

St Mary's Parish Church

NEWSLETTER

February 2019



"For the glory of God
and the solace of a whole
community"

Dear Friends

A Happy New Year and a big thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas so memorable in our church.

I'd like to share with you the following message, sent to me this Christmas. It still holds true after 326 years.

John Cairns

'Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

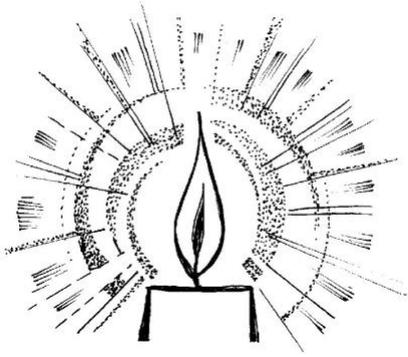
Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of

heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is till a beautiful world.'

Found in Old Saint Paul's Church,
Baltimore; dated 1692

THIRD WEDNESDAY



**A time and space for
quiet reflection
in the church.**

The next 'Third Wednesday'
will be on **Wednesday
20th February 2019** from
7 – 7.30pm

We offer prayers, readings,
music and silence.

**All are welcome to our
sanctuary**
for this different form of
worship.

The **DEADLINE** for the
March newsletter is
Sunday 10th February.



CHRISTIAN AID BRUNCH

We get our fundraising year off to a tasty start with a brunch in the Trinity Centre on **Saturday 2nd February** between 10am and 1pm. Tickets are £2.50 and include entry, tea or coffee and a scone or a pancake. Free refills of tea and coffee on offer!

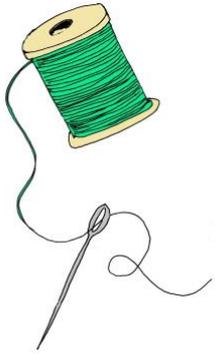
On sale will be home-made soup, filled rolls, home baking and unwanted Christmas gifts. Donations of unwanted gifts, good quality books and home baking will be appreciated and can be handed in on the morning of the sale.

There will also be a display of the work of Christian Aid and the opportunity to pick up a box for your small change. Donations to Christian Aid via the small change boxes amounted to £234.59 last year.

See you then!

Janet Chrystal

St Mary's Crafty Folk



Our Craft Group has had another successful year in 2018. On average 10-12 members meet on a Thursday morning in the Church and there are quite a few others who contribute even if they don't attend regularly. We have a wide variety of skills – sewing, knitting, crochet, card making and jewellery making, to name a few.

During the open season the church shop was manned by willing volunteers every day and over £1,500 was raised for Church funds. Our main event is the Martinmas Fair in November and our total there in 2018 was just over £1,100 with over £300 in additional sales after the fair. Since then we have had a break but will start again in mid-February. We are always looking for new members and everyone is welcome even if



it's just for a cuppa and a blether.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed either their time or talents and we look forward to seeing you all in the new session.

We are looking to have a **Talents Sharing Day** later in the year in the church. Would you be willing to share your talent with others? Please speak to a member of the Social Committee.

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10



THE TRINITY CENTRE FILM CLUB

The next film being screened at the Trinity Centre is **“Mamma Mia! Here we go again”**. The film will be shown on **Thursday 7th February** at **1.45pm**. Everyone is welcome. Entrance for non-members is £2 and includes tea and biscuits afterwards.

An Advent Story

I don't know how many of you followed the Church of Scotland's online Advent Calendar this December. Each day there was a story, video, prayer or message from churches around Scotland.

The item on Thursday 20th December struck a real chord with me. It told the story of the congregation of Govan Cross, unable to use their church for nearly four years following the discovery of rot. They finally moved back into a refurbished building just in time to celebrate Christmas with an "emotional" service on the first Sunday in Advent. Since then their church has been a hive of activity with a sell-out 'Narnia Christmas Experience' which saw 1200 children and adults welcomed through its doors and a 'yarnbombing' competition organised by the congregation.

Poignantly, whilst the church was closed they also suffered the loss of their popular minister, Rev Dr Moyna

McGlynn, who had been there for eight years.

Their Interim Minister said: *"This is a congregation that's had to deal with many highs and lows over the last few years, but they have done so with great resilience and faith".*

The restored church building has new heating, lighting and AV projection and was achieved with help from a variety of funders.

Speaking about the changes, the Interim Minister went on to say *"There are some who felt that after earlier setbacks a return to Govan Cross could not be achieved, but here we are we are, with a building that is lighter and warmer, and a space that can be used creatively.....We now can focus our attention on reshaping our mission and witness to the wider Govan community."*

It is good to know that we are not alone.

Alison Meikle,
Session Clerk



We are looking for volunteers to join our new Church Finance Team. Do you have current experience in

any of the following areas?

Finance, HR, Investments, Accounting, Book-keeping (experience of SAGE would be useful but is not essential), **Payroll, Living Wage, Employment Law, Charity Law, OSCR, GDPR or Fundraising.**

Could you spare a couple of hours a month to process and check information or work on a project?

If you are interested or think you might be able to help please speak to our Treasurer, Nicola Sales, our Session Clerk, Alison Meikle or our Interim Moderator, John Cairns

We are also looking specifically to recruit a volunteer to carry out the role of **Accounts Assistant** – to support the Treasurer and Church Secretary in the

processing of day-to-day financial transactions within Sage50cloud accounts.

Your primary tasks will be to process purchase invoices received from suppliers, checking the expenditure with the originator and obtaining the correct authorisations. You will be required to process expenses received from Trustees and members of the congregation in accordance with our procedures. You will also be responsible for processing petty cash receipts and liaising with our Beadle on a monthly basis to reconcile the petty cash book. You may be asked to cover for other financial administrative duties while the Church Secretary or Treasurer is on leave.

The hours are expected to be approximately 1-2 hours per week.

You will be able to work to a high degree of accuracy and have great communication skills as you may be required to resolve queries for supplies, Trustees and members of the congregation. You will have strong Excel skills and

preferably have worked with Sage. This is not essential as training will be provided on Sage50cloud.

If you are interested please apply to our Treasurer, Nicola Sales



St Mary's at 4



St Mary's at 4 is our Sunday afternoon concert series, which began in summer 2017 with five concerts and expanded to nineteen concerts in 2018. Admission to the concerts for the general public is free of charge, with the opportunity to make a donation to church funds.

During 2017/18 we have been building a loyal audience who have enjoyed many fabulous musical treats from choirs, instrumentalists, ensembles and soloists. We look forward to more of the same in 2019/20.

The series invites individual musicians and groups to contact us if they would be interested in giving a 45-60 minute concert at 4pm on a Sunday during the spring to autumn seasons, which is generally from Easter-October. There are no fees paid to the performers, but they are given the opportunity to perform in our lovely church free of charge.

Please contact Alan Faulkner if you know someone interested in performing in the series and for further information:



PRAYER

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how do you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous?

Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just

let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we're unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our

faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council, Church of Scotland

'Stonework'

by Stewart Carruthers

Filtering through the church windows
The colours of the stained glass
As the sun's rays touch each
monument
Iridescent, multi-coloured, they pass.

And the wall of the church is a
rainbow
Glimmering in the afternoon light
Highlighting the quietness of the
moment
Giving the viewer a marvellous sight

The holiness of the silence around
As the sun paints a picture quite rare
That ancient stonework resounds
with
Just a wonderful moment for prayer

Safari & Visit to St Peter's Church, Ihindu , Kenya

24th October - 2nd November 2019

You are invited to take part in the 10th Anniversary Celebration Service of the new church being dedicated on Sunday 27th October. The dates above include your leaving from Edinburgh late afternoon on Thursday and returning to Edinburgh early morning Saturday 2nd November.

You will stay in 4 different hotels during your stay, with visits to an Elephant orphanage, wildlife parks and a children's home. Hotels (DBB) and travel between hotels included in the price. You will be guided by Sammy Karanja and other experienced guides.

Flights (to be arranged) and Visa and Travel Insurance are not included. For costs and further details please contact Mary Wallace Yestermains, Gifford.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Baptisms

23rd December 2018

Jock Bell & Sandy Bell

30th December 2018

Morgan Aylies

6th January 2019

Robert C V Morrison

Funerals

29th November 2018

Mrs Margaret H Peffers

11th December 2018

Mrs Sophia H L Croally

18th December 2018

Mrs Hilda Louise Sligo

19th December 2018

Miss Helen Daphne Mills

29th December 2018

Mrs Margaret Lewis Ramage

4th January 2019 (*Date of death*)

Mr David Robertson

5th January 2019

Mrs Jennifer Watson

10th January 2019

Mrs Elizabeth Tait

28th January 2019

Mrs Audrey Morris



February 2019 at St Mary's

Friday 1st	Bell ringers 7pm
Saturday 2 nd	CHRISTIAN AID BRUNCH 10-1pm Trinity Centre
Sunday 3 rd	Worship at 9.30 & 11am NSYC 7.30pm
Monday 4 th	KIRK SESSION 7.30pm
Tuesday 5 th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 6 th	
Thursday 7 th	Choir 7.30pm
Friday 8 th	Bell ringers 7pm
Saturday 9 th	WALKING GROUP 9.30am
Sunday 10 th	Worship at 9.30am. & 11am JOINT TEAS between the two services. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Monday 11 th	
Tuesday 12 th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 13 th	
Thursday 14 th	Choir 7.30pm.
Friday 15 th	Bell ringers 7.30pm
Saturday 16 th	
Sunday 17 th	Worship at 9.30 & 11am.
Monday 18 th	
Tuesday 19 th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 20 th	THIRD WEDNESDAY 7pm
Thursday 21 st	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm.
Friday 22 nd	Bell ringers 7.30pm
Saturday 23 rd	
Sunday 24 th	Worship at 9.30 & 11am
Monday 25 th	
Tuesday 26 th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 27 th	
Thursday 28 th	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm.



Haddington: St Mary's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SCO1061