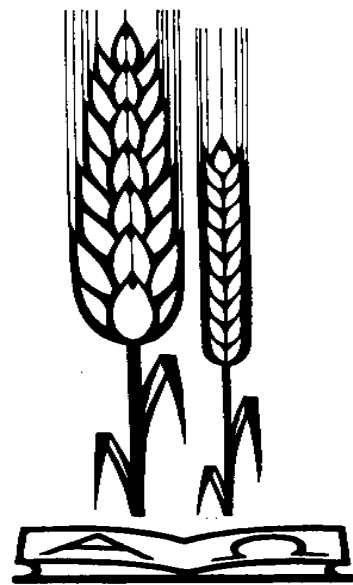


The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's,
Carden Place

Harvest

2022



FROM THE RECTORY

As I write this, the sky outside the Rectory is a myriad of colour. The sun has gone and it is that time between darkness and daylight when they clash together to produce the most picturesque shades. It's as if one is fighting against the other. But in the end, one has to win this contest and allow the other to retreat gracefully, to return a few hours later.

The well-known phrase, 'the nights are fair drawin' in', is a simple and accurate way of describing what takes place every 24 hours, of every day of every week, month and year, since the dawn of existence. Yet it still has the amazing capacity to surprise us even though we are fully aware of the inevitability of the movement of time.

The same applies to our seasons, we are now moving through autumn with winter just around the corner and we prepare, as we always do, by adjusting how we dress, the things we eat, the plans we make. We will 'hunker down' for the colder weather as we always do and we will see it through until the spring, and so it goes on.

This year, however, will be more challenging for many of us, than any time most of us have ever known. The horrendous increase in gas and electricity bills has caused everyone to take a deep breath and wonder what the priorities will be in our personal lives. Some even need to decide whether to heat or eat. I cannot believe that in 2022, in one of the richest counties in the world, people are even having to consider this option.

Normally when price rises to utilities are made, it is always the lower paid who suffer most. However, the recent increases have widened the net to include many of those for whom previous rises were tolerable and within budgets. No longer are those of us who have managed, over the years, to absorb such increases, immune anymore. And it's not just residential properties that are suffering, businesses are beginning to flounder badly with the huge rises announced.

Yes, the new Prime Minister has made some in-roads to try and alleviate the problem, but many of us are already feeling the drain financially and we worry what the future will hold. Interest rates are very steadily rising, which has a real knock-on effect to every aspect of our lives. The price of petrol/diesel is at an all-time high and again, the requirement to make decisions as to whether we should use our cars as often as we do needs to be high on the agenda.

All of the above is very gloomy and I have no doubt that you are fed up hearing about it, but we cannot ignore it and it will not just go away overnight. The current conflict in Ukraine has, most certainly, made an impact on the massive changes we have witnessed in the past several months, and I know that there are people in that troubled part of the world who would gladly swap places with us in a heartbeat. Should we be ashamed of ourselves for worrying about our own self-preservation whilst there is a war raging in Ukraine? Some/many would say 'yes'. Some/many would say 'no, why should we be ashamed, none of this is our fault'.

Are these things cyclical? We have been involved in many conflicts in the past, post World War Two, and I cannot recall in my own lifetime, such massive change in the world economy, which in turn makes everyone concerned about how it will all pan out in the end, if it ends at all.

One thing is certain though, change will come: it has to, otherwise we will witness public unrest on a scale very few of us have seen. Don't get me wrong here, I do not advocate public disorder in times of national crisis or at any time, but there is a saturation point and when the pressure gets too much, the release of it may not be pretty.

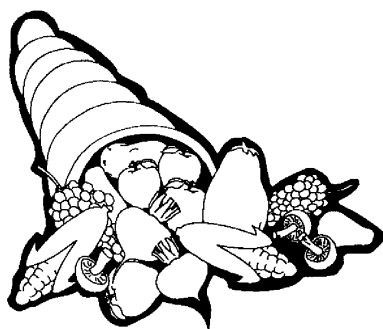
Closer to home we hear that The Rt Rev'd Anne Dyer has now been suspended from her role of Bishop of this Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney whilst a full and open investigation is carried out into allegations made against her. You must remember this word, 'allegations', none of which are proven. We see national and local media doing their very best to muddy the waters by misleading and inaccurate reporting, whilst those who made the allegations remain unnamed. Not so for Bishop Anne. The College of Bishops state that suspension 'does not constitute disciplinary action and does not imply any assumption that misconduct has been committed' and that it is a right and proper method to allow the investigative processes to move forward. Think about that, 'does not constitute disciplinary action and does not imply any assumption that misconduct has been committed'. Bishop Anne is currently not allowed to contact any clergy in her Diocese, she cannot use her work email, she cannot make any suggestions as to how her diocese is being run, there is even a suggestion that she may not even be allowed to attend worship at any church in her diocese, and yet the decision to suspend her by a 3-2 majority, 'does not constitute disciplinary action and does not imply any assumption that misconduct has been committed'. Try telling the media that, try telling those who may well be happy at this outcome that. It is a sad and sorry mess and I often struggle at how people can be so cruel and determined to destroy a fellow human being, yet claim, in many cases, to be wholly Christian whilst doing so.

This report has been somewhat gloomy at best, and I apologise if it doesn't meet with your acquiescence, but please remember, in this instance, I speak for myself, therefore the opinions expressed here are mine, and mine alone. I fully respect those who will have differing viewpoints.

My wife Sam and I would like to send our prayers to everyone who reads this magazine and we hope that if things get too difficult for you, you should know that we are here to listen, never to judge, to love and never to hate, to laugh and cry when you laugh and cry.

Many blessings to you all.

Canon Terry



SERVICE FOR HER LATE MAJESTY

A Service of prayer and reflection was held at St Mary's on the Eve of the Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was an ecumenical service arranged by Aberdeen Churches Together. The service was led by Bishop Anne, with Bible readings from Rev. Gary Smith (Crown St Baptist) and Pastor Joe Ochei (Jesus House, Holburn St), and intercessions from Canon Terry and Rev Jenny Holden (St John's, Crown Terrace).



We were blessed to be joined by a choir from Jesus House who led us in our hymns and sang the moving 'Song of Farewell' by Ernest Sands that includes the chorus

*May the choir of angels,
Come to greet you,
May they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you
In His mercy.
May you find eternal life.*

Other elements of the service included a reading of the poem 'Lochnagar' by Makar Kathleen Jamie.

*The alder boughs hang heavy,
Red weighs the rowan-trees
That line the well-loved path which climbs
To Lochnagar from Dee*

*And knows at last the open hill,
Those ancient wind-honed heights
Where deer stand shy and sky-lined,
Then vanish from living sight,*

*Where grief is ice, and history
Is distant roiling skies,
Where weather chases weather
Across the lands she strived*

*To serve, and served supremely well,
Till the call came from afar:
Back to the country kept in her heart,
the Dee, and Lochnagar.*

(The Makar gives permission for republishing this poem to not for profit media. For other media contact the Scottish Poetry Library for permissions.)

THE NIGHT OF THE SEVEN BISHOPS

Just beating the number of bishops we had at our 140th Anniversary service, St. Mary's played host to seven bishops on 26th July – Bishop Anne, the Primus Bishop Mark, four Bishops from the Episcopal Church of America, and Bishop Hugh Gilbert. The visit preceded the Lambeth Conference, and was a very joyous occasion.



FIRST ORDINATION AT ST MARY'S

On Saturday 24th October St Marys was used for a service of Ordination for the first time in its' role as Pro-Cathedral of our Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. Andy Elliott (in the centre below) was Ordained by Bishop Anne and will serve as Curate in Shetland. You may recognise some of the local faces in this photo! Also here are Rev Neil Brice (on the left), and others from St Magnus where Andy will continue his training. Rt Rev Dorsey McConell, Assisting Bishop, was with us too. It was a joyous occasion on a bright autumn day. Our grateful thanks to all from St Marys who contributed to hosting this important day in the life of Rev Andy Elliott (as he now is!) and our Diocese.



GOD LOVES MIGRANTS

We are grateful to Dr Robert Heimburger, Research Fellow in Theological Ethics, University of Aberdeen, for his thought-provoking contribution to our evening ‘Migrants : Blessing or Burden’ that was held at St Marys on 3rd October.

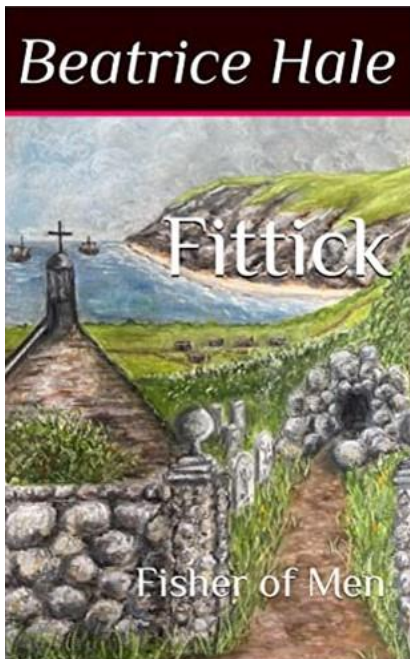
Lively conversation was had as we looked initially at the experience of migration in our own family histories and lives. Then broadening out we considered the current trends in our city and nation - the movement of people in and out; the feelings that this generated.

It was a joy to have people present from at least six different churches many of whom were engaged in work amongst international students, refugees or multicultural congregations. We talked about the guiding principles and key values that informed our actions.

Dr Heimburger led us through a number of key Bible texts in asserting that ‘God loves migrants’ and furthermore that God calls us to do likewise. The challenge came that love of the stranger was not an extra or an option but something that was an integral part of God’s being and a hallmark of those who sought to follow Jesus Christ.

BOOK REVIEW

Fittick – Fisher of Men by Beatrice Hale



Just out a week ago, this easy read is a novelised version of the arrival of St. Fittick at Torry and the beginning of his mission to bring Christianity to the area, following in the footsteps of Columba, Colman and Machar. Beatrice Hale now lives in New Zealand but she was born and raised in Torry and her love for the area shines through. The pretty cover illustration is by Aberdeen artist Sheila Donald.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fittick-Fisher-Men-Beatrice-Hale-ebook/dp/B0BDVDP9HV>

ACCOUNTS

July 2022

Income:	8,341	Balance unrestricted funds:	17,653
Expenditure:	<u>5,541</u>	Balance restricted funds:	21,012
Net result for month:	2,800	Balance at month end:	£38,665

A postponed Vestry meeting has delayed publication of the accounts for August and September – these will follow in the Christmas magazine.

FEELING ARTISTIC?

Would you like to come and help with the church flowers? Learn with us as we try to manage without Oasis! Please contact Nicola Mills if you are interested – help provided if you're not confident.

AND FINALLY...



I feel a Caption Competition coming on – any offers?

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: Rev. Terry Taggart 07768 219984 / 01224 588776

Assistant Priests: Rev. Jason Hobbs, Rev. Roger Dyer

Rector's Warden: John Cooke

People's Warden: Iain Stewart

Vestry Secretary: Jenny Cruickshank

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Anne Farquhar

Organist: Matthew McVey

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator: Graham Thomson

Flower Convener: (please contact Nicola Mills for now)

Church Office (01224 561383) stmaryscardenplace@gmail.com

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

The deadline for the next magazine, our Christmas 2022 issue, will be 19th. December. 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).