

The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,
Carden Place

Trinity
2021



FROM THE RECTORY

As I write this, we have rain and an overcast sky. We must not grumble though, after all, we did have a few days of really nice sunny and hot weather not very long ago.

Since our last Magazine, I have been very busy. The status of our Covid awareness regulations seems to change on a 24 hour basis. The Province, in conjunction with the Scottish Parliament, has worked extremely hard to keep all of us updated with regards to our shared worship. Of course, it always gives me great pleasure to pre-record a service each week to provide access to our worship for those who do not yet feel 100% confident to join us again in a more physically communal sense. As we move forward with the ever-fluid situation, we watch with great hope and much caution, for the next changes to be announced.

We have recently started singing again in church and this is such a welcome and joyous return to near-normal status. During the preceding months, our very own Louisa Donaldson has stepped up to the plate as our Cantor for numerous services and I am sure I speak for us all when I say that she has done, and continues to do, a magnificent job, adding great depth and feeling to our worship. I think it is incredibly brave for one person to be relied upon so much, and in Louisa we have experienced such humble appliance to her task. I would also like to thank Matthew McVey our Organist, who has been extremely diligent, providing music for our live and pre-recorded services, plus directing a very recent choral accompaniment at one of our Sunday services. We have all, it seems, learned to adapt and improvise. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we have all of the remaining pews back inside the main 'body of the kirk', thereby allowing us to tidy up and begin to use the choir vestry once more.

St Mary's Vestry Committee has also been extremely busy of late. We have been successful in an application to the Provincial Buildings Committee for funding to assist with the ongoing maintenance of our Church buildings and I am deeply grateful to all those who worked hard to make it happen. We are also working through other funding streams to assist with work and with other ventures, one of which is the Recovery and Renewal fund, set up by the Province to assist in our mission to the community, and to enable us as a church to reach out in more diverse and adaptable ways. As you will know, we are hoping to re-develop some of the parking space at the west end of the church with a therapeutic/peace garden, and it is hoped that should we be successful with our application to the Recovery

and Renewal fund, this would go some way to offsetting the cost of the work carried out.

Many of you will remember the late Canon Jim Alexander, who passed away recently after a long battle with dementia. Canon Jim was a stalwart of St Mary's for just under 20 years and a great servant to the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney for many more. It was the desire of Canon Jim's family that his funeral service be carried out at St Mary's, and I was deeply honoured to be able to officiate. We also lost another Priest of great renown, the late Canon Ken Gordon. Canon Ken passed away peacefully at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after a brave battle with cancer. Again, Ken was another long-time servant of this diocese, having been Rector at St Devenick's for 30 years combined with service in other churches well past his retirement. I was very humbled to be able to provide the final sacrament to Canon Ken 2 days before he passed away. May they both rest in God's peace.

General Synod was again, an online affair, taking place over 2 days in early June. I have to say that it was, in my opinion, a very successful gathering from across the Province, and much was discussed during that time. None more so than the St Andrew's Declaration, which outlines much closer collaboration in the 'Common Calling' with our brothers and sisters from the Church of Scotland. The declaration was approved by a majority vote which indicated that there was work to do.

There was also much discussion about environmental issues by which we as a Church should continue to address and lead by example. I am acutely aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint as much as we possibly can, and I look to everyone to be of the same mind. You will have noted recently that I no longer print orders of service. This is not a new concept for me, but rather a return to a previous practice. Of course, I accept that there will be special occasions when a printed order of service is required, however, when that is not the case, we will use the resources already to hand in the way of pre-printed service books etc. By doing this we are making an effort to contribute to the Scottish Episcopal Church's aim that we can be as environmentally aware as possible in all that we do. I am of course always open to suggestion about other areas we can improve upon.

I very recently completed my training to become a member of the Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) panel system. This will not affect my ministry, but enhance it, as it gives me an opportunity to work closely with a team of other dedicated volunteers who have great concern for children and young people in this country. It goes without saying that my priorities will always be as Rector to

St Mary's, however, this enables me to provide outreach in a unique fashion to our community.

I am also now a member of the 'Global Partnerships Committee', which is a committee responsible for supporting church projects and people across the world. It enables the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC), to reach out in prayer and commit to the needs of the wider church community. The Global Partnership Committee is part of the Mission board of the SEC and will meet several times a year to discuss and action if necessary, applications received.

I was delighted that our Photograph competition was such a resounding success. As many of you will know, I have recently just launched the next challenge, which is a 'Short Poem' competition. I sincerely hope that this also meets with the same enthusiasm as the previous one.

It continues to be a joy to minister to both St Mary's and St Andrew's congregations, and now that restrictions are easing somewhat, I am hopeful of making home visits once more. Don't worry, I wouldn't just turn up on your doorstep without prior warning or approval. I have really missed this essential part of my pastoral ministry, and it is really important to me to get back into the groove as far as this is concerned. By the time this is published I hope to have begun visiting again, and where necessary, providing the Holy Sacrament of Communion when requested.

Sunday the 15th of August will be our Patronal Festival and I am hoping to ensure it is one to remember. The easing of restrictions should allow us to accommodate a larger choir, more musical choices and increased involvement from all attending. We are also using the occasion as a 'Gift Day' to St Mary's as part of our continued fund-raising requirements. Please give this some thought, whether you are able to attend or not.

I would like to conclude by thanking everyone who has volunteered their help over the past several months since our last publication. No matter what type of ministry is undertaken to ensure we are an open, friendly and welcoming church, each is as important as the other which is why I am so grateful for your support in my own ministry as your Rector. To my Vestry Officers, Sacristan, Flower arrangers, church cleaning team, Organist, Rota providers, Readers, Intercessors; to each and everyone who steps through our doors, no matter how often, thank you and may God's blessing be with you always.

Reverend Canon Terry Taggart
Rector
St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD

Much business at this year's General Synod (again on Zoom but this time over two days) was preliminary or ongoing, with no momentous votes. Topics covered included the form of future elections of bishops, bullying and harassment policies, clergy wellbeing (including the very important matter of clergy time off) and of course the perennial discussions on quota, stipends, pensions and investments.

For three topics we were able to form break-out groups for detailed discussion. One of these was episcopal elections, and the other two were the climate emergency and, with some reference to the peri- and post-pandemic world, the strategic direction of the Church. Church in Society has provided some very useful guidelines for how a congregation might head towards carbon neutrality, and our stewardship of the environment is one of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission that stimulated some useful discussion on the Church's strategic direction.

This was our second Zoom General Synod – last year's was one day in December to deal with important or urgent business. This year in some ways felt stranger – the weather was right, the business extended over two days with morning and evening prayer, and it was easier to imagine again meeting in person, sharing coffee breaks and meals, and renewing old acquaintances. At least this time we had some more input from our interfaith and interdenominational guests, though technology, as so often, meant that there were one or two problems along the way. On the whole, however, all was well, and we can look forward, perhaps, to more normal times next year.

Nicola Mills
Lay Representative

JANE HAINING

At General Synod 2021 Synod approved the inclusion of Jane Haining in the SEC Calendar. This account of her life is taken from the Synod papers:

Jane Haining was born in the Borders, lived in Glasgow and felt called as a Church of Scotland Missionary in Budapest, Hungary. Her mission work was caring for Jewish children. At the outbreak of World War II, she was asked to return to Scotland and refused. She was subsequently arrested and transported to Auschwitz having refused to abandon the children in her charge. She is the only Scot known to have died in Auschwitz ... On account of her refusal to abandon those for whom she had care, and her death as a result, she is recognised as

Righteous among the Nations (an honorific used by the State of Israel to describe non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis). She is also an outstanding example of Christian witness in a life lived for others – and in this case, those of other faiths – and the willingness to face death as a result.

PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS AND THE NEXT CHALLENGE!

Congratulations to our photographic competition winners, David Rose, Kevin Mackinnon, Martin Mills and Elizabeth Mills, whose work can be seen on our website. The next competition is a poetry competition! Two verses of four to six lines each, all your own work, to be submitted (£2 per entry again) by 17th October (Harvest Festival) to stmaryscardenplace@gmail.com. Any subject considered but bear in mind they'll be appearing on the church website!

OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS



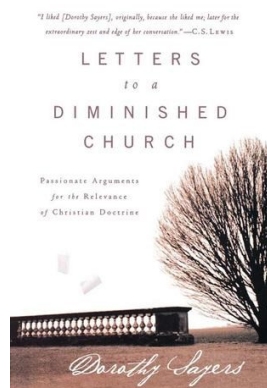
*The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is his new creation
By water and the word
From Heav'n he came and
sought her
To be his holy bride
With his dear love he bought her
And for her life he died.*

Here's one of the first hymns we sang in St. Mary's as soon as singing was allowed again in June! It's surprising that this seems to be the only hymn by Samuel John Stone in our hymnbooks, as he was a prolific and, in his time, popular, hymn writer. Born in 1839, he was the son of a clergyman (who was also a hymnwriter and botanist) and followed him into the church. Like his father he served in several churches: he was curate first in New Windsor from 1862, and while he was there he wrote a collection of hymns for the congregation based on the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed, *Lyra Fidelium* – this hymn was one of them. Later he served as his father's curate at Haggerston in Middlesex, at that time a new parish. He succeeded his father to the living in 1874, and died there in 1900.

The tune to which we usually sing it, *Aurelia*, was written by Charles Wesley's grandson, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 – 1876), as a setting for *Jerusalem*

the Golden. Wesley was a professional organist and composer, holding posts at the cathedrals of Hereford, Exeter, Winchester and Gloucester, and worked hard to raise the profile of church musicians. He composed many hymn tunes and also wrote the words to several, including *Lead me, O Lord*.

BOOK REVIEW



Letters to a Diminished Church, Dorothy L. Sayers: Goodness, this could have been written last week, instead of just after the Second World War. Sayers is knowledgeable and witty, and can take us from the Apostles' Creed to crime fiction to depictions of the Devil to T.S. Eliot with ease and purpose, and you find yourself nodding and agreeing with all of it. Though there are excursions elsewhere, the main theme running through the book is human creativity, how it reflects that of God and how it is essential for our happiness and fulfilment in our spiritual life, whatever that life may be. The context of industrialisation, global crisis, economic struggles and celebrity culture are very familiar to us. My only regret is that this edition, which includes questions for discussion groups, also incorporates both American spellings and some odd, probably spellcheck related, errors I'm sure Sayers herself would have winced at.

ACCOUNTS

April 2021

Income:	4,230
Expenditure:	<u>6,484</u>
Net result for month:	-2,254
Balance unrestricted funds:	55,409
Balance restricted funds:	5,011
Balance at month end:	£60,420

May 2021

Income:	4,084
Expenditure:	<u>6,433</u>
Net result for month:	-2,349
Balance unrestricted funds:	53,060
Balance restricted funds:	26,011
Balance at month end:	£79,071

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: t.b.a.

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The deadline for the next magazine, our Harvest 2021 issue, is planned to be 11th October. 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).