

St Mary's Parish Church

NEWSLETTER

October 2018



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

Dear Friends

The gales tell us summer is past and autumn colours are decorating the trees. It also means that St Mary's is gearing up for a new Church Year. Every year is different bringing its own hopes and challenges – this year will be especially so with the search for a new minister in full swing and the installation of our exciting new lighting scheme.

The Nomination Committee has been elected and they will have the prayers and support of us all as they engage with this vital task for the future of St Mary's and our mission to members and the parish. In the Church of Scotland we recognise that there is a shared ministry between Minister, elders and members that asks all to engage with their talents in the ministry of Jesus Christ enacted through the whole congregation. It is obvious that the Minister plays a central role in all this but I have always been clear in my congregations that it is not my Church but rather I am there to

help facilitate the congregation in fulfilling what they discern as their calling. I am sure that out there is the minister who will be called by God to serve you and encourage you as you move to the next stage of St Mary's life.

The lighting project will put significant demands on us all in the course of its installation even though we will seek to minimise the disruption. The choice for us all will be to grumble or to grin and bear it, make it work and support those who will be seeing it through on our behalf. At the end of the operation the beauty of our wonderful building, a gift from past generations, will be shown even more spectacularly. A similar exercise was carried out in St Giles Cathedral in recent years and has effected a dramatic improvement that is acclaimed by all.

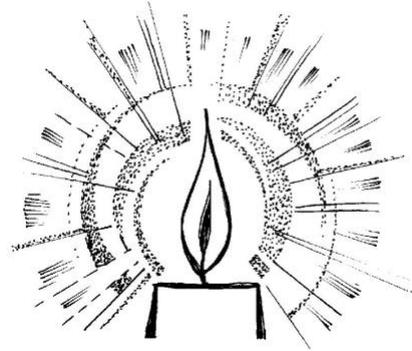
I was Secretary of the Friends of St Mary's all those years ago when the whole restoration of the ruined sections of the building was undertaken. There were those who were

originally not in favour of the project and those who felt that it was all too much trouble. It was certainly cold when the dividing wall was demolished, the music was limited with the dismantling of the organ and there was a fair measure of general disruption to access and the like over the course of some three years. BUT when all pulled together the vision was brought to reality and we created something that is now not just a beautiful ruin but a source of wonder to people from all corners of the world. We will need to re-capture that spirit and commitment for a few months and hopefully we may find an even stronger togetherness at the end of it.

I am confident we will.

John Cairns

THIRD WEDNESDAY



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

The next 'Third Wednesday'
will be on **Wednesday
17th October 2017** from
7 – 7.30pm

We offer prayers, readings,
music and silence.

**All are welcome to our
sanctuary**

for this different form of
worship.

OPEN SEASON

Our end of
season Pot
Luck Supper
takes place in
the church on

Friday 5th October.



HARVEST SERVICE

Our Harvest Service will take place on **Sunday 7th October** when we will have one service at **11am**. Everyone is warmly invited to share a simple lunch afterwards.

All cash donations will go to Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal – 'Breaking the Barriers' – a new programme in Malawi, Ethiopia, Honduras and Burkino Faso supporting women in poor rural communities.



Money raised through the Harvest Appeal 2018 will be match funded by the European Union. Every £1 we give will be worth £5 for life-changing work.

At our Harvest Service we will also collect donations of food for the East Lothian Food Bank.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The result of the vote of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday 9th September for the purpose of electing a committee to bring forward a name with a view to appointment as Minister of St Mary's was as follows:

List of names and votes

Nicola Sales	79
Isobel Colley	79
Douglas Morrison	75
Emma Ash	70
Robert Lightbody	70
Gordon Boyd	66
Felicity Haire	66
Fiona Overfield	65
Mary MacMillan	63
Harry Lyle	63
Jane Davies	59
Sheila Wright	58
Alan Colley	58
<hr/>	
Lorna MacDougal	56
Karen McKnight	55
Shirley Patterson	54
Margaret Ainslie	47
Candy Inglis-Akers	46
Bill Robertson	45

The first thirteen members listed above will therefore constitute the committee.

*Certified by me
John Cairns, Interim Moderator*

Fundraising for Maggie's

Mike Rodger recently took part in Pedal for Scotland's 45 mile Classic Challenge cycling from Glasgow to Edinburgh to raise funds for Maggie's Centres in memory of our minister, Rev Jennifer Macrae.



Meanwhile Jennifer's sister, daughters, nieces & granddaughters have now completed their running challenge with the final run in Glasgow on 30th September. They have raised nearly £7,000 for Maggie's in memory of Jennifer.



Christian Aid News



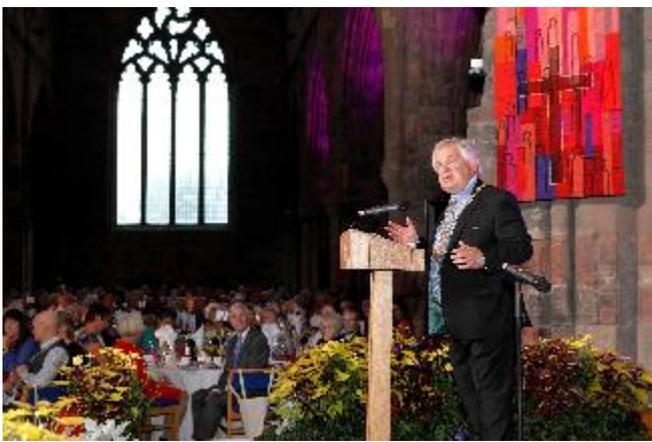
The afternoon tea held in the West Church on Saturday 8th September was busy and well supported. People enjoyed a lovely selection of sandwiches, home baking and musical entertainment. £678.12 was raised. Thank you to all who helped in so many different ways.

Our annual quiz is being held in St Mary's on **Friday 26th October** at 7pm. Tickets (£5) are available at the tea table on Sunday mornings or at the

door on the night and includes a light supper. Come as a team of four or ready to make up a team. It should be a fun evening!

Janet Penman, St Mary's
Christian Aid Representative.

Awards Ceremony



We were delighted that St Mary's was the venue for the Keep Scotland Beautiful Awards Ceremony held on 6th September and hosted by East Lothian Council. It was a great evening and a very successful one for ELC and Blooming Haddington who both won awards. The kirk looked absolutely amazing on the night.

Lammermuir Festival

St Mary's was also one of the main venues in a highly successful Lammermuir Festival which this year featured a Scottish Opera production of Benjamin Britten's 'The Burning Fiery Furnace', The Guardian newspaper commented "*the somewhat decayed medieval splendour of St Mary's is one of the great assets of the festival and here it provided a wonderfully atmospheric backdrop....*"



St Mary's at 4

Our successful series of teatime concerts on Sunday afternoons at 4pm comes to a conclusion this month with three final concerts. On **Sunday 7th October** we welcome the Rudsambee Singers to St Mary's. They are

an Edinburgh-based group, now in their twenty-sixth year, dedicated to the joy of singing with friends. The name comes from the Gaelic expression *rud sam bith idir*, meaning "anything at all". They sing without accompaniment, music in many styles from many eras and many countries. This concert will include music from France, Italy, Spain, North and South America, and of course Scotland. Their musical director is Derrick Morgan.

On **Sunday 14th October** the Eternity Singers present 'Pure Voices', an a cappella concert of seven voices, a harp and a narrator to inspire us with songs by Tallis, Farrant, Mendelssohn and Bairstow.

And finally on **Sunday 21st October** we get the chance to hear 'The Rosslyn Motet' sung by East Lothian vocal trio

Coreen Scott, Jenny Swan and Christine Charles. The trio recently recorded and performed this special piece of music in the famous Rosslyn Chapel.

Among the many intricate stone carvings of Rosslyn Chapel are a sequence of 213 cubes or "boxes" protruding from its pillars and arches. These show a selection of patterns. The father and son team of Thomas and Stuart Mitchell realised that these motifs formed patterns seen in the study of cymatics, a method by which patterns are formed when sand is vibrated on a steel plate at different frequencies. This is known as a chladni pattern. From their interpretation of the motifs the Mitchells have composed the beautiful Rosslyn Motet.

The concert will also include a variety of traditional folk and French songs accompanied by

multi instrumentalist Andrew Brown of North Berwick and guitarist and vocalist Alasdair Morrison.

Music at Remembrance

On **Sunday 11th November**, in St Mary's, the Garleton Singers will be performing Sir Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The concert will start at 7:30pm and we hope it will be a fitting culmination to a moving day of commemoration and contemplation at St Mary's.

The Armed Man, subtitled "A Mass for Peace", was commissioned by the Royal Armouries for the Millennium celebrations, and was dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. In addition to extracts from the Latin Mass, the full text incorporates words from other religious

and historical sources, including the Bible, the Islamic Call to Prayer, and the Mahabharata. Writers whose words appear in the work include Rudyard Kipling, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Sankichi Toge.

We will be looking to raise funds through collections on the night in support of Poppy Scotland. We hope that you will come along on 11th to enjoy what promises to be a wonderful concert for a worthy cause. Further information and posters will be available nearer the date.



BELL RINGERS NEWS



Special Peal The Scottish Association of Change

Ringers, with two members from St Mary's bellringers, rang a special peal of 5700 changes in 3 hours and 21 minutes, as part of Haddington's 700th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 25th August. The peal was of a new bellringing method specially chosen for the event. The rules of change ringing require a peal on eight bells to be over 5000 changes long; the 700 changes in the 5700 signified the 700 years since the granting of the 'Bruce' charter. Because this was first time this method had ever been rung (and the ringers taking part are able to name new methods), it has been named Haddington 700 Surprise Major in honour of the event. The bells accompanied the celebrations taking place in the afternoon by St Mary's and the River Tyne.

Annual Day Out

St Mary's bell ringers (more formally known as Haddington Society of Change Ringers), left Haddington at 8 am sharp on the morning of Saturday 15th September for their annual day out to ring bells at other churches – usually somewhere in northern England; this year it was the turn of towers on Tyneside.

After an easy and picturesque drive down through the Borders and Northumberland, we arrived at Hexham Abbey in good time to have a coffee before ringing the lovely ten bells installed in this beautiful ancient building. There was also time for some of us to look round the abbey, and then to have a leisurely lunch in the park next to the abbey in the autumn sunshine.

From Hexham, we headed east into Newcastle, first to ring the eight bells at Fenham (St James & St Basil), and then the eight bells at Newburn (St Michael & All Angels). St

James & St Basil's at Fenham is famous as one of the finest Arts & Crafts churches in existence, being built in the late 1920s and early 30s, with an interesting layout and beautiful stained-glass windows. St Michael & All Angels is a lovely old church tucked away on the edge of Newcastle; a church has stood here since 1067. Having suffered a devastating fire in 2006, the current church was restored, including the bells and the ringing chamber. The bells in both these churches are very fine and easy to ring, and we had some good ringing at both towers, including some particularly good Grandsire Triples at Newburn.

Lastly, we headed north at the end of the afternoon to ring at the Clock Tower in Morpeth. Dating from the early 17th century, the clock tower is tucked away in the corner of the market place in the centre of the town, dividing the street. The eight bells here are also very good to ring and provided

us with a fine end to the day's ringing.

By now, fourteen tired and hungry bellringers were ready for a break. We stopped at the Shoulder of Mutton at Longhorsley for dinner before heading home back up the great north road. All in all, an excellent day out. Besides being very sociable occasions and an opportunity to ring on different bells, these annual outings are an excellent way for our less experienced ringers to extend their skills and learn more. Particular thanks go to Sally Thomas for organising the day.

Bell ringing at St Mary's

We are a friendly and active group of bell ringers, the society being affiliated to the Scottish Association of Change Ringers. Anyone interested in finding out more about bell ringing at St Mary's is very welcome to contact us – come and see what bell ringing is all about and how we help support St Mary's witness in the local community. You can contact us via Change

Ringers on the contacts page of the church website.



ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Our next walk will be on **Saturday 13th October**, meeting at the church at 9.30am. We will go by car and park at the Coldingham Sands car park. From there the walk will take us along to St Abb's and on to the lighthouse at St Abb's Head, round the Mire Loch and back via a tearoom in St Abb's. Just over six miles, with approx 700 feet of ascent. All welcome. In the event of very bad weather, we will go instead on a shorter walk in the Aberlady/ Gosford Estate area, with tea at the end.

Lighting Project Update



We are delighted that another application for funding has been successful and the lighting project has been awarded a grant of £50,000 from WREN.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

A further £500 has also been given to the project by Persimmon Homes whose new development of houses, Haddington Manse, is located at the west of the town.

We are also hopeful of receiving monies from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' Scheme

where our project has been put forward to a customer vote in the Haddington store throughout September & October. Please be sure to vote with your blue tokens when doing your weekly shop!

Our target to roll out the lighting scheme to the entire church has now been reached and work is scheduled to start in January 2019 and is expected to complete by mid-2019.

Extract from 'The Builder'
June 15, 1889

'There were in and about Haddington a large number of ecclesiastical establishments, to wit:- The Parish Church; the Franciscan Monastery; the Cistercian Abbey (of nuns); the Chapels of St Martin, St Ann, St Katherine, St John and St Ninian; the Hospitals of St Mary and St Lawrence.

The church, which is of cruciform plan, with aisles in nave and choir, is of very considerable dimensions,

measuring, internally, 197ft 9in from east to west, 55ft 2in across the nave or choir and 105ft 6in across the transepts. Its area is, therefore, fully 12,000 superficial feet, or equal to St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

A word or two on the present condition of the remains. Notwithstanding the watchful supervision of H.M. Board of Works, it is highly desirable that something further should be done to keep the choir and tower from complete destruction. We cannot fail to notice a decided leaning of the whole choir arcade, east gable and tower towards the east. This is gravely assisted by some of the piers of the choir being so much off the perpendicular. If these matters were looked to now, there is no reason to doubt the strength of the fabric to stand a roof, and thus be made to last for many generations.'

These three paragraphs are taken from a longer article published in The Builder magazine in 1889. How fortunate we are that heed was taken of the last sentence to allow St Mary's to be the restored building we know today!

The Edinburgh Highland Reel & Strathspey Society



is holding a concert in St Mary's on **Saturday 6th October** at 7.30pm in aid of

the East Lothian Messenger, the talking newspaper for the blind and visually impaired. Tickets (adults £10, children free) are available from Kesley's bookshop or at the door on the night.

The Trinity Centre Film Club

Is showing 'The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society' on **Thursday 4th October** at 1.45pm. Non-members £2. Tea & biscuits served afterwards.

PARISH PROFILE

Our Parish Profile will shortly be available to read on the church website. Please take a few moments to read it.



OUR CHURCH ROLL

Baptisms

16th September

Oliver William Stenhouse

23rd September

Kevin David Joseph Hopkins

Funerals

26th September 2018

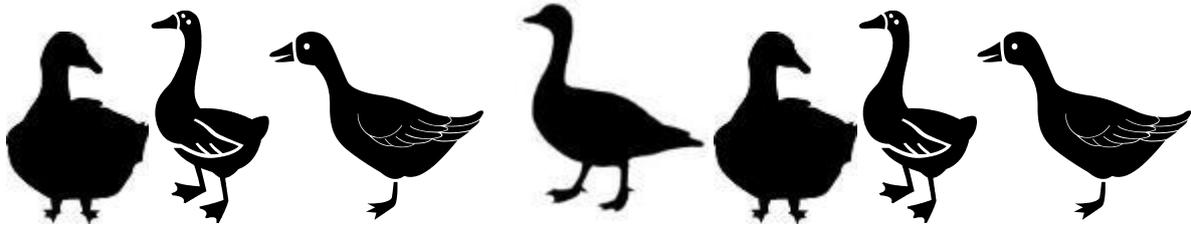
Janet Skea

28th September

Campbell Walker



The **DEADLINE** for the November newsletter is **Sunday 14th October**



MARTINMAS FAIR 2018

Our biggest fundraiser of the year will take place in the kirk

from 10am to 2pm on

Saturday 17th November

We need volunteers to help!

Can you help with moving tables, setting up the stalls, serving behind a stall or in the café or welcoming people to the church?

Can you help by making things to sell – jams, jellies, chutneys, preserves, cakes, breads, biscuits, tray bakes, crafts, cards, jewellery?

We will need lots of home baking to sell and for the café!

Can you help by donating books, bric-a-brac, nearly new items, plants, cuttings, dried flowers & seed heads or surplus garden produce – apples, pears, autumn vegetables?

Can you spread the word about the Fair, distribute posters & fliers, tweet and share on Facebook and invite friends, family & neighbours to come along on the day?

If you can help in any way or have new ideas to add to the Fair and raise funds for St Mary's please contact Mary or John McMillan or speak to any of the Social Committee.



October 2018 at St Mary's

Monday 1st	
Tuesday 2nd	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 3rd	
Thursday 4th	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm.
Friday 5th	Bell ringers 7.30pm GUARDIANS POT LUCK SUPPER 7pm
Saturday 6th	Highland Reel & Strathspey Concert 7.30pm
Sunday 7th	HARVEST SERVICE at 11am followed by lunch St Mary's at 4pm
Monday 8th	
Tuesday 9th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 10th	
Thursday 11th	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm
Friday 12th	Bell ringers 7.30pm
Saturday 13th	WALKING GROUP 9.30am
Sunday 14th	Worship at 9.30 & 11am. St Mary's at 4pm
Monday 15th	
Tuesday 16th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wednesday 17th	THIRD WEDNESDAY 7pm
Thursday 18th	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm.
Friday 19th	Bell ringers 7.30pm
Saturday 20th	
Sunday 21st	Worship at 9.30 & 11am. St Mary's at 4pm
Monday 22nd	
Tuesday 23rd	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wednesday 24th	
Thursday 25th	Crafty Folk 10.30am. Choir 7.30pm.
Friday 26th	Bell ringers 7.30pm CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ 7pm
Saturday 27th	
Sunday 28th	Worship at 9.30 & 11am
Monday 29th	
Tuesday 30th	Home Group Bible Study 10.30am
Wed 31st	