us rejoice and be grateful for all produce grown out of the soil.

Continuing the Beatitudes theme, in particular, Jesus' promise: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). I sense that to be described as meek or to exhibit traits of meekness sadly appears to count for little in today's world – why is this?

Consider the little Viola flower in the picture. The Viola has qualities which many other plants do not possess, namely, its ability to thrive, prosper and multiply even in places where the environment does not appear right to enable growth. The same could be said for people who might be considered as being meek.

A meek person could be regarded as being content within their own environment, someone who is willing and open to learning, who is patient and endeavours to follow the Scriptural teachings of Jesus. Perhaps you know someone who fits this description. Could this be yourself?

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) I would describe as one such meek person. It is written that Thérèse suffered greatly at school because of her sensitivity and cried in silence, but she discovered her gift was telling stories and looking after the infant class. Thérèse imagined the flowers in God's garden (her siblings and other people) as being tall lilies and roses. Yet she described herself as a 'Little Flower' - a violet that

no one would notice - which is reflected in her motto: 'To do very little things with great love'. Thérèse (and many others like her) takes us back to the promise Jesus made in the Beatitudes and reaffirms the admiration we have for all those 'Little Flower' people who somehow manage to survive and inhabit an environment that does not, at first glance, naturally encourage growth or beauty.

As we explore the life, love and values of our Church and Church family, please spare a thought for the meek little flower and the gift of beauty and innocence it brings. I do not think God gifts us perfection, because that gift has already been given to us through the birth of Jesus. I believe the gifts we receive now are to enable Jesus' work to continue, therefore, it is for us to use our gifts in a way that pleases God and grows His Kingdom here on earth.

Let our 'growing' endeavour (as various parts of God's Body) be to allow LOVE to flow through our veins just as water flows to sustain the plants and crops around us. Keep your eyes open and you might just discover a meek little flower in your midst.

God Bless,
Margaret McKinnon

Picture from Wickimedia – Jorg Hempel



Normal weekly services:

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

Wednesday:

Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Lunchtime Fellowship

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

On 26th. September, it will be Harvest Festival.

On 31st. October, it will be Feeding the Five Thousand.

And advance notice of our Christmas meeting, on 12th. December – same time, same place, but something a little bit different!

Mary McKinnell

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Vestry Report

The vestry met on 29th August when the following items were discussed.

The Buildings Committee had met with the architect and is waiting for quotes for works to be done in the building.

Replacement heating was discussed and a possible system has been identified but we are waiting for a final quote to include the porch and organ loft. Thereafter if these are acceptable, the proposals will have to go to the Diocesan Buildings Committee for approval before we can take it any further but hopefully we will soon have a the new system installed.

We have had two requests for concerts to be held in Saint Mary's in December. One is from Intuitive Music, Aberdeen and the other from a cellist. These are likely to be on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December but further details will be given later. This is likely to be a busy week end as our Christingle Service will also be held on Sunday 17th December.

The Gallowgate Fair this year raised approx. £400.00 thanks especially to those who manned

the stall on the day but also to everyone who baked goods for sale and made this a good fundraiser yet again.

The next fund-raising event will be held on Friday 22nd September and will be a cheese and wine tasting session.

At the General Synod of the Episcopal Church held in June, the Synod voted that the Alternative Lay Representative should be an ex officio member of the vestry so we will change membership of the vestry accordingly. Also as Tiffany Forth was a member of the vestry and has returned to the USA the vestry has co-opted Freddie Stephens to replace her for the remainder of the year.

As you will all be aware, the sound system has become very unreliable and David Rose is in discussion with a company looking at the possibility of a replacement system or at least finding a way to improve the current one if necessary.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

July 2017

Income:	4,714
Expenditure:	<u>3,321</u>
Net result for month:	1,240

Balance at month end:	£121,977
Heating account	15,398

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.

Harvest Festival

St. Mary's will celebrate Harvest Festival on 1st October, and the service will be followed by the traditional Bring & Share Lunch!

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Church Social Evening: Quiz

Friday 20 October, 7:00pm in the Choir Vestry

Do you know
if these people
went around the world
having a break
and being refreshed with food and drink,
so they can search for new discoveries
and catch sight of animals
to determine who will be winners and losers?

Cost: Minimum £5.00 donation per team of 4.
Refreshments provided, wine etc for a donation.

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100 Club Subs

100 Club subscriptions for the year are now due – see Mary Allardyce to renew old numbers or select new ones!

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Report on the Meeting of City Centre Churches



A small choir drawn from the five churches performed an anthem, and other singing was accompanied by the youth pastor from Westhill.

The City Centre Churches met again on 14th September in an evening that was both consultation and worship. Led by Canon Ian Ferguson of Westhill, we sang and prayed together and heard reports from each of the five churches. While most congregations expressed some concern at what they might have to contribute to a shared ministry in the city, in general there was agreement that it would be to everyone's advantage to act together, and the first steps would be to make sure we were aware of and advertised activities in each other's churches, including midweek services, while holding our own distinct Sunday services as before. As a start, we have invited people from the other churches to join us in our Wine and Cheese (happening as this magazine goes to press) and below you'll find an advertisement for St. John's Autumn Fair. Again, there was a good sense of fellowship and shared purpose on the evening. A shared Advent course is planned, and further ideas will follow in due course.

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Our Favourite Hymns

*Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see;
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.*

Based on the poem 'The Elixir' and adapted for use as a hymn by the Wesley brothers for their Methodist hymnbook, this appears a very practical hymn. No doubt generations have sung it while sweeping the church 'as for thy laws'. The writer, George Herbert, died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty-nine in 1633, but he crammed quite a life into his few years.

He was born in Wales in 1593 into a wealthy and artistic family, and the Metaphysical poet, John Donne, was his godfather. His father died when he was five but the family were educated and brought up by an ambitious mother, and with Donne's help Herbert went to Westminster School and then to Trinity College, Cambridge, intending to be ordained. Clever and witty, he followed his godfather into the mystical Metaphysical tradition of poetry, even making poems that formed pictures when they were printed. He was drawn into politics by his interest in King James I and VI, and spent a number of years at court and as a

member of Parliament, but when King James died he lost interest and reverted to his original path of ordination. He was appointed to the parish of Bemerton, near Salisbury, where he was a devoted priest to his flock, helping the poor and tending the sick, until his early death.

‘Teach me, my God and King’, is not his only well-known hymn in our book. ‘King of Glory, King of Peace’ is another, and more of his devotional poems have been adapted for music, some of them by him.

The cleverness of the Metaphysical poets has waxed and waned in popularity over the years. In the 1920s crime writer and theologian Dorothy L. Sayers favoured again the Metaphysicals and their use of mystical language. In 1860 Aberdeen pre-Raphaelite artist William Dyce (to whom our war memorial chapel altarpiece was for a time attributed) painted a famous oil painting depicting Herbert in his garden at Bemerton.

But it was for his piety rather than his cleverness that George Herbert was included in the Anglican calendar, where he is commemorated on 27 February. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, there is even a collect for the day based on his poem "The Elixir".

Whether he did much scrubbing of floors himself, George Herbert has given generations perhaps just a little more incentive to ‘make drudgery divine’!



Advent Course – City Churches

Anyone interested in a joint Advent course this year is welcome to a meeting at St. John’s Crown Terrace after the Taizé service on 4th. October (c.8.30p.m.).

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St John’s Autumn Fair

The fair is to be held in St John’s Hall on **Saturday 21st October between 10.00 and 12.30**. There will be a number of stalls with refreshments included in the price of the ticket,

which is £3. Entrance is from the church car park in Crown Terrace. Look out for the balloons!



Regular Midweek Services in the City Churches

This schedule will be reviewed soon, but for now:

St. John’s, Crown Terrace:

Wednesday 11a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
 Wednesday 7.30p.m. Taizé Eucharist
 Friday 8.30a.m. Morning Prayer

St. Margaret’s, Gallowgate:

Tuesday 11a.m. Low Mass

St. James’, Holburn Junction:

Currently no midweek services

St. Andrew’s Cathedral:

Wednesday, 10a.m. Holy Communion

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Dates for your Diary

October

Friday 20th. Quiz Night

November

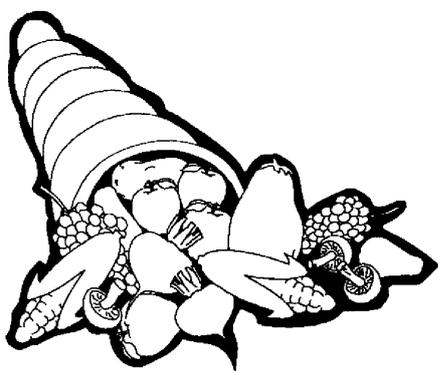
Sunday 26th. Bake and Buy after church

December

Sunday 17th. Christingle

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 Hannington 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: Vacancy

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
[facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace)

All copy for the November magazine must be with the Editor by 23rd. October, 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).