

The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's, Carden Place

Easter 2024



BISHOP DORSEY'S REFLECTIONS ON PASSIONTIDE

Beloved in the Lord;

Every year, as we approach Lent, I am never quite ready for it. I never know what to expect. I think I know my habitual sins after all these years, but God has a way of using the time to shine the light of the Holy Spirit into shabby corners of my soul that I didn't even know were there. And, whereas I reluctantly cross the frontier of Ash Wednesday to begin the season of repentance, by the time we get to the fourth Sunday, I feel as though I've scarcely begun. I look back on the past weeks, and they seem to have gone by in a flash, even though at the time it all felt like a long slog from day to day. And soon it will be Holy Week, then Easter. Honestly, I'm not ready for any of it. As I pass by the chocolate eggs already on offer at Morrison's, I scowl.

So, thank God for Passiontide. This season-within-a-season begins with the fifth Sunday of Lent and continues through Good Friday. It isn't broadly observed anymore, but I am holding on to it, for a very simple reason: I need more time, to take in the enormity of all we are about to observe, the nearly unimaginable scope of the Love of Christ, time to dwell in the mystery of the One who was willing not only to die for us, but also to inhabit fully the spiritual states we ourselves experience from day to day.

It is good that, this year, we hear so much from the Gospel of Mark, that most brief and breathless of the four evangelists. Mark uses the word *immediately* forty-one times. As we hear the story unfold we get the sense of urgency driving Jesus forward. His disciples can barely keep up with him, running here and there, healing, teaching, casting out demons. Mark observes at one point that *they had no leisure, even to eat*. But all this changes with Palm Sunday. The *immediatels* nearly disappear. Everything slows down, as if Mark wants us to move through the rest of the days in real time in close company with each of the players: with Judas, as he betrays; Peter, as he denies; the disciples, as they slumber; and especially Jesus, in his anxiety and fear, his courage and truth-telling, his patience and mercy. It is a lot to take in.

I am trying to read the whole narrative every day, Mark 14 and 15, only two chapters, but with what weight do these words drop into my heart! Each day something else sinks in from what I read, as though I had never read it before. But the common thread is this: Jesus our Lord knows first-hand the turbulence of my soul; by his sorrow and his love he is determined to turn every shabby corner of it into a storehouse of his Grace, a place where the Spirit prays in me, until finally I become a mansion fit for him. I know he won't be done with me by Easter or even by the end of my mortal life! But each day draws me closer to him, so that when Holy Week comes, I will be able to walk the Way of the Cross with a more open heart and greet the Resurrection with something of the joy known by the women who saw him first.

Please join me on this road, and know you are all in my grateful prayers as we walk together.

Faithfully,

+Dorsey



ST MARY'S AGM

Bishop Dorsey was good enough to come and chair our AGM in February, and reports were received on all aspects of the life of St. Mary's. Marin Matsuzaka and Allison Brown were elected to fill posts on the vestry, and Jenny Cruickshank stepped down as secretary, handing over to David Rose who has been acting as secretary for some months. Full copies of the papers can be found on the table by the lectern for anyone who missed the meeting.

SYNOD REPORT

Diocesan Synod was chaired by Bishop Dorsey on 2nd. March, at Elphinstone Hall at Aberdeen University. Aside from some confusion over the revised Canon 65 concerning safeguarding, business went smoothly. Canon 35, the one we all turn to when we want to change anything around the church, is being modified again to take into account the church's net zero goals, though it was suggested that perhaps an entirely new canon is needed to deal with all the environmental and energy matters currently before us. Bishop Dorsey's charge to Synod was based on the gospel account of Jesus throwing the moneylenders out of the temple, and addressed the anger currently felt in our diocese, and the signs of hope he

felt of reconciliation. There was no Synod dinner this year, but we had time for good fellowship over lunch, time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

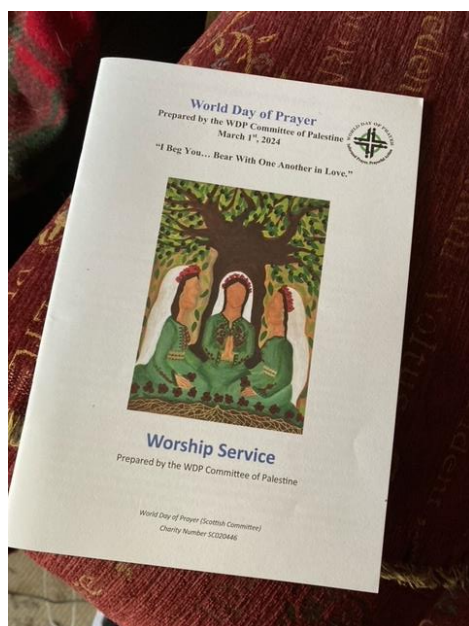


EASTER EGG COLLECTION



The Easter eggs multiplied quickly by the Green Organ this year! This week we were able to deliver sixty-three eggs to Barnardo's Zoë Galloway and Amy Duncan, who told us it was their only donation this Easter. Thanks once again to all who donated.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



The World Day of Prayer service for our area was held once again this year at Rubislaw Church Centre, a lovely venue for all kinds of practical reasons! This year, by coincidence, the material had been put together by the Christian women of Palestine, which made it particularly poignant. The room was decorated with citrus fruit and flowers, and the service was well-attended on a day that promised spring!



EAST END GARDEN AREA UPDATE: TREE SURVEY

As part of our plans to tidy up the East End Garden area, a detailed tree survey was carried out by Struan Dalgleish Arboriculture on 27th February. There are currently eleven broadleaf trees in the eastern boundary of the church grounds on a relatively narrow strip of soil along the eastern boundary wall. The two oldest trees, a mature horse chestnut and a Norway maple occur at either end of the border and overhang the pavements and roads on each side. In between we have four ornamental cherry trees, two more Norway maples and an ash tree. On the southern boundary a semi-mature silver birch and a young rowan grow out of the gravel near the boundary wall with Albert Street.

The tree survey report indicates that the trees along the eastern boundary have not been actively managed for some time, allowing shrubs to become very large and ivy has also become well established. Smaller trees in the area are being out competed by their larger neighbours or have become smothered in ivy.

Tree pruning work will be required on five of the eleven trees in the border strip to provide clearance from the church building and to the neighbouring house. One of the young Norway maples is likely to outgrow its location and therefore the arborist has recommended removal. Ivy control is required on three trees. This will involve severing and removing ivy

stems around the circumference of the lower trunks. Ivy above this point will die, break-up and gradually fall off.

All the trees in the east garden area are subject to Aberdeen City Council tree protection orders. Therefore, tree work must only be undertaken following close liaison with and written permission of the city council strategic planning group.

The Vestry will now seek quotations from professional tree surgeons in order to build a full project plan to present to Aberdeen City Council and also to various funding bodies. Dave Chouman, our architect, will draw up the project plan and it is hoped that this could be completed in the Spring.

Our attention will now turn to a garden design for the boundary strip. Joanne Evans, of Gerbera Designs, will soon develop this, which will then allow us to finalise the costs for landscaping the whole area. The landscaping works will involve clearing the border, replacement of the pathway and tidying up the large area of gravel to the east of the church building. Repairs to the drainage system will also be part of the whole project.



Photo 1 – Mature horse chestnut overhanging Albert Terrace. Pruning to remove growth from the lower trunk is recommended to maintain clearance of pavement. Nearby silver birch and rowan are in good condition. The stake and tie supporting the rowan should be removed.



Photo 2 – Minor pruning of cherry 1274 is required to maintain clearance of the church building.



Photo 3 – Dense ivy on ash 1271 and Norway maple 1272 should be cleared from the lower trunks.



Photo 4 – Mature Norway maple 1275. Dense ivy through-out the crown should be controlled by severing and removing ivy stems from lower trunk.

(This article is based on the Tree Survey Report by Struan Dalgleish. Photographs also by Struan Dalgleish).

CARBON LITERACY

Rather to my surprise I was sent in March on a two day (Zoom) carbon literacy course with a number of clergy and laity across the province. This course was less to do with cutting down plastic use and more to do with our carbon emissions, for example from our heating (by using insulation or changing power supply), or our food waste, or indeed how we buy our food and how far it comes to reach us. It would be difficult to sum up the course here, but instead I'll offer a few facts and thoughts I took away from it aside from the general statistics of global warming.

A kilogram of tomatoes produces a certain amount of CO₂ equivalent, which varies depending on the tomatoes:

If they're grown locally, in season, and are a variety that is appropriate for our climate – 1.3kg

If they're grown in UK summer or Spanish winter and are a variety that needs more heat/light, e.g. baby plum tomatoes – 4.9kg

If they're brought out of season from heated greenhouses – 28.2kg.

It's worth checking to see if your bank and pension funds are still investing in fossil fuels.

One person travelling from Glasgow to London will travel most efficiently by coach. After that, the modes of transport we looked at are ranked as train, then small electric car, then efficient small petrol car, then plane, then worst of all an SUV.

Some churches have cut down their meat consumption (cows and sheep are particularly bad producers of methane) by having default vegetarian meals on their social occasions – that is, vegetarian unless meat is specifically asked for.

Hierarchies of waste and carbon:

| Best | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Waste prevention | Avoid emissions |
| Preparation for reuse | Reduce emissions |
| Recycling | Substitute with low-carbon alternatives |
| Recovery | Sequester emissions |
| Disposal | Offset emissions |
| Worst | |

Some places to find information:

Tearfund Climate Emergency Toolkit (www.climateemergencytoolkit.com)

Centre for Alternative Technology (Wales) (www.cat.org.uk)

Ecodrive.org – hints and tips on how to drive more ecologically, also with information on courses.

Some books:

Mike Berners-Lee: *How Bad are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything*

Ruth Valerio: *Saying Yes to Life*

Nicolas Holtam: *Sleepers Wake – Getting Serious about Climate Change*

Nicola Mills

REFLECTIONS ON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE 2024

My name is Ian Duguid and I am an Ambassador of the Holocaust Education Trust. I am writing this in an effort to reflect on this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, that being the 27th of January.

I started off as a participant in the "Lessons from Auschwitz Project", which saw an educational visit to the former death camp. What I learned on that trip is something I consider worth "reflecting" on. I wouldn't say I learned something new in terms of statistics or specific facts. I didn't learn any new names of German officers who inflicted atrocities I hadn't heard before. But I learned the true meaning of the word "humanity" when referring to the Holocaust.

My primary example is Jannine Webber. Mrs Webber is someone I got the magnificent opportunity to meet and speak with at an Edinburgh Conference last November. She herself had not actually seen a death or concentration camp, but she spent time in the Lvov Ghetto, where her mother and brother died. She spent time in a convent hiding with the local Catholic community. And that is humanity, the fear, the need for strategy in times of crisis, the need to

survive. And of course, the humanity of those few Catholics in the community who would likely have known her true identity, but chose to protect her. That she was by nature a criminal under Hitler's Europe, she was guilty only of being Jewish.

But of course the word humanity is not always a positive word. Humanity can sometimes be cruel, unfair and deeply prejudicial, this is shown particularly in Jannine's story which included her brother being buried alive. I find her story to be both heartbreaking and also vital in understanding that not all suffering in the Holocaust circled around a camp.

That being said, I don't think I will ever forget going to Auschwitz, and a couple hours alone in that place is enough to squash the opinions of any genocide denier. The bit that stuck with me, and I haven't fully been able to shift it from my thoughts, was the nail marks. Because if you look carefully into the walls of the gas chamber, you will see nail scratches. It's enough to either make you cry or to make you feel violently sick, or in my case, to make you silent in shock. What happened in that room, and many rooms like them is simply unimaginable to me or you. What they would have gone through in their final minutes is unnatural and monstrous.

With that in mind, however, we can describe the Holocaust as monstrous, barbaric and the worst example of human behaviour, without dehumanising the perpetrators. Originally this was not something I understood. It was said by a guide at Auschwitz 1 that we can't see the Nazis as monstrous: I really did not sympathise with this to begin with if I'm honest. But that's because being told that Rudolf Hoss was not a monster is a difficult thing to stomach after having just walked through a gas chamber. However, I think I understand it now. Because if you paint perpetrators as demons, you rob them of what they actually were. They were human. They were the worst example of humanity, but they were still human. Hoss would kill innocent people in their hundreds and then proceed to go home and play with his children, like a normal dad. And the issue with saying that Nazis are monsters is that you make them seem unique. You make them seem like a scary nightmare that couldn't possibly happen again because "society is more understanding now". I'm afraid to say it simply isn't. Anti-semitic attacks in some areas of this country are up 1350%, and it is certainly not my business to make any intellectual view on the conflict in Gaza. However, we need to understand as a society that no one people are responsible for the acts of a terrorist group, or of a country's government. And that, and that alone is the reason we have Holocaust Memorial Day events. And why we send children in bulk to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, and Treblinka.

Any one of us would like to think that we are above such things as propaganda brainwashing. But we are not, we are like ordinary Germans in the 1940s, we are human, and therefore deeply flawed creatures. I hope this is a message that the Trust, and I, have been able to deliver in big ways like speeches at Parliament, right down to writing an article like this. Because God help us if we don't make an effort to stamp out the inhumanity of humanity.

Ian Duguid (Ambassador of the Holocaust Education Trust)

JOURNEY INTO EASTER

I wonder how Lent has been for you this year?

This year I've followed daily readings and reflections in the 'Through Lent with Pope Francis' book. This book features passages from scripture in both New International Version (NIV) and New Catholic Bible (NCB) translations. I'm not familiar with the NCB translation and although it only has some minor differences with the NIV translation, taking the time and concentration to read and reflect on passages in this translation has felt like an awakening. The book also features artwork I've not encountered before and it has been a treat to take the time to appreciate these.

I have written in previous editions of this magazine about hope and anticipation. You may recall my wondering as to whether my Amaryllis bulbs would open in time for Christmas. The good news is that the bulbs did open in time and from each of the bulbs I had two very tall stems and three beautiful flowering heads on each stem.



I also have another Amaryllis bulb which has only now started to flower during Lent. I wonder if it was caught sleeping, but whatever the reason, it has eventually started to respond after the investment I made to care for and nourish the bulb. As you can see below, the stems have very little height but there are three heads opening up.

This reminds me of the following passage:

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26: 40-41 NIV)

Even after Jesus caught His disciples sleeping when they should have been praying and keeping watch, Jesus never gave up on them. Jesus was subsequently able to restore, equip and enable His disciples which allowed them to find their way and blossom later in life.

I recently went on a ceramic painting afternoon with some members of my family. It was a wonderful afternoon where there was such pure free flowing creativity taking place in a very peaceful atmosphere. I would highly recommend this activity to anyone wanting to give it a try. These are our finished creations and we are looking forward to seeing them once they have been glazed and fired:



are the mushrooms' eyes wide open, struggling to stay awake or are they in awe at what they are seeing?



My granddaughter's giant mushroom welcomes dreamers. That's honesty for you. God welcomed and spoke to dreamers quite often in the Bible.



this puppy bowl provides a new vessel from which to drink.

Has your journey into Easter or even the celebration of Easter itself resulted in your awakening, staring in awe, dreaming, becoming a new clay pot or receiving a new vessel ready to drink anew the water of life?

Hallelujah Jesus Has Risen.

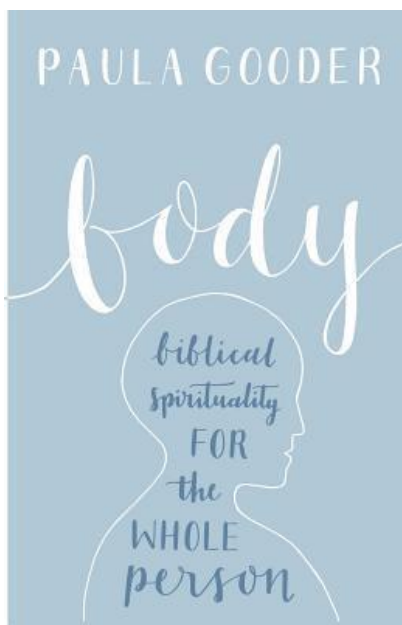
Easter Blessings to you all,

Margaret McKinnon

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Social Group has planned a busy calendar of events for this year! – fancy a Pizza and Movie Night? Or another Curry Night? Or pick up a fancy piece or two at our Baking Sale! There will be charity campaigns, too. The 2024 Photography Competition starts at Easter – why not take a few snaps on your summer holidays and give it a go? For the full schedule, take a look at posters around the church, or watch out for announcements on Facebook or the weekly service sheet.

BOOK REVIEW



Paula Gooder, *Body – Biblical Spirituality for the Whole Person*: In this short book Gooder explores Christian attitudes to the body, diving back into perceptions of body,

flesh, spirit and soul in Jewish tradition and Greek philosophy, both of which would have fed into the writings of Paul on which the book concentrates. Where our faith is situated, how our bodies are regarded and should be treated, how they are used in our connexions with each other – hand shaking, body language, and so on – what part of ‘us’ survives after death or is resurrected and when, all are explored, and the conclusions Gooder reaches are perhaps surprising. As always, she tackles a difficult subject in a very readable way, with a good deal for the reader to think about.

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

PLANTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN

For the Garden of your Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas:

- 1/ Peas of Mind
- 2/ Peas of Heart
- 3/ Peas of Soul

Plant four rows of squash:

- 1/ Squash Gossip
- 2/ Squash Indifference
- 3/ Squash Grumbling
- 4/ Squash Selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- 1/ Lettuce be Faithful
- 2/ Lettuce be Kind
- 3/ Lettuce be Patient
- 4/ Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is complete without Turnips:

- 1/ Turnip for Meetings
- 2/ Turnip for Service
- 3/ Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude our Garden we must have Thyme:

- 1/ Thyme for Each Other
- 2/ Thyme for Family
- 3/ Thyme for Friends

Water Freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love. There is much Fruit in your Garden because you Reap what you Sow.

(source unknown)

ACCOUNTS

The accounts will be updated in the next magazine, due to the disorganisation of the editor.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: vacancy

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

Rector's Warden: John Cooke

People's Warden: Iain Stewart

Vestry Secretary: David Rose

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

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

The deadline for the next magazine, our Trinity 2024 issue, will be 24th June. 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).