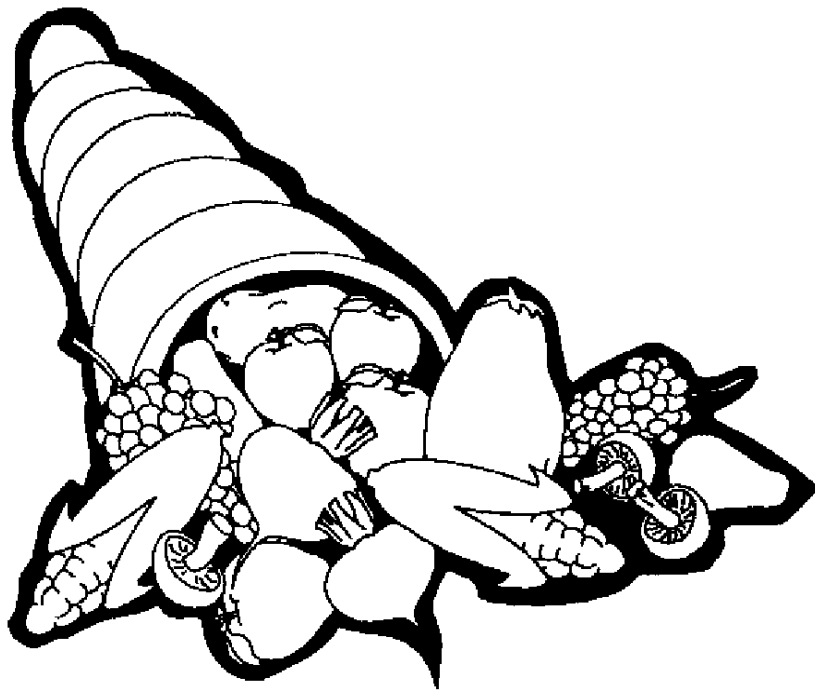


# **The Quarterly Magazine**

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

**Harvest 2023**



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As I write, the freezer is bulging with raspberries and blackberries, and there are sacks of potatoes and onions in all kinds of stashes around the house. There is jam and wine in the pantry. It has been a good year (if we ignore the courgette disaster!), and as the church's season of Creation draws to an end and we celebrate Harvest, I am duly very thankful indeed!

Down on the allotment, however, things are looking a bit drab. There are some runner beans still growing, but the broad bean stalks and the peas are black and withered, and there is bare soil where the onions and potatoes have been dug. Much of it looks dead. The swallows are gathering on the telegraph wires, the butterflies are disappearing, the bees are seizing those last few sips of nectar from the late flowers, and everything is slowing down. It's that time of year: everything needs a rest.

In our church year, too, once harvest is past and advent is still to come, death and darkness seem to be the theme. We're drawing close to All Souls' Day and Remembrance, those moments of quiet grief that we mark annually. We remember those we have known who have gone before us, and those who gave their lives for the life we live. It is right to acknowledge our sorrow and others', to mark our loss, and as the year darkens into winter, it feels as if all God's creation marks it with us.

Our season of creation is drawing to a close, but in the cycle of the church's year we will celebrate it again. We are a church of the Resurrection, and we know that however dark it grows, light and life will come again – first in the celebration of Christmas, and then in the joy of spring and Easter.

And it will come again sooner than we think – better get the seed catalogues out!

Nicola Mills



*Our special services this November:*

All Saints: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>. November 10:00a.m.

All Souls: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. November 7:00p.m.

Remembrance Sunday: 12<sup>th</sup>. November

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## **ST MARY'S PEACE GARDEN PROJECT**

Our beautiful new Peace Garden is now complete, and was blessed by Rev. Roger Dyer on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, our patronal festival. Some lovely photographs and a stunning video are available on the church website. A couple of weeding days have been set aside for 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October – please come along if you can and help our grounds look tidy.

## **ALL SAINTS HOLIDAY CLUB**

All Saints Holiday Club will be back in October!

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

## **ORDINATIONS AT ST. JOHN'S**



It was a particularly joyous occasion when our ordinands Godwin Chimara and Ferdinand von Prondzynski were ordained deacons by Bishop John on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The church was packed, with musical contributions from several churches and a sermon from Bishop Dorsey. There was much hugging and laughter, and hospitality and fellowship afterwards. An auspicious start to their ministry!

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**THE SAME GOD WHO CREATED THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE CARES FOR US.**

**Isaiah 40:28. The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.'**

Isaiah 45:12 "It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it." NIV. As is written 'In the beginning God created the land before He created man and woman'. How sad it feels that we humans think or even believe that the land is ours - some even believing it is their birthright!

The culture of freeing the land to return to its own natural beauty is slowly beginning to become okay with me. However, I do struggle somewhat when I visit places that once had large glass houses with prim and proper plants growing, indeed plants from around the world growing. No longer are they being grown and no longer are my senses and heart captivated by their beauty, scents, colours etc. I would never be able to see these plants if it wasn't for their being carefully cared for, nurtured and allowed to grow (albeit in an artificial environment that isn't their homeland). Interestingly they are built on man made foundations, unlike the natural ground crops/flowers etc are grown on and the hills and mountains are formed on, the very ground God created. As I write this I realise how selfish I am in wanting to continue to enjoy another country's bounteous floral beauties cultivated in an environment which is not their homeland and under artificial conditions.

As with all things, transition takes time - so as I continue to frequent these botanical gardens and watch the demolition of glasshouses and the no longer straight military lines of flowers which were pleasing to the eye, I start to appreciate freedom in a way I had never envisioned before. Indeed flowers that would never have made it into the glasshouses now have pride and place to grow as they should and importantly, to me, mix and be in relationship with other flowers that once would have been impossible to cultivate together. How presumptuous it is of us to think that it is our role to separate out what we thought good or not right to put alongside others.

In the beginning, I don't believe God would have created man to take his beautiful creation and put it into such structured boxes - do you? Is it not written to let the weeds grow amongst the good, in order that we do not pull out the good by mistake. Sorry God, we seem to have forgotten that. Thankfully, due to Your loving patience we are learning this afresh.

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Finally, I love gardening programmes, and one I watched recently tested my ‘you shouldn’t’ thinking. For instance, you should not cut back the shoots and leaves of potato plants once they’ve flowered. However, if you lift the potato without doing this, the skin is thin and flakes off. The programme taught me, if you cut back the shoots and leave the potatoes in the ground the skins grow stronger and the potato will keep and store better. Amazing what you remember when you follow a tractor laden with potatoes for a few miles on a country road.



*Only God knows what lies within and beneath a mountain*

So the message I have learned is that what God cuts back can have, beneath the surface, a miraculous transformation which endures longer and is more beautiful than any human eye could predict. So today give your gratitude for all the transformation and beauty beneath the surface not just upon the land we see which God collectively created but trust that this transformation takes place in people also, beneath the surface and the beauty that lies beneath will, one day, shine up and out through the surface - maybe that's what is meant by order, disorder and reorder not only from what I see taking place in the botanical gardens, but in life as a whole.

As I've added a 'but', which I associate with goats, let's give gratitude to all animals that also provide their own manure and various ways of tilling the ground, those that bring air and life to the soil, those that scatter the seeds and those that pollinate the flowers and trees. Each are special and known by you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – collectively you continue to bring life to all things and yes, all creation and creatures, including humans, are good.

Blessings and Happy Harvest time to you all.

Margaret McKinnon (Pictures by my Granddaughter, Georgia McKinnon (aged 7) whose story telling and artwork gave me the inspiration to write this article)

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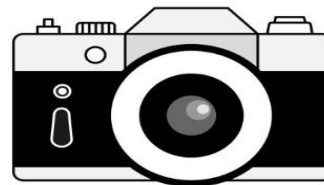
## *SOCIAL EVENTS*

As the magazine goes to press, the gentlemen are preparing, no doubt, for their night out at 8848. Meanwhile the ladies had a very enjoyable evening at No.10 on 28<sup>th</sup> September, with excellent food and good conversation!



## *COMPETITIONS*

Our photography competition has now closed, with some wonderful entries! Judging will commence soon, so keep your fingers crossed. A selection of the entries will be used again to form our church Calendar for 2024.



## *RECYCLING*

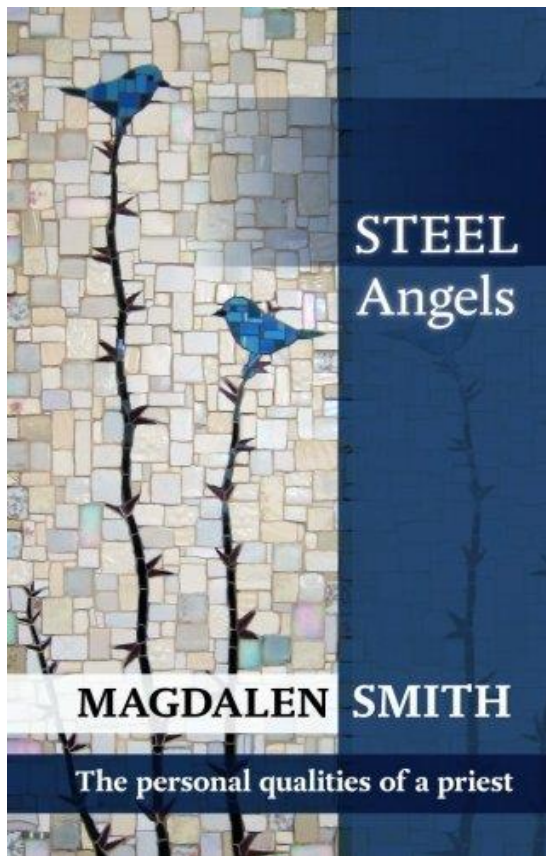
We are now in a position to help recycle some extra items that can't go into your kerbside bins. There is a box by the Green Organ to take used stamps, old spectacles, mobile phones, blister packs (please ensure all tablets are removed) and foreign coins.

Next to that is the box for all your interesting (and again empty) whisky and gin bottles which are going to be made into candle holders by a local craftsman. We receive a payment for these, so it all helps church funds!

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Steel Angels*, by Magdalen Smith



Based on the criteria used to help select clergy in the Church of England (very similar to the ones we

use here in the SEC), this book examines the role of a priest today, the challenges they face and the expectations laid on them in modern society. It's aimed at clergy, but it makes a very interesting read for the lay person, particularly in a charge where we are starting to think about what kind of clergy we want at St. Mary's and what they might be expected to do. It's also a very helpful insight for lay people who might be considering their own vocation, or who work with ordinands or the ordained, or who simply see a dog collar and wonder what goes on in the person wearing it. Smith draws on images from art and films to illustrate her account, and adds a useful bibliography for anyone interested in the role of the church today.

*If you have read an interesting book and would like to tell us about it, please contact the editor.*

## ACCOUNTS

Due to the postponement of the Vestry meeting in September, the accounts will be given in the Christmas magazine.

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## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Rector: vacancy

Assistant Priests: Rev. Jason Hobbs, Rev. Roger Dyer (for pastoral matters please contact on 07719 458571 or [revrogdyer@btinternet.com](mailto:revrogdyer@btinternet.com))

Rector's Warden: John Cooke

People's Warden: Iain Stewart

Vestry Secretary: David Rose (acting)

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Anne Farquhar

Organist: vacancy

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator: Graham Thomson

Flower Convener: (please contact Nicola Mills for now)

Church Office (01224 561383) [stmaryscardenplace@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscardenplace@gmail.com)

Online: [www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk) / [facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace](https://facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace)

The deadline for the next magazine, our Christmas 2023 issue, will be 18<sup>th</sup> December. Copy when required to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to [palaeography@aol.com](mailto: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).