



In Touch

The Magazine of St Mary's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Dalumahoy

April – May 2015

www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

In this issue:	Page
Who's Who	2 & 34
A Note from Deryck	4
From the Editor	5
From the Registers	6
Same-sex Marriage	7
Dalmahoy Walking Group	10
Breadmaking & Blethering	11
Organist's Corner	12
Holy Week	17
Readings for Apr - June	18 & 19
Eulogy for Gré Mann	20
The Rains of February Fall by Gré Mann	23
Pilgrimage Reunion	24
Stewarding	26
The Secret Recipe	29
Diary of Events	31
Service Times	36

St Mary's Church Dalmahoy
Scottish Registered Charity:
SC014203

4.

A note from Deryck

It is Holy Week and we struggle these days to maintain the traditional pattern of services to mark this central journey culminating Jesus' life on earth. It is hard to know how we might make it easier for people to share in the drama of this most remarkable story.

Jesus' journey touches the depths of human experience and also offers hope *beyond* reasonable human experience. The low points may resonate with much of what goes on in our own journeys and those of countless others.

The high point of Easter resurrection, however, is as baffling as it was to those first disciples who could not take it in until they had seen Jesus for themselves. We may well know 'high points' when we feel deeply thankful to God for what has happened to us. But those moments are often rare and, for many, unreal.

What we seek to do in Holy Week is simply re-tell the story, which can be so powerful in itself. If that can help us to know ourselves a little better, be open to knowing God's presence in our lives a little better and be a little more thankful for what God may be doing for and with us in our lives together, then that is a very good thing.

We cannot, in the end of the day, compare our own lives to what happened to Jesus, who gave his for the life of the whole world. But we can look at our own lives in the light of that 'giving' and re-assess how we give of ourselves to make it easier for *all* those for whom he gave his life, to come together to express thankfulness to God.

A little spring sun helps encourage new life in God's Easter garden, whether in the church grounds or in our lives. Sun or rain, may Easter bring deep blessings of thanks for all that we have been given.

With my love and every blessing this Eastertide
Deryck

From the editor

This issue of InTouch has proved to be fuller of interesting articles than I dared hope. As we reached copy date there was a dearth of material but low and behold we exceeded last month. I am extremely grateful to everyone as I could not be around to cajole folk to write for the magazine.

As always, thanks to all our contributors – we couldn't exist without you.

Could I ask that if you are sending me copy by email that you format it as follows:-

Font Arial; Heading Bold, Underlined ; 20 point, the body of the article normal and 16 point.

This would save me a lot of alterations.
Thanks in advance.

The views expressed in this magazine are personal, and not necessarily those of the editor or congregation.

Margaret Scott intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

STOP PRESS (for those of us who remember this in our newspapers)

The Choir Concert was won with a tie between Carmondean Primary
And Ratho Primary

Gardening Group

This will resume on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 2pm – 4pm starting on 22nd April. All help greatly appreciated.

For more information see Rosemary Proctor

From the Registers

Baptism

Mar 15th Jamie Richard van der Wolf

Weddings

Feb 14th Michaela Bryson to Stephen Robertson

Feb 28th Fiona Allan to Ian Bowie

Funerals

Jan 23rd Marion Murray

Feb 27th Graham (Gré) William Alexander Mann

Same-Sex Marriage

On Sunday 22nd February there was a well-attended congregational meeting at which the topic of same-sex marriage was discussed. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the congregation to air their views on this issue. There were five discussion groups and each produced a short summary of their discussions at the end of the meeting. These were then collated into a Summary Report (See below). The format of all but one of the short summaries was in the form of arguments for /arguments against. So I kept to this format in the Summary Report. As I say in the Report no overall conclusions can be drawn from the reports but what can be said is that there were a variety of views expressed, those at the meeting had obviously given a lot of thought to the issue, and it was indeed a very valuable exercise.

Summary Report

Congregational Meeting on 22nd February at St. Mary's, Dalmahoy, to Discuss the Issue of

Same-Sex Marriage.

The meeting was chaired by the Rev. Deryck Collingwood who said a few words by way of Introduction on the subject of same-sex marriage. The main work of the meeting was a series of discussion groups – 5 in all – each of which submitted a brief anonymous report at the end of the meeting. These brief reports formed the basis of this summary report.

No attempt has been made to draw conclusions from these various reports. Only about 40 people attended. What follows is, hopefully, a fair reflection of the views expressed at the meeting.

8.

The opinions of those **in favour** of same sex marriage.

1. The church must evolve and move with the times.
2. If the church wants to progress it must acknowledge that many young people are comfortable with the idea of same sex marriage. If we want to keep/attract young people the Church must move in this direction also.
3. Active church members who are gay and Christian should not be denied the sacrament of marriage. They might find it unfair that the church is happy for them to carry out all sorts of roles but deny them the right to get married in the church.
4. Many people who are not Christians in the sense that they do not attend church can often get married in church but church-going gay people cannot. This is unfair.
5. As long as two people love each other then they should be allowed to be married in the church.
6. Some church members might become disenchanted with the church if one of their family was refused permission to wed in the church on the grounds of their sexuality.
7. Some were amenable to the idea of same sex marriage as long as the views of the administering priest were taken into consideration. If he or she was prepared to carry out the ceremony that was ok.
8. Others were amenable to the idea as long as the wording of the marriage ceremony was reviewed and made inclusive.
9. The question was put "What would Jesus say", the implication being that he would accept the idea of same sex marriage as long as the couple genuinely were committed to each other.
10. God loves everybody irrespective of their sexuality therefore they should be allowed a Christian marriage.
11. We should allow same sex marriage and not judge others which we would be doing if we refused them the right to get married.
12. Gay people cannot help who they are; why should they be penalised. Society creates enough barriers against them. Why should the church do this also?

The opinions of those **not in favour** of same sex marriage.

1. Some were against the idea of same sex marriage but were quite happy to have a re-worded service called perhaps a Union rather than a marriage. They were quite happy for the couple to have a church blessing.
2. One comment was – “Dictionary definition of marriage is a union between a man and a women – end of!”
3. Same sex married couples could have an unwanted effect on any children brought up in that relationship. Children need role models in a man and a women.
4. The whole issue is divisive not only within Scotland but in other countries where the Episcopal Church exists. Therefore church should avoid accepting same sex marriage.
5. It felt that civil marriage was appropriate for same sex couples – it guaranteed their legal rights – but marriage was a step too far.
6. Some felt that politicians were behind the idea in order to curry favour with the electorate – give in to what is ‘fashionable’.
7. Just because some people are against same sex marriage does not mean they are against gay people. In other words, the move against same sex marriage is not a weapon to attack gay people. There are genuine grounds for opposing it.
8. The church has core beliefs and should not sacrifice these – such as marriage is for a man and a women – because of public opinion. If one core belief is abandoned what others will follow. Same sex marriage is a slippery slope.
9. Whilst the church has and will continue to modernise in certain areas it cannot jettison its core beliefs.
10. Marriage before God is between a man and a women. If that changes, it means changing the canons and that is not right.
11. Accepting same sex marriage could put some Christians in other countries in danger.
12. If we accept same sex marriage what next? What about trans-gender people. Would they be allowed to get married? Where do we stop?

10.

Comment

1. No firm conclusions can be drawn from these comments.
2. One group only put forward comments in favour of same sex marriage and did not put forward any arguments against. All other groups put in comments for and against the issue. But, no indication as to where the majority of each group lay.
3. One group thought it was a worthwhile exercise but did not say why.

Bill Scott

DALMAHOY WALKING GROUP

6th JUNE WALK and REUNION

It's time for another Dalmahoy Walkers' reunion!

The idea is that folk who have been walking together on and off since the 1980s don't lose touch with each other, even if we're not up to tackling Munros or sleeping in bunks in hostels these days.

For those who don't know about us, we have done the Southern Upland Way, the Lairig Ghru, Ben Nevis and many other hills and glens over the years.

On Saturday 6th June we'll meet in the Dalmahoy Hall any time after 1 pm for gossip, tea/coffee and any refreshments we have brought; after that the energetic and not-so-energetic can go for an easy walk or a slightly longer one (Geoff decides where!) .

Then come back and tidy up before a carvery-type meal at the Ratho Park Hotel at 6

You will be very welcome even if you've never walked with us before!

Please tell Geoff Angell or me a week or so before if you plan to join us, so we can give numbers to the hotel.

Mary Hall

Bread making and Blethering

So we gathered, and some made bread whilst others blethered, and some found time for both as the dough rose and scones piled with jam and clotted cream were eaten. At the heart of a steel cold February Saturday, loaves warm to the hands and sweet to the nose, plaited and rolled, crafted and formed out of water and flour, soon to be consumed by family and friends in homes south, east and west. Old friendships refreshed, new friendships were made, joining together with one common purpose, delighting in all that was accomplished that day. As if we were held apart from the world for those hours, ourselves the loaf rising within the space of the hall: one gathering, one offering, one sharing in the good things that we have been given. Now we look back on those few hours, the bread eaten, the blether long since silenced, yet what passed between us endures: there are bonds that can never be broken, food that still feeds the soul.

John Starr



12.

Organist's Corner

Programme Notes for April and May

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

Prelude: Le banquet céleste – Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Communion: Ave verum corpus – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Messiaen's depiction of the 'heavenly banquet' was written in 1928.

Note the staccato (short) notes in the pedals which are marked to be played 'like waterdrops'.

Mozart's setting of 'Ave verum corpus' was written 17 June 1791 for Anton Stoll, who was musical co-ordinator in the parish of Baden near Vienna. It was composed to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi.

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on 'Rockingham' – Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Postlude: Erbarm' dich mein, O Herre Gott (BWV 721) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Parry's setting of 'When I survey' was published as the second of a set of 'Seven Chorale Preludes' in 1912.

Bach's prelude on a metrical version of Psalm 51 is influenced by a cantata once thought to be by Buxtehude, but actually written by Buxtehude's Estonian pupil Ludwig Busbetzky.

Saturday 4th April - Easter Eve

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus ('Messiah') – George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

This piece surely needs no programme notes! Join in as you are able!

Sunday 5th April - Easter Day

Prelude: Easter Morn: A Meditation – John Ebenezer West (1863-1928)

Introit (Choir): This joyful Eastertide – arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Communion: I know that my Redeemer liveth ('Messiah') – George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Postlude (Choir): Sing! - David Willcocks (accompanied by Toccata from Fifth Symphony – Charles-Marie Widor)

West, a nephew of Ebenezer Prout, was a London organist and chief editor for Novello & Co., where he worked for 45 years.

Wood, an Irishman, was Professor of Music at Cambridge University. His pupils included Ralph Vaughan Williams at Cambridge and Herbert Howells at the Royal College of Music.

Willcocks' 'Sing!' was written in 1999 as a choral accompaniment to Widor's famous Toccata. Widor himself sanctioned the addition of a choir to this piece.

Sunday 12th April - The Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude: Psalm-Prelude (Set 1 no.2) – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Communion: Berceuse – Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Postlude: Saraband for the morning of Easter – Herbert Howells

Howells' Psalm-Preludes are meditations on verses from the Psalms.

This one is based on Psalm 37 v.11, and dates from 1916.

Vierne's Berceuse is a lullaby dedicated to his daughter Colette.

Howells' Saraband is one of a set of 'Six Pieces for Organ' dating from the 1940s.

Sunday 19th April - The Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude: Serenade for Strings (slow movement) – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Communion: Andantino in F (Suite for Organ) – Edward Elgar

Postlude: Sonata in G (first movement) – Edward Elgar

The Serenade for Strings was written in March 1892 and dedicated to the organ builder and keen amateur musician Edward W. Whinfield.

The Suite for Organ was originally composed as a set of Vesper Voluntaries in 1890. The eleven voluntaries were composed in quick succession immediately after his marriage to Alice in 1889.

Elgar's Sonata was written in 1895 as a large organ work that would show off the Cathedral organ at Worcester. Amazingly, the work took only two weeks from conception to the first performance, which Hugh Blair, the cathedral organist, gave to an American Organists' convention meeting in Worcester.

Sunday 26th April - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Music for Good Shepherd Sunday

14.

Prelude: A Meditation on 'Brother James' Air – Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Communion: Pastorale in F (BWV 590, first movement) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Postlude: Worthy is the Lamb ('Messiah') – George Frideric Handel
'Brother James' was the popular name for James Leith Macbeth Bain who died in 1925. This well-known tune was composed by him for the Scottish metrical version of Psalm 23. This organ meditation was written in October 1947.

'Worthy is the Lamb' is followed by a magnificent 'Amen' fugue which concludes Handel's oratorio.

Sunday 3rd May - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Music from Russia and Uzbekistan

Prelude: Chorale Varié – Sergei Taneyev (1856-1915)

Communion: Chant sans paroles (Souvenir de Hapsal) – Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Postlude: Toccata – Georgi Mushel (1909-1989)

Taneyev's variations were written in 1913 for inclusion in an album edited by the Abbé Joubert, and are a rare example of pre-revolutionary Russian organ music.

Tchaikovsky visited Haapsalu, Estonia, in 1867, where he composed the cycle of piano pieces 'Souvenir de Hapsal'.

Mushel studied at the Moscow Conservatoire. On graduating, Mushel taught at the Tashkent Conservatoire, becoming Professor of Composition in 1976. He was influenced by local Uzbek traditional music.

Sunday 10th May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Music from Italy

Prelude: Agnus Dei (Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem) – arr. Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Communion: Intermezzo ('Cavalleria Rusticana') – Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

Postlude: Etude symphonique – Marco Enrico Bossi (1861-1925)

Verdi's Requiem (sometimes called 'Verdi's best opera') was first performed in Milan Cathedral in 1874. Liszt's transcription of the Agnus Dei dates from 1877.

Cavalleria Rusticana (Rustic Chivalry) is a one act opera premiered in 1890 in Rome. The Intermezzo, which has featured in a number of film scores, contains the theme of the Easter Hymn.

Bossi was director of music and organist at Como Cathedral, and did much to increase the standard of Italian church music. His 'symphonic study' is famous for its challenging pedal part.

Thursday 14th May - Ascension Day

Music from France

Prelude: Prière du Christ montant vers son Père – Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Communion: Communion – Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Postlude: March on a theme of Handel – Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

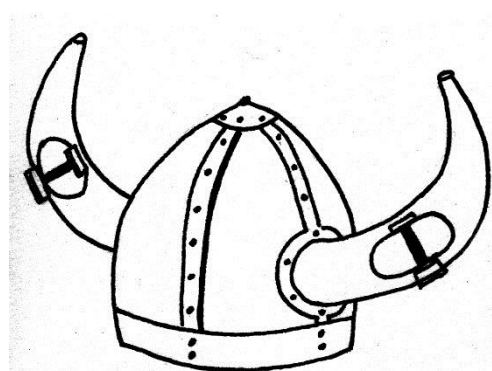
Messiaen's 'L'Ascension' was originally composed for orchestra in 1932-33. He re-arranged it for organ in 1933-34. The 'Prayer of Christ ascending towards his Father' is the final movement.

Gounod's Communion is one of three surviving organ pieces composed by him.

The 'Theme of Handel' in Guilmant's march is, of course, the Ascensiontide chorus 'Lift up your heads' from 'Messiah'.

Sunday 17th May - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Music for Norway's national day (Syttende mai)



Prelude: Morning Mood (Peer Gynt) – Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Communion: At Rondane - Edvard Grieg

Postlude: Wedding Day at Troidhaugen - Edvard Grieg

Constitution Day, more commonly known as 'Syttende mai' (17th May), commemorates the signing of the Constitution of Norway at

Eidsvoll on 17th May 1814. Grieg, although considered a Norwegian composer, had Scottish roots. After the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Grieg's great-grandfather, Alexander Greig, travelled widely, settling in Norway about 1770, and establishing business interests in Bergen. 'Wedding Day at Troidhaugen' was written in 1896 to commemorate the 25th wedding anniversary of Grieg and his wife Nina.

16.

Troldhaugen ('Troll Hill') was the Grieg family home in Bergen built in 1885, and now a museum.

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

Prelude: Prelude to the Te Deum – Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704)

Communion: Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist – Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue on BACH – Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Charpentier's prelude, dating from between 1688 and 1698, is nowadays better-known as the Eurovision signature tune.

Liszt's fantasy on the notes BACH (B flat, A, C, B natural), exists in two versions written in 1856 and 1870. This is the second of the two.

Sunday 31st May - Trinity Sunday

Prelude: Prelude in E flat (BWV 552) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Communion: Trio Sonata no.3 (slow movement) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Postlude: Fugue in E flat (BWV 552) - Johann Sebastian Bach

The final piece of Part Three of Bach's publication 'Clavierübung' (Keyboard Practice) has a subject which resembles William Croft's hymn tune 'St. Anne', hence the English nickname for this piece. It has Trinitarian symbolism on many levels: three flats in the key signature, three sections, the lengths of which are related to each other by a factor of three, three different time signatures related to each other by a factor of three, and three fugal subjects which combine perfectly with each other - three in one! This fugue has been described as probably the most perfect depiction of the Trinity in all of Western Art.

Alan John Phillips

<http://alanjohnphillips.weebly.com>

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



SERVICE TIMES

29th March – 5th April

Palm Sunday

- 10.30 Sung Eucharist with procession and dramatised reading of the Gospel of the Passion
 18.30 Evening Prayer

Monday & Tuesday

- 19.30 Compline

Wednesday

- 11.00 Eucharist (*in the Church*)
 19.30 Compline

Maundy Thursday

- 19.30 Maundy Eucharist, with Foot Washing

Good Friday

- 14.00 Stations of the Cross (1 hr)
 19.30 Meditation on the Cross

Holy Saturday

- 20.30 Easter Vigil and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Easter Sunday

- 06.30 Dawn Eucharist (gather in the hall)
 10.30 Family Sung Eucharist

18.

Sunday Readings for

		Old Testament
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	—
Apr 12	Easter 2	Acts 4: 32-35
Apr 19	Easter 3	Acts 3: 12-19
Apr 26	Easter 4	Acts 4: 5-12
May 3	Easter 5	—
May 10	Easter 6	Acts 10: 44-48
May 17	Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
May 24	Pentecost	Acts 2: 1-21
May 31	Trinity	Isaiah 6: 1-8
June 7	Pentecost 2	Genesis 3: 8-15
June 14	Pentecost 3	Ezekiel 17: 22-24
June 21	Pentecost 4	Job 38: 1-11
June 28	Pentecost 5	Wisdom of Solomon 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24

April - June 2015

Epistle	Gospel
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	Mark 16: 1-8
—	John 20: 19-31
—	Luke 24: 36-48
1 John 3:16-24	John 10: 11-18
1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8
1 John 5: 1-6	John 15: 9-17
1 John 5: 9-13	John 17: 6-19
—	John 15: 26-27, 16.4b-15
Romans 8: 12-17	John 3: 1-17
2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1	Mark 3: 20-35
2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17	Mark 4: 26-34
2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	Mark 4: 35-41
2 Corinthians 8: 7-15	Mark 5: 21-43

Eulogy for Gré Mann

I first came across Gré taking parties of students training for ordination to visit St Luke's in Wester Hailes. There would be a few such visits, between 20 and 25 years ago, and always a warm welcome. Gré would not only stand out because he was a 'bit different', he would take great pride in showing off the various parts of the chapel and artefacts – some of which he had designed – to visitors.

The Franciscan bit was immediately obvious; a devotional simplicity always speaks to people. That does not in any way mean that I think Gré was a simple person!!

Gré was born in Galashiels but he was really brought up in Edinburgh. Gré came from an army family – we said farewell to his mother Mae not so very long ago. I only met Mae towards the end of her life; she was a wonderful character and it was an honour to conduct her funeral.

The sibling who is not with us, but who has been a continual hidden presence in Gré's life, is Michael, who died at just 5 weeks in 1948. Gré has always felt his absence; always felt Michael *should* have been here. Their sister Susan *is* here with us and now bears the childhood memories.

Being raised in Edinburgh rather carries that, "which school did you go to?" Gillespie's was good; Heriot's wasn't – a fair summary? You might extend that to, "art was good; rugby was doubtful!"

Gré left school at 16. There's a story about a job interview by a Watsonian... let's not go there. But he got a job at the Scottish Transport Group as a commercial artist. And a very successful career he had too. Amongst many projects, he designed a Saltire Logo for them; he probably didn't get the credit he deserved, but that's part of a tough learning curve in life. Gré has remained consistently generous in making his talents available to others throughout life, without expecting appropriate reward.

He might have gone to Art College, I understand, but chose not to. He often did things differently to normal expectation. Despite that, he became a member of the Society of Industrial Artists – something one might not normally expect if you *haven't* come through college channels with accepted qualifications.

Gré's range of ability in graphic art is amazing; the application of his talent in a wide diversity of media and style quite awesome. He was an extremely talented man. He knew what he wanted to achieve and he was very particular – if not a perfectionist – in achieving his goals.

Professional life was of course curtailed with back problems, the PMR and subsequent constrained health. Redundancy hit hard... hit the whole family hard with two young lads in the house and Gré very limited in what he was able to take on.

But it also perhaps drew a deeper creativity out of Gré – including finding ways to compensate Richard and David with treats their mother was not supposed to know about at the time.

As his physical disabilities have increased and, especially in more recent years, it has become more difficult to express himself in graphic art forms, he has created pictures more in words: in prayers and in poems. We use both forms in this service.

In these latter years, he has become not so much a recluse, but a real prayer partner to many of us in the different faith circles he inhabits, taking a deep interest in the ups and downs in life of those around about him and bearing us all in prayer.

His life has been a very definite journey in faith, in learning the deeper meanings of obedience and acceptance. It is never a straightforward journey; it rarely prevents any of us from appearing a little demanding on times!

No real surprise that a body such as the Franciscans should hold for him a key to a discipline in life that appealed to his spiritual quest. I believe it was Gregor Macgregor who introduced him to the Franciscans, and the underlying simplicity of an approach to life in relationship to God's creation that one finds in St Francis proved a good fit – that all-important quality of the 'yoke' in that Gospel passage which, when well fitting, makes heavy burdens easier to bear.

Through all of this, of course family has been central. He and Rose met as mere fledglings in Colinton – first in a Nativity Tableau and then, well, it's been a journey:

22.

there is a photo of a very sombre and holy looking procession through Spylaw Park in Colinton Dell, with a young Gré carrying the processional cross and Rose following with the choir... but I don't suppose all such 'walking out' was just as formal as that... they have trodden many paths of this earth together and prayed one another lovingly through it all with a deep affection.

And Gré was clearly very proud of Richard and David in their own creativity, tending God's creation on behalf of others, including at Baberton. And he exuded a radiant pride on becoming a grandfather when Daisy was born.

It has all been a journey in faith. Claire has commented on Gré holding God as a close friend and he certainly knew he was accepted of and by God, whatever he felt. He did his best to contain his pain but sometimes it got the better of him; and he trusted in God's love to give him strength as well always to forgive.

The other way he coped – counted as a gift too from God – was his wicked sense of humour. Many of us will have had the little quips down the phone, the pet names for people and things, not to mention what he referred to as 'jokes' – a technical term I believe.

Gré's wit as a satirist went by unacknowledged. I encouraged him to send his Pickrich Papers to Private Eye, but I don't think he ever did. They contained cutting comments about some rather privileged and influential people in London, like Mr Downing Threep and his neighbour Mr Foxbourne, who led very different lives from the likes of little Benny Fitt who slept down by the river.

Little has been straightforward on his own journey, but it has all been a journey in faith, in which he has continued, to the end, to seek God's guidance and, when things became too tough, God's merciful release.

At the heart of that faith journey lay an acceptance of what God may bring and bear us through in this life, even the bits we would rather avoid. St Francis provided a good inspiration and guiding light in this regard. So did God's little creatures – birds, animals (not least the faithful dogs!)... even the tiniest creatures:

Bees make honey;
 do wasps make jam?
 or butterflies make butter?
 or hamsters make ham?
 English is funny!

Which brings us finally to his other philosopher companion – Pooh Bear – who surely inspired these words in Gré:

Today is a 'Happy just because' day
 when we let our awake dreams stay
 in our mind and beyond
 gathered thoughts are distilled and fond
 time's hand is set to gently go by
 as air blown clouds slow dance the sky
 inner joy and peace ascend
 lifting all that hurts to mend
 for today is a Happy just because day.

The rains of February fall
 sculpting and scattering saucer imprints to nourish
 in earth hungry slopes that call
 the rising hope of Candlemas to flourish,
 in Candlemas bells or snowdrops by their other name
 each stalk holds petals like a white wing
 splayed in the returning light to flame
 heralding the cleansing of Mary to sing
 whose purity melts the hard edge of winter away,
 clearing the way that is now ahead,
 shifting the season for another day
 the slopes now carpeted in snowdrops is nature's spread
 if only the waxy white petals can be as wings
 to up and fly as angels when Mary sings
 in chorus to Candlemas.

24.

Not Tourists, but Pilgrims – and Friends!

As one of the Christ Church contingent, I could hardly believe it was almost a year to the day (12 February 2014) that we embarked on our wonderful pilgrimage to “The Land of the Holy One” , when we had our “reunion” to share memories and photos of our time together.

When we arrived in the Hall at St Mary’s, the tables were lovingly set out and our friends had erected a canopy over them. At first, I thought it must be the Feast of Tabernacles, and indeed this would have been quite appropriate, had it not been the wrong time of year. This prompted me to check out this Jewish Festival.

The Feast of Tabernacles (or Sukkot) also looks forward to the 1000 year Messianic Kingdom when Yeshua will be dwelling in, and ruling from Jerusalem. It will be a time when all the nations learn of the great things that happen when people follow the ways of the God of Israel. As a consequence, shalom (peace) will spread out from the Great City and will eventually encompass the whole world.



This gave the hall quite a different feel and I certainly felt that I was back in Israel/Palestine.

Deryck had set up the computer/projector and a screen on the wall beyond relayed a continuous narrative of photos taken during our trip, evoking many happy memories and experiences. We were able to eat, drink, talk and watch all at the same time. We even had some moving imagines towards the end.

It was very much a “bring and share” evening and there was a wide variety of savoury and sweet dishes, more than we could do justice to, even after “seconds”! It never fails to amaze me how much is provided on this basis, when one thinks of the cost of eating out nowadays.

Before we embarked on this Pilgrimage, we were encouraged to remember that we were pilgrims rather than tourists. The wonderful

thing is that we added another classification to this: we became friends as well. We were sorry that not everyone was able to join us, two notable exceptions being John Pelham and Rona Finlayson, because of illness. Our thoughts were with them and we will hold them in our prayers.

The temporary “tabernacles” were being tidied away, tables dismantled and chairs stacked as we left: ready for the next event in the busy life of St Mary’s.

Although we had expected that this would be our final get-together as a group, Deryck mentioned that we may have another one, if there is sufficient interest, in which we could view more of the videos taken and share further memories – yes, please. Shalom. Salam. Peace!



Kate Maxwell
Christ Church Morningside

26.

What do the stewards do behind the scenes?

Many members of the congregation continually volunteer to carry out the various tasks that are required for every Sunday morning Sung Eucharist. Without these kind volunteers, the job of the five stewards in St Mary's would be impossible. The stewards remain ever grateful for the commitment of these volunteers.

The duties of the stewards are numerous and varied. They check that the car parking signs are out, check that the hymn numbers on the board in church are correct, bring out the Eucharistic elements and the collection bags into the church, prepare the baptismal font if there is a baptism, ensure that the pew sheets/leaflets and service booklets are ready at the back of the church for distribution, check that the correct readings from the bible are bookmarked with the ribbon, welcome members of the congregation and visitors as they enter the church, manage the needs of the congregation as necessary, and assign the volunteers to the various duties while ensuring that they are all smoothly coordinated.

Every Sunday, volunteers may be required as follows:

- 1 person for car parking management whenever large numbers of visitors are expected
- 2 people for administering the chalice
- 3 people for bringing the Eucharistic elements to the priest at the offertory
- 2 people for passing the collection bags
- 1 person for saying the welcome to the newly baptised
- 1 person for sidesperson duties – i.e. helping the steward to distribute leaflets and booklets
- 3 people for reading the old and new testament readings as well as the Gospel
- 1 person for the intercession prayers

Therefore, as shown above, on a busy Sunday when a baptism is scheduled, as many as 14 volunteers may be asked by the Steward to carry of duties.

The volunteers are assigned to each of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday lists which are respectively managed by Richmond Davies, Wilma Brown, Val Lawrie and Olive Metcalfe. Jane Russell, who is also our Rector's Warden, is the responsible steward whenever there is a 5th Sunday. Jane also organises meetings with the stewards, keeps them right, and ensures that the volunteers are evenly distributed among the stewards' lists. There are some volunteers who opt not to be assigned to a specific Sunday and they are flexible enough to carry out tasks on any Sunday when they plan to attend church.

As ever, it is sometimes a challenge to get the required volunteers to be available to carry out duties especially when they have alternative arrangements and therefore do not plan to attend on a particular Sunday. When this occurs, the stewards themselves volunteer to carry out various duties or they use volunteers from one another's list, if they are available.

The stewards are always looking for more volunteers so that a wider pool of individuals can carry out the various duties. If anyone is interested, please contact Jane Russell or any of the other stewards and we would like to know what specific duty/duties you would be interested in and whether you wish to join a floating list or be assigned to one of the four (or five) Sundays in the month.

Administering the chalice is a very important ministry within the congregation. Those who volunteer are licensed to do so and Deryck can provide you with further information as to what licensing involves.

Reading the old and new testament passages is straightforward especially as you will see the introductory and ending sentences on the bookmarked page in the bible and the steward is always on hand to keep you right.

When reading the Gospel, you will be given a mini-microphone system with a battery pack which has controls that can turn on and off. The Gospel book is brought into the church in the procession at the beginning of the service and laid open at the front of the altar. Then at the beginning of the last verse of the gradual hymn, the reader switches

28.

on the microphone system which is now attached to their clothing, makes their way to the altar to lift the Gospel book, then stands at the bottom of the steps in the body of the congregation. If the reader has trouble with the steps to get to the Gospel book, the steward, with prior knowledge of this, will arrange for one of the assistants at the altar to pass the Gospel book to the reader who will be at the bottom of the steps. Further guidance for introducing, reading and ending the Gospel as well as wearing the wired microphone system is available from any of the stewards.

For the intercession prayers, the focus is usually on praying for individuals and events in this country and around the world. Most of the content for the prayer is already in the pew sheet and the stewards can direct you to books at the back of the church that provide templates and examples of intercession prayers. There are also many examples on the internet.

We are planning to run a short workshop after church on a Sunday for people who have never administered the chalice or done the readings and for those who may, perhaps, want to refresh their knowledge. Further information will be available when the plans are finalised.

It is hoped that this article gives you a flavour of the work of the five stewards in St Mary's.

Richmond Davies
Steward responsible for 1st Sundays.

CHURCH OPENING SUMMER 2015

The Church will be open on Saturdays throughout the summer, from 10.00 am; to 3pm; from May to September.

Volunteers are required to assist with the church being open. Any one able to assist with this, please sign the list, which will be up in the hall from mid April.

Many thanks.

Gillian McLennan.

29.

The Secret Recipe (As read on Mothering Sunday) From the book: One Hundred Wisdom Stories from Around the World by Margaret Silf

When God created mothers, it was well into overtime on the sixth day. An angel dropped by and commented, “Lord, you are taking your time over this creature!”

God replied, “You should see the special requirements in the specification! She has to be easy to maintain, but not made out of plastic or have any artificial components. She has one hundred and sixty movable parts, and nerves of steel, with a lap big enough for ten children to sit on it at once, but she herself has to be able to fit into a child’s chair. She has to have a back that can carry everything that is loaded onto it. She has to be able to mend everything, from a grazed knee to a broken heart. And she’s supposed to have six pairs of hands.”

The angel shook her head. “Six pairs of hands? No way!”

“The hands are easy,” God said. “But I’m still working on the three pairs of eyes that she needs.”

“Is this the standard model?” the angel asked.

God nodded: “Oh yes. One pair to look through closed doors, while she asks, “What are you doing?” even though she already knows the answer. A second pair at the back of her head, to see what she’s not meant to see, but needs to know about. And, of course, the pair at the front that can look at her child, let him know that he is behaving badly and had better change his ways, while at the same time letting him see how much she loves and understands him.”

“I think you should go to bed now Lord, and get some sleep,” said the angel.



“I can’t do that,” said God. “I’m almost there. I have nearly created a being who heals herself when she’s ill, who can delight thirty children with one little birthday cake, who can persuade a three-year –old not to eat clay, a six-year-old to wash his hands before meals and a nine-year-old to use his feet to walk and not kick.”

The angel walked around the prototype Mum. “It’s too soft,” she said.

30.

“But tough,” God retorted. “You wouldn’t believe the wear and tear this Mum will tolerate.”

“Can she think?” asked the angel.

“Not only think, but reach wise judgements and essential compromises,” said God. “And she can do more than that. She can forget!”

Finally the angel ran her finger across the model’s cheek.

“There’s a leak,” she said. “I warned you that you were trying to get too much into her.”

“That’s not a leak,” said God. “That’s a tear.”

“What’s that for?” asked the angel.

“It flows whenever she feels joy or grief, disappointment or pride, pain or loneliness, or the depths of love.”

“You’re a genius,” said the angel.

God looked again at his work of art, with pleasure and pride.

“The tear,” he said, “is her overflow valve.”

Claire Starr

Diary of Events, April - May 2015

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Wed Apr 1	11.00 1930	Church	Eucharist Compline
Thur 2	1930	Church	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing
Fri 3	10.00	Grounds	Making the Easter Garden Stations of the Cross
	1400 1930	Church Church	Meditation on the Cross
Sat 4	10.00 TBC	Church Church	Decoration for Easter Marriage of Laura Hume to Graham Dymock
	20.30	Church	Vigil and Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Sun 5	0630	Church	Dawn Service (Gather in the Hall)
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist (Collection of groceries/ toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank) Fairtrade Stall (?)
Wed 8	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Sun 12	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist Baptism of Nina Ingrid Nørve
Mon 13	19.00	Church	Eucharist
	19.30	Hall	Vestry Meeting
Wed 15	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Sun 19	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist with Baptism of Sophie Jeanne Soulieux-Stott

32.

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Mon 20	19.00	Hall	Meeting of Ministry Leadership Team
Wed 22	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Sat 25	10.00 – 16.00	St Barnabus Moredun	Vestry 'Away Day'
Sun 26	08.55 10.30	Church Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist Re-commissioning of Pastoral Visitors Visit of Claire Benton-Evans, Dioc. Youth Adviser.
Wed 29	11.00	Church Hall	Eucharist Dalmations meeting – <i>Childcare from both sides of the fence</i> with Steven Morton
Sun 3 May	08.55 10.30	Church Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist with Baptism of Aaron Lucas Craw (Collection of groceries/toiletries for Food Bank) Fairtrade Stall
Wed 6	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Fri 8	14.00	Church	Marriage of Hayley Ross to Gary Locke
Sat 9	14,30	Church	Marriage of Kirsty Reid to Greg Rutherford

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sun 10	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
	12.00	Hall	Meeting re Cumbrae Weekend Sep 11-14
Wed 13	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Sun 17	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30		Sung Eucharist
Wed 20	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Fri 22	1300	Church	Marriage of Emmelie Hegger to Steven Coulson
Sun 24	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist with Baptism of Reuben Adams
Wed 27	11.00	Church	Eucharist
Fri 29	14.00	Church	Marriage of Emma Shannon to James O'Kane
Sat 30	14.00	Church	Marriage of Rhea Arndt to Alastair Ewer
Sun 31	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist

34.

WHO'S WHO (cont)

Vestry:

Treasurer	Denis King
Rector's Warden	Jane Russell
People's Warden	Rona Finlayson
Lay Representative	Geoff Angell

Other members	John Blaber Alan Coupe Richmond Davies Ella Henderson Gillian McLennan Bill Scott
---------------	--

Altar Guild	Denis King (co-ordinator) Mavis Blackwell Val Lawrie Faye Watson
--------------------	---

Child Protection/ Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator	Caroline Gunn
---	---------------

Covenants Sec.	Geoff Angell
-----------------------	--------------

Fabric Co-ordinator	Rosemary Procter
--------------------------------	------------------

Head Server	Denis King
--------------------	------------

Visiting Team:

Julia Bracewell
 Lois May Donaldson
 Rona Finlayson
 Janice Goodfellow
 Caroline Gunn
 Derek & Ella Henderson
 Margaret King
 Val Lawrie
 Carole MacBride
 Gillian McLennan
 Olive Metcalfe
 Jane Russell
 Bill & Margaret Scott
 Claire Starr

Hall Bookings

0131 333 1683

Stewards for each Sunday:

First Sunday	Richmond Davies
Second Sunday	Wilma Brown
Third Sunday	Val Lawrie
Fourth Sunday	Olive Metcalfe
Fifth Sunday	Jane Russell

If you need transport to or from church on Sunday, please contact the steward for that Sunday.

Church Office, St Mary's Church Hall,
 Dalmahoy, Kirknewton EH27 8EB

36.

Prayer Chain:

John & Claire
Myrtle
Rona
Janet
Margaret

In Touch Editors

Margaret Scott

Website Admin:

John Blaber webmaster@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

Service Times

Sunday	Morning Prayer	10am
	Sung Eucharist	10.30am
Last Sunday of the month	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
Wednesday	Said Eucharist	11am

Monday and Friday – the church is open between 9.30 and 10am for quiet reflection and prayer.

**Copy date for the June/July
Issue is Sunday 17th May**