

St Mary's Parish Church

NEWSLETTER

May 2017



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

By the time you are reading this you will probably have heard my news. The diagnosis of breast cancer has come as a shock. Treatment is to be chemotherapy in the first instance which will probably last around 4 - 5 months, followed by surgery. They are very positive about the effectiveness of treatment and I am doing my best to keep what they call a 'positive mental attitude'. So having talked to the medics and Stewart, I have decided that I am going off work during the chemo and concentrating on getting myself well. It is likely to begin in the first week in May and so from 1 May I will be off work indefinitely.

In St Mary's life will continue. I'm delighted to be able to tell you that, subject to Presbytery agreement on 27 April, Martin is to be allowed to stay with us and be a constant in the picture. This will be so good for our congregation for I know you have all come to know him and love him over the past months. The Very Revd John Cairns who was here in the vacancy before I arrived has agreed to be Interim

Moderator and Locum, working with Martin and acting as his Supervisor. This arrangement will continue for as long as is necessary. I can tell you that this has made it easier for me to know that St Mary's is in such capable and loving hands. Now I concentrate on getting better, and returning to work with you all, restored to full health in due course.

I'm off work, but my consultant is equally sure that I must not be in purdah!! You may encounter me in Haddington, and if so, please say hello (except if you have a cold, then please keep away!) and tell me your news, but not things about St Mary's!

This is not the first (nor the last!) time you've heard me say that ministry is two-way I know you will all step up to the mark to keep St Mary's as we know it and love it. Thank you in advance for all that I know you will do in this challenging time.

God is with us: all will be well

With love to you all

Jennifer



THIRD WEDNESDAY

A time and space for quiet reflection in the church

The next 'Third Wednesday' will be on
Wednesday 17th May
from 7-7.30pm

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



The church is open to visitors from **1 May** until **30 September** from **1.30** until **4pm** on **Sunday** till **Friday**, and **11am** until **4pm** on **Saturday**.

Art at St Mary's



An exhibition of art at St Mary's Parish Church in aid of the church lighting

project.

Open: **Friday 12th & Saturday 13th May** from 10am until 4pm and **Sunday 14th May** from 1 - 4pm. Café : serving teas, coffees, home baking & light lunches. There will be a wide selection of art on sale – paintings, prints, glass work, ceramic and cards and many talented, locally based artists exhibiting. Come along and please tell all your friends and family. Donations of home-baking for the café very welcome. Drop off on the Friday or Saturday morning.



The **DEADLINE** for the June newsletter is
Sunday 14th May 2017.

How to 'get involved' in the life of St Mary's Church

This is the third and final in our series of ways to get involved in the life and work of St Mary's. We have looked at how to join our church family, how to contribute financially and this month we are looking at all the groups & activities happening at St Mary's. I am sure there is something for everyone!

Music plays a huge part in our life & worship. As well as being a venue for concerts throughout the year we have the **Praise Band, Choir, Choristers** and the **Bell ringers** to enhance our Sunday worship. New members are most welcome.

For our young people there is **Young Church** on a Sunday morning after the 9.30am service and **NSYC**, our group for teenagers which meets once a month on a Sunday evening.

You might like to join one of our **Bible Study & Home Groups**. There's the Tuesday

Morning Coffee & Bible Study group and the new Mums' Fellowship Group on Thursdays.

For older members in our church and community there is **Pop In** and the **Crafty Folk**.

We also have a **Pastoral Care Team** – a group who can offer support and friendship to members of our congregation where the need arises. Is this something you feel you might be able to help with?

The **Social Committee's** motto is "fun, fellowship and fundraising" and they get involved in making teas & coffees on Sunday mornings, organise coffee mornings, cater for concerts and other church events. All offers to help will be gratefully received.

Are you interested in history or just enjoy meeting new people and do you have a couple of hours to spare a month? Then why not volunteer to help welcome visitors to the church during

our **Open Season** or you might like to be part of one of our duty teams welcoming folk to church on a Sunday morning?

Are you creative? Then the **Crafty Folk** or the **Flower Team** might be something you'd enjoy and there is always our **Martinmas Fair** in November where lots of homemade items are sold to raise funds for the church.

Do you like to be active and enjoy exploring outdoors? Why not join our **Walking Group** which meets once a month on a Saturday morning. Or you could volunteer to **deliver the church newsletters** door-to-door once a month.

Might you like to help **clean the church?** We have teams of volunteers who do this on a regular monthly basis and big "spring cleans" twice a year. Help always welcome!

Are you good with technology? You could offer to help with **operating the**

sound desk or projecting at the 9.30am service, help with the **church website, Facebook page or twitter account.**

Do you have a background in or skills in a particular area that might be useful for our **Fabric, Finance or Fundraising** Teams?

You could collect used stamps for the WM Stamp Appeal, collect milk bottle tops for palliative care based out of the Borders General Hospital, donate old mobile phones to Christian Aid, help promote Fairtrade, donate food and groceries to the East Lothian Food Bank, help generally with our **world issues & community matters.**

As you can see there is a whole host of things going on at St Mary's and several ways for you to get involved in the life and work of our church. Just ask!

**WORLD MISSION
STAMP APPEAL 2017**



The Giffen Institute of Theology (GIT) of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan needs books. Having

recently relocated to Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya, GIT is looking to stock up its library for students. This year's stamp appeal will help do just that.

GIT plays a significant role in training people for the ministry. However South Sudan has suffered terrible violence and war in recent years and resources, including books were lost or destroyed during this tumultuous time.

Help us to support our partner, the PCOSS, through collecting your used stamps which are then sold to make money for much needed resources.

The box for your used stamps is at the back of the church by the World Issues Notice Board.



As we look back on the Forth Bridge Crossing – details of the money raised

will be in the next newsletter – we also look forward to **Christian Aid Week**, this year **14th - 20th May**.

Many thanks to our collectors, new and continuing, for being willing to take part in the national week of collecting to help to alleviate poverty in the world. Because of an increase in the number of collectors this year we are able to distribute donation envelopes to most homes in Haddington.

However, there are some streets not covered and if you don't receive a donation envelope through your door during CA week or you know you will be away from home at that time please ask me for an envelope so that you too can make a difference to the lives of those vulnerable people struggling with hunger, thirst, crop failure and displacement.

Janet Chrystal
Christian Aid Co-ordinator for
Haddington



St Mary's Walking Group

We meet on the second Saturday of the month. There are currently around fourteen in the group. We have enjoyed walks on Winton Estate, a very scenic circular walk from Thornton Loch to Cockburnspath, a lovely walk from Pencraig via Markle and a circular walk from Haddington to Gifford where the cafe provided a welcome break. East Linton to Dunbar provided beautiful stretches of coastline as did Aberlady to Gullane point. Most recently the river Esk, the site of the battle of Pinkie Cleugh, pretty Newhailes, Inveresk Gardens and a tour of Loretto School made for a very enjoyable and informative walk.

Everyone is very welcome and you can bring a friend. For more information, see the details in the order of service.

“The Rugged Pathway” An East Lothian Pilgrimage

This year's annual walk from St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington to St Mary's in Whitekirk takes place on **Saturday 6th May**. The total distance is approximately 12 miles and the walk can be accessed from St Mary's Parish Church (registration from 9.15am with a short service at 9.45am), from Athelstaneford Village Hall (approx. 12noon), Prestonkirk (approx. 2.30pm and the final service is at St Mary's at Whitekirk at 4pm. Registration fee is £5 for adults with children under 16 free.



Music in St Mary's

We are delighted to announce that there will be a series of concerts in St Mary's on Sunday afternoons at 4pm throughout the summer. Alan Faulkner, who sings in the choir, has organised the "**St Mary's at 4**" series to raise funds for the church lighting project.

The first concert in the series will be on **Sunday 21st May** at **4pm** when the Siancio Singers will entertain us. The Siancio Singers, formed in 2014 by Fiona Hedger-Gourlay, have performed in various venues in and around Haddington, including St Mary's at Whitekirk and Holy Trinity Church, the latter being their rehearsal venue on Thursday evenings.

"Siancio" is the Italian musical term meaning "passionate & enthusiastic".

Entry to the concerts is free but all open plate donations towards the church lighting project will be appreciated. Tea and coffee will also be available at the end of the first concert at approximately 5pm.

The second concert in the "St Mary's at 4" series will be given by the Glasgow Chamber Choir and will be on **Sunday 11th June** at 4pm.

Come along and hear some lovely music in a glorious setting and please tell all your family and friends about the concerts.



The Dalkeith & Monktonhall Brass Band is giving a concert in St Mary's on **Saturday 27th May** at 7.30pm



On **Monday 29th May** at 7.30pm the Garleton Singers give a concert as part of the Haddington Festival. Tickets are available from choir members, Betty's of Haddington, Hilary's Deli or at the door on the night.



COMMUNITY MATTERS



The Trinity Centre Film Club is showing "The Light between the Oceans" on **Thursday 4th May** at 1.45pm. Non-members £2 which includes refreshments.

Haddington Pipe Band is holding a ceilidh in the Corn Exchange on **Friday 26th May** at 7.30pm. Bring your own food. Bring your own drink. Please note under 16s must be



accompanied by a responsible adult. Tickets - £12 & £10 - available from Joe Forte Sports, High Street and The Maple Tree, Court Street.

Friends of the River Tyne are holding a table top sale and awareness day at the Trinity Centre on **Saturday 27th May** from 10 -2pm. Entry £1 includes refreshments. All welcome.

As well as efforts to brighten up the town with real flowers over the summer, Blooming Haddington is planning to yarn bomb the town!



BLOOMING
HADDINGTON

Beautiful Scotland's competition theme this year is "birds and bees" so lots of people are making birds and bees from yarn, wool and other materials. All contributions would be welcome –any colours, any design, any size – use your imagination! Drop them in to Laura at the Fabrication shop.



The food bank continues to be very busy, with March 2017 being the busiest month ever with 208 referrals - 399 people of which 142 were children under the age of 16. This equated to giving out over 4102 kgs of food during the month.

At the moment the food bank is giving out more food than it is receiving in donations. There is a current shortage of cereals, tinned meat, tinned fruit and long life milk and fruit juice. If you can help the basket for donations is at the side pew by the north door.

Transience

A poem by Stewart Carruthers

Nature is so transient
As seasons change each year
From green to gold and russet
red

Nothing is endless as they
appear

Age it passes, young to old
The land from green to brown
From buds to leaves and flowers
abloom

The cycle goes on round

Then things they die and return
again
As each season comes and goes
From the middle of summer
To Auutumn and then to Winter
snows

But Spring will resurrect itself
again
And growth will abound
Colour and aroma in the air
That beauty once more is found

www.stmaryskirk.co.uk



Haddington: St Mary's Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity Number SC010614