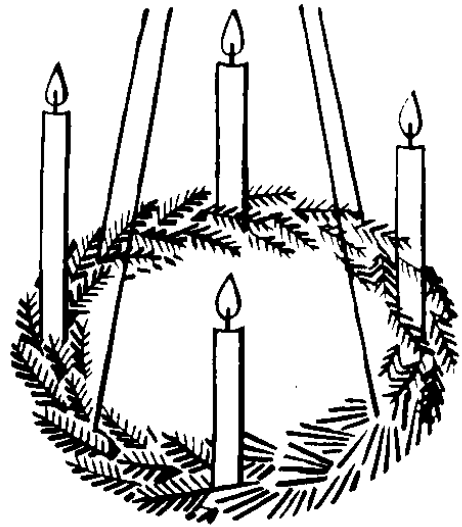


The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's, Carden Place

Christmas
2022



FROM THE RECTORY

When I began writing this, there was no sign of the cold snap slowing down. The street outside the Rectory was just pure ice and the snow lay deep on the pavements. We should be very thankful that gritter trucks had been out and about and I am grateful that this type of service continues to operate despite the weather conditions.

We are also indebted to our emergency services who provide 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year, whatever the conditions.

In fact, behind the scenes, there are many other groups of workers who ‘carry on’ regardless, working unsociable hours, bank holidays and religious feast days, and it is to them that my thoughts and prayers are directed whilst a huge chunk of society can stop and enjoy the break.

This season of Advent, and ultimately Christmas, is always a challenge from my perspective because it can be very easy to recycle material from previous celebrations. Sometimes, however, that option is more practical than it appears. The secret is in delivery and focus. Advent is a powerful period in our Christian calendar that asks us to be penitent and excited at the same time. These two emotional states don’t really ‘hook up’ naturally and it is certainly a source of frustration for some to achieve what might be a sufficient amount of both.



But you needn’t worry. We all tend to do this naturally, we are programmed to understand the need for the deeper meaning of the season of Advent, and we know that we can exhale when we celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child on Christmas Day. And this always impacts us so subjectively. Many of us will then stop and think ‘it’s here, at last, now we can celebrate’. Some of us will fail to see the separation between Advent and Christmas and just continue as if that’s the way it should be. However, when we have Church events like Carol services and Christingle services, the lighting of Advent candles, special prayers and equally special hymns, it all begins to build that excitement and it helps us to decide how each of us will choose to celebrate in our own lives.

As a Priest, much of my life is defined by the liturgical seasons, therefore I need to be as strategic as I possibly can. However, like everyone else, I have an ever-changing list of priorities that dictate when, where and ultimately, how, I perform and provide my Priestly ministry. At St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, we tend to drift into High Church territory in our worship, sometimes more intense, sometimes less so. It all depends on various factors such as the occasion, historical significance, the need for grand gestures and equally grand responses. This will, of course, be evident in our music, our mode of dress and most certainly in our liturgy. Every aspect of how we worship and the reasoning behind that, helps us adjust our focus throughout the year. Advent and Christmas are no different. Two very different events are deeply connected but at the same time, separated in time.

The past few months at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral have been extremely busy. So much has been going on, both overtly and behind the scenes. The most recent event was the 'Jacket Potato' appeal, which went way above our expectations. It was a stressful time for those of us involved in the preparations for the day in question, but as always, everyone involved, and there were many, worked so hard to make the day an overwhelming success. As is always the case, there remains a small cadre of people who never seem to stop working to help maintain our church life. They know who they are and I will not embarrass them by adding names. However, I am always at pains to express how deeply grateful for the time and effort they constantly give, and this year has been no exception.



There have been great physical, mental and emotional challenges for our Church in this diocese. We have been deeply blessed by the dedication of Fr Roger, who has introduced us all to 'new wine', and I know that many of you are extremely grateful to him for his ministry, not just to us here at Carden Place, but to the many other churches near and far that he provides pastoral guidance to. We now know that as of 1st. January 2023, Fr Roger will take over as Interim Priest at St John's after the Rev'd Dr Jenny Holden changes roles, whilst the search begins for a new full-time priest. We know that the congregation there will benefit as we have done during the past 12 months.

I will not ignore the elephant in the room. It has been a very stressful time for Bishop Anne, who is currently suspended from her role as our Diocesan Bishop. The legal intricacies involved in this matter have gone way over my head, and personally, I feel that a great element of control was lost when the decision to suspend Bishop Anne was made. She is effectively 'cut off' from her flock and the impact of this is palpable. The concerted efforts of detractors continue, much of which is deeply unsavoury and unnecessary. I have no doubt that this is an intense challenge for all involved, being an unknown territory for the SEC. We now see Bishop John Armes, the Bishop of Edinburgh Diocese, stepping in as interim Bishop whilst this matter is subject to legal oversight. I have liaised with Bishop John on several occasions, assuring him of our support when he needs it, both in my role as Rector of the Pro-Cathedral and Synod Clerk. We have also offered prayer for Bishop John as he oversees two dioceses, which is without doubt a monumental task for anyone. I am ever hopeful of an early resolution in order that everyone can look forward to repairing and acknowledging our weaknesses with humility and acceptance.

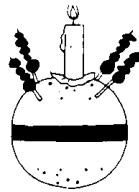
There have been challenges for all of us over the past 12 months, both personally and as a Church, yet here we are, waiting outside the door of the stable in Bethlehem. Are we excited? You bet we are. Are we ready? I think so. Will it be wonderful? Yes, it will be. Despite all the negativity that sometimes can pervade our lives, we are lifted by the ultimate gift of new life. The birth of our Lord in those deeply humble circumstances, the challenges faced by a young couple who knew what gift they had to care for, the attention that would ultimately follow Jesus as he stepped from the River Jordan that day after his meeting with John the Baptist. All of this, including his journey to sacrifice on the cross for our own sin, tells us that

each and every day, we should try to be the best Christians we can possibly be, not just during Advent, but throughout our lives.

Sam and I wish each and every one of you a most wonderful and peaceful Christmas and that you are able to appreciate, that as the years pass, we can and will, grow to love God and our world with a deeper resonance than ever before

Blessings always

Canon Terry and Sam Taggart



JACKET POTATO, ANYONE?

The back of the church was full to bursting by 3 December – full of coats, jackets, hats, scarves and gloves, all donated by the people of Aberdeen and sorted and arranged by the people of St. Mary’s. By ten that morning, when the doors were due to open, people had been waiting outside for over half an hour in the cold. They flooded in!

Equipped with their new winter weather gear, our visitors made their way into the choir vestry for tea, coffee and hot baked potatoes – standing room only for a while!

The event was planned to last till three o’clock, but in fact by half past twelve there was not a coat or a glove left to be had, and we had to close up. There was no doubt that the event was much appreciated by our

visitors, many of whom stopped for a chat before venturing back out into the cold!



DIOCESAN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE AT ST. MARY'S



If you've been in St. Mary's recently, you'll have seen a large pile of boxes near the back of the church, and some

half-assembled shelving. This is because for a few months we are playing host to the Diocesan Library, until the contents are transferred elsewhere. After Christmas the shelves will be finished and the books arranged on them, and it will look a bit less like a warehouse!

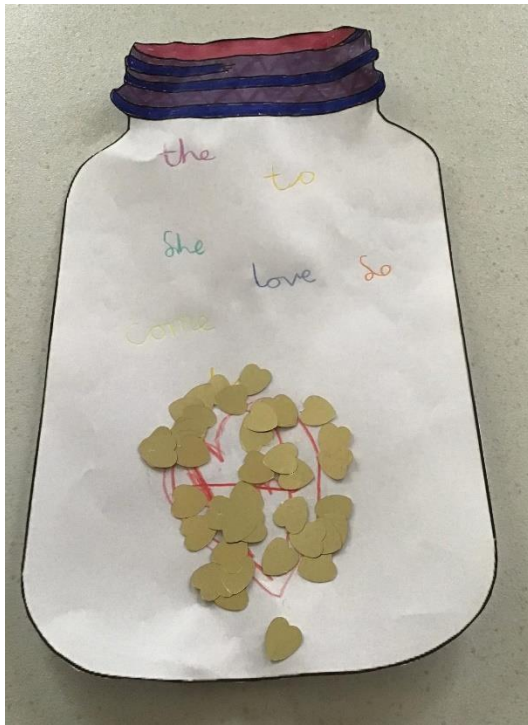
St. Mary's has been selected as a safe and secure space temporarily not only for the library but for the archive, which is being weeded and passed on to live with already deposited Episcopalian papers at Aberdeen University Library Special Collections. This substantial work was started by Stuart Donald and his team of volunteer helpers when the library and archive were held at St. Clement's in Mastrick. Covid and other factors, including St. Clement's congregation's need for the space where the archives and books were stored, has led to an accelerated but still professional process so that everything can be passed on in the right way to its long term home.



THOUGHTS FROM THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

“You will see in the world what you carry in your heart.” Creig Crippon

Christmas and the run up to Christmas can be an emotional time for all of us. We carry in our hearts pockets of memories from the past and from the present moment in time. Have you ever used, or considered using a glass jar and filling it with special memories you wish to keep? These ‘memory jars’ are an outward version of how our hearts and souls are, in that they each hold precious memories. I particularly like the thought of my open heart giving birth to Love and new life, especially in the form of a butterfly!



As we know Mary the blessed mother of Jesus, stored up her memories too, even the one when she was told that her heart would be broken “Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary: “Behold, this Child is appointed to cause the rise and fall of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your soul as well”. (Luke 2:34-35)

I would think that Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem had spoken together and shared their anticipation and perhaps even their fears of what has and is to happen, the responsibility upon their lives and perhaps wonder how their child’s birth will change their world. Like many journeys, by the time you reach your destination you think you would have a better understanding of what led you to embark on that road and what you hope to expect at the end. If they thought they would be given a comfortable room and people to help and support them at the time of birth then that wasn’t to be. I often hear that once a baby is born the ‘map’ goes out the window and a new hourly/daily map is created according to the needs of the child. It’s reassuring to know that Mary and Joseph had encountered this too.

The expectant Mary and Joseph’s hearts had been known and enlarged by God in order to lead them away from doubting or questioning but rather enable them to Trust God even more in order that their hearts would continue to see the world as God’s heart has, from the beginning, how ‘they’ intended it to be - Good.

As we know Mary and Joseph weren’t immune from storms and I see them as ‘lighthouses’ beaming out rays of light and hope in the darkness. Their humble ‘yes’ and ‘trust’ is all that is asked of us too, not only at Christmas but at anytime when we are invited to allow God’s Holy Spirit to empower and embrace us in order that our hearts can be made new and we can fulfil the teachings of Jesus to be born again - just as He was born again through the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3)

Blessings upon you this Christmas and may what you carry in your heart give birth to light in the world and may that light twinkle like stars in amongst the darkness.



Margaret McKinnon
(Pictures courtesy of my Granddaughter and Son)

IGBO COMMUNITY ABERDEEN ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2022

On Sunday 4th December 2022, we at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Aberdeen played host to the Igbo Community Aberdeen on the occasion of their annual thanksgiving service. Every year on the first Sunday in December, the Igbo Community holds their annual thanksgiving service at any of the churches which their members attend. This year, they chose to come to ours.

The Igbo Community Aberdeen (ICA) are the people of South-East and part of South-South Nigeria who as God will have it now reside in Aberdeen City and Shire of which I am one of them. ICA formally came into existence ten and half years ago aimed at bringing ourselves together as a support network, and to sustain and promote our cultural heritage. More importantly, to foster peaceful co-existence with our host Scottish community as well as with other ethnic minority communities. Peaceful co-existence is an attribute the Igbos are proudly known for because among all the ethnic nationalities in Nigeria, the Igbos are the most entrepreneurial and diasporan.

The Igbos (or Ndigbo, in our local Igbo language) are today predominantly Christians. This was not the case one hundred years ago. Thanks be to God, through the effort of British and particularly Scottish missionaries who laid the foundation, we have been transformed out of the darkness of African Traditional Religion into the marvellous light of Christianity. A notable missionary was Mary Slessor (an Aberdonian) who stopped the killing of twins. Today, a big statue of her is mounted at a major roundabout in the city of Calabar in Nigeria.

As we are predominantly Christians, it is not therefore surprising that every year we set aside one Sunday to come (as a community) before God in his holy temple to give Him thanks for all the benefits we have derived from him, and to pray for His guidance and mercies for the year ahead.



At the end of the service, the Chairlady of ICA, Mrs Chinwe Ihegbu said, “it was a great honour to worship at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral Aberdeen for the Thanksgiving Mass organised for the Igbo Community Aberdeen (ICA). On behalf of ICA and our members who were at the Mass, I want to thank the Rector and the congregation at St Mary’s for the warm welcome we received and for the Tea/Coffee served after the Mass. We truly enjoyed ourselves, and we hope to visit again in the future. God bless you all”.



Likewise, in his feedback to our Igbo Community Aberdeen after the event, our Chairman, Mr Edward Obi (Ike Ora Nyelu) said, “our visit to St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral Aberdeen on 4th December 2022 was a fulfilling experience. What a way to end the year! The worship and thanksgiving service was performed in a calm manner that depicts peace, which was the theme for the second Sunday of Advent. Leading our community members to perform

our annual thanksgiving at St. Mary's would no doubt be memorable among us, giving that one of our own (Godwin Chimara) who is an ordinand in training assisted in the worship. We will no doubt be looking to visit St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Aberdeen in the future"

Godwin Chimara

ROLL OF HONOUR

A recently rediscovered Roll of Honour has appeared in the War Memorial Chapel, listing all those men and women connected with St. Mary's who served in the First World War. Those who gave their lives are marked with a cross, and curiously three of them are not listed on our wall-mounted war memorial.

The first is Captain John Henderson-Begg, who in 1911 was twenty years old and an engineering student. He lived at 15, Albyn Terrace with his father, also John Henderson Begg, a retired Sheriff substitute, his mother, and a servant. He served with the 4th Gordon Highlanders, and died at Thiepval on 23rd July, 1916, aged 25. It is not clear why he is not on the War Memorial.

Reginald Francis Japp was fifteen in the 1911 census, living in 19 Carden Place with his father, Francis, professor of Chemistry at Aberdeen, his mother (German born but naturalised British) and two older sisters, aged 30 and 28. They had three servants, including a nurse. By the time he signed up for the Machine Gun Corps he was living with his family in Acton, and like Henderson-Begg was an engineering student, on the register of Electrical Engineers from 1916. He died in Acton in 1920, aged 24, and is buried there with his family. That he died outwith Aberdeen of wounds after the war, after, in fact, the War Memorial was placed in the church, probably explains why he is not on it.

Lieutenant Noel Douglas Bayly seems at first to have little connexion with St. Mary's: he served in the Irish Guards, and was the only son of Annie Lilla Bayly (nee Douglas), 3 Tite Street, Chelsea, and the late Major Henry Bayly, Gordon Highlanders. Noel died aged twenty-eight on 27th November, 1917, and is buried at Anneux British Cemetery. Henry Bayly, whose brother was a clergyman in Sussex, died in 1891 at Monaltrie Villa, Seafield, Aberdeen, and one of his executors was Sholto James Douglas in Albyn Terrace. This was his wife's younger brother, and hinted at a family connexion that could be followed up – Annie and Sholto were the children of Bishop Arthur Gascoigne Douglas, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney from 1883 to 1905. Bishop Douglas actually registered Henry's death, which was from general paralysis – he was only forty. Annie and Henry had probably attended St. Mary's – Noel himself was registered at an address in Exeter at the time of his death in France, and he had before that worked at Traders Bank Chambers in Toronto, Canada. In the end Noel's connexion with St. Mary's was probably considered too tentative.

Dennis McAnulty, who does appear on the War Memorial, had been a mystery, but with the added clue from this hand-written roll of honour that two of his brothers served too, both of them in the trawler reserve, he was discovered. In 1911 they were living with their mother in Jack's Brae. Charles was 29, Alexander 19 – both of them were general labourers at the docks - and Dennis 16. Dennis himself was an apprentice joiner. Their sister Mary-Ann was a domestic servant, and there was also a granddaughter, Sarah, aged 4. Dennis is commemorated at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery at Saulty: he died on the 29 December 1916.

Several women also appear on the roll of honour – we'll look at these in a future magazine.

CHAPEL CHAIRS RESCUE

In preparation for the arrival of the Diocesan Archive files at the end of November we had to do some tidying up of our storerooms. The Archive file boxes were destined for the Girls' Vestry (off the Crypt), so space was needed elsewhere to house things like wine and catering items. In the storeroom to the right, before you go into the church office, I discovered that there were about a dozen old chapel chairs which looked very worse for wear after spending so long in the cold and damp.

The old chapel chairs were taken out of the storeroom and placed outside the external Choir Vestry door so that I could figure out how many I could get into the back of my car. Just as I was about to start loading them a chap jumped up from the pavement on Albert Terrace and asked what I was planning to do with the old chairs. I said, "Unfortunately, I was about to ferry them to the recycling centre at Hazlehead". With that information the chap introduced himself as Dave Fraser and said he'd started doing renovation work as a hobby when he retired. So, we agreed that he would return and pick-up all the old chairs and have a go at renovating them. Here's how the chairs looked outside St Mary's Pro-Cathedral prior to being picked up.



Here's what they looked like after a lot of scrubbing and then being thoroughly dried out in front of an open fire at Dave's house. Unfortunately, two of the chairs were unsalvageable, but they offered up the parts required to complete repairs on two other chairs. The chairs were then hand waxed and polished. Dave donated six of the chapel chairs to the "Smile Scotland" Charity.

Dave Fraser now runs "Mantiques Scotland" which specialises in interesting antique and vintage items. The firm specialises in renovating and repurposing a wide variety of items, such as, signage, lighting, furniture, shop fittings, vintage advertising, car/motorcycle items and even an ejector seat. You can find "Mantiques on Instagram @mantiquestScotland.

So, I guess someone was looking down that day and ensured that the chapel chairs went on to have further useful lives elsewhere!

David Rose

COMPETITIONS

The Photography Competition was very popular again this year, and the results can be seen on our website and also in the church calendar, available to buy for £10. The winners were:

First place - *Rocky River at Milton of Crathes* by Luca Downs

Second place - *An Angular View of the Tay* by David Rose

Third place - *The Praying Hands of Mary* by Gillian Rose

Next is our Poetry Competition – more details to follow!

ACCOUNTS

August 2022

Income:	4,691
Expenditure:	<u>6,440</u>
Net result for month:	-1,749

Balance unrestricted funds:	35,303
Balance restricted funds:	21,012
Balance at month end:	£56,315

September 2022

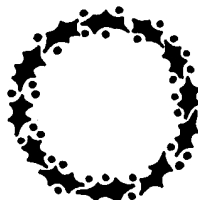
Income:	3,057
Expenditure:	<u>5,238</u>
Net result for month:	-2,181

October 2022

Income:	3,422
Expenditure:	<u>4,947</u>
Net result for month:	-1,525

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.



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).