The Quarterly Magazine

St. Mary's, Carden Place

Trinity 2025

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

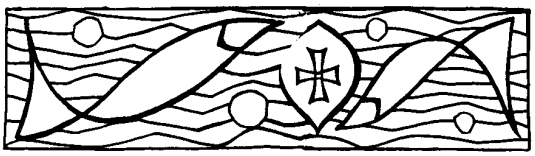
After a long, hard look at our post-Covid finances, the vestry has recognised that what we need to look for is a house-for-duty priest. This means that we would offer the priest a house and expenses, and they would work for us on Sundays and two other days during the week (this is the usual arrangement and one that has recently worked very well for St. James', for example). Often applicants for house-for-duty are retired people with plenty of energy and a good pension, but other circumstances can arise, too, for example someone with a spouse moving to the area for work.

It might seem confusing that we can be spending so much on the lovely improvements to our grounds (and repairing the drains) when we can't afford a full-time priest. This is because, being pro-Cathedral just now, we qualify for a fair amount of external funding which can only be spent on the buildings and the grounds, and we're taking advantage of the opportunity to make sure buildings and grounds are in good order for the future. We would have to pay for a rector from our own funds, and our income is not sufficient.

Of course, for a house-for-duty priest, we need a house! The search for a new rectory is ongoing, but not easy. We want a home that will work for the new rector and for us – somewhere in a good state of repair and easy to maintain, within a reasonable walking distance of St. Mary's. There are also Provincial strictures on the place. It should have four bedrooms, two reception, two bathrooms, all white goods provided, an energy rating of C (or able to reach that soon) and ground floor access (not just for any rector with mobility problems, but for any members of the congregation visiting). This last eliminates a lot of double-upper flats in the area. The search continues.

In order to advertise for a new priest, we needed a study not only of our financial viability, but also of our missional viability. Here's where many of us in the congregation have helped out – the survey about our experience of St. Mary's which a good number completed recently showed us that St. Mary's is indeed valued, that the church offers something special, that there is life in the congregation, aspiration to do more for the church and for our community, and the will to appoint, care for and support a new priest who will guide us through

the next chapter of our story. The vestry are very grateful to all who completed the survey so thoughtfully and generously.



The next stage in any appointment is to update the parish profile, which is designed to tell any prospective applicant what life is like at St. Mary's, in Aberdeen, and in the Scottish Episcopal Church; to list for them all we have going on; to define the style of worship we enjoy; and to outline the kind of person we are looking for. Bishop Anne has asked us to do this in the style recently adopted by the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway, where charges looking for a new priest have also made a short video about their charge, and that is what the Communications Team (led by Erikka) are preparing now, with some professional help paid for by a donation from a member of the congregation. And again, thanks to all who have taken part in this, and given permission for filming and photography! The plan is that we should be ready, once we have a suitable rectory, to advertise for our new priest.

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!

GENERAL SYNOD 2025

There are good Synods, and there are bad Synods – there are deadly dull ones and there are slightly too exciting ones. This year's Synod, held as usual just now at St. Paul's & St. George's, Edinburgh, was somewhere in between, and consequently a very good, entertaining, informative and inspirational few days.

A full College of Bishops at the opening Eucharist: Nick, Glasgow & Galloway; Ian, St. Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane; Anne; Mark, Moray, Ross & Caithness; John, Edinburgh; Andrew, Brechin; and David, Argyll & the Isles

Everyone will have had their own favourite parts. From my point of view, we had an excellent presentation on the Council of Nicaea from Rev. Professor Charlotte Methuen, making us get our brains working; a gentle discussion on the implications of the Assisted Dying bill, led by Rev. Hamilton Inbadas; acceptance of a historical declaration of friendship with the Roman Catholic Church, the St. Ninian's Declaration; lively table debates about the future of the SEC, what we value in it and what could be improved; wonderful worship, led by a variety of people including the Primus and the Provincial Youth Committee; lots of busy conversation in the coffee breaks, happy greetings of old friends as we arrived, and the traditional line-up of luggage at the back of the church on the morning of our departure, when the General Synod Office staff collect our badges and voting machines, accept our expenses claims, wave us goodbye and go home for a lie down in a darkened room for a fortnight. Down at Table 3 we were lucky to have the representative of the United Reformed Church at our table, who contributed wonderfully to our discussions, and even though we were under the beady eye of the Chair at least three of us were knitting busily throughout.

Yes, definitely a good year – looking forward to being back next year!

Nicola Mills

Lay Rep

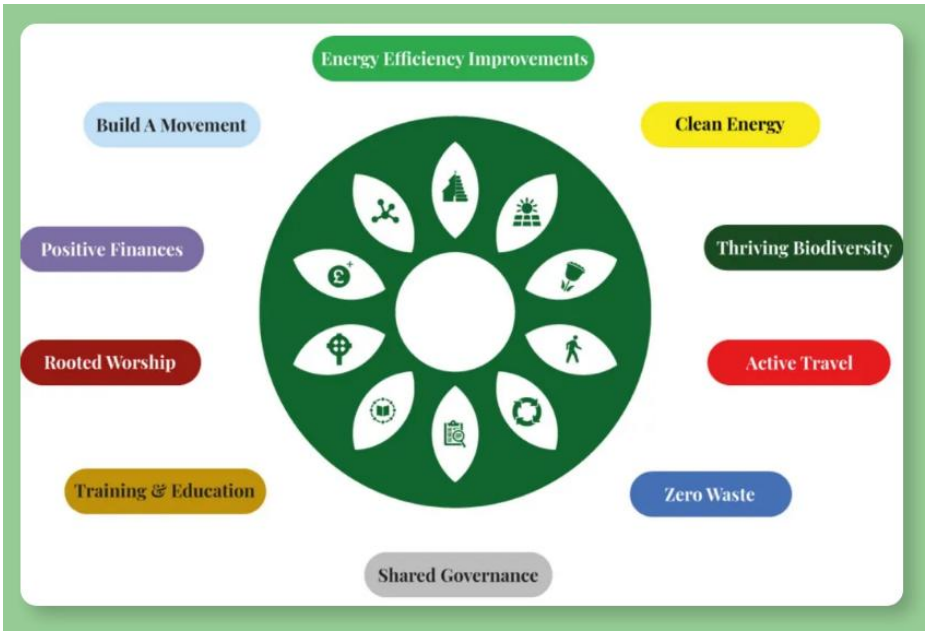
NET ZERO UPDATE

REMEMBER THE THREE CS – COMFORT, COST AND CLIMATE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Net Zero comments and suggestions board. The vestry are now looking at this and are keeping in contact with Jack Nevin, who is the Net Zero officer at General Synod Office who looks after this region. Jack is able to help us with advice and direction on fund-raising, and some of our Net Zero team have been attending webinars arranged by him with further information. One of the simplest ideas is heated seat cushions, and we're already looking into experimenting with a few of those when the weather turns cooler. Some of the suggestions might be for further down the line – secondary glazing in a building like ours is not currently very satisfactory, for example, and it might be better to wait until it improves. Others can be tackled sooner, like making sure our east end project is as environmentally-friendly as possible. The popular idea of having curtains over our doors has to be matched up against fire regulations, so we're still investigating that one.

If you come across a good idea in use somewhere else, please let us know! We're all learning from each other.

John Cooke
Julia House
Nick Mills
Freddie Stephens



SOCIAL EVENTS

Since our last magazine we've had our Ladies' and Gents' Evenings (separately, of course, but on the same night), which were well attended and very enjoyable. We've also had our Wine and Cheese – it's indicative, perhaps, that while there was some cheese left next day, there wasn't much wine!

Next will be our Mexican Night, on 25th July – as with our previous Italian and Curry Nights, this is when we show off our international cooking skills and bring a pot of something South American to share. After that there will be a Quiz Night on 12th September – lots to look forward to.

If you still have a stake, or a stem, in the Sunflower Competition, it will be judged (heaven knows how!) on Sunday, 31st August – more details to follow!

FUNDRAISING FUN!

Our 2025 Soap Sunday appeal has begun and will run through July. We're looking for donations of soap, shower gel, shampoo, hand cream, tooth brushes and toothpaste – the kind of thing people don't always think to pop in a foodbank but which are much needed. Let's see how much we can collect at the usual place by the Green Organ!

We'll have a stall at the Gallowgate Fair again this year. This is usually on the first Saturday in August but this has yet to be confirmed – we'll be looking for donations of home bakes, jams and sweets to sell for church funds. Please contact Anne Farquhar if you'd like to donate, or to help on the day.

St. Mary's Gift Day will be on Sunday, 17th August to mark our patronal festival. The vestry has suggested that our donations this year should go to the East End garden project, which will be of benefit to both the congregation and the local community.

ACCOUNTS

April 2025

Income:	5,397
Expenditure:	2,251
Net result for month:	3,146

May 2025

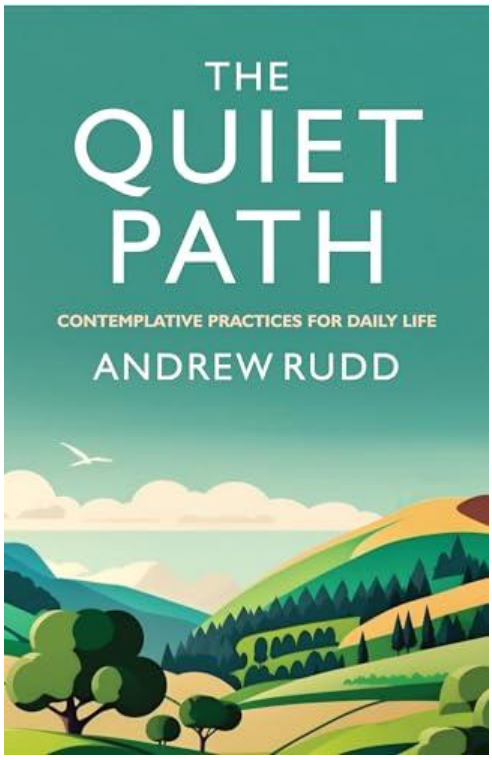
Income:	4,087
Expenditure	2,698
Net result for month:	1,389

June 2025

Income:	10,003
Expenditure	2,610
Net result for month:	7,423

Balance unrestricted funds:	65,822
Balance restricted funds:	83,672
Balance at month end:	£149,494

BOOK REVIEW



Andrew Rudd, *The Quiet Path*: Illustrated with simple little pen-and-ink drawings, this is a book where the author invites you to dip in as you feel like it, but there is advantage to reading it in sequence, and slowly – pausing for thought, ideally, at the end of each page. It's divided into three sections, walking, seeing, and writing, and each section offers passages of prose and poetry that look more closely at ordinary things, leading you into quiet contemplation whether of birds, or of the landscape. In fact, he suggests the possibility of treating all these encounters through the practice of Lectio Divina, close study, uninterrupted by the demands of the modern world for a few moments. The book was written post-pandemic, and includes reflections on some of the quiet times lockdown offered. It's a book that makes you think more about the world around you, but also about using that enhanced thought to come to a greater understanding of God in ourselves and in the world.

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.

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 Harvest 2025 issue, will be 29th September. 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).