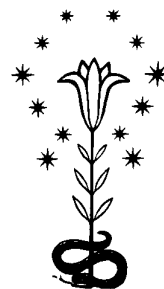


The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,
Carden Place

Trinity
2020



From the Rectory

Dear All,

By now many of you will have received the news that during the past several weeks, I have been involved in discussions with Bishop Anne Dyer and others regarding the position of St Andrew's Cathedral. A decision has been taken by the Cathedral Trustees to close St Andrew's temporarily in September this year because the condition of the building does not make it suitable for worship through the winter. During this temporary closure, the fabric of the building will be assessed.

This temporary closure is unrelated to the closure of places of worship during the coronavirus pandemic, and it is possible that St Andrew's may re-open as part of the phased easing of lockdown, before it closes again in September for assessment.

It was requested by Bishop Anne that St Mary's therefore becomes the Diocesan Provisional Cathedral during that temporary period. Together with the Vestry Committee it was unanimously agreed that St Mary's would accept this role for the foreseeable future and the transition will become effective from Sunday 27th of September 2020.

Bishop Anne is grateful for our support. She says to the congregation of St Mary's: *"In deciding to close the cathedral buildings temporarily from the end of September this year, the Trustees are acting in the best interests of the congregation of St Andrew's. The buildings are no longer suitable for worship through another winter. This kind and loving decision has been echoed by the invitation from St Mary's, Carden Place, to welcome the St Andrew's congregation there. That location will become the pro-cathedral for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, and will provide us with an opportunity in these challenging times to pool our resources, so that together we can continue to serve our neighbours in the City of Aberdeen."*

I will remain as Rector of St Mary's and will share both my pastoral and presiding role with the Very Rev'd Isaac Poobalan, Provost of the Cathedral Church of St Andrew. We will both work tirelessly to ensure that when the two congregations meet together to worship, it will be in the spirit of love and affection strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit. We will all experience change and I have no doubt that many of you will have questions to ask, so please do not hesitate to contact me. We all have work to do in the coming months, which I know you will all be willing to assist with. Please remember the congregation of St Andrew's in your prayers as we move forward.

There is much to do in the coming months as we welcome St Andrew's Cathedral congregation to St Mary's. There is no doubt that for some this will be a time of sadness and loss and it is up to everyone here to ensure that when we gather for our first service on the 27th of September, in whatever capacity that may be, we must be ready to embrace and welcome those who may feel slightly lost. There will be some who have never set foot inside St Mary's and we can all remember what that feels like when we enter a Church we are not familiar with.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all members of St Mary's Vestry Committee who have been extremely supportive during the past several weeks. We will continue to work hard to serve St Mary's and to extend the hand of love and friendship to the congregation of St Andrew's when they join us for worship.

It is not really practical at this time to discuss our social calendar, due not only to the ever changing circumstances, but also now, as we look to welcome our brothers and sisters from St Andrews. There will be much collaboration to consider as there will be a 'Two Vestry' system in operation; St Mary's Vestry will operate separately from the Trustees of St Andrew's Cathedral as will the individual charities, and it is anticipated that there will need to be a 'Joint Steering Group' in place that overlaps both committees to ensure 'synchronicity'. All of this sounds complicated but with the calibre of those involved from both St Mary's and St Andrew's, I am highly optimistic that any problems we encounter can easily be dealt with professionally and sensitively.

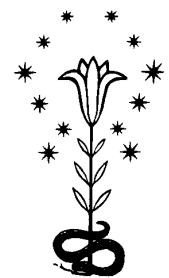
It has been a strange last quarter since Easter. Much has happened both in and outside of St Mary's and it has created a surreal atmosphere when some of us gather to chat about how we are getting along. The use of the Zoom application has been absolutely wonderful and I know that not everyone has either access or the desire to use it, but for those who have I know that it has helped during this time. It seems that a lot of us have enhanced our computer savvy skills tenfold of late and that is no bad thing.

Personally speaking, I spend a lot of time on my laptop for work admin so it really isn't a massive change for me but what it has done is made me think of the content and brevity of messages that I communicate. Am I saying too much? Could I get to the point quicker? Is the language I use appropriate? We can all be guilty of skimming over something and missing out entirely what the message was, and that can be dangerous. That's why, I suppose, we are always advised never to write an email in anger, and if we do so without reading it back first, never to hit the 'send' button, but to leave it a while to read over and reconsider what we really intended to say. When we read our Bibles, is that what we do? I must admit, there have been times when I have been reading a certain passage and I've had to go back over it again as I knew I hadn't really been taking it in properly. But the flip-side of that raises questions doesn't it? Like 'If you've read the Bible, why read it again and again over many years, it's not going to change is it?' For those of you who are regular readers, not just of the Bible but literature in general, you will understand where I am coming from here. Sometimes a story needs to be read and re-read several times before we fully understand what the author is trying to explain. That's the beauty of language, isn't it? - pitch, cadence, punctuation, grammar, all of these and more reach out to us in different ways and we all receive them differently too.

I sincerely hope that when we meet up again after all the restrictions have been lifted, we shall not only catch up with each other's stories, but we shall communicate in a language of love and fellowship as we look to the future with great expectation.

Blessings Always

Fr Terry Taggart



AROUND THE CONGREGATION...

In the absence of much going on in the congregation, we asked for contributions from you to tell us how you were doing during lockdown and what you were enjoying. Some of us have been attending Zoom breakfasts on Sundays (mercifully not too early!) though this was evidently a solemn moment ...



Mary and Carol write:

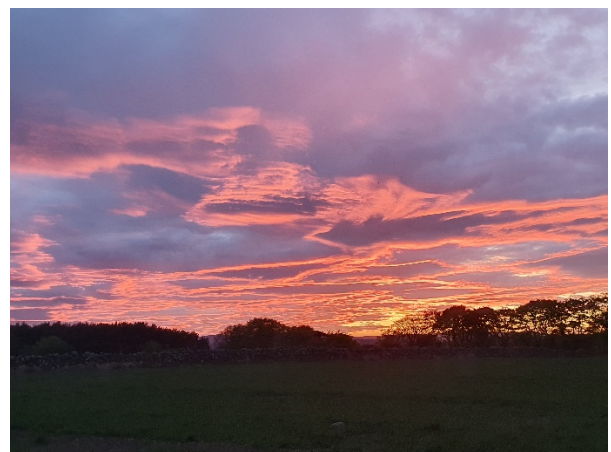


We have largely been isolated up our farm track, but have been blessed by a wonderful community in the steadings where we live as well as a feeling of space – I don't think we have ever appreciated our views and sense of outdoor space here as much as we have during lockdown and we've enjoyed taking time watching the local wildlife.

Mary has also enjoyed watching the skies each day – and enjoyed reflecting on what she saw each day, often sharing that with people on Facebook – she shares a couple of favourite photos taken in the first 40 days of lockdown....

Day to day, Carol is working from home, and Mary is furloughed but keeping busy with a number of things so we are certainly not bored and we find it relatively easy to maintain a regular routine – benefitting from a lot more fresh air than we would normally get which has been wonderful! We've also been enjoying various arts and crafts and each week we enjoy watching *The Show Must Go on* musicals made available by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

We hope all of our Church Family are keeping well, and we hope we will be able to see you all soon – on Zoom or in person as restrictions lift. You are all in our prayers.



Prue King writes:



Lockdown for me has meant that a great many odds and ends, material and spiritual, have been ordered. I have some very surprised cupboards, and a lot of used up oddments. Some good things to show for it and a lot of empty spaces, figurative and literal.

And the big magnolia is flowering.

Prue

Alan Stokes has sent a photo of him participating in the breakfasts along with his new puppy Stella (there have been almost as many dogs at the breakfast as people!), and three tantalising puzzles to keep us occupied!



QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Q1 Which animal has the biggest heart?

- ☐ Human
- ☐ Elephant
- ☐ Blue whale
- ☐ Giraffe

Q2 Which of these is not an autoimmune disease?

- ☐ Rheumatoid arthritis
- ☐ Type 1 diabetes
- ☐ Autism
- ☐ Multiple sclerosis

Q3 How strong is a silverback gorilla's bite?

- ☐ 324 psi (twice an average human's)
- ☐ 656 psi (twice a rottweiler dog's)
- ☐ 1,250 (twice a great white shark's)
- ☐ 1,300 psi (twice a lion's)

Q4 Where is the north magnetic pole?

- ☐ Arctic
- ☐ Antarctic
- ☐ Siberia
- ☐ Australia

Q5 Which Solar System planets have no moons?

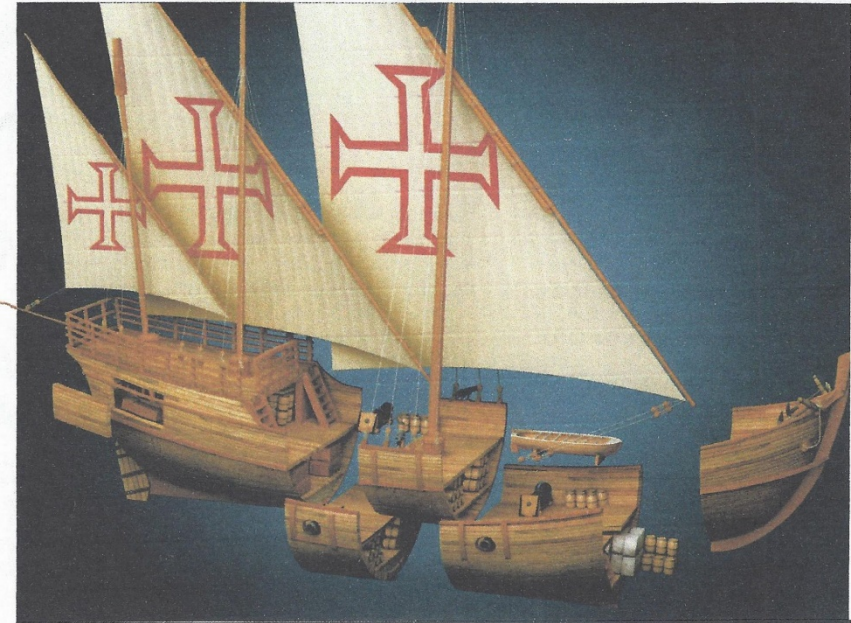
- ☐ Mercury and Neptune
- ☐ Venus and Mars
- ☐ Neptune and Mars
- ☐ Mercury and Venus

Q6 How old was Charles Darwin's tortoise Harriet when she died in 2006?

- ☐ 98 years old
- ☐ 117 years old
- ☐ 160 years old
- ☐ 175 years old

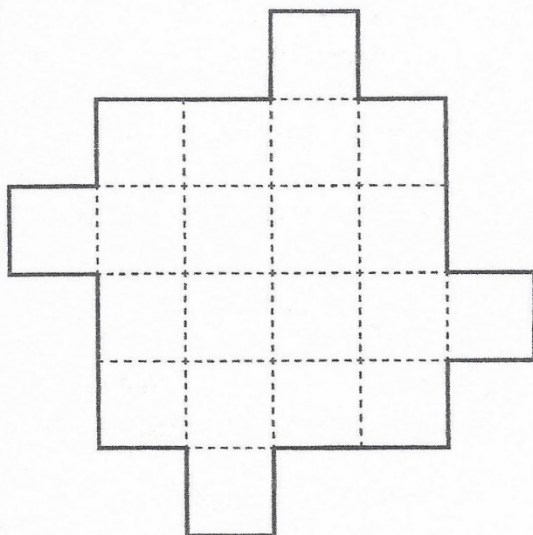
Spot the difference

See if you can find all six changes between the images below



IT ALL ADDS UP

10
THE CHOCOLATE SQUARES



Here is a slab of chocolate. Make a copy of the slab in paper or cardboard and then try to cut it into nine pieces so that they will form four perfect squares all of exactly the same size.

Valerie Burroughs, regular reader of the magazine, also sent an update:

All good here.

We have been going out to the supermarket (normally me) once a week. We are fortunate to have a fantastic local shop where we pick up the paper every day, so we can top up with supplies there. Trying to support it as much as possible without denying provisions for local people with no transport.

There is also a local food bank initiative and that has a great response - between ten and fifteen bags of food etc each week! We take it in turns to deliver it to the church in a nearby town which organises distribution.

We've also had several village activities, including sunflower seeds to grow, organised by the village. Not seen so much of our priest in charge but she lives in another village. Not as easy for her to keep in touch with all her parishioners.

We're lucky to have a large garden that still needs a lot of work after years of Benign neglect. Now have fruit and veg coming for later in the year plus lots of flowers to cover bare patches while we decide on new shrubs!

Our main news is that Caroline's wedding was due to take place this coming Friday. After a

lot of thought, the solution is as follows: an online blessing on Friday with close family and a few friends, a small wedding ceremony as soon as restrictions both sides of the border allow and another blessing plus celebration at the end of May next year!

Apparently a few of her friends in Edinburgh are secretly making plans for a special meal and other bits for Friday. We are all dressing up for our appearance online. Both Caroline and Rob wanted an acknowledgement of their situation as they are buying her flat together and will be living there together from next week. Covid-19 has a lot to answer for. We are just lucky that so far this is the worst way it has affected us.

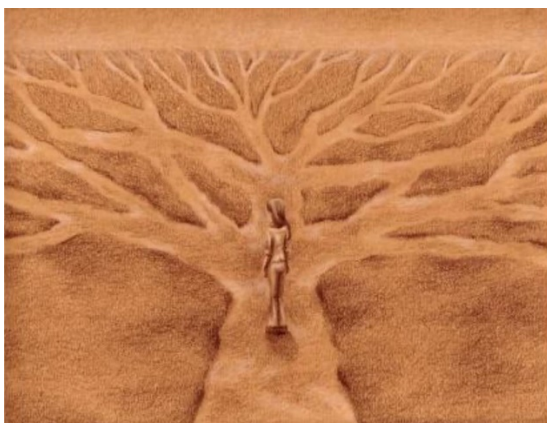
How are all the folks at St Mary's coping? - with fortitude no doubt.



All the best,

Valerie

Margaret McKinnon writes:



(unable to find copyright holder on this so apologies ...)

Throughout this time of change I have connected in a new way with the meaning of choice ... namely God has always granted us free will and from the tree of life picture it is easy to see there are many pathways to choose from, however, there is a beauty within each pathway, namely, Jesus is guide on every pathway and God is standing there with arms outstretched at our destination irrespective of which pathway we choose to go on ...

I love using this time to also invite my inner child to play, be inventive and imaginative ...

I love how nature during this time has the freedom we once took for granted ... perhaps that will change in time and God willing we will value our freedom, community and environment.



So during this time of lockdown I have been very blessed with making good use of my time and engagement with contemplative reflection. The Barbie picture is mine following a playtime on FaceTime with my Granddaughter.

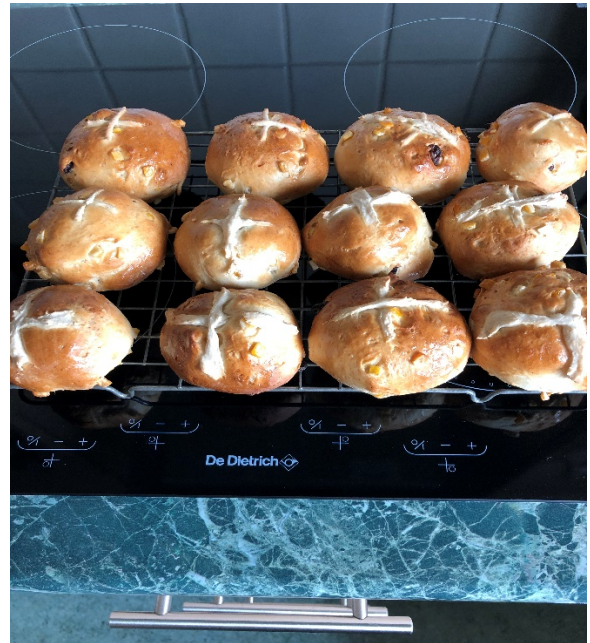
Peace and Blessings to all and thank you again for the invitation to sit and reflect on my journey thus far during lockdown ... it's not just the wind blowing away the cobwebs ...

Love

Margaret

An update from the **Roses**:

Easter in lockdown - decorations, homemade hot cross buns and beautiful flowers from our kind neighbour, Anna Koruth.



Very grateful for fruit and vegetable delivery.



Including a six-inch onion!

And lots of Zoom chats.



Thank you, everyone, for your contributions!

OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

*Christ Triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.*



Michael Saward is the author of the lyrics of this hymn, one of over sixty he has written (probably the most famous to which he has contributed is Let Us with a Gladsome Mind). He was born in Kent in 1932 and died only a few years ago in 2015, and was ordained into the Church of England in 1956. Though he served in several parishes his most prominent work was probably as radio and television officer for the Church Information Office, a post he held from 1967 to 1972 – and he was also an author.

The tune Guiting Power, to which the hymn is most frequently sung, is arguably the best-known work of John Barnard, organist and erstwhile choir master (b.1948). Though it might look like a misprint for ‘Guiding Power’, Guiting Power is in fact a village in the Cotswolds, between Cheltenham and Stow-on-the-Wold, and with a population of around 300 it’s possible that the tune is better known than the village!
Words and tune come together best in the refrain, with that tricky little rhyme pattern and the soaring note in the second line – it’s a good congregational hymn.

ACCOUNTS

March 2020

Income:	3,879
Expenditure:	<u>5,187</u>
Net result for month:	-1,308

Balance at month end:	£81,452
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April 2020

Income:	3,676
Expenditure:	<u>5,755</u>
Net result for month:	-2,079

Balance at month end:	£79,373
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May 2020

Income:	6,579
Expenditure:	<u>5,516</u>
Net result for month:	1,063

Balance at month end:	£80,463
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Of course, our income has suffered during lockdown as we are no longer collecting envelopes and cash each Sunday. As churches reopen the use of paper and cash will probably be discouraged, too. If you would like to move your giving to standing order at this time, particularly in the light of our recent stewardship campaign, please contact stmtreasurer1@btinternet.com for details.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: Rev. Terry Taggart 07768 219984 / 01224 588776

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: t.b.a.

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

Just waiting to see what form the magazine is going to take in our shared church – there will be fair warning of the next one! Hard copy when required 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).