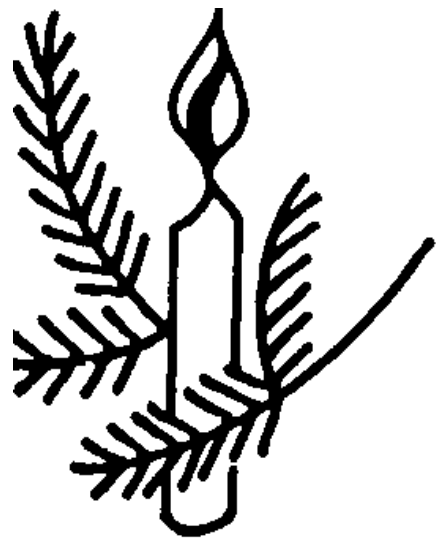


The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,
Carden Place

Christmas
2021



FROM THE RECTORY

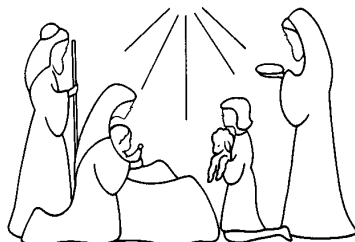
Well, when I first sat down to write this, it was just after 4.30 am and it was dark, cold and wet outside. I tend to get plenty of stuff done in the early hours as there are no distractions to divert my attention. Of course, it's not always like that. Normally, with the greatest intentions do I set my laptop up with a plan to complete a particular piece of work. What usually happens is that half-way through a document, I think of something else I need to do and so I jump from what I was doing to another task, and so on ... you get the picture. In the end I have about 5 or 6 things on the go all at the same, time which eventually leads to mistakes and confusion!

Our life can be like that, confusing and disorganised, which can cause us to overlook things and be prone to error. Those errors manifest themselves in so many ways. Short temper, forgetfulness, inappropriate language/behaviour, all of these reactions and more, must have some sort of original source which makes them happen. These are to me signals that I need to stop, re-boot and listen to my body telling me to slow down.

It has been a very busy year since our last Christmas Magazine. Whilst Covid had everyone in its stranglehold and attendance at Church was somewhat restricted, we all had to learn to adapt and improvise. Speaking for myself, this entailed the continuance of online broadcasts of recorded Said Eucharists. Many a Zoom meeting has been attended and we have all become experts in two-dimensional conversations. But that did not condense in any way the importance of the tasks at hand - if anything it intensified them. The need to get things done in good manageable time slots was really pivotal, and I know that this applied to everyone else who was attempting to juggle very busy lifestyles.

During the past year I have kept busy with numerous things, some of which have tenuous connections only with my work as a Priest. I continue my studies as a part-time student of History at Aberdeen University, I also continue in my position as a Panel Member of Children's Hearings Scotland. Both of these roles, I believe, keep me apprised of not only local and national topics, past and present; but they also allow me to achieve some sort of ministerial outreach to a wider community. My Chaplaincy work at Aberdeen Hospitals, particularly the ARI, has been a real challenge this year due to the strict Covid regulations imposed. Because I am not an actual employee of the NHS Chaplaincy Team, it can sometimes be awkward trying to convince hospital staff of the importance of the work I am required to perform with the sick and dying who desire the presence of an Anglican Priest at their bedside.

My membership of the Aberdeen Churches Together (ACT) group has also been fairly active throughout the year, and this allows me to keep in touch with ecumenical issues throughout the City Centre Churches and across the whole religious spectrum. I was recently part of the ecumenical team that took part in the opening of the Nativity Scene at the Kirk of St Nicholas.



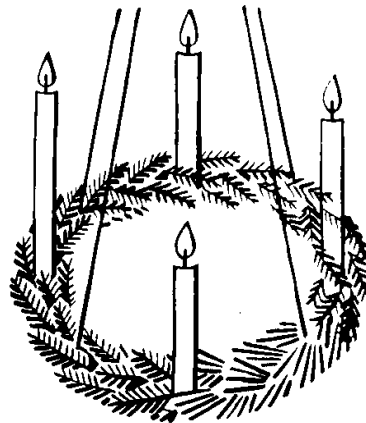
I recently became a member of the Global Partnership Committee (GPC), which is a Provincial role within the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC). The GPC is responsible for supporting church projects and people all over the world. It enables the SEC to reach out in prayer and commit to the needs of the wider church community. Each member of the committee has a particular portfolio responsibility: mine is Asia. The GPC is part of the Mission Board of the SEC.

A few days have passed since I began writing this and we are in full Advent swing at St Mary's. I am grateful for all of the help received to make our church look so festive. It is true that the past twelve months have been challenging in so many different ways, but as always, everyone has stepped up to the plate to get on with the job.

At the beginning of Advent we have seen St Andrew's Church on King Street partially re-open after a lengthy hiatus. This has seen most of the St Andrew's Congregation who had been attending St Mary's, return to their 'spiritual alma mater'. I wish them well as they re-engage with Fr Isaac and future services, and as we move towards Christmas, I hope that they will all be able to celebrate the coming and arrival of, the Christ-Child in our midst. You will remain forever in our prayers.

There has of course been some very deep sadness in our Diocese recently. Bishop Anne and her husband, Fr Roger, lost their daughter Millie at the young age of 30 years. The funeral service took place at St Mary's and I was humbled to be asked to officiate for this very sombre occasion, which was attended by most of the College of Bishops and many others who had travelled from far afield. Those people who helped out on the day to make sure the service and refreshments afterwards went without a hitch have my eternal gratitude.

The very nature of Ordained Ministry means that no two days are the same, and indeed, there is a regular amount of priority juggling to be done at very short notice sometimes. I am not the best at time management but I am a quick learner. However, like many my position, it can sometimes be very difficult to say no. Everyone's need is important to me, and I always try to attend to that if physically able, even if it means just a telephone call once in a while. This brings me to St Mary's Vestry, who are always concerned that I am not taking the requisite time away from my work environment to re-charge. It's true that in the past 2 years, I have totally failed to take anywhere near my allotted time off. This is due to a number of reasons. The obvious one of course is the Covid Pandemic which has affected everyone. There are other more personal reasons that have prevented me taking a proper break and those who know are aware of that. Sam and I will celebrate our Silver Wedding Anniversary next May and I am ever hopeful that we can have a holiday abroad to celebrate it. Everything of course, relies upon how the current travel restrictions pan out. I am planning to take a break early in the new year for a few days, which will hopefully include a visit to family in Glasgow and England.



The beginning of a new liturgical year can sometimes feel at odds as we approach the end of our calendar year, and that is why we need to immerse ourselves during Advent. It is important that we know how to separate both the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one, particularly in our religious lives. Being a Christian can be confusing, can't it? No sooner are we celebrating the birth of Christ, when, a few months later, we enter Lent and then Holy Week and Easter, all of which are filled with beginnings and ends and beginnings again. Keep your eyes on the ball, it moves quickly and deliberately and it is meant to make us focus. You will hear Preachers (myself included), who will wax lyrical about us being Christmas, Lent or Easter people. We are, of course, all of these things and more, but most of all we are God's people, and in the end, what else would we want to be?

I sincerely hope and pray that all of you are able to celebrate Christmas in some way, be that with lots of friends and family or on your own. Just know that however you choose to do it, you do it with sincerity and genuine love of God.

So, from Sam and me, we wish all of you a peaceful and Holy Christmas and we hope that as we approach the manger, we are as amazed as those kings and Shepherds were on that night in Bethlehem.

Blessings Always

Canon Terry



ST. MARY'S CALENDARS, 2022

Using photographs from our photography competition, St. Mary's calendar for 2022 is now on sale! A bargain at £8.99, these are an excellent Christmas gift, or perfect for that visit to friends at Hogmanay!

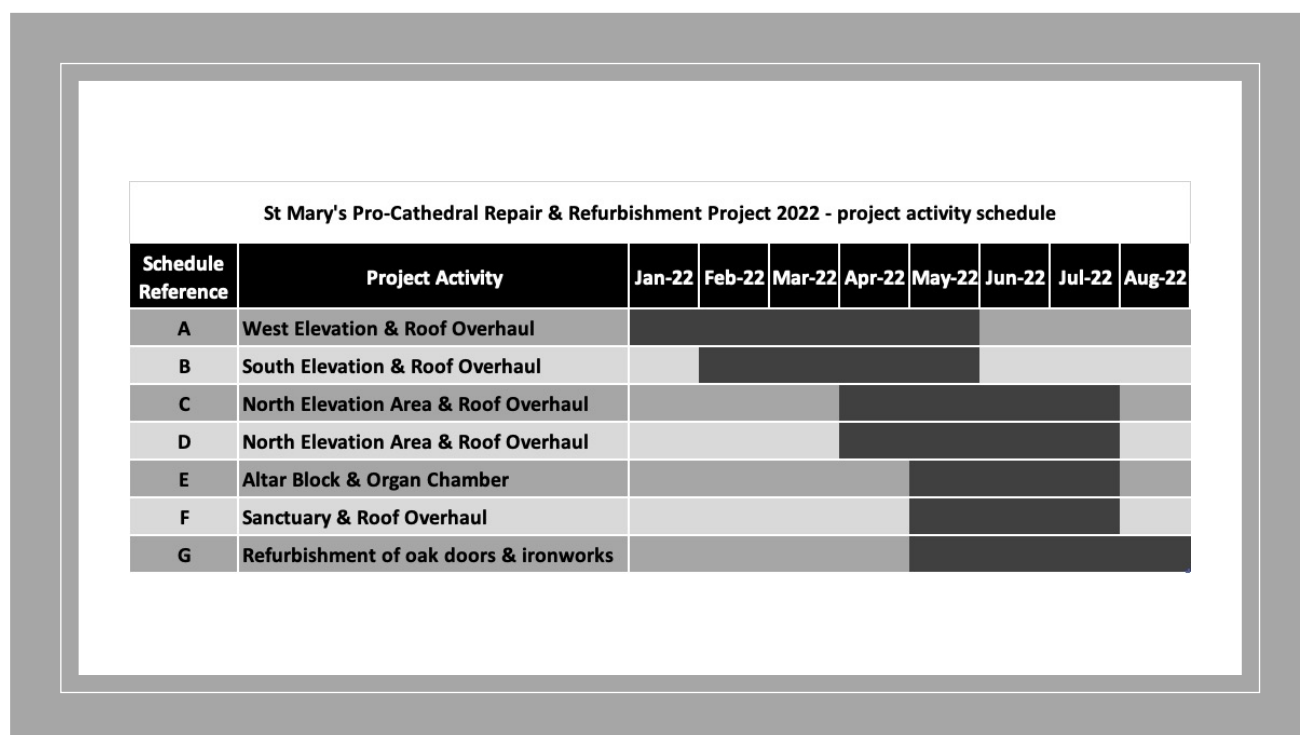
St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Repair & Refurbishment Programme

Great news! This year has been a very successful one in terms of fundraising to restart and complete our Repair & Refurbishment Programme. Early in 2021 our Buildings Committee began preparing an application to the Provincial Building Grants Fund for submission in early April. By the end of May we learned that we had been awarded £47,000 towards our programme which is 50% of the total required to complete all remaining phases. Matching funding would be required to draw on these funds.

The month of May started well as Bishop Anne Dyer had informed us that £21,000 would be forthcoming from the Anderson Trust for St Mary's Pro-Cathedral building repair works. Bishop Anne then very helpfully directed us to seek further funds from the Viridor Credits Environmental Company. So, this time Mrs Freddie Stephens led our application for funds

with support from our architect, treasurer and other members of the Buildings Committee and Viridor Credits Environment Company awarded St Mary's Pro-Cathedral a further £19,339 in August. I believe I can speak for us all when I say how grateful we are to these bodies for their generous assistance.

With all these new funds now at our disposal for the project the Vestry committed to the relaunch of the Repair & Refurbishment Programme in October this year. Depending on the weather conditions we should have our building contractors, Graeme W. Cheyne, active on the remaining phases of the project in January 2022. With good weather and progress we could complete the project by the autumn of 2022. The project activity schedule is shown in the Gantt chart below.



The repair and refurbishment works will continue to focus on repairs to roof coverings, including slatework, leadworks and ironwork and joinery repairs. When the weather makes it possible, we will also be working on repointing where mortar to the stonework façade is friable or missing. Finally, we hope to have sufficient funds for repairs to our external doors including the decorative ironwork.

The good news continued later in the year when we were successful with an application to the Provincial Recovery & Renewal Grant scheme with an award of £5,000. We are hoping to use this money to create a landscaped garden in the area to the west of the church. So, look

out for further news on this project in the near future as we plan to involve the congregation in the selection of a design for the landscaped peace garden.

The Vestry has also now instructed our architect, Dave Chouman, and our building contractors, Graeme W. Cheyne, to carry out internal repair and redecoration work on the toilets, hallway, and Choir Vestry. This work can now proceed as the earlier Phase 1 and Phase 2 works have successfully repaired the leaks in this area. We are also taking the opportunity of renewing the vinyl in the toilets and hallway.

Finally, once these internal repairs and redecoration are completed, we are planning two upgrades for the Choir Vestry. Firstly, we are going to replace the fluorescent lighting with new eco-friendly LED lights. We are also hoping to replace the carpet with very nice, engineered wood flooring – which should be much more easily kept clean and will certainly please our Pilates classes! All of these improvements have really only been possible due to the diligence of Bishop Anne Dyer in arranging for Anderson Trust and Allchurches Trust funds for St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

POETRY COMPETITION

It's time to reveal the winners of the St Mary's Pro-Cathedral poem competition for 2021. Many thanks go to our competition judge Dr Jane Morris for taking on the challenge of picking the top poems. Here's what Dr Jane Morris said about the poets' entries.

“What an honour to be invited to judge a poetry competition. I was impressed by the range and number of entries and by the fact that so many of them used strict rhyming patterns. I do hope those poets will go on to experiment with some really challenging verse forms such as villanelles or sonnets. I recommend Stephen Fry's book ‘The Ode less Travelled’.

It was really poignant that so many folk wrote sadly about lockdown and in envy of wild things and creatures who are free. All credit too to the few who dispensed with rhymes and relied on voice rhythms and word choice to provide structure.

In the end I chose ‘Friends’ as the winner. It was short, apparently simple, with an emphatic but untrained use of rhyme, and it expressed a sentiment that is of this age but for all time and at the heart of the church. If I'm allowed runners-

up, I would highly commend both ‘The Flight of the Brown Owl’ and ‘The Cat’. I greatly enjoyed both.”

The winning poem is: ‘Friends’ by Moyreen Whittaker:

Friends

Friends have always been important to me
And always will be
Sadly many of them I no longer see
But I know if I needed help
They would pray for me
As they are my friends and always will be



silhouette friends clip art - Clip Art Library

Runners-up are ‘The Flight of the Brown Owl’ by Jenny Cruickshank and ‘The cat’ by Nicola Mossom:

The Flight of the Brown Owl

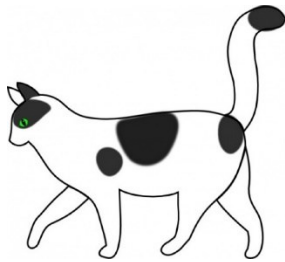


Into the shafts of the mellow moon light,
Intent on sourcing a juicy fat bite
Moving his head with the help of his sharp eyes and ears
The Brown Owl makes a silent plunge with out any fears

He pounces unsuspectingly on a tasty field mouse

The Brown Owl flies on to his secret hiding place
Settling to eat his meal with gusto and leaving no trace
In the silence of the night he swiftly takes flight,
Seeking another sumptuous snack to devour with delight
Into the shafts of the mellow moon light

The cat



The cat as a kitten is a cute ball of fluff,
Grows quickly, and is sleek and is clever,

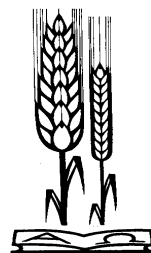
She'll soon be bringing you presents of mice,
Which means she'll love you for ever.

When loved by a cat you feel a bit special,
But she's not all soft, don't assume,
Though cuddly and soft at the best of times,
She's the lion in your own living room.

The best poem from the Under-18s poets is 'Wheat ears' by Laura Chimara:

Wheat ears

In a place with no fears,
At a different harvest years,
With all our peers,
So let us all cheer,
In this big harvest year!



Many thanks to all the entrants for their great poems and for the very welcome donations.

OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS



*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

This strange, mystical hymn is very old, with its origins probably around the seventh century and linked to monastic worship traditions, deriving from the O Antiphons which were sung in the days leading up to Christmas. The words are strongly reminiscent of passages in Revelation 22. Each verse reflects one of the ‘names’ of Emmanuel, and the Latin original also contains a kind of acrostic on the words ‘ero cras’, Latin for ‘I will be there tomorrow’. Whether or not the hymn originated in Germany, it was first published there in 1710 and developed there subsequently, taking on more of an Advent theme with each new edition. The version we sing, which is the most common English version, is a translation from the Latin by John Mason Neale in 1851. Neale, a sympathiser of the Oxford Movement, was a strong influence on Aberdeen’s own Rev. John Comper and inspired him to build St. Margaret’s Convent on the Spital.

The tune we use is also of some age: it was said to have been found in a French manuscript in Portugal by Thomas Helmore, an English composer, and published with an early form of Neale’s translation in 1851. This was never completely proved, but a 15th century copy of the tune was discovered in 1966 in a French manuscript in Paris, so there may indeed have been more than one copy, perhaps from an even older source. The pairing of words and music seem to match the darkness of Advent, the light of candles, the mystery of Christ’s anticipated birth – a perfect hymn for the season.

A CONTEMPLATION

You are invited to pray for the ability to be more loving with modern mystic Howard Thurman (1900–1981):

I want to be more loving in my heart! It is often easy to have the idea in mind, the plan to be more loving. To see it with my mind and give assent to the thought of being loving—this is crystal clear. But I want to be more loving in my heart! I must feel like loving; I must ease the tension in my heart that ejects the sharp barb, the stinging word. I want to be more loving

in my heart that, with unconscious awareness and deliberate intent, I shall be a kind, a gracious human being. Thus, those who walk the way with me may find it easier to love, to be gracious because of the Love of God which is increasingly expressed in my living. “I want to be more loving in my heart!”

Howard Thurman, Meditations on the Heart (Beacon Press: 1953, 1981), 168–169, contributed by Margaret McKinnon from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, 13th December 2021

EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2022

Already we have dates for you to put on your new St. Mary’s Calendar!

Quiz Night: Friday 18th February
Easter Breakfast: Sunday 17th April
Cheese and Wine: Friday 13th May

And look out for a new photography competition in the summer!

CALLING ALL GIN DRINKERS!

Well, all those who are lucky enough to receive interesting and attractive bottles over the Christmas period and aren’t sure what to do with them: we have a plan! If you’d like to donate your (empty) bottles to St. Mary’s, we’re looking into ways to raise funds with them. Thank you!

ACCOUNTS

October 2021

Income:	3,040
Expenditure:	<u>5,181</u>
Net result for month:	-2,141

Balance unrestricted funds:	53,629
Balance restricted funds:	38,248
Balance at month end:	£91,877

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.

Church Office (01224 561383) stmaryscardenplace@gmail.com

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

The deadline for the next magazine, our Easter 2022 issue, is planned to be 11th April. 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).