

The Quarterly Magazine

**St. Mary's, Carden
Place**

Trinity 2023

As you will probably know, Rev. Canon Terry Taggart was off sick from the beginning of April. At the end of June, the vestry was informed by Bishop John that Terry would not be returning to the ministry. Bishop John has asked that everyone respects the privacy of Terry and his family at this time.

We are obviously grateful to Rev. Roger Dyer and Rev. Dr. Jenny Holden for leading our services in the absence of a rector, and Bishop John has asked us to assure the congregation of his prayers and good wishes at this difficult time.



NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT ORDINARY TIME

Every morning when I wake I stagger downstairs and put the kettle on. Green tea is my favourite first thing in the morning. I retreat to my regular spot for a pray. And then it's back to the kettle for a second brew.

And so the day begins. Most days are filled with ordinary things, nothing spectacular, often mundane - work tasks, shopping, meals, contact with friends and family. Sometimes the ordinary can feel unimpressive. Certainly nothing worth posting on facebook.

Occasionally, we will meet someone who has had some sort of mountaintop spiritual experience. Often the hope is that this mountaintop will be the new normal. But, as you likely know, we all come down from that mountain eventually and find ourselves again waking up to the ordinary. The ordinary is not bad. In fact, small acts are what compose our life, and that life then tells our story.

The life of the church is not dissimilar. In our liturgical year a portion of the year is spent following the life of Christ (Advent to Easter), while the remainder is spent in what is called Ordinary Time. We are now in Ordinary Time. This is the period of the year that tells the story of the church, beginning in Pentecost and concluding before the beginning of Advent.

God is present in feasts, festivals, and celebrations but just as present in the ordinary days and things of life. Just as much when we are having our first cup of tea as that magic moment in corporate worship when we feel the chill run down our spine. And every moment in between.

God is present in the everyday. Whether we feel it or not, God is present in the ordinary. God cares about our real lives where we actually are. There's nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. This is a time set aside for reflecting on and celebrating our call to follow Jesus day by day.

Rev Roger
(Assistant Priest)

ST MARY'S PEACE GARDEN PROJECT

Good news! Our Peace Garden Project is well underway, and we can already see the raised bed and the beginnings of the landscaped sandstone paving.

At the beginning of June Aberdeen City Council Strategic Place Planning approved our Peace Garden Project. Earlier in the year we had provided details of our choice of landscaping materials, tree protection measures and the planting plan. These were all accepted.

Just as a reminder, this project came about as St Mary's response to the Provincial post-COVID Recovery & Renewal Fund which was launched in June 2021. We have been very successful in raising funds from several sources, including the Benefact Fund (formerly AllChurches Trust), Aberdeen City Council Place Based Investment Fund and the Provincial Recovery & Renewal Fund. We have also received individual donations from congregation members. Very grateful thanks to all for their support.

Our landscaping contractor, Landscaping in Aberdeen, led by Dovydas Zubernis, began the works on 19th June and has proposed a project schedule of about five or six weeks. The project schedule looks something like this:

Week 1 - Preparing area, removing chuckies, waste removal and ground preparations.

Week 2 - Foundation for retaining walls and build retaining wall, preparation for laying paving.

Week 3 – Complete granite wall and begin circular paving area.

Week 4 – Continue laying sandstone and preparation for installing benches and reposition signage.

Week 5/6 - All finishing touches – completion of paving, grouting, and laying chuckies.



For health and safety reasons the church carparking area will be under the control of the landscaping contractors between 8am and 5pm during the week.

Our architect, Dave Chouman, will be assisting us with us with the technical aspects of the Project Management. Joanne Evans, Gerbera Designs has provided a planting plan for the raised bed and will assist us with the actual planting when the landscaping works are completed. If you have any questions about the project, please approach David Rose or Freddie Stephens from our Buildings Committee.

ALL SAINTS HOLIDAY CLUB

After a very successful week of All Saints Holiday Club in October, it was decided we would try a couple of sessions on Sunday afternoons. The first was held on 21st May at St James's when we talked about Ascension and Pentecost. We sang songs, heard stories and did some craft. Sessions are for Nursery age up to Primary 7.

Our next All Saints was on 18th June from 3.30-5pm at St James's, and the theme was Abraham and Sarah.

For more information please speak to Revd Ruth Green, Revd Roger Dyer or Revd Dr Jenny Holden.

Gillian Rose

ADVISOR FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE – REV. DR. JENNY HOLDEN

**“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10b
(NRSVA)**

I was asked by the Editor if I'd like to write a piece for the magazine on my 'day job' as it was termed. For those I've not met, I'm the Revd Dr Jenny Holden (Revd Jenny) who alongside the privilege of being one of the Priests leading Worship for St Mary's during Terry's time off and the interregnum is the Advisor for Christian Life for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

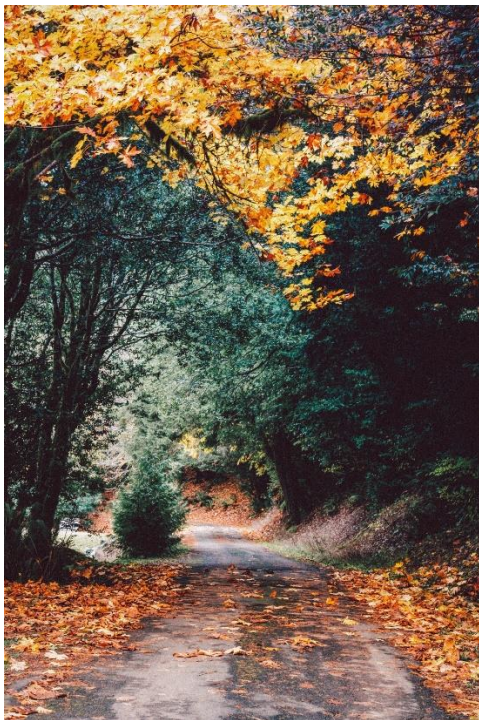
What does an Advisor for Christian Life do? I've been in post since the start of February 2023, prior to this having been Curate at St John's on Crown Terrace, a full-time student at New College Edinburgh and the Scottish Episcopal Institute following a career in academia, including teaching, developing researchers and communicating research with the public of all ages. The role is part of the Diocese's approach to the Provincial Season of Christian Life (which I'm on the steering group for), is a brand new role and one of two in the Province (Edinburgh Diocese's role has the same name but a different remit). The Season of Christian Life is celebrating people's journeys of faith, considering intentionally how we follow Jesus, as disciples – mirroring the first disciples' call from Jesus to follow him and as we seek to learn from Jesus, and abide,

remain with God. Each of us – individuals and congregations – do this differently, whether through action, prayer, telling the good news of Jesus, all of us as we seek to live Jesus shaped lives.



Bible Reading and Study - Photo by [Rachel Strong](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The role is about coming alongside people, congregations and individuals, and there are many ways of doing this. It's about listening and being around to answer questions, hearing your stories of growing Christian faith and for example walking alongside you to hear and see how St Mary's is responding to God's call in love on its corporate life. If you were in church on Sunday 25th June you will have heard me talk about some of the ways I have seen the congregation of St Mary's intentionally seeking to love God and love your neighbours, walking your Christian life as a community seeking to live out your Baptismal vows. These include the quieter contemplative worship of mid-week Communion and regular prayer services; serving others through collecting and sharing Easter Eggs and Christmas Selection Boxes, volunteering by individuals around the city in organisations – bringing light and life and the love of God to what you offer – explicitly and implicitly. It's seen in the inquisitive minds – wanting to know more of God, understand God more – in reading books, the Lent Course. And last but not least – the call to be hospitable to gather around tables sharing coffee, cake and chat. These are just examples of how St Mary's as a congregation and individuals are seeking to know God **more clearly, Love God more dearly, and follow God more nearly, day by day. The invitation is always to continue to journey with God, to delve deeper, rejoicing in our diversity and gifts but all seeing to go further and maybe try things on for size.**



Pilgrimage - Photo by [Eric Muhr](#) on [Unsplash](#)

That's what I've seen at St Mary's but what am I actually doing in the role? Some of it is working with congregations to help them see the good things in Christ they are already doing (because it's so easy to focus on what we're not doing). It's gathering resources (e.g. liturgies, songs, prayers) for particular points in the Christian Life such as Baptism. I've already run an online Lent and Eastertide course on the Diocesan Website (Words for the Way) and there will be an online Advent Course this year. I'm curating a series of information sheets on Christian Practices that help us journey deeper with God, for example retreats and pilgrimage (some of these inspired by conversations I've had at St Mary's) and the opportunities available in the Diocese. I'm here to be a conversation partner for churches

and individuals as they have ideas or are looking for resources – for example Forest Church at Banchory or Children's Work in the West End City Charges. I'm working with churches on

what the Christian Life means for them in their context and how that relates to five-year and mission planning. I'm working this Summer on profiles of heroes of the Christian faith with connections to the Diocese so we can see that good things come out of Aberdeen and Orkney, whether that be St Drostan, St Magnus, John Comper (Priest) or the Aberdeen Doctors (and more). The role is being developed as I go so if you have suggestions or would like a conversation, please do not hesitate to be in touch – christianlife@aberdeen.anglican.org.

Jenny Holden

FRENCH CONNEXION

We've been contacted by a Frenchman, Lt. Col. Xavier de Bisschop, recording his grandmother's happy memories of staying with her great uncle in Aberdeen – her great uncle was our rector, Canon Francis William Christie, whom our altar rail commemorates. He has sent us some photographs to add to our collections, along with his very warmest wishes! The last photo shows him with his mother, Canon Christie's great, great niece, and his sister Caroline.



SOCIAL EVENTS

One busy weekend in June saw a Silent Auction with Cheese & Wine on Friday, and a bring and buy baking sale on Sunday. Including sales of the leftover cheese and wine on Sunday, we made a fine total of £469! Thanks to everyone who helped, donated, attended, ate and drank!

POETRY COMPETITION – THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Winner, Under 18s – Lauren Harper

To our Grandma Irene

Someone who was in my life
For so very long
Now I'm trying to find a way
To learn how to be strong

I think of things you used to say
And all that you would do
At some point every single day
My thoughts will turn to you

You never know how important someone is
Until they're no longer here
I know that's the reason why
Each day I shed a tear

To lose you was a bitter wrench
The pain cut to my core
I cried until my tears ran out
And then I cried some more

Saying that I miss you
Is an understatement for sure
Because now for my loneliness
I don't have a cure

This wouldn't be your wish for me
That I'd be ever sad
So I will remind myself
Of happy times we've had

I miss everything about you
I do wish there was a way
That I could close my eyes
And have you back with me today

I know I can't be with you now
And you can't be with me
But safe inside my heart you'll stay
That's where you'll always be

Second Place, Under 18s – John Chimara

The Prodigal Cat

The Prodigal Cat,
beside the bay,
It shines so bright,
as bright as the day.

The cat called Penny,
She lacked a penny.
She asked old paps,
For the good old tips.

Attracting with money,
But lost your honey.
Working hard,
Purring disregard.

The cat walked home,
After world of Penny's adventure;
She felt like a dome,
and I hear halleluja!

Winner, Adult – Nicola Mills

St Mary's

The silence of the place falls softly round you
When worshippers have gone or work is done,
The light through windows slants across the chancel,
The colours fading with the setting sun.

It seems as if they gather round about you
All those who have belonged and worshipped there
A century and a half of love and friendship
A century and a half of song and prayer

Of fervent pleas and grateful glad thanksgiving,
Our faith set in the One that we adore:
When humans fail and all the world is shaken,
We know that in the end, God will restore.

GENERAL SYNOD 2023



Editorial bias here makes me include a photograph from this year's General Synod Provincial Youth presentation! We were well represented at the event, with Rev. Roger Dyer, Rev. Dr. Jenny Holden, Gillian Rose, and Elizabeth Mills all in attendance in various capacities.

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM OUR ORGANIST

It is rather difficult to believe that I am approaching my last few weeks here at St Mary's. As I write this, I am on a train somewhere in sunny Cambridgeshire having spent the last week in Bury St Edmunds. It was quite the week, getting to know the department, its patterns and its amazing working space... least of all the music library is impeccable! If I had managed to stay an extra week, it would have been 4 years on the nose I would have been with you, alas, we will have to settle for 3 years and 51 weeks!

While sad, I am hopeful that my successor may continue the good work we have done. These 3 years and 51 weeks have been rollercoaster and a half, with COVID, then having our brethren from St Andrew's join us while they renovated the building and most recently the departure of our Rector. While these have all brought their challenges, we have weathered many storms together and made good music through them. With our successful evensongs, extravagant 9 Lessons & Carols and our concerts - it has certainly been a role I have enjoyed and there has never been a dull moment with you all! Needless to say, the last few years have been great fun for me and I hope you have both enjoyed and that the music for services has been enhancing the liturgy and not a hindrance (even if the voluntaries can be rather long!).

I will leave you with the words by Thomas Campion, set by Herbert Howells:

*Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.*

*Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.*

The Aberdeen Academy of Theology
Thinking and Living Faithfully

'Do Not Be Afraid'

Facing, Resisting and Enduring Fearful Times

'Can we resist fear without forgoing what is good, right and true?' --Craig Titus

'Fortitude is about fear and daring, as curbing fear and moderating daring.' --Thomas Aquinas



SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

FEAR - Thinking theologically about fear. Aquinas' typology of fear. Insights from trauma theology.

SATURDAY, 21 OCTOBER

FORTITUDE - Fortitude as a virtue. Aristotle and Aquinas on virtues. Fortitude as courage and resilience.

SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

FAITH - The resources of Christian faith and practice to develop fortitude and build spiritual resilience.

**ALL SESSIONS RUN FROM 9:30AM-12:30PM
AT FOUNTAINHALL CHURCH CENTRE, ABERDEEN**



Sessions will be led by Dr Emma Percy, Senior Lecturer in Feminist Theology and Ministry Studies at the University of Aberdeen and author of *Mothering as a Metaphor for Ministry* (Routledge, 2014).

£15 / £10 (conc) per Session

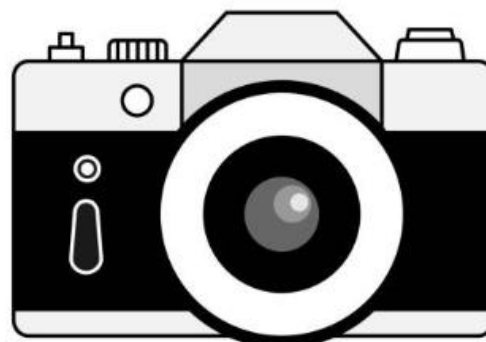


RSVP TO JOEL.PIERCE@ABDN.AC.UK

Centre for Ministry Studies
www.abdn.ac.uk/edhp/centreministrystudies/

COMPETITIONS

The deadline for our Poetry Competition passed at the end of June, so now you have time to focus on our Photography Competition! The rules are on the website and the entries can be sent in to David Rose, or to stmaryscardenplace.org.uk. A selection of the entries will be used again to form our church Calendar for 2024.



ACCOUNTS

March 2023

Income:	3,655
Expenditure:	<u>5,746</u>
Net result for month:	-2,091

April 2023

Income:	3,307
Expenditure:	<u>6,782</u>
Net result for month:	-3,745

May 2023

Income:	3,973
Expenditure:	<u>6,827</u>
Net result for month:	-2,854

June 2023

Income:	7,435
Expenditure:	<u>4,625</u>
Net result for month:	2,810

Balance unrestricted funds:	35,147
Balance restricted funds:	31,708
Balance at month end:	£66,855

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: vacancy

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 Harvest 2023 issue, will be announced in the late summer or early autumn. 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).