



In Touch

The Magazine of
St Mary's Church,
Dalmahoy
December 2015 - January 2016

www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

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**St Mary's Church Dalmahoy
Scottish Registered Charity:
SC014203**

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A note from Deryck

Once in Royal David's city... once upon a time... Bethlehem was a Christian town. There was a time before that, of course, when Jesus was born into a very Jewish town or village. But it changed. And it's changed again. Not many Christians these days; they've all fled.

It's an amazing story, Christmas. A couple lost for somewhere to give birth to their child. A land in torment because of ambition and power struggles. Ordinary people caught up in the whirlwind of violence that leads even to a massacre of babies and infants... and a family at the heart of it all on the run, refugees seeking safety, sanctuary in a foreign land, at least until these troubled times be overpast. All a bit familiar? How God must grieve that we never quite seem to get the message. How God must grieve for those modern day people of Bethlehem who have no home to return to. How God must grieve for those hearts that are not warmed by the message of the angels and wish to open the doors to the Christ child seeking sanctuary among us in many parts of the world today.

A little piece of Bethlehem could come your way this month! Read about our 'Travelling Crib'. It began life in Milk Grotto Street in Bethlehem many years ago. Now we hope it will travel around as many homes as possible within our congregation during Advent as we reflect and prepare *ourselves* to welcome the Christ this Christmas.

E'en so, come Lord Jesus!

With my love and prayers.

Deryck

From the editor

Many thanks to folk for their input for this edition of In Touch.

There has been a lot going on not least of which was a faith lunch to celebrate significant birthdays for some of the congregation.

I would like to thank the folk who help me out by labelling and sorting all the magazines ready for distribution. This is no small help to me as I work full time and also have wedding photography commitments which often clash with the time this magazine is due for publication.

As we enter the period prior to Christmas I would wish you all a very enjoyable time.

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

Margaret Scott margaret.scott56@btinternet.com

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From the Registers

Baptism

18 th Oct	Elsie Betty Clarke
24 th Oct	Dylan David Gran Lestrelle

Weddings

2 nd Oct	Denise Olsson to James Blyth
3 rd Oct	Louise McElroy to Sean Duffy
10 th Oct	Catherine Hulme to James Dalrymple
21 st Nov	Andrea Larrainzar to Donald Stephenson
28 th Nov	Christine Gray to John Ramsay

Perichoresis - or how St Mary's does the theology of the Trinity: **Our Autumn Ceilidh**

You know that when the band is a tribute to a favourite brand of Scottish after shave, Auld Spice, you are in for a good night. As always, we started with the Gay Gordons, where we all pretend to be a Gordon and prance gaily around the dance floor, and ended with an Orcadian Strip the Willow, which explains why so few willow trees are left on Orkney nowadays. We also had an appropriately biblical tombola in the form of a parable where everyone who bought a ticket was a winner, but some were more of a winner than others (though we were disappointed to discover that none of the prizes stretched to 30kg of silver).

It should be noted that some of the participants would have been helped by a Disambiguation of Dance encyclopaedia since the steps to the Canadian Barn Dance and the St Bernard Waltz looked suspiciously similar when executed - those of you who were present will know to whom I am referring! Still, it all contributed to the general merriment and mayhem, especially the Caribbean limbo element that was required when Messrs Murray and Fraser were the arch in the Grand Old Duke of York. I am sure I heard one slightly older gentleman sitting at the back shout out "Seven" on several occasions.

I don't know if you have ever tried dancing on a full stomach - at least it was someone's idea that I should lie on the floor after I had enjoyed the food so necessary for fortification so that they could bounce up and down on my abdomen along to the music - anyway, I do not recommend it. I think they were trying to prove the anti-gravity law of what goes down must come up. Anyway, many thanks to Carol and her crew for providing such delicious nourishment and to Margaret Scott who selflessly sacrifices her vocal chords in the service of

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terpsichorean tutelage to us who never knew the steps or had so thoughtlessly forgotten them.

Next year, perhaps, the BBC will be sending down a talent scout, and some of us will no doubt find ourselves appearing on Strictly Come Ceilidh, the new BBC Scotland family entertainment show - how they came up with the idea is quite beyond me. I believe the winner will be crowned the Lord of the Dance. Still if you see me twirling down the aisle in tartan, you will know exactly what you are in for!

John Starr

ANGELS FOR ADVENT

Knitting needles have been clicking the result is that at least three dozen angels will appear on the trees (weather permitting!) around the Church gardens on Advent Sunday. We hope that people will choose an angel to take home and give a donation to a charity called Breast Cancer Care, Scotland, which does excellent work with people who have had or have breast cancer, giving practical advice on many aspects of this. Leaflets will be available. Many thanks to all the knitters.

Jane Russell

The Travelling Crib: An Advent Journey



The idea of taking the Holy Family from home to home during the period of Advent is common in the Czech Republic and the Philippines, and is being increasingly used in Britain. The crib travels from home to home, with the Holy Family symbolically spending one night (or more) in each place.

This is how it works: the first hosts receive the crib at the 10.30 Eucharist on Advent Sunday and take it home. The following day (at a time convenient to the next host) the first hosts become the travellers and take the crib to its next home. This continues, family to family, home to home, each day or night until the Sunday before Christmas, when the crib is brought back into the church, for Christmas. The Crib is accompanied by a sheet with some prayers to say on its arrival at each home and candles to be lit beside the figures.

This little journey brings many people into contact with each other as they become first hosts and then travellers. It also helps us all to prepare room in our hearts for the Christ Child and for the true message of Christmas.

This is not something just for families with children; everyone can do this – young or old. It is also for those who cannot get to church easily and for those who are unable to travel, but who can arrange for the crib to be taken to its next hosts by someone else. It is a lovely way to engage with the Christmas story and also a great way to meet and offer hospitality to people in the congregation whom you may not know.

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Please choose a date on the list available and sign up with your contact details written clearly – make a note of who is before you and after you in the list and contact them to arrange a suitable time for exchange. The crib returns to St Mary's at the Carol Service.



Molly Recommends Chocolate Chip Cookies

I received a delivery of Traidcraft items just before I was leaving the house. I took it in, and left it in the hall.

On my return, I received the usual warm welcome from Molly. However on entering the hall, I noticed a gaping hole in the side of the box, with pieces of cardboard scattered about, plus a dark blue wrapper and plastic holder for the chocolate chip cookies. No sign of any of the fifteen biscuits from the packet, and by now, a very apologetic looking dog.



Many other items in the box, but she had obviously smelt the biscuits and the temptation was too great. Fortunately no side effects. She obviously recognizes a tasty biscuit when she smells one!!

Geoff Angell

CALAI

I was so delighted by the wonderful response from St. Mary's congregation to my appeal for goods to be sent to Calais for the refugees there. In the end I had two carloads to take to the lorry going to Calais, and the organisers were delighted. By now I am sure that everything we sent will be helping these people.

Many, many thanks to you all.

Lucy Inglis.

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St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

**Christmas Services
2015**



Sunday 20 th Dec	10.30	Sung Eucharist
	18.30	Carol Service with Christingles
Wednesday 23 rd	11.00	Eucharist (<i>in the hall</i>)
Thursday 24 th	23.30	Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Friday 25 th	10.30	Family Eucharist
<i>Christmas Day</i>		
Sunday 27 th	10.30	Sung Eucharist

Decorating the church for Christmas

Each year a group of busy folk get together to decorate the church ready for Christmas. This year they will be doing this ready for the Service of lessons and carols on 20th December.



At this time we have also been treated to Christingles. Don't know what they are? Then come along and find out.



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Sunday Readings for

		Old Testament
Dec 6	Advent 2	Malachi 3: 1-4
Dec 13	Advent 3	Zephaniah 3: 14-20
Dec 20	Advent 4	Micah 5: 2-5a
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9: 2-7
Dec 25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52: 7-10
Dec 28	Christmas 1	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26
Jan 3	Christmas 2	—
Jan 10	Baptism of The Lord	Isaiah 43: 1-7
Jan 17	Epiphany 2	Isaiah 62: 1-5
Jan 24	Epiphany 3	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Jan 31	Epiphany 4	Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Feb 7	1 before Lent	1 Kings 8: 22-23, 41-43
Feb 14	Lent 1	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Feb 21	Lent 2	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
Feb 28	Lent 3	Isaiah 55: 1-9

December 2015 - January 2016

Epistle	Gospel
Philippians 1: 3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 7-18
Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45
—————	Luke 2: 1-14
—————	Luke 2: 8-20
Colossians 3: 12-17	Luke 2: 41-52
Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 4: 21-30
Galatians 1: 1-12	Luke 7: 1b-10
Romans 10: 8b-13	Luke 4: 1-13
Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1	Luke 13: 31-35
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9

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Organist's Corner

Programme Notes for Advent and Christmas
by Alan John Phillips

Handel's 'Messiah' (1741)

Much of the first part of 'Messiah' is based on texts which are read during Advent and Christmastide. So here is Handel's musical commentary on some of this year's readings!

Sunday 29th November - The First Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Communion: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659) – Bach
Chorale preludes on two of the best-known Advent chorales.

Postlude: Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel' – Andrew Carter (b.1939)
A French-style toccata from 1995 on our first hymn.

Sunday 6th December - The Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude: But who may abide / And he shall purify ('Messiah') – George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Communion: Ev'ry valley ('Messiah') - Handel

Postlude: And the glory of the Lord ('Messiah') - Handel

Sunday 13th December - The Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Rejoice greatly ('Messiah') - Handel

Communion: Rejoice in the Lord alway – Anon (Mulliner Book)
This Sunday is 'Gaudete' Sunday, so-called from the Latin word for 'Rejoice', and is one of the two Sundays in the year (the other is the Fourth Sunday of Lent) when rose-coloured vestments may be worn. The Mulliner Book is a collection of keyboard music compiled by Thomas Mulliner between 1545 and 1570.

Postlude: Overture ('Messiah') – Handel

Sunday 20th December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude: O little town of Bethlehem – Gordon Phillips (1908-91)

Gordon Phillips (no relation!) was assistant organist at St. John's, Smith Square and subsequently organist and director of music at All Saints, Knightsbridge, and All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London. He was also senior professor of organ and harpsichord at the London College of Music.

Communion: Es ist ein Ros entsprungen – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

This tune, also sung to 'A great and mighty wonder', is so heavily disguised by Brahms that only the sharp-eared will be able to detect it!

Postlude: Vom Himmel hoch – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

'From Heaven above to Earth I come' is a Christmas hymn written by Martin Luther in 1534. The melody first appeared in 1539 and is likely to have been composed by Luther too. The hymn is well-known in Lutheran countries, but not in Britain.

Thurs. 24th December - Christmas Eve (Midnight Mass)

Prelude: The people that walked in darkness ('Messiah') - Handel

Postlude: For unto us a child is born ('Messiah') - Handel

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

Prelude: How beautiful are the feet ('Messiah') - Handel

Communion: He shall feed his flock ('Messiah') - Handel

Postlude: Hallelujah ('Messiah') - Handel

Sunday 27th December - The First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude: Sinfonia ('Christmas Oratorio') - Bach

Communion: In dulci júbilo – Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Postlude: How lovely is thy dwelling place ('Requiem') – Brahms

Brahms' 'German Requiem' is not a setting of the usual Requiem Mass texts, but of a freely-chosen set of Biblical texts. This movement is a setting of Psalm 84, verses 1, 2 and 4.

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Sunday 3rd January - The Second Sunday after Christmas

Prelude: Prelude on 'Whence is that goodly fragrance' – Harrison Oxley (1933-2009)

Oxley was appointed organist of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk at the age of 24. He was the first English cathedral organist to supplement the boys' voices in the cathedral choir with those of girls; he began to use girls' voices in the early 1970s. The mixed choir stopped some time after a new Provost of the cathedral took office in 1981 and began to phase out the girls. Oxley resigned in 1984 on a point of principle. He said that he had never been forgiven by some other cathedral organists for his actions, but he could not see a reason to "bar half of humanity from the benefits and opportunities of cathedral choir membership."

Communion: The Holy Boy – John Ireland (1879-1962)

Composed in 1913 for piano, this is Alec Rowley's organ arrangement from 1919.

Postlude: Fiat Lux – Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

'Let there be light' – a French toccata starting dimly, but increasing in luminosity to a brilliant climax.

Sunday 10th January - The First Sunday after the Epiphany / The Baptism of the Lord

Prelude: Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam (BWV 684) – Bach

Bach's depiction of John's baptism of Jesus has the two cousins in the organist's right hand making the sign of the cross over each other, the river Jordan gurgling in the left hand and the chorale on a 4 foot stop in the pedals, thus sounding in the tenor register.

Communion: Air ('Water Music') – Handel

Postlude: Be not afraid ('Elijah') – Felix Mendelssohn

A Wedding Music Season

From now until the beginning of Lent, I play a selection of music from my wedding repertoire.

Sunday 17th January - The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude: Ave Maria - Schubert

Communion: Jesu, joy of man's desiring - Bach

Postlude: The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba ('Solomon') - Handel

Sunday 24th January - The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude: Chanson de Matin – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

First published in 1899, this piece was almost certainly written in 1889 or 1890. This organ arrangement was made by Herbert Brewer, organist of Gloucester Cathedral.

Communion: Air (Suite no.3) – Bach

Commonly known as the 'Air on the G string'.

Postlude: Imperial March – Elgar

Composed for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

Sunday 31st January - The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude: Salut d'amour – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Written in 1888 with the German title 'Liebesgrüss' as an engagement present for his future wife, Caroline Alice ('Carice'), it was later published under its now-familiar French title.

Communion: Meditation ('Thais') – Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

This famous piece is an entr'acte between the scenes of Act 2 of the opera, premiered in 1894.

Postlude: War March of the Priests ('Athalia') – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

This is the best-known movement from Mendelssohn's incidental music to Racine's play about the biblical queen (see 2 Kings 11), first performed in Berlin in 1845.

Sunday 7th February - The Sunday before Lent

Prelude: A Trumpet Minuet – Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

Hollins, although born in Hull, became one of Edinburgh's most famous organists, working at St. George's West, Shandwick Place, for over fifty years.

Communion: Après un Rêve – Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Originally published in 1878, this song became the first of Trois mélodies, Op.7.

Postlude: Grand Triumphal Chorus (Op.47 no.2) – Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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What If...?

About two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, Joseph, the father of an infant son, awoke trembling and sweating with terror. He had had a dream in which he saw the baby snatched from the arms of his mother and slaughtered by Herod's soldiers. He knew what he had to do.

"Mary," he said shaking her arm gently but urgently.

"Mmm," she replied sleepily.

"We need to go now!"

She sat up and looked at him

"The child is in danger from Herod and his men. We need to get him out of here now! NOW!" he repeated.

Such was the trust that she had in him that she did not demur. While she got together a few possessions and food for the journey, she could hear the hoarse protests of the donkey unaccustomed to being awoken at this time of night. She wrapped her child warmly against the chill of the night air and, as she did so, he lay quiet as though he understood what was happening and knew that he should not cry. Joseph lifted her onto the donkey's back and passed the child up to her without a word. And without a word she drew her cloak around them both and settled herself for the journey.

It was a long journey because Joseph thought it best that they make for Egypt where he believed that they would be hospitably received. They travelled mainly by night because it was cooler then for the journey and there was less chance of people noticing them as they passed silently through sleeping villages.

Egypt at last! In his excitement and relief at the sight of the first settlement, Joseph let out a great whoop of delight. Mary laughed at him and the child copied her, gurgling and smiling up into her face.

But their joy was short-lived. Walking towards them from the village was a tall, dark man whose expression was anything but friendly. They fell silent as he approached. Even the donkey shuffled his feet nervously and strained on the leading-rope.

"What do you want?" he asked abruptly.

"A safe haven," replied Joseph. "The life of my child has been threatened and we are refugees from the terror that we believe is to come."

“But it hasn't come yet?” asked the man. “You have not suffered any physical hardship yet? You have not been victims of terror yet?”

“No...” Joseph was taken aback by his tone.

“So you are not refugees. You are not asylum seekers. You are just migrants looking for a more comfortable existence at our expense.”

“I can earn my living,” protested Joseph. “I am a carpenter by trade.”

“And a good one too,” put in Mary loyally.

The man laughed but it was not the sort of laugh that they wanted to hear.

“Well, I tell you what,” he drawled. “You can just go back to dear old wherever you came from and when you really have undergone some suffering and have the evidence to show it – a few scars and what have you – come back and if you're lucky we will review your case. Now be gone before I set the dogs on you!”

So?

Ella Henderson

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Voskresenje

This year as each year we had the pleasure of enjoying a concert from this choir who are from St Petersburg. Yuri, the conductor, brings with him eight singers. Some of them are known faces, others are new to us but what is always constant is the quality of the singing.

The first half of the concert is sacred music which is often performed for visitors to churches visited in Russia as we discovered when we were there a few years ago. Several of the numbers were by Rachmaninov. Varying members of the group had solo performances.



The second half of the concert is given over to folk music and we were treated to 'the drinking song' wonderfully sung by Anatoli who is one of the stalwarts of the group, singing it in his lovely basso profundo voice.

Amongst the numbers in this half were 'Those were the Days' and a Russian classic 'Malinka'

This year the group was made up of two sopranos, two altos, one basso profundo, one bass and two tenors.

The encore was a number from these two tenors fighting over a girl!! Roll on next November when we will be able to welcome them back to Dalmahoy.

Margaret Scott



Diary of Events, December 2015 – January 2016

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Wed 2 Dec	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sat 5 Dec		Church	Baptism of Cara Wilson
Sun 6 Dec	0855 1030	Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist (Collection of groceries/ toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank)
Mon 7 Dec	1900 1930	Church Hall	Eucharist Vestry Meeting
Wed 9 Dec	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sun 13 Dec	0855 1030 1230	Church Hall	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist Ministry Leadership Team Meeting
Wed 16 Dec	1100 1200	Hall Hall	Eucharist Dalmations Meeting Traditional Christmas Celebration

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Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sun 20 Dec	0855 10.30 1830	Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist Service of Lessons & Carols
Tues 22 Dec	1300	Church	Marriage of Kay Grant to James Gilchrist
Wed 23 Dec	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Thurs 24 Dec	2330	Church	Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Fri 25 Dec	10.30	Church	Christmas Family Eucharist (The Nativity of our Lord)
Sun 27 Dec	0855 1030	Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist
Wed 30 Dec	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sun 3 Jan	0855 10.30	Church	Choir Practice Sung Eucharist & Covenant Service + Baptism of Jamie Samuel Baines (Collection of groceries/ toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank)

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sun 10 Jan	0855	Church	Choir Practice
	1030		Sung Eucharist
Wed 13 Jan	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sun 17 Jan	0855	Church	Choir Practice
	1030		Sung Eucharist
Wed 20Jan	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sun 24 Jan	0855	Church	Choir Practice
	1030		Sung Eucharist
Wed 27 Jan	1100	Hall	Eucharist
Sun 31Jan	0855	Church	Choir Practice
	1030		Sung Eucharist

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WHO'S WHO (cont)

Vestry:

Treasurer	Denis King
Rector's Warden	Alan Coupe
People's Warden	Caroline Gunn
Lay Representative	John Blaber
Other members	Geoff Angell Richmond Davies Carole MacBride Gillian McLennan Bill Scott

Altar Guild	Denis King (co-ordinator) Mavis Blackwell Val Lawrie Faye Watson
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Child Protection/ Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator	Caroline Gunn
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Covenants Sec.	Geoff Angell
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Fabric Co-ordinator	Rosemary Procter
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Head Server	Denis King
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Visiting Team:

Lois May Donaldson
Janice Goodfellow
Caroline Gunn
Derek & Ella Henderson
Margaret King
Carole MacBride
Gillian McLennan
Olive Metcalfe
Jane Russell
Bill & Margaret Scott
Claire Starr
Rosemary Procter

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

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Prayer Chain:

John & Claire
Myrtle
Rona
Janet
Margaret

In Touch Editor

Margaret Scott

Website Admin:

John Blaber webmaster@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

Service Times

Sunday	Morning Prayer	10.00am
	Sung Eucharist	10.30am

Last Sunday of the month	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
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Wednesday	Said Eucharist	11.00am
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Monday and Friday – the church is open between 9.30 and 10am for quiet reflection and prayer.

<p>Copy date for the February / March Issue is Sunday 17th January</p>
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