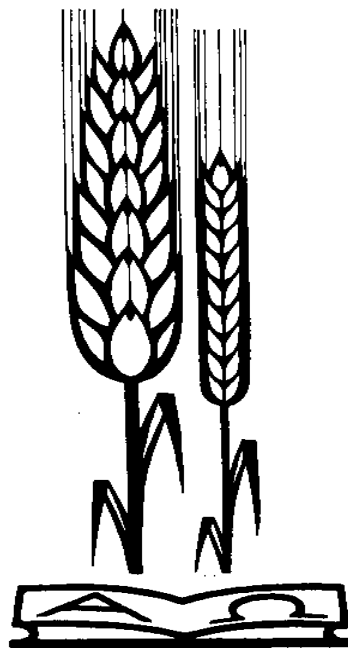


The Quarterly Magazine

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

Harvest 2024



As this year's Season of Creation draws to a close with our Harvest Festival, we reflect on all we have seen and heard in these last few weeks of God's Creation and our responsibilities in it, tending and caring for all God has been good enough to grant us.

During this season, we've been blessed with a series of ordinations with connexions to St. Mary's. Godwin Chimara and Ferdinand von Pronzynski, by the time you read this, will have been ordained to the priesthood – Godwin at St. James' on 30th September, and Ferdinand at St. Thomas' Aboyne on 3rd. October. Maureen Farquhar Mackenzie (pictured below at Godwin's ordination), who was a regular attender at our Sunday Breakfasts during lockdown, was ordained deacon on 14th September at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, and on 21st. September Helen Randell, who will serve her curacy in Shetland, was ordained deacon in St. Mary's in our role as pro-cathedral.



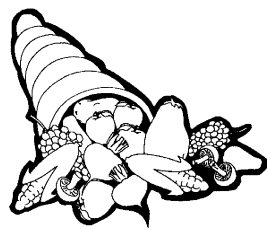
(picture courtesy of Rev. Roger)



Helen Randell with Bishop Ian at St. Mary's
(picture courtesy of the SEC)



This is not so much a harvest, though it looks a rich one – it is more like seedlings being transplanted, from a nice warm seed tray into a larger pot, or from the pot into the earth under the open sky. Their story is not over. As with plants, there will have been plenty of careful preparation before each move, the earth worked and weeded, the plants watered and fed, but in the end we humans have no idea how such planting is going to work out. God’s oversight is always required to bring everything to fruition. Rev. Roger reminded us in his sermon a couple of weeks ago of the moment when Mary Magdalene encountered Jesus near the tomb after He had risen from the dead – she mistook Him for the gardener. But is that such a mistake? Without the gardener, all our harvests, plants or humans or anything else, comes to nothing. Let us give thanks this Harvest for all His works!



PREPARATION FOR HARVEST

In the beginning the Word said 'It is good'.

Recently I have been awakened afresh to the suggestion that the seed must die to grow, in other words, things do not always have to remain the way they are just because that’s how things have been planted or how they once were. God has showed us and is showing us daily that growth and change can be beneficial not only to us but to all His Creation - from the beginning of the Bible that which was ‘normal’ became a new ‘normal’ for our benefit, yesterday and today:

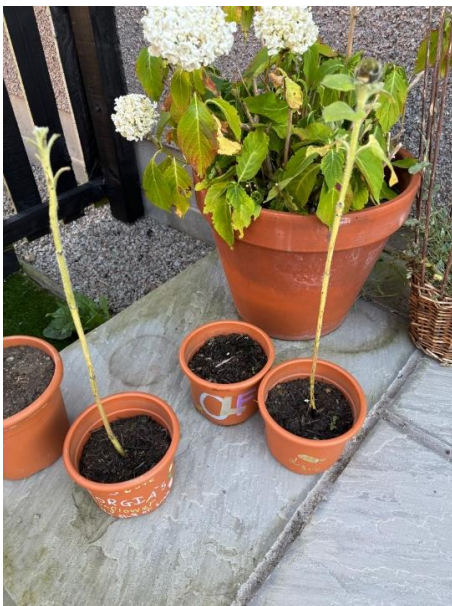
- Day 1: God separated light from darkness giving us day and night. (Genesis 1:3–5)
- Day 2: God separated water from water, the upper water was called sky. (Genesis 1:6–8)
- Day 3: With the water under the sky God gathered it together and created ground (land) (Genesis 1:9–13)
- Day 4: God used light in the sky to shine upon the earth. He also sprinkled stars in the sky to mark the difference between night and day. (Genesis 1:14–19)

- Day 5: God did not settle for empty skies or empty waters, He filled both with livestock, creatures that would roam the land and birds that would fly and enjoy the sky. (Genesis 1:20–23)
- Day 6: God deemed that all creatures, Adam and Eve, animals, birds alike would multiply and fill the land with colour and sounds. (Genesis 1:24-25)
- Day 7: God made it known from the beginning that the occupants of His earth were to rest on the 7th day. He did not expect them to labour all day and every day. (Genesis 2:1–3)

(Paraphrased from NIV Bible)

This harvesting of the World has never taken place since and will never take place again. God is right: It was Good and is still Good today.

Julian of Norwich said, 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'



I wonder what words we use when we plant, cultivate and water our own seed(s) of thoughts, sayings or actions. For example, my granddaughter planted sunflower seeds and beetroot seeds - her thinking was for a tall, strong colourful sunflower. However, nature hasn't robbed her of this, it has just altered the appearance of the sunflower to show the flower's resilience. It may not have the leaves associated with sunflowers, but the leaves provided food for the snails

and maybe helped birth many 'baby' snails. They've kindly left a head on the plant that may flower! The beetroot is showing positivity in that the leaves are turning purple and beets are forming under the soil - although not quite ready to harvest yet.



Currently, all around us we had the signs that the seasons were changing from summer into autumn, leaves were changing colour and some falling off, then suddenly the week beginning 17th September we have glorious hot sunny days, a robin red breast has returned to our garden and plants that were dormant are bursting back into life again! We humans have had to take out the sun hats and sandals again, whereas in many countries they are suffering severe flooding. Yes, we live in a world that is constantly changing – however, its structure remains the same. How we adapt is, in part, down to our attitude to change – can we be resolute like Julian of Norwich and hold firm in trusting all will be well, or will we cling on to the seed(s) of change and not let them grow?

My son brought me back mustard seeds from the Holy Land in March 2007. They are beautifully held in a container and I still don't have the heart to open or plant them - why, if I plant them I won't have the reminder of his gift and his trip to the Holy Land nor will I have the

reminder of how small a mustard seed actually is.



I'm quite confident we all hold close 'things' that could grow, but for one reason or another we don't let go, we don't allow them to grow. Thank you, God, that collectively you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, planned from 'the beginning' to let go and allow the seed that became Jesus to die and be born again. This harvest we give gratitude to all seeds that have died, become new life in and through this death, and especially to those whose appearance (like the sunflowers) are not as was expected, but have provided enjoyment and nourishment to humans and creatures alike!

God's Blessings upon all His Creation

Margaret McKinnon

ST. MARY'S 160TH

We had a lovely day on 18th August, celebrating our 160th birthday with Canon the Rev. Graham Taylor leading the service and many friends who had commitments elsewhere joining us for lunch afterwards. It was good too to see Kyle McCallum, our erstwhile organist, who was then able to come and play for us at a service in October. It all brought back many happy memories!



WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Graham Taylor was involved again as Katie Rose, daughter of Gillian and David, married Rossano Cariello at Dunglass, East Lothian, on 31st July. One or two well-kent faces here looking very smart!



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

And now after all those fine photos a reminder that the 2024 Photography Competition is now closed and is being judged – remember, twelve photos will be selected for the 2025 St. Mary’s Calendar, on sale in December.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our quiz night has been moved to avoid a clash with St. John’s, and is now to be combined with our Pizza Night on 11th October. Sign-up sheets coming soon!

THEATRE REVIEW

Love Beyond, by Ramesh Meyyappan



This was an extraordinary, wonderful play using non-hearing and hearing actors, with the beauty of sign language woven into a love story and tale of dementia which came to the Lemon Tree for two nights in September.

Increasingly, we are lucky enough to have shows and plays come to Aberdeen which have been successful at the Edinburgh Fringe. *Love Beyond* by Ramesh Meyyappan and directed by Matthew Lenton is one such play. It is a poignant and thoughtful story about the experience of dementia as Harry arrives into formal Care. Visually stunning, the show is at the cutting edge of theatre and is just not the sort of thing we usually see here in Aberdeen.

In this love story, we see Harry’s memories through three large windows looking out of his room, which are in fact two-way mirrors. It helps us see how memories often seem like new, fresh events to a dementia sufferer. We experience his memories through the windows as they become a live scene of him falling in love with his wife. By using a non-hearing main character we also see the difficulties in communication and the reality of memories to a dementia sufferer. In a lovely moment the carer explains she has only had a two-hour BSL introduction before her new, completely deaf, client arrives. The carer not being fluent in sign language made me think of the problems of communication present in hearing dementia patients too.

The story is tender and complex and shows the viewpoint of both the sufferer and the carer. The kindness and complexity of being a carer is wonderfully shown. As she starts to learn BSL (British Sign Language), Harry is forgetting his BSL and finally he is left with just himself in a touching and realistic story. Although supported by the BDA (British Deaf Association), this story is just as relevant to the world of dementia. Like the best of shows, in just over an hour, it communicates fresh insights on a disease known and feared by many.

It is an exceptional piece of theatre, very thought provoking and creatively done.

This play is touring Scotland and still has dates in the MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling on 9th October, and Eden Court, Inverness, on 16th and 17th October. See it if you can.

Julia House

If you have seen an interesting play or film or read a thought-provoking book and would like to tell us about it, please contact the editor.

ACCOUNTS

July 2024

Income:	2,950
Expenditure:	<u>4,540</u>
Net result for month:	-1,590

August 2024

Income:	6,722
Expenditure	3,769
Net result for month:	3,003

September 2024

Income:	5,038
Expenditure:	<u>2,398</u>
Net result for month:	2,640

Balance unrestricted funds:	51,187
Balance restricted funds:	18,387
Balance at month end:	£69,574

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 Christmas 2024 issue, will be 16th 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).