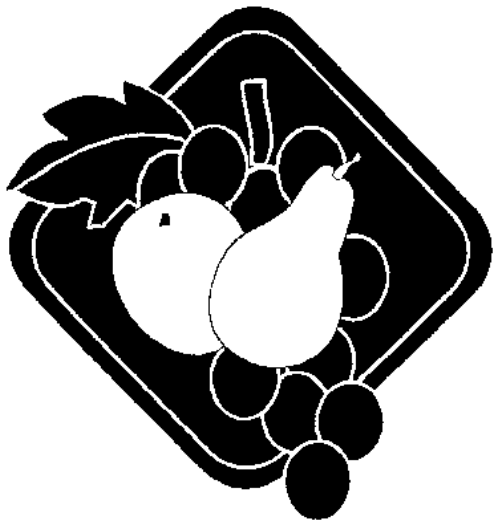
The Quarterly Magazine

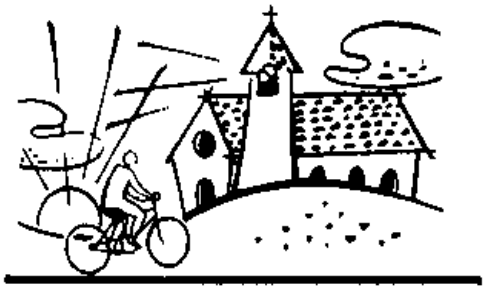
St. Mary's, Carden Place

Harvest 2025



WHERE ARE WE IN OUR SEARCH FOR A RECTOR – AND A RECTORY?

Well, the good news is that we have bought a new Rectory! 16, Thorngrove Crescent is about thirty minutes' walk from St. Mary's, and is a well-maintained 1980s house with a small garden. It fits all the criteria we had hoped it would, and we have a little money left over from the sale of the old rectory to decorate and do any small repairs and replacements we might consider necessary to make a good home for a new rector (house-for-duty priest).



Since the last magazine, the vestry have been working hard on finalising both the video and the parish profile, and have drafted an advertisement which has been approved by the Dean for publication soon, subject to a few final tweaks.

If you have any questions about all this, please ask a vestry member – and please pray for the vestry as they work through these complex tasks!

Some dates for November and December in St. Mary's:

2nd November – we will celebrate All Saints at 8am & 10am and our candle-lit service for All Souls at 4pm

9th November – Remembrance Sunday. Service will start at 10:50 so that we have wreath laying and then silence at 11am, followed by Eucharist.

21st December – Carol Service 6pm

24th December – 11:30 Midnight Service

25th December – 10am Eucharist

HOLY CROSS DAY 2025

The celebration on Holy Cross Day at St Mary's was a great success and a wonderful occasion.

Our church welcomed sixty worshippers in a festival of songs of praise and a celebration of lay ministries, recognising those who are fundamental to the resilience and service of congregations across the region.

The diocesan event was led by Bishop Anne Dyer and it hosted the first sermon delivered by the Very Reverend Jenny Holden in her new role as Dean of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Those authorised in lay ministries run groups for children and young people, visit the elderly and those shut in their homes, lead Bible studies and occasionally lead worship and preach.

Bishop Anne said a recent process of renewing authorisations across the Diocese had revealed a "very large number" of people committed to this kind of ministry.

The service started and ended with a procession of crosses from each of the churches that attended, including St Mary's on the Rock in Ellon, St Ternan's in Banchory, and St James' Aberdeen.

Lay ministers and members of the congregation had been invited to offer readings or introduce their favourite hymns. These included *O Lord my God*, *What a friend we have in Jesus* and *When I survey the wondrous cross*.

It was also the occasion for a historic picture featuring Bishop Anne, Dean Jenny and Reverend Canon Lynsay Braybrooke the Synod Clerk, representing the first all-female leadership trio of a diocese in Scotland.

In her sermon, Dean Jenny said: "The hymns that we are privileged to have shared with us today are hymns that speak of the awe and wonder of God, a God who sent their only Son Jesus to die for us.

"These hymns speak of the God who created the heavens and the earth, that Jesus, who was there at the beginning, is a friend to us. That Jesus who knows what it is to cry at the death of a friend, is someone we can take our troubles to. To guide us and be alongside us through trials and tribulations, but also the joys and triumphs of life."

Reverend Roger Dyer thanked those who helped set up and clean up after the tea, adding: "Sixty came to this heart warming and faith-raising service in which we joined together in praise of our Saviour Jesus who died for us upon the cross."

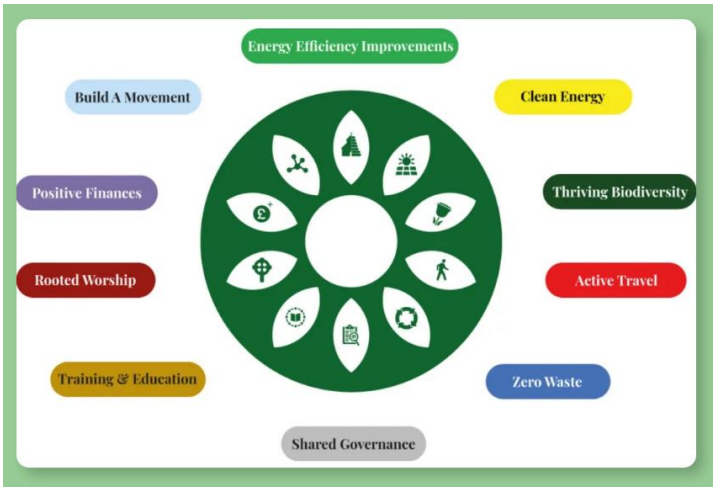
Erikka Askeland

NET ZERO UPDATE

REMEMBER THE THREE CS – COMFORT, COST AND CLIMATE

St. Mary's hosted a very well-attended event run by the provincial net zero team on 28th September. It included workshops and presentations with lots of interesting ideas for strategies and tactics to try out, and places to go for support. A full report will appear on our website soon for anyone interested in reading more. Very many thanks to all those at St. Mary's who enabled this event to happen.

John Cooke
Julia House
Nick Mills
Freddie Stephens



SURVEY TO SEEK EXPERTISE AND SKILL TO SUPPORT PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

The Doctrine and Church in Society Committees are calling on members of the SEC to share their professional skills and expertise to support the advisory work of the committees amid growing challenges in filling volunteer roles.

These two committees are often tasked with advising the College of Bishops, Standing Committee and General Synod, as well as responding to consultation papers from the Scottish Government and other bodies. Increasingly, the issues raised require specialist knowledge that cannot always be found among serving committee members. To meet this need, the

Committees have launched an online questionnaire to create a secure database of expertise drawn from clergy and lay members alike.

By building a wider pool of expertise, the committees hope to widen access to the knowledge and experience they need, as well as ease the burden on volunteers.

The Rev Canon Nicholas Taylor, Convener of the Doctrine Committee said: "Our willingness to use our gifts, including professional experience and expertise, in the life of the Church, is part of "the task of the Church" to which we are committed by our Baptism. So it is to be hoped that, with the encouragement and support of our Bishops, we will also consider the questionnaire, and through it prayerfully identify skills and knowledge which we are able to offer to God and the Church in the coming years."

(*Inspires Online*, August 2025)

Visit www.scotland.anglican.org if you'd like to complete the survey.

HARVEST 2025 - GATHERING IN

I may have said this before, but I LOVE Autumn. I've already enjoyed walking amongst and kicking the dry leaves into the air, as well as listening to the lovely sounds and scents that are part of this season. Some of the trees are not ready to lose their leaves just yet and as they do, there is the one task you will either be looking forward to or are dreading at this time of year, gathering in the leaves.

This act of gathering up the leaves got me thinking - it's just like farmers, gardeners and households gathering in their crops of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Some might reflect that their 'crop' is better than previous years (possibly due to the dry, hot summer), whilst others regard theirs to be disappointing in terms of quantity and quality. It seems to me that the

weather cannot win - there's either too much (or not enough) hot/cold weather or it's too dry/wet!

God (the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit) has from the beginning faced challenges trying to gather people together to live in close communion with them and to live the 'life worth living' that God desires, but never imposes, on them. God has always wanted the best for His children, but sadly not everyone has seen it that way and many have followed their own path thinking they know better, for example:

Noah: God gathered in all of Noah's family and the animals into the ark. Why did no-one else get to enter the ark? Sadly because they had rejected God and His teachings they were not permitted to enter. After the flood, we see the resilience of the land to come back lush and green, ready to support life again. There would have been an abundance to be harvested and shared with others, according to their needs.

Moses: The task assigned to Moses was to bring together the Israelites, secure their freedom and deliverance from their slavery/captivity in Egypt and to lead them to the promised land. As we know, unfortunately it wasn't as simple as that. Due to their repeated disobedience and rebelling against God, the journey that should only have taken several days/weeks ended up taking 40 years. It's also worth remembering the generation that departed Egypt did not get to enter the promised land; God waited for the subsequent generation before letting them take possession of the land. As any gardener will know, it takes time and patience to grow crops and flowers, a quality God obviously has in plentiful supply.

David: The prophet Samuel was instructed to anoint one of Jesse's sons. Influenced by the qualities the world cherishes as opposed to what God values, Jesse took his seven older sons to present to Samuel (believing it would most likely be one of them) and left David in the field to attend to the sheep. God had made His choice in advance and having passed over each of the other brothers, Samuel enquired if there were any other brothers and it was only then that David was called to come, be anointed and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Mary: I do believe that God enabled communities of people and angels to be alongside Mary and Joseph. They would have required this support following Mary's YES to God and Joseph's decision to stay betrothed to Mary which would have made them 'the talk of the town' and put a strain on some friendships and relationships. It would also have helped them greatly as they had to travel to Bethlehem to register for the census in Joseph's tribe's home city (organised so Jesus could be born in the place of God's choosing) and when they had to flee to Egypt for safety.

Jesus: There are countless stories of Jesus gathering people together and being with them, teaching them and leading them to the living water that will nourish them far more than actual water out of a well. Jesus selected His disciples carefully and knew exactly who they were and what they were capable of (both in positive and negative senses), for instance Peter and Judas. It never ceases to amaze that on the wooden cross Jesus willingly gathered in all of the sins of the world. Jesus had a choice, He never had to do this for any of us, but He knew this was His Father's will, which He willingly obeyed and in doing so through His death and resurrection overcame death.

Paul: The transformation of Paul (formerly known as Saul) from the person he was before his encounter with the risen Christ to the person he would become after his life was transformed is nothing short of remarkable. When Paul shared his life story and testimony, from being a chief persecutor of the faith to one of its greatest champions, people listened, observed and were themselves led to Christ. Paul was strengthened by his support network, including dear friends like Timothy, as he led many people to new lives. Paul had experienced forgiveness himself and was sharing that with others, helping forgiveness to grow and spread. Life wasn't always easy and was at times challenging for Paul, yet he persevered and never abandoned his faith. In one sense, being imprisoned impeded Paul's physical ability to travel and to continue spreading the good news that way, yet he used that time to write letters which form part of the New Testament and continue to transform lives to this day and in the future. I have heard it said recently that a person's own behaviour (that which is not in sync with God) is not their true 'I AM'. In Paul's case, this would have been the case when he was known as Saul, but his true 'I AM' self, shone through when he walked the path guided by the Holy Spirit.

The harvesting that goes on today has traits of the harvesting that took place throughout the time recorded in the Bible. What is consistent is the requirement for the ground to be prepared in advance, selecting the correct seeds, planting and caring for the seeds according to their needs and then (if necessary) creating the space to allow seeds to grow and thrive.

God's harvesting never ends. It is encouraging and reassuring to know that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are constantly on hand to guide, refresh and intercede with God The Father on our behalf, ensuring that He has got us safely in His hands.

I must confess that I am concerned at seeing trees being cut down because their roots are not

strong enough to be able to safely support them; possibly a consequence of the increasingly extreme weather we are encountering, such as storms and excessively dry grounds. I recognise this is being done on safety grounds, to prevent them from causing damage, but it is worth

remembering that some trees date back a great many years, with some having been around during events covered in the Bible.

My Granddaughter also loves trees. Thank you, Georgia, for your painting and for loving trees also.

Love and Blessings,
Margaret McKinnon

SOCIAL EVENTS

Since the last magazine, the social life of St. Mary's has been hectic! We had our Mexican Night on 25th July, and a very enjoyable Quiz Night on 12th September. Modesty forbids the editor saying more, on this occasion! Very sociable, too, was Doors Open Day on 6th. September, when we had 34 visitors to come in and admire the church and share stories as well as a fly cup. We also had some lovely vestments out on display.

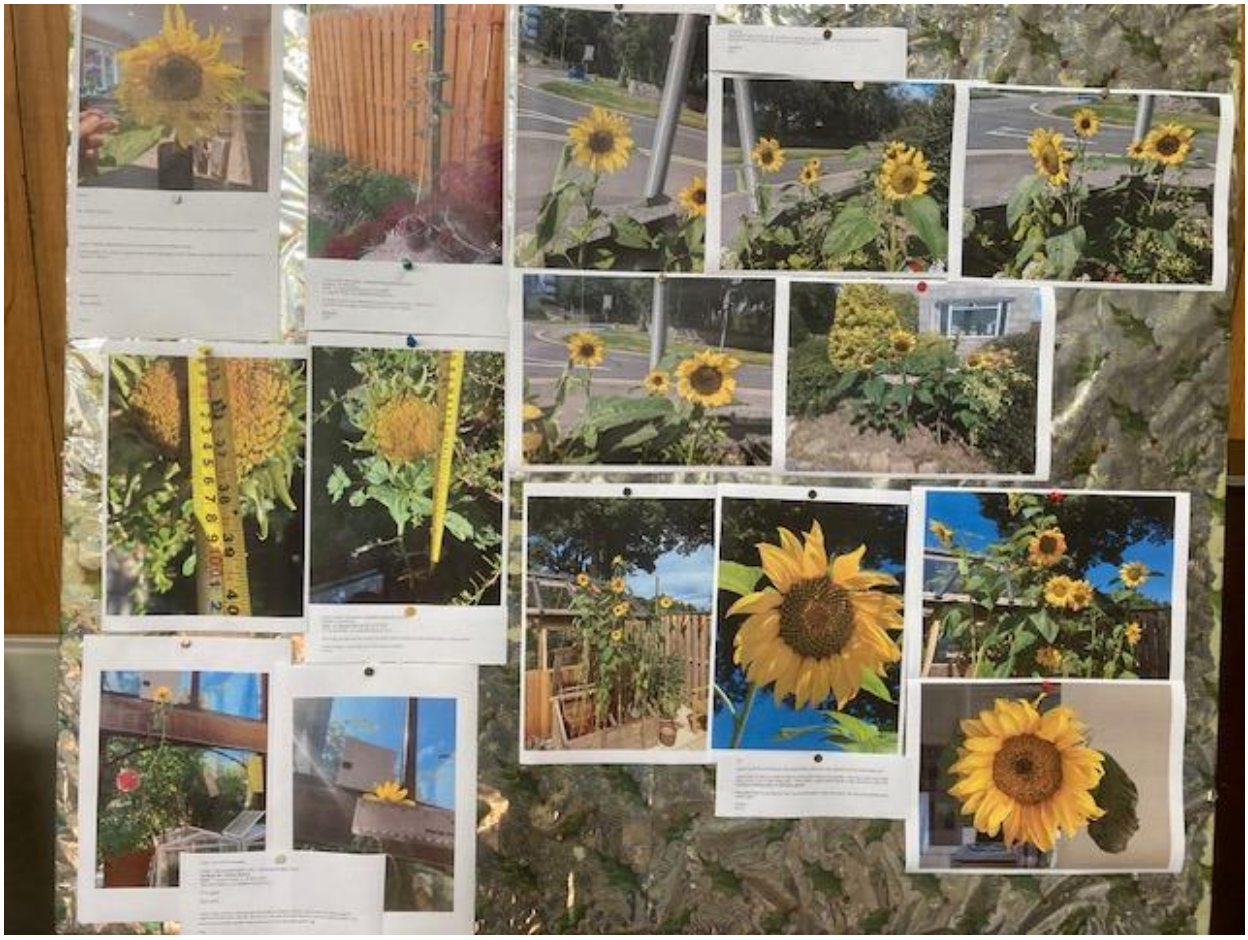
FUNDRAISING FUN!

The Gallowgate Fair was a little disappointing this year. Despite the hard work put in by all those who contributed baked goods, jams, etc., and by those who went along to staff the stall on the day, footfall was a long way down on previous years and sales made just over £100. However, we were able to sell more after church the following day and to offer fancy pieces to our visitors on Doors Open Day, so all was not lost!

Money is still coming in in connexion with St. Mary's Gift Day – it is hoped there will be a total in time for the Christmas magazine.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

The Sunflower Competition was judged very generously by Rev. Jason Hobbs on Sunday, 31st August, and everyone who participated received a prize! The photographs of all the entries have made a very cheerful display at the back of the church.



NOAH'S ARK

Everything I know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark:

1/ Don't miss the boat

2/ Remember that we are all in the same boat

3/Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

4/Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

5/ Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.

6/ Build your future on high ground.

7/ For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

8/ Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

9/ When you're stressed, float a while.

10/ Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals

11/ No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

THEATRE REVIEW: **NIUSIA**

Learning to survive – a play with complexity and humour at the Lemon Tree.

This *Scotsman* 'Fringe First'-winning play visited the Lemon Tree with the tagline: **What if your grandma was the nurse of the Nazi 'Angel of Death'?** It was the story of Beth, her mother and her grandmother, Niusia, a holocaust survivor. I went with some trepidation.

My interest was immediately caught by the opening ICIP (Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property) Acknowledgement dedicated to the First Nation people and their storytelling traditions. Having previously seen such acknowledgements in Australia's Northern Territories, I found its inclusion in this play—focused on memory and storytelling—a meaningful connection to Australian First Nation culture and Beth's upbringing in Melbourne. Nuisia moved to Australia as a refugee (after being shunned by neighbours at knife point when she returned to Poland after Auschwitz).

This play is informed by the experience in Beth's family that remembering can be very painful, but that silence can be even more damaging. We follow her as she investigates her own family history after the death of her Grandma, Niusia. The stage was simply set with piles of books littered about, as we started from her memory of hated visits to her aging Grandmother. As a teenager. Beth surprises us by calling her Grandmother 'a bitch' and making us laugh. Through persisting in her questions, she discovers more about Niusia and in the process learns a lot about herself too.

Using recorded interviews with Beth's Mum, we hear of Niusia's early life in Poland and her post-war life in Australia. This broadens our understanding of someone easily labelled simply as 'A Holocaust Survivor'. We discover that her grandmother had been a highly intelligent person in a well off liberal Jewish home, who wanted to help people and become a doctor. In society back then, she was not allowed to attend Medical School but studied by

correspondence. It was because of this training that in Auschwitz she was selected to work in the horror of the medical facility with Josef Mengele experimenting on identical twins. After the war, Niusia gave birth to her own twins, described as an extraordinary act of defiance by Beth.

One of the friends who came with me to see this play had known an Auschwitz survivor as a child. This person had seemed a much gentler and kinder personality but also did not speak of their experiences. This sensitive and layered story took us into a consideration of what we don't know about our families and how much has been passed down from generation to generation without us being aware.

One of the engaging things about this play was the way as a single performer on the stage, Beth made us interested in her family, away from the headline horror most of us know about the Holocaust. She had a lovely sense of humour, sometimes a bit rude, which she warned us of in a delightful, amusing way. Her exploration of her own culture as a second generation Australian with Jewish Heritage was thoughtfully done. It made me think about how individual histories sit within wider historical narratives. It showed us how a refugee carries a story, that we often don't know, but that may cause a response in a way we don't expect and that we may feel judgemental of from our own different background. The story was told with a lightness of touch that reminded me we are all complex and wonderfully made. I strongly recommend it.

J.H.

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 2025

Income:	2,913
Expenditure:	2,599
Net result for month:	314

August 2025

Income:	5,360
Expenditure	1,288
Net result for month:	4,072

Balance unrestricted funds:	67,364
Balance restricted funds:	22,207
Balance at month end:	£89,571

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 2025 issue, will be 15th 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).