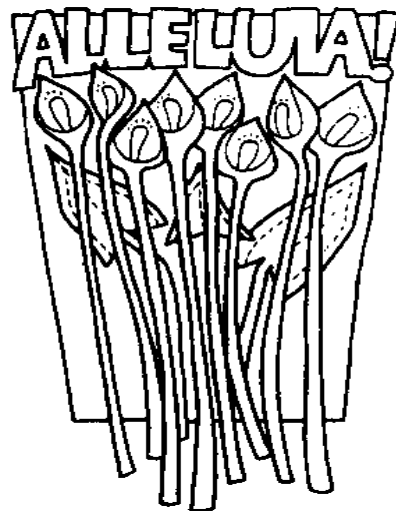


The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,
Carden Place

**Easter
2020**



FROM THE RECTORY

At the time of writing this article, we are in the middle of Holy Week. Twelve months ago none of us would have ever believed we would be in the situation we are now experiencing. The COVID-19 illness has, regrettably, spread like a kind of wildfire throughout large areas of the world. Our television news broadcasts provide us with daily updates from our political leaders and Chief Medical experts together with the latest numbers of those who have succumbed to the virus.

This has affected so many areas of our lives that we normally take for granted. Livelihoods have suffered and we can visibly see the results of the clampdowns imposed by the Government in recent days. The City of Aberdeen is so quiet that it creates a surreal atmosphere. Shops that remain open are valiantly trying to ensure that we observe the recommended 'social distancing'. Thankfully, the initial rush for many to stockpile food and other household items seems to have waned and slowly there appears to be more common sense being applied when people are shopping.

Several weeks ago, I was making plans about how we as a congregation would observe Holy Week and what services would be both available and appropriate. Our Lent course was running smoothly and was being well received and all was well with the world. It is a sobering thought when we consider what has taken place that every one of us has had to learn how to diversify in one way or another. Apart from those in key-worker roles, we are all being advised to stay at home in order to avoid any spread of the virus. This is valuable and informed advice and we should abide by it unless there are specific exceptional circumstances.

All of this has challenged us to look for and adapt to alternative ways of getting on with our day. In my own case, it has caused me to think of and invent new methods of worship. Using social media has been an absolute Godsend and some of you may have already listened in and watched some of my broadcasts. Of course, I'm not the only person who is doing this and many of my Clergy colleagues are doing something similar. There is a real plethora of differing types of prayer and worship being offered and I know that this is becoming a pivotal outlet for many of you who feel lost without it.

After the lockdown was imposed, I made many telephone calls to members of the congregation to offer help and reassurance where needed. Before Palm Sunday, I tried to personally deliver as many Palm Crosses to as many members of our congregation as possible. It took me four days and in the end I simply ran out of time and Palm Crosses. For those of you, who didn't receive one, please accept my deepest apologies. I continue to pray and explore new ways of 'being church' and I am acutely aware that not everyone has or wants access to the internet, so again, there are many hurdles to overcome if we are to ensure no one is feeling left out.

Many of the restrictions in place are extremely challenging, particularly my own pastoral responsibilities and how I am able to address them. This was highlighted very recently when I was informed of the sad passing of Mrs Eva 'Millie' Smollett. I was unable to physically visit the surviving family prior to the funeral which was a graveside service only with extremely limited numbers allowed to attend. I suspect that when all restrictions have been lifted we

will have an opportunity to remember those whom we have lost within a Church setting thereby giving us all some time to reflect and celebrate the lives of those we have lost.

During all of this, much of the normal administration and financial responsibilities have to be observed and I would like to extend my thanks to St Mary's Vestry who have, behind the scenes, been working diligently, making sure that we can re-open our Church in a seamless way when the current restrictions have been relaxed. I would particularly like to thank our treasurer Mrs Lydia Ross who is paying close regard to our fiscal state in these difficult times. Most of you may recall a Stewardship presentation by Lydia and the Rector's Warden Mr David Rose several weeks ago at our Annual General Meeting. This highlighted the real need for everyone to consider and hopefully review their level of weekly / monthly / annual giving and also to consider the use of direct debit / standing order when doing so. We still have financial commitments to attend to and there remains a need for a steady and reliable source of income to ensure sustainability.

Our Easter egg appeal was extremely successful despite the current restrictions. A total of 100 eggs were donated by members of St Mary's congregation and from other sources. I was able to deliver them in equal amounts to the Aberdeen Cyrenians and The Aberdeen Barnardo's Children's Home. Once more I am deeply humbled by this wonderful display of generosity.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Easter and we rejoice that He is risen! We are Easter people and our whole Christian faith hinges on this. The fact that we have been unable to be together in our Church for this special time is indeed unprecedented in modern times; but what this does is to provide a sure opportunity for all of us to not only renew and re-align our deep trust and love of God, but also to take stock and trust in Him that all will be well.

May God, in all His glory watch over us, may He bless all of us with His grace, May the Risen Christ remain the complete symbol of our hope and faith and may we all live in peace and harmony until we are ultimately gathered by the one true shepherd.

Blessings Always

Fr Terry Taggart (Rector)



Funerals

Muriel Bain, died 29th December 2019

Eva (Millie) Smollet, died 25th March 2020

May they rest in peace, to rise in glory.

A PRAYER

This beautiful prayer was found in the clothing of a dead child at Ravensbruck concentration camp.

Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all of the suffering they have inflicted upon us; instead remember the fruits we have borne because of this suffering – our fellowship, our loyalty to one another, our humility, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown from this trouble. When our persecutors come to be judged by you, let these fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. Amen

REPORT FROM DIOCESAN SYNOD 2020

Diocesan Synod began on 28th February at the Hilton Doubletrees with a very interesting afternoon session led by Dr. Steve Aisthorpe entitled ‘The Invisible Church’. He explained that in 2007 a survey of the population had identified 39% of the population as being ‘dechurched’ which was thought to mean that they had lost their faith. Steve Bruce and other social scientists built their theory of the death of religion on this and other similar surveys, but this interpretation is not necessarily accurate. We don’t carry out ‘exit interviews’ when people leave the church, especially if they just gradually melt away from our congregations, but Dr. Aisthorpe was involved in a detailed survey of these ‘dechurched’ people in the north east of Scotland to find out more about them and why they no longer, generally, attend church. Some recent research seems to indicate that people leave church for petty reasons, but in fact this seems not to be the case, though a ‘petty’ reason may be the last straw. But they are also not leaving because they have lost their faith: two thirds of church leavers report that their Christian faith is still of central importance to them, and the first thing people do when they disengage from church is to look for fellowship which is small, informal and organic.

Why do they leave, then? A few report that they are ‘disappointed with God’. Many felt they simply did not fit in – the church is not good at diversity. About a third cited changes within themselves, and while they spoke warmly about church still their own changes made them leave. Change in the church was rarely a reason – in fact, more pointed to a lack of change in church culture, as it became of less relevance to everyday life. On the whole the session was more about statistics than about answers, but it still led to interesting discussions.

After the session we went (through bucketing rain) to the Eucharist at the Cathedral, where we also saw the installation of the new Dean, Rev. Dennis Berk of St. Mary on the Rock, Ellon – a very happy occasion. We returned to the hotel for dinner and conversation, which is always a useful and friendly time.

Next morning we met for Morning Prayer and began the business meeting with the Bishop’s Charge. Bishop Anne spoke of God’s love for us and of asking God what He wants from us. We are short of the people we need, including priests, and when people are tired it is easy to lose a sense of what is essential. But we are not as fragile as we look, and in some ways we are stronger than other denominations. We have always been a small church but we are tenacious and faithful, the salt and light in the world, prepared to be ecumenical when required. In our diocese some congregations are growing, often at midweek cafés, healing services, and events for families and children. God is not done with us yet, and confidence is increasing in many places. Our prayers remind us that we are Kingdom people: we need to look out and see what is required in the world. We might need to be less ‘churchy’, less focused on Sunday mornings. We must not lose the Psalms, which are the prayers of Jesus,

the scripture He learned. God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in steadfast love, kind and just – we need to remember this in order to bring others to the Kingdom. We need to have the confidence to speak of such things – we've lost this and we need to readdress it. The origins of Lent are in rehabilitation and restoration of sinners, or of those preparing for baptism or confirmation at Easter. At this time, we learn to be God's people again, to undergo a spiritual reboot – and then we are better able to live as God's competent people in the world, to join in and be a blessing wherever God is working. If our vision and strategy is to learn to be God's people again, mission will flow.

She asked us then to think about, explore, discuss, and seek the Kingdom of God, and to have confidence that God is already at work where we are and all we need to do is to join in; to practise *lectio divina*, dwelling in God's word in thoughtful Bible readings; and to seek to keep Jesus at the centre of all we do – our lives, our conversations, and our worship, and to talk about Him.

Bishop Anne had planned three Diocesan Days in the spring and summer (now postponed) to follow through with these themes.

After the elections and the various reports, we had two presentations entitled 'Small Church Stories'. The first was from St. Mary-on-the-Rock and St. James' Cruden Bay on how they had become trained to be more dementia friendly, and the second was about the success of Messy Church at Woodhead of Fyvie, both very useful and informative.

Then there was a further presentation on the current state of St. Andrew's Cathedral, which is in severe financial difficulties. It was pointed out that while the Diocese needs a Cathedral, it does not necessarily have to be the present building, and other solutions were discussed though no conclusion was reached at the meeting.

A motion was put forward to add Robert Lyon to the Scottish Calendar as a martyr. It was agreed to pass this to the Faith & Order Board for consideration.

Bishop Anne announced arrangements for the Lambeth Conference, to include bishops visiting Scottish dioceses, and the S.E.C. Year of Pilgrimage in 2021 – more information will follow on both of these.

(A full copy of the Bishop's Charge is available on the Diocesan website or a printed copy is also available)



THE PHOTOGRAPH PAGES

This quarter's events have been a bit constricted, but at least we can start with something real!



Malcolm's 60th birthday celebrations!



Strange image from this time last year – birds on Schoolhill!



Name this city spire?



A little treat from the Botanic Gardens



This one is from Seaton Park.



Need something to do in isolation? The Mission to Seafarers always needs more hats, socks and gloves!



The Rector and Lewis make an online appearance.

OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS



*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
till all the world adores his sacred name.*

1. Come, brethren, follow where our
captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of
God.

2. Led on their way by this triumphant
sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks
combine.

3. Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
bears on his brow the seal of him who
died.

4. This is the sign which Satan's legions
fear
and angels veil their faces to revere:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
till all the world adores his sacred name.*

This hymn with its eleven verses is unusual in that it is very suitable for use throughout Holy Week (including Good Friday) and also on Easter Day. Scholars and hymnographers have debated about the symbolism, some taking the Cross as referred to in the hymn as meaning the love of Jesus, and some as the Passion sign of suffering and agony. Stanley L. Osbourne wrote that the hymn's "images are biblical, its moods expectant, its promises courageous, and its demands costly". It is often used as a processional hymn, where the symbolism is simple and effective.

It is thoroughly Church of England in origin. The words were written by George W. Kitchin, born in Suffolk in 1827 and died in Durham in 1912. He was ordained in the Church of England but he was a clergyman who spent most of his life in education, though he also served as Dean of Winchester, 1883 – 1894, and of Durham, 1894 – 1912. He wrote this hymn while he was at Winchester and it was first sung there at a festival, so he might have been surprised to have heard it referred to as suitable for Good Friday. He had a keen interest in history and archaeology, but also wrote a number of hymns of which this one is by far the best known today.

Several of his hymns, including *Lift High the Cross*, were altered by Michael R. Newbolt (1874 – 1956), another Church of England clergyman who was principal of the Missionary College in Dorchester, and from 1927 to 1946 was a canon of Chester Cathedral. A theologian who wrote Biblical commentaries, he does not seem to have written any hymns of his own, but he revised this one and others for the *Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1916. There for the first time it was set to the tune 'Crucifer' by the musical adviser to the *Supplement*, Sydney H. Nicholson (1875 – 1947), a very famous organist who played for some time at Westminster Abbey and founded the School of English Church Music at Chislehurst, later the Royal School of Church Music.

Perhaps we can all sing it on Easter morning this year – though it's maybe not the easiest tune to sing!

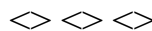
BOOK REVIEW

Knowing God: J.I. Packer

My paperback edition of this book has notes for study groups at the back: I'm not sure they would stimulate a great deal of discussion but they do make you think over the chapter you've just read and take in the main points. It's a thorough and well-referenced but also well-written analysis of the nature of God, with chapters on love, on wisdom, on judgement, and more, and what our response should be to these characteristics. Packer pulls few punches: he's not pleased with the way self-styled Christians are behaving in the modern world, but he does lay out methods and reasons for our improvement: it's the kind of book that really does make you want to do something!

ACCOUNTS

		<u>December 2019</u>	
<u>September 2019</u>		Income:	11,429
Income:	7,672	Expenditure:	9,292
Expenditure:	<u>6,324</u>	Net result for month:	<u>2,137</u>
Net result for month:	1,348		
		Balance at month end:	85,167
Balance at month end:	£88,379		
<u>October 2019</u>		<u>January 2020</u>	
Income:	4,584	Income:	6,192
Expenditure:	<u>8,773</u>	Expenditure:	<u>5,841</u>
Net result for month:	-4,189	Net result for month:	351
		Balance at month end:	£85,518
Balance at month end:	£84,190		
<u>November 2019</u>		<u>February 2020</u>	
Income:	4,831	Income:	3,639
Expenditure:	<u>6,205</u>	Expenditure:	<u>6,297</u>
Net result for month:	-1,374	Net result for month:	-2,658
		Balance at month end:	£82,860
Balance at month end:	£83,030		



ABERDEEN CITY CHURCHES

No events at the other City Churches just now – if you are able to access Facebook then it's worth joining the Aberdeen City Churches page where much news is exchanged at the moment! (Aberdeen City Episcopal Churches)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: Rev. Terry Taggart 07768 219984 / 01224 588776

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: (vacancy)

Vestry Secretary: Elizabeth Smyth

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Anne Farquhar

Organist: Matthew McVey

Lunchtime Fellowship: T.B.A.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator: Graham Thomson

Flower Convener: Irene Pratt (01224 583687)

Church Office (01224 561383) office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Online: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk / facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace

All copy for the Trinity magazine must be with the Editor by 6 July, 2020. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to palaeography@aol.com. Thank you!

Your Magazine

You can order your St. Mary's News to be sent to you each quarter 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!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Carden Place, is a charity (Scottish Charity No. SCO 14062).