

# The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,  
Carden Place

**Harvest  
2019**

## *FROM THE RECTORY*

As I write this, I reflect on an 18 day holiday with my wife Sam to Calgary in Canada. It was a long overdue holiday which we both badly needed and despite a hectic timetable whilst we were there, we returned feeling re-charged and ready to face the challenges ahead. Whilst I was there, I went to an Anglican Service which was a mixture of High Church / Evangelical! Yes, the two can work if it's done correctly.

There were about 250+ people in the congregation of all ages who enthusiastically contributed to the service in one way or another. We opened on fairly familiar territory until after the opening words when we began the first of five hymns in succession, all of which had many verses, all of which we stood for ! Some of the hymns I did not know, some I did, but with so many verses it was easy to pick it up as we went on.

There were at least 10 servers at the Eucharist and it was carried out with military precision. An electric band and a concert pianist provided musical accompaniment and everything and everyone was a blur of activity. The priest was a retired gentleman from Hertfordshire in England who was standing in during a current interregnum and admitted being unfamiliar with the technology in front of him, said he felt like a rabbit caught in the headlights. I have to say I was very impressed with how he handled the situation which in my opinion was seamless.

Whilst I was away, Bishop Anne, Fr Jason and Rev'd Dr Ruth Green ensured that there were no breaks in services and I am so pleased that they offered to help when they did.

It has been a year since Sam and I arrived at St Mary's from the Isle of Lewis and I have to say it has simply shot past it's been that quick. We have been very busy and I have tried to put myself about as much as I possibly can. However, it's not always possible to get around everybody and I continue to endeavour to widen my parameters.

We have had weddings galore and a Baptism which brought us great hope and joy. We have said farewell to our previous Organist Alex Kither and we welcomed our new Organist Matthew McVey after a brief hiatus. We have seen growth in our church, not only with visitors but also with new congregants who now regularly attend.

Many ladies from our congregation attended a ladies' evening meal at a nearby restaurant and I understand that it was a success. I hope we can continue with this sort of event on an annual basis.

We also had a Pet Service in August which was a wonderful day: this too will become an annual event. Donations from this event were given to Mrs Murray's Dog and Cat rescue home.

Our Choir Vestry Hall is much in use with Pilates and Montessori Classes aplenty and we are thankful that these groups enjoy the facilities provided at St Mary's. We are grateful too for the extra income that hiring the hall generates as we constantly face the financial demands that are associated with the upkeep of such a beautiful building.

## ST MARY'S QUARTERLY

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As we enter autumn there is a distinct change in the scenery as foliage changes colour and eventually falls to the ground. We look towards darker evenings as winter beckons us once more and we begin to feel the chills of a north east breeze as it comes in from the coast. In all of this change, even though we witness and experience it every year, there is much room for contemplation on what it means to us. The past 12 months have seen the passing of several members of our congregation. We have also lost family members (me included) and we have had to deal with the sense of emptiness and vacuum that emotion can create.

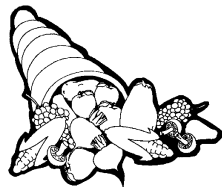
Our Assistant Priest Father Jason continues to help out at St Clement's and at Christ Church Kincardine O'Neill on a twice monthly basis. That does not stop him from offering to assist here at St Mary's when he is able and for that I am deeply thankful.

I am rather pleased with how the past 12 months have gone here at St Mary's. Having a proactive Vestry Committee helps and without their continued support and assistance I would struggle to achieve many things. Of course, it goes without saying that the many volunteers at St Mary's make my life as Rector so much easier and I have no idea what or where I'd be without you. You are all a blessing!

I will conclude with this thought. Even as the nights draw in and the darkness comes remember; 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5)

Many Blessings Always

Fr Terry Taggart (Rector)



### **LUNCHTIME FELLOWSHIP**

*At August's Lunchtime Fellowship, we marked World Water Week, which this year carried the theme of Water for All – £51.00 was donated on the day and this money has been given to WaterAid to support their work in improving access to safe water in communities where there is currently little or no safe water available, as we reflected on our use of water:*

How much water do you think a person with the most restricted access to clean and safe water uses each day for drinking, cooking, washing and household needs?

The answer – just two litres – and often, that water isn't even clean and safe to use. It can be far below the standards of what we would consider to be drinking water.

## ST MARY'S QUARTERLY

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Two Litres - that's the same amount that we are told we should drink each day – we who are so used to water simply coming out of the tap, whenever we want it, that we don't think about where it comes from, or worry about how much we use.

And on top of that, we use significantly more than that as we bath or shower each day – online stats suggest around 65 litres for an 8 minute shower.

Our washing machines can use in the region of 150 litres per load.

For those of us with dishwashers, we use a minimum of another 20 litres per load.

And every time we flush the loo, that's about another 7 litres from more modern toilets designed to use less water.

And that doesn't include the clean water we use for cooking, cleaning our homes, keeping our gardens well watered, or the many other uses for water that we have.

Could you live on 2 litres of water a day? It would be a challenge, wouldn't it?

As I thought about this, two very different responses I have experienced came to my mind.

More negatively, I've often heard people moaning that the water is off here in this country, because of problems with the pipes that brings our water to us, or because there have been hosepipe bans put in place because the water levels in our reservoirs have dropped lower than we are comfortable with. We can complain, yet we can buy, relatively cheaply, clean water from our shops should something go wrong with our tap water. And most of us have access to cars and busses to help us carry it home. We don't have to do the daily water walk!

But more positively, I remember, while I was visiting our twin diocese of Mthatha in South Africa, the water went off for a couple of days. It didn't affect our drinking water as we were on bottled water only – for drinking tap water would have made us ill, our bodies unused to the bacteria within the local water system.

The water going off was a common occurrence where we were. Our hosts gave us around 50 litres of water to cater for our other water needs. We were offered more, but we realised that for every drop of this water we needed, our hosts would go without some of the water that they required. We knew we had to make the water last – the young people travelling with me openly talking about when we should and shouldn't use water, and why. The whole group adapted well to the situation and ten of us used just 30 litres of water over that two day period. (But I do confess, the bath I had once the water came back on was probably one of the most enjoyable baths I've ever had!!!)

So, let's give thanks for the plentiful water we have, even if reservoir water levels can drop, pipes can leak, and we occasionally have to manage without. And at the same time, let us pray, and do whatever else we can to support those who have limited water.



Dr. Alexander Christides on his graduation day in Edinburgh with proud parents and brother Mikey!



Drum Castle, the venue for this summer's small sunny church picnic.



A little socialising at the Pet Service



John Riley, improviser extraordinaire, treated us to a fabulous recital using both church organs on 6<sup>th</sup>. September – ‘Music familiar, less familiar and slightly spurious’!

#### Ladies Evening

Strangely, no photographs were taken during the very enjoyable Ladies' Evening! Many thanks to Terry and Sam for their good wishes and supplies of wine, though!

## OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS



*We plough the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand.  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine  
And soft refreshing rain.*



This is one of the most popularly performed hymns probably in the Western world. Written in Germany by Matthias Claudius in 1782, it was originally a poem seventeen verses long which he composed after an illness which returned him to his childhood faith. It was immediately popular, even in its longer form, but was edited to three verses and was set to music by Johann A.P. Schultz in 1800 – Schultz is most famous for setting Claudius' poem 'Der Mond ist aufgegangen' to music as a Christmas carol.

Jane Montgomery Campbell, a German scholar and the daughter of a rector in London, translated it into English in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and used it as a harvest thanksgiving hymn in the Sunday School she taught at her father's church. She also produced one of the translations of 'Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht', for use in the church.

The hymn is so well known it has appeared in *Godspell*, and been parodied by John Betjeman as 'We spray the fields and scatter / The poison on the land', as a protest against modern farming methods. It was listed in Aled Jones' Forty Favourite Hymns. And it is a rare Harvest Festival where it is not sung!

## BOOK REVIEW

John Cottingham, *How can I Believe?*

A curious title for a book, this is one of a series of little pocket-sized books with questions for titles like *What is Christianity?* by Rowan Williams, and *Where on Earth is Heaven?* by Paula Gooder. I picked up this along with *Why does God allow Suffering?* by Robin Gill. The latter was a fairly conventional treatment of this commonly-argued subject. *How can I Believe?* is a little more unexpected: after all, the question one hears more often these days is 'Why should I believe?'. Cottingham's argument is that there are plenty of people who feel the need to find a meaning in their lives, and would like to have faith, but are not quite sure how to go about it. He argues for practice first, for establishing routines of prayer and habits of attitude, which cultivate a place for belief to happen – something which I believe C.S. Lewis also talks about in *The Screwtape Letters*. Some would argue that practice like this without belief is empty, but it has often been known to sustain people through times when faith is unsteady. He describes belief as reaching towards the divine while knowing that it cannot be grasped, a method of putting into perspective the human tendency towards anxiety and dread. He prefers to dismiss, for the purpose of this book, classical theological arguments for the proof of God's existence, since they are too abstract and theoretical for the task of helping someone have faith. Instead, he encourages the reader to draw on real life, on experience, on themselves, to see the purpose of believing in God. He touches on the problem of pain, too, but comes to the conclusion that there are no theoretical or philosophical arguments that stand in the way of belief in God, and adds that becoming a believer is not an isolated mental act, but a long process of growth, sustained by believers around us and believers who have gone before us.

These little books are not necessarily easy reads, but they are compact reads, which can be less intimidating for someone with what seems like a simple question and a desire for a considered answer.

## ACCOUNTS

|                       |              |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>April 2019</u>     |              | Net result for month: | -2,145       |
| Income:               | 5,583        | Balance at month end: | £87,074      |
| Expenditure:          | <u>6,005</u> |                       |              |
| Net result for month: | -422         | <u>July 2019</u>      |              |
| Balance at month end: | £92,699      | Income:               | 6,447        |
|                       |              | Expenditure:          | <u>5,954</u> |
| <u>May 2019</u>       |              | Net result for month: | 493          |
| Income:               | 4,130        | Balance at month end: | £87,567      |
| Expenditure:          | <u>7,062</u> |                       |              |
| Net result for month: | -3,293       | <u>August 2019</u>    |              |
| Balance at month end: | £89,219      | Income:               | 4,850        |
|                       |              | Expenditure:          | <u>5,598</u> |
| <u>June 2019</u>      |              | Net result for month: | -748         |
| Income:               | 3,252        | Balance at month end: | £87,031      |
| Expenditure:          | <u>5,945</u> |                       |              |

## **ABERDEEN CITY CHURCHES**

### **From St. James'**

It's been such a privilege for me to take several services at St Mary's in Fr Terry's absence and get to know a few more of the congregation. I hope that we will continue to find ways for our two churches to work together.

At St James, when our doors are open at lunchtimes - normally three times a week - we continue to meet new people and old friends. We are looking forward to having Jean Souter with us after she has been ordained as a vocational deacon. She will help with the midweek outreach into the community. We pray for God's blessing on her new ministry.

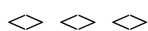
Revd Dr Ruth Green

### **From St. John's, Crown Terrace**

Our big news is the licensing of Dr Jenny Holden to serve as Curate in St John's. This will take place on Sunday 29th September, the day after her ordination to the diaconate in St Andrew's Cathedral. Secondly, we are holding our annual Autumn Fair on Saturday 26th October from 10.00am to 12.30pm. All are welcome. Please enter from the step free entrance in Crown Terrace (look for the balloons).

### **From St. Andrew's Cathedral**

The Cathedral is looking forward to some autumn visits from our sister diocese in Connecticut and elsewhere in the U.S.A. Episcopalians there see Aberdeen, the site of the consecration of their first bishop, Samuel Seabury, in 1784, as their church's home. Fund-raising and activity also continues for the Decade of Development, and we enjoyed a concert in September for the Friends of Vellore.



### ***From our outgoing Gift Aid Secretary:***

Dear Friends

Thank you for the lovely gift of Garden Vouchers. A total surprise. I would like to thank each one of you as Gift Aid for the church can only function with tax payers co-operating by signing the Gift Aid Declaration and having their offertory tagged by the number on the weekly envelopes or by giving through Standing Orders. Lydia helped me a lot by providing monthly lists of offertory via Standing Orders, and lists of other donations, e.g. Gift Day, Easter Gifts and any other special collections we make. Irene gave me the lists of donors to the Flower Fund. I thank them both. Annually we get £ 10,000 to £11,000 and this is a big boost to our income. The higher amount is when we have a special collection like the "Heating Fund".

Gift Aid is a collective effort and I thank you all for your co-operation.

My special thanks for your gift to me. Very kind and very generous of you. Shalom..... May God's peace and well being be with each one.

Anna Koruth



**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Rector: Rev. Terry Taggart 07768 219984 / 01224 588776

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: Graham Thomson

Vestry Secretary: Elizabeth Smyth

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Anne Farquhar

Organist: Matthew McVey

Lunchtime Fellowship: Mary McKinnell [itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org)

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator: Graham Thomson

Flower Convener: Irene Pratt (01224 583687)

Church Office (01224 561383) [office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)

Online: [www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk) / [facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace](https://facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace)

All copy for the Christmas magazine must be with the Editor by 16 December, 2019. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to [palaeography@aol.com](mailto:palaeography@aol.com). Thank you!

**Your Magazine**

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