

# ST MARY'S CHURCH DALMAHOY



## In Touch

December 2017 – January 2018

Registered Charity No. SC014203

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## From our Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are fast approaching the most Joyous season, a time of warmth and companionship.

But also, a time filled with paradox.

On one hand, we are in the darkest time of the year with days often long with increasing cold; on the other hand, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of the Great Light that burst upon our world 2000 years ago. For us who worship at St. Mary's we are also embarking on a new journey together!

Christmas trees, luminous with lights from a hundred glowing bulbs transform the darkness of the winter season into a radiant and welcoming home for our Lord. Let us strive to spread this warmth and light to all we meet.

We have been blessed this year with many things. Good friends and family, food for our bodies and souls.

At this time of the year too, we are invited, by the old familiar carols and prayers to gather closer to each other, and to the warmth that is our Lord Jesus.

I invite you to "Prepare the way of the Lord" throughout this Advent Season, to care for the stranger who may yet live in darkness, to warmly welcome home those who have been away and to allow the joy-filled music, prayers and fellowship of this season to work its timeless healing.

As I prepare to be with you as your Rector I ask you to pray for me and for the journey we are about to begin together. You have worked long and hard to reach this point and the Rectory is fast becoming a home for us. Your generosity has touched us deeply. Thank you.

In this most joyous of seasons, come and celebrate the miracle that is the birth of our Saviour Christ and the promise of a Happy New Year.

Come and be Welcomed Home.

*Revd Christine Downey+  
Ben, & Tonka*

## From the Editor

In the last issue of 'In Touch' we were looking forward to Revd Christine Downey joining us as our Rector in the New Year. As you will see in this issue (if you didn't already know), Christine will be Instituted as our Rector on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. We are so pleased that she and Ben were able to bring their moving date forward.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to yet another bumper issue. I apologise to anyone whose contribution has had to be held over to the next issue or heavily edited. This is quite a bumper issue again. I am very grateful to all our contributors and I look forward to more exciting articles for the next issue.

Copy for the February-March issue of 'In Touch' will be welcomed **at any time** from now until the deadline of Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

*John Blaber*

## A Repeated Appeal from the Editor/Webmaster!

Would organisers of events, meetings and services please let the editor know details, times and dates in good time for inclusion in both 'In Touch' and on our website, especially including **updates** on any changes in diary dates and readings that may occur, to ensure that our website is kept right up-to-date. Thank you.

More information and **up-to-date** details  
can be found on our website  
[www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](http://www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)

***Cover photo: Advent/Christmas/New Year at St Mary's.***

*The editor reserves the right to omit or edit contributions.  
Items may have to be reserved for future issues.*

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

## From the Registers

### Baptism

November 19<sup>th</sup> Alice Warren

### Weddings

October 6<sup>th</sup> Aimee Davies to Steven Smith

November 4<sup>th</sup> Hollie Plimmer to Mark Lawrie

### No Funerals

## Is This a Record?

Carole MacBride reports that all weddings this year were 'dry'. By that she meant that no bride in 2017 had to arrive at or leave the church in the rain!

Sadly, Carole won't guarantee that this will continue into 2018.

When emailing articles for inclusion in 'In Touch' it would be very helpful if you could use the following formats:

Paper size: A4; Portrait.

Photographs: JPG format (Separately & Hi-Res if poss.)

**Main Headings: Arial Font, 22 point, Normal.**

**Sub Headings: Arial Font, 16 point, Bold.**

Body Text: Arial Font, 16 point, Normal.

This is so that the text is readable when reduced to an A5 booklet in the printing process. Thank you.

**Please submit articles to:  
intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk**



## Advent – Our Travelling Crib

December is the start of the Holy Family's journey round our congregation.

Would you like to welcome them into your home?

The travellers are welcomed at your door. The Nativity set is unpacked inside your home, with candles, readings and prayers.



The Holy Family would like to visit you. The crib set is passed from home to home each day, staying with you overnight.

Some people find travelling to a strange place daunting, especially after dark. I would be very grateful if some people could offer a lift to those who find this difficult.

With thanks,

*Rosie Mann*



"The rector's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."

## Modern Advent

### (Some thoughts given in St Mary's on Advent Sunday 2017)

Interviewer 1: It's ten thirty, and here is Today in Palestine with Stephanie Flounders and John Humbug. First the news headlines:

Interviewer 2: A case of dangerous driving on the Jerusalem by-pass has been reported. Witnesses said a camel speeding at over 200 kilocubits per hour was seen. Unconfirmed rumours were that it had something to do with a forgotten sermon.

Interviewer 1: And the latest on sport. The Roman Imperial Bunjy jumping championships are in full swing here in Jerusalem. Today's star has been a competitor from Britannia, Dalmation, who has been jumping off the tower at Siloam.

Interviewer 2: And now today's main story. There are growing rumours of a possible Messiah, and the Palestine Broadcasting Company's astrologers report that a new star is about to appear. Over to you John...

Interviewer 1: We have two very special guests today, as we have two of the most outspoken speakers of our time with us. We are particularly pleased that His Majesty King Herod has come into the studio today. Good morning, your majesty!

Herod: Good morning. I am glad, as always, to have the opportunity to come before my people and show them what a very excellent king I am. I would like to say....

Interviewer 1: (*interrupting*) Yes, your majesty. We were hoping that you would answer a few questions for us.

Herod: Yes, of course, of course. Would you like me to tell you about my plans for my next Birthday Party?

Interviewer 2: Well, perhaps later. First, we would first like to ask something about the new Temple rebuilding project.

Herod: I am glad you asked about that. I am very proud of this project, which shows how much I do care for all the traditions and hopes of our people. I am sparing nothing to make it the finest temple in the entire third world - I mean developing world.

Interviewer 1: Well, that's just it. Some people have been saying that it is a little on the large size, and that too much is being spent on it, compared with aid to the famine victims in Jericho. And then, there's



your education budget for instance. The headteacher of East Jerusalem High School has written...

Herod: (*interrupting*) Just a minute. I'm not having that. He hasn't said anything to me about it. He probably doesn't know anything about teaching anyway. Standards in education have been falling sharply, and....

Interviewer 2: (*interrupting*) But the reports from the World Bank in Rome are very worrying. They say that projects like this may cause a debt crisis. They also say, "Palestine has been spending too much of its borrowed money on armaments, and is becoming a threat to its neighbours. We think that the number of swords and military camels is now way outside the number required...."

Herod: (*interrupting*) But that's where you're wrong. All my weapons are strictly for internal policing. In no way am I a threat to any of my neighbours.

Interviewer 1: There are also some worrying reports about Human Rights. The United Nations has been worrying about human rights here and respectfully points out that there hasn't been an election in Palestine for some time. We understand that there is some feeling that the people should have a chance to decide on whether to have a new king soon..."

Herod: WHAT! Now you are going a bit far there. I haven't come here to be talked to like this. Who do you think you are anyway? New King indeed. I am the King here, and there isn't going to be any other. You get that straight. All those swords will see to that. And I'm leaving now - if I stay any longer, you're both in danger of having your heads cut off too!

Interviewer 2: Thank you so much your Majesty, of course we really do appreciate that there just couldn't be a better king. We are so glad you could be with us today.

Interviewer 1: We now take you to the Radio Camel somewhere in the wilderness, where our roving reporter James Naughty has just tracked down that rather scruffy prophet John Baptist, who has been saying some remarkable things recently. Are you there James?

Interviewer 3: Yes, here we are on the Radio Camel where we've just tracked down John Baptist on the bank of the Jordan. Mr Baptist, I see you've just finished your breakfast. Is that a special type of wild locust that you've been spreading honey on?

John: I didn't agree to speak on a food programme, unless it's about food for the poor. What about some real questions?

Interviewer 3: Well, you heard what the King was saying. What do *you* think?

John: I think you know my views on King Herod, but I'll tell you again. He is an unprincipled sinner who has done all sorts of terrible things in the palace and out, persecuting anyone who cares about peace and justice in this land or anywhere else. He talks about God's temple and how wonderful he is to tidy it up with other people's money. He should be talking more about God's Kingdom...

Interviewer 3: (*interrupting*) I think you're on dangerous ground there. You know how touchy he is about any idea that there might be another king...

John: (*interrupting*) Well, he's got a lot to learn about what power is really for. No one looking at the way he treats people can doubt that we need a really new start here. Have you seen how many homeless there are in Jerusalem? And all those flashy swords and chariots that have just come in. Where's the money coming from to pay for them? And that birthday banquet he's planning. Did you know that most of that fancy food comes from Africa, where the workers are driven as slaves and paid about half a denarius a day?

Interviewer 3: But we all know that this isn't a perfect world, and most of us can't do anything about it, so aren't you wasting your breath? And do you really think that there's anything in this new king idea?

John: Well, I'll tell you that there is. Someone who does care about God's Law and God's people is coming. But let me tell you something else. There is something we can all do, and you people who run the PBC could do more than most if you'd only lift a finger.

Interviewer 3: And what's that?

John: It's called "Changing the Rules" or in one word, "repentance". We only put up with all this cruelty because we are taking part in it ourselves. All of us just put up with slavery and poverty and suffering because we just don't care. The new King is coming to help us care more, but you could start right now. How about being baptized?

Interviewer 3: Well, I'm afraid that's all we have time for today, it's back to the studio in Jerusalem now....

**Bob Gould**

## Mary's Meals at St Mary's

Jane and I set off for a holiday in Northumberland in May 2007. We are normally anxious to get to our destination, but that day we really wanted to go to an African Fair which was being held at Old St Pauls' in Edinburgh. The opening speech by Sir Tom Farmer made a lasting impression on us. He had just returned from Malawi, and had visited a school there one lunch time. All the children were lining up to get their mugs filled with porridge. One little boy carefully spooned half his porridge into an old plastic bag, which he put in his pocket before eating the rest of his lunch. He was taking it home for his younger brother who was too young to come to school and otherwise wouldn't have had anything to eat. The porridge was provided by a charity called Mary's Meals.

We wanted to find out more. That autumn a few of us, including Janet and Deryck, went to hear Magnus Macfarlane Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals, speak in Edinburgh and we heard how Mary's Meals was working with local volunteers to feed 200,000 children every day in school in Malawi. It was a simple idea which really appealed to us. We knew that even a small amount of money could make a difference to children like these. The Vestry agreed for us to collect small change and that's when the demijohns appeared. Geoff has done a great job banking the money ever since.

We were asked to give a short talk about Mary's Meals at the AGM that year. Mary's Meals was looking for sponsors for kitchens in some of the schools in their expanding programme in Malawi. We suggested that raising the £6,000 needed for a kitchen might become the main focus of our charitable giving for the year to come. The AGM was very supportive, and before we knew it the Vestry agreed to donate the full amount.

It would be a few months before the kitchen was built, and we thought it would be good to have something tangible to show for the donation. On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007, 13 of us set off for Mary's Meals headquarters in Dalmally (although one driver was surprised not to be driving to Dalmeny) with a big cheque. We handed this over outside Magnus' office, still the headquarters of this global charity, and featured in Magnus' book, "The Shed that Fed a Million

Children.” Feeding at Dole Primary School started in the spring of 2008.

### **What does Mary's Meals do?**

Mary's Meals started in Malawi in 2002 and works with local people to provide a simple meal in school. Many children don't go to school because they don't know where the next meal is coming from. Few children make it to the top primary classes and the ones that do are often 15 or 16 years old by then. A mug of porridge makes all the difference. School roles increase by an average of 30% when feeding starts. Children who have the food are able to concentrate on their lessons and they aren't off sick so often. A mug of Phala (maize porridge with soya and vitamins) at school not only gives a child the food they need to grow properly but also the chance of an education and the dream of a better life.

### **Dole Primary School, Mchinji, Malawi.**



Mary's Meals certainly has made a difference at Dole Primary. There were 600 children there in 2008, 118 of

them in standard 1 but only 19 in standard 8. At the beginning of this year there were 1,312 learners, 641 boys and 671 girls, with 22 teachers. More children there now complete their schooling, pass their exams and go on to secondary school. There are still only 7 classrooms. Many lessons have to take place in the open air, with the kitchen doubling as a classroom when the lunch has been tidied away.

Lazaro Sankhulani, 11, is in standard 3 at Dole Primary. He said, “I am happy when I eat Phala here at school. It gives me the knowledge in a sense that I am able to concentrate well in class after I have eaten. I write perfectly too and listen attentively to the teacher. My mother has passed away so our father works to provide for us. When I am older I would like to be a teacher.” The porridge has given him stability even when times are hard, and he has hope for the future.

*Continued...*

## Mary's Meals in 2017

Mary's Meals recently announced that a billion meals have been served since 2002. In April this year 928,000 children in Malawi alone received a meal each day, 29% of the primary school children there. That number is already out of date.

In all, 1,230,171 children now receive Mary's Meals in 14 countries, including in Liberia, Zambia, Kenya, South Sudan and Haiti. 1,500 children in Lebanon and a similar number in 6 schools in Aleppo in Syria have recently joined the Mary's Meals family. We will soon start feeding in schools in Tigray, a place familiar from Live Aid in the 1980's. Magnus went there recently. 15-year-old Dawit told him that he got up at 5am to have a quick breakfast before the 3 hour walk to school. He got home at 7 at night. There was no food at school during the day. The children sat quietly in the playground, a playground where nobody had the energy to play, in a lunch break where there was no lunch. That should soon change.



*Dawit*

## The Challenge

Mary's Meals' vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education, and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.

Achieving this is a huge challenge. Worldwide, 61 million children of school age don't go to school, 2.7 million as of a result of the Syrian conflict. The work has only just started. Fortunately, people all over the world are sharing what they can and Mary's Meals continues to grow.

## "Double the Love"

Two anonymous donors and the Postcode Lottery felt so strongly that Mary's Meals needed to feed more children that they have offered to match all new UK donations in November and December up to £1.9 million. It costs £13.90 to feed a child for a whole year at school so with £1.9 million we could feed nearly 275,000 more children. If you have even a little more than you need, please help.

*John Helliwell*     [www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org)



## “Double the Love”

Referring to John Helliwell’s last paragraph, the Vestry have agreed that there will be a retiring collection for Mary’s Meals after Sung Eucharist on the first two Sundays in Advent, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December.



### Prayer for Mary’s Meals

Our Father

give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all.

Let us help You fill the starving with good things,  
not with scraps from our table.

Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep.

Clothe us with Your love

that we may complete each good work you created us to do.

Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child  
and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more.

Amen

## A Prayer Request

*From ‘The Communicant – News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh’*



The Reverend Tim Tunley, one of our diocesan clergy, is currently on board MY Phoenix *[Ed: 40M fishing boat]*, taking aid to the Myanmar refugees in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. After picking up relief supplies in Sri Lanka he headed to Bangladesh to set up an offshore clinic at Coxs Bazaar at the refugee camp. They are in front of a tropical storm and, at one point, the ship was put into lock down as pirates and bandits were operating in the area. Last Sunday night he celebrated Eucharist for the crew. He has asked for prayers for the refugees in the camp, and for MOAS *[Ed: Migrant Offshore Aid Station]* – the sister charity to the Mission to Seafarers, which is running the first aid post in the refugee camp. Thank you

## Congratulations x 2!

Our congratulations to Rosie Fyfe who was confirmed by Bishop John at St Mary's on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.



Our congratulations to Carole MacBride who was presented with the St Cuthbert Award for outstanding service to the church, by Bishop John at the same service.



## All Foodbanks, Great and Small

And they are wonderful too, but how wise they are is a matter we'll discuss below! It's hard to estimate accurately the number of places in Edinburgh which distribute food, just as it is difficult to say just what constitutes a food bank. But the number of places that distribute mainly non-perishable food to be taken away to prepare meals at "home" is certainly larger than 50, the good majority being run by Churches and other Christian organisations. St Mary's donates to one of the smallest, the Community Food Initiative at St Salvador's, Stenhouse, open on Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. This is very much a local community effort, where visitors are welcomed with a cup of tea, given appropriate food for their needs, and encouraged to stay for a chat. Since it began in 2008, several hundred people have been helped. For more information, see <http://stsalvadors.org.uk/>

At the other end, so to speak, I work in a busy "distribution centre" in the city centre, now housed at St Columba's by the Castle. We are part of a group of three centres, each open twice per week, and our centre sees about 100 people a month. As part of the Trussell Trust network, we distribute food to



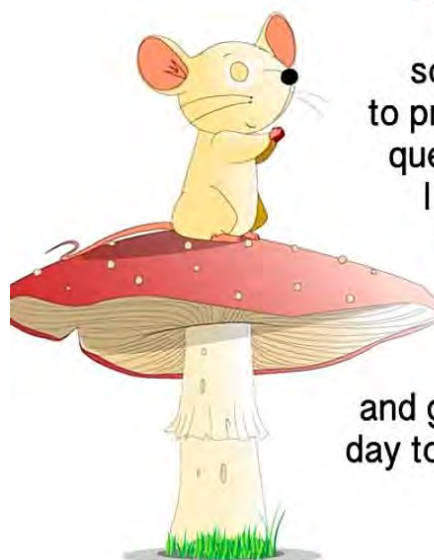
people referred to us by agencies and social workers; about half of ours are referred by the Scottish Welfare Fund at the City Chambers. Our organisation is complex, but at the local level, we are surprisingly like St Salvador's. We try to give people the food they need, and the majority of them gladly stop for tea and a chat. In every case, we hope that we are giving a "hand-up" rather than a "hand-out". Our centre is ecumenically run, most of the volunteers being drawn from St Columba's, the Roman Catholic Society of St Vincent de Paul, and the Quaker Meeting. Food is collected from many churches and schools as well as collections in local supermarkets and sorted and organised at the warehouse in Broomhouse, serving eight centres in different parts of the city. Our centre has had 3400 visitors since we started in 2014, the average number of visits per person in a six-month period being less than 1.5. For more information about us, see <https://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk/>

Why do people come, and why do we have food banks? These questions are often asked. The simple answer, and for many a sufficient one, is that people need food! Getting to a deeper level is more difficult. Particularly since the financial crash in 2008, levels of poverty have increased, and the complexity of the benefits system has increased with them.

The Trussell Trust operates a referral system, so anyone that we see has in principle had their needs confirmed by a professional agency which has talked with them. This means that the statistics we produce are not our own, but very largely dependent on employees of the Scottish Government or Edinburgh City Council. The commonest reason for a referral is simply “low income”. In addition, about 25% of those referred are having trouble in some way with benefits. Given the limitations on charities engaging in what may be called “political activity”, the Trussell Trust does its best to emphasise the situation that makes the use of foodbanks so widespread.

Do we have scroungers? Of course we do. They must be at least one-half of one percent of all the people we see. Some of them are at least entertaining. It was obvious that one pair, who came in pretending to be separate, actually had some connection. He told us that she was his aunt, while she said he was her brother-in-law. Work that one out! The obvious need of the huge majority of the people we see is quite evident. But we all hope to be put out of business! We believe that the need for food banks should and must diminish; the next stage is to shift our enthusiastic supporters into other voluntary work. It will be there and they will be needed!

*Bob Gould*



**Dear God,**  
 I know that I'm not  
 perfect, I know  
 sometimes I forget  
 to pray, I know I have  
 questioned my faith,  
 I know sometimes  
 I lose my temper,  
 but thank you  
 for loving me  
 unconditionally  
 and giving me another  
 day to start over again.

## Sunday (and other) Readings:

<b>Year B Eucharist</b>	<b>(Year B2 for Morning Prayer)</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
3 December	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 64: 1-9
10 December	Advent 2	Isaiah 40: 1-11
17 December	Advent 3	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
24 December 10:30 am	Advent 4	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
31 December	Christmas 1 or Naming of Jesus	Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3 Numbers 6: 22-27
7 January 2018	Epiphany or Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 6: 1-6 Genesis 1: 1-5
14 January	Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)
21 January	Epiphany 3	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
28 January	The Presentation or Epiphany 4	Malachi 3: 1-4 Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
4 February	Epiphany 5	Isaiah 40: 21-31
11 February	Transfiguration or Sunday <small>before</small> Lent	2 Kings 2: 1-12 2 Kings 5: 1-14
14 February	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58: 1-12
18 February	Lent 1	Genesis 9: 8-17
25 February	Lent 2	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

*Please check latest Readings details on our website*



## December 2017 – January 2018

Second Reading	Gospel
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	Mark 13: 24-37
2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Mark 1: 1-8
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Galatians 4: 4-7 Philippians 2: 5-11	Luke 2: 22-40 Luke 2: 15-21
Ephesians 3: 1-12 Acts 19: 1-7	Matthew 2: 1-12 Mark 1: 4-11
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20	John 1: 43-51
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31	Mark 1: 14-20
Hebrews 2: 14-18 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13	Luke 2: 22-40 Luke 4: 21-30
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27	Mark 9: 2-9 Mark 1: 40-45
2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10	Mark 6: 1-6, 16-21
1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9

*Please check latest Readings details on our website*

## Voskresenije

The 10<sup>th</sup> of November saw a crowd gathering for another splendid concert from Voskresenije.

The choir consisted of two Altos, two Sopranos, two Tenors, one Bass and of course Anatoli, the Basso Profundo.

They once more did not disappoint. Having been on the road since arriving in London on 6<sup>th</sup> October they have travelled far and wide over the UK and still show the same wonderful level of performance.

The concert followed its established pattern with sacred music in the first half starting with a piece from Rachmaninov and following this with several less well-known composers.

The second half consisted of folk music which seemed to have a theme of love. One highlight was Vitaly signing My Love is Like a Red Red Rose with excellent Scottish pronunciation.



Anatoli performed his established number of the drinking song, which is always a hit with the audience.

They left on Saturday morning to continue their travels to Aberdeen.

*Margaret Scott*

## 12 x Churches!!!!

I would like to share with you some wonderful little episodes of visits planned and unplanned on my holiday with Christine Collingwood to Australia/New Zealand. We managed, after arriving very early in Sydney on Sunday morning, to walk to St. Andrew's Cathedral. The Service was led by the Dean and Associate Minister and involved young children who went off to Sunday School. The Clergy were not wearing their vestments and the Service was very short. Why??? It was Fathers' Day and they were off to play football with the Sunday School.



Every day, when we left our accommodation, we walked past St. Peter's Julian Catholic Church. The entrance was right on the pavement level and through the glass doors it looked so inviting. First attempt, there was a Service in progress, next time the doors were firmly shut, next time we made it!! Very bright and modern having been recently renovated. A picture in the Lady Chapel drew us to look – it was not a painting but a most beautifully produced mosaic of Madonna holding Christ Child made with gently coloured tiny tiles. Attached to the Church is the Monastery where Priest and Brothers live. Being in Sydney's Chinatown they

have one Service each Sunday for the Chinese.

We found the "Garrison Church" with its history. In the early 1800s the British Army was stationed nearby and attended the local St. Phillip's. Plans were made to build a larger church in a prominent position high on a rocky outcrop near the harbour and to hold 600 people. By the time it was finished the Army had given up having Morning Prayers with the troops!!!

Christ Church of St. Laurence called us to visit as Deryck's middle name is Laurence and spelt the same way. We found an unusual Icon – the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, but two heads had the



face of Desmond Tutu and the Minister. The Icon was the work of a local Artist.

Next, we were in Wellington, New Zealand and St. Paul's Cathedral was within walking distance. Yes, once again a familiar format but what a strange arrangement. Choir, Clergy sitting on normal chairs with the Altar in the main body of the church. Discovered later there had been a bad



earthquake in November 2016 and a lot of organ pipes landed on the floor, also part of the building did not come up to earthquake safety standards.



*Old St. Paul's Interior*

Nearby was Old St. Paul's. A most beautiful wooden building showing the craftsmanship of the early settlers using native timbers. Next door was the original Bishops Court a

typical large wooden Victorian home.

By ferry across to the South Island. Driving through Nelson (named after Admiral Nelson) we were faced with a long flight of steps leading to Christ Church, the Anglican Cathedral. After the steps a long path with many flowering shrubs and borders of white Arum (Canna) lilies



leading us to the main entrance. What a wonderful position with views over the City to the sea and hills. Lo and behold the bin lorry arrived reversing up to the front entrance!

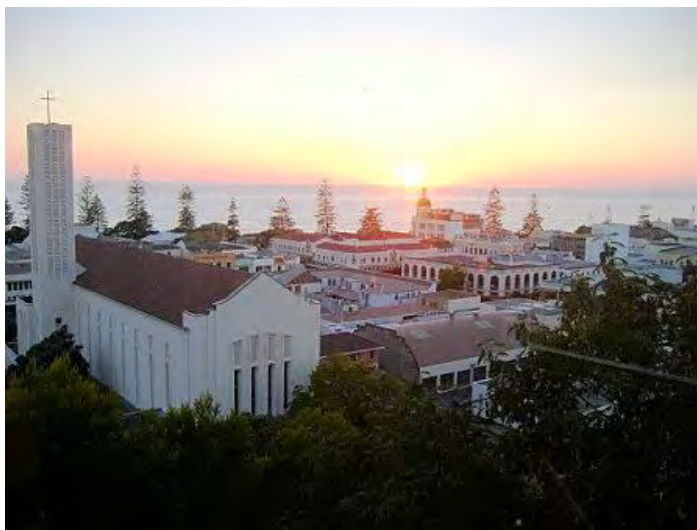


A most spectacular drive of hairpin bends and wonderful scenery of hills and sea to the village of Collingwood. At one time it was planned to be an administrative town so was named after Admiral Collingwood, a leader in Nelson's Fleet. High on a hill was the little wooden St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, with

a beautiful view of the sea and hills.

Back to the North Island and on to Napier, my home town. On Sunday went to Waiapu Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. A temporary

wooden building since 1931 had been replaced and dedicated in 1964. Modern and bright, also using Maori crafts of wood carvings and woven wall hangings. Because of being near the date line it is the first Cathedral in the world to greet each new day. At the usual coffee after the Service



I was chatting to senior citizens who knew an ex-choir member who as a little boy was in our neighbourhood play gang.



In my wanderings down "memory lane" near home we came to Ormond Chapel. It once was a boys' school, but became too small so the wooden building was given to the Cathedral and re-erected near the local hospital to provide Services for staff, patients and the locals. It was my first Sunday School for a



few years. The hospital has gone to a larger area, but the Chapel is still under the care of St. John's with fortnightly services.



Went to the evening Service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Sally the Minister made us very welcome. Just before the service began a gentleman arrived and was introduced to us. He was asked if he remembered me. "Yes", he said, "and she ran away". We were both involved in Sunday School and Bible Class for many years. After the Service we were taken into the Church to see the new extension and the large Iona Cross made with glass and set into the wall, letting in shafts of light. In the 1920/30s a new large Church had been built and all was

ready for dedication on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 1931, but on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> a mighty earthquake and fire destroyed it. We were told about the metal supports recently installed around the present wooden building to bring it up to present day earthquake safety standards.

Meeting with friends in Havelock North, they took us to Iona – a Presbyterian College for girls. A visit to their Chapel we noticed the Dedication stone was laid by Rev George



MacLeod of Iona. Set in the plinth of the Cross was a lump of rock from Iona.



Later in the day our hostess took us to Hastings to visit St. Matthew's Anglican Church where she had been helping with flowers for a recent Civic Service involving Clergy and members of the City Council of the City.

*Blackie*

## Organist's Corner

Programme notes for Advent  
and Christmas

by Alan John Phillips



### Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her

It would not be proper to celebrate Christmas in this Reformation anniversary year without singing Luther's famous Christmas song, well-known in all Lutheran countries, and part of it, as we shall see, in Scotland, too.

The song is based on St. Luke's Gospel, 2:8–18. The first five verses tell of the angels' message to the shepherds. The following verses are an invitation to follow the shepherds to the manger and worship the Christ-child. The last verse is a short doxology wishing all a happy New Year.

It is thought that Martin Luther wrote 'Vom Himmel hoch' in 1534 for the Christmas celebration in his own family circle. It is also likely that Luther had in mind a dramatic representation, with a soloist dressed as an angel, and everyone else dressed as shepherds.

The song was first published as a hymn with all 15 verses in the 'Wittenberg Hymnal' of 1535, with the title '*A children's song on the Nativity of Christ*'. In that publication, the text was coupled to the melody of the then well-known secular song 'Ich kumm aus fremden Landen her' (*'I am from foreign lands'*).

Then, in 1539, the hymn was published with a new melody that was most probably composed by Luther himself. This is the melody now



universally associated with the text, and the one we will sing at the Carol Service (with only eight of the fifteen verses!)

## The Scottish Connection

The 1567 second edition of the 'Gude and Godlie Ballatis' (good and godly ballads) contained a Scots translation of 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her' with the title 'Followis ane sang of the birth of Christ, with the tune of Baw lula low' (*Here follows a song of the birth of Christ, [to be sung] to the tune of Balulalow: cf CH4 297*).

Verses 13 and 14 then took on an independent life as a 'Scottish' lullaby, 'O my deir hart, yung Jesus sweit' (*Oh, my dear heart, young Jesus sweet*). With their newly-acquired 'Scottish' identity, these two verses became known as 'Balulalow'. Peter Warlock set them in 1919, and Benjamin Britten in 'A Ceremony of Carols' (1942). The choir will sing Warlock's setting at the Carol Service.

### 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her'

#### English Translation by Catherine Winkworth (1855)

1. From heaven above to earth I come  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all your earth.
3. 'Tis Christ our God who far on high  
Hath heard your sad and bitter cry;  
Himself will your Salvation be,  
Himself from sin will make you free.
4. He brings those blessings, long ago  
Prepared by God for all below;  
Henceforth His kingdom open stands  
To you, as to the angel bands.
5. These are the tokens ye shall mark,

#### John or Robert Wedderburn in 'The Gude and Godlie Ballatis' (1578 edition as in CH4 297, text in italics added from 1567 edition)

I come from hevin [heich] to tell  
the best nowells that e'er befell.  
To you thir tythings trew I bring  
and I will of them say and sing.

This day to you is born ane Child  
of Marie meik and Virgin mild.  
That blissit bairn bening and kind,  
bening and kind,  
sall you rejoyce baith hart and mind.

*It is the Lord, Christ, God and Man,  
He will do for zow quhat he can:  
Him self zour Sauour will be,  
Fra sin and hell, to mak zow fre.*

*He is zour rucht Saluatioun,  
From euerlasting Dampnatioun:  
That ze may Ring in gloir and blis,  
For euer mair in heuin with his.*

*Ze sall him find, but mark or wying,*

The swaddling clothes and manger dark;  
There shall ye find the young child laid,  
By whom the heavens and earth were  
made.

6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer  
Follow the shepherds, and draw near  
To see this wondrous gift of God  
Who hath His only Son bestowed.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine  
eyes!

Who is it in yon manger lies?  
Who is this child so young and fair?  
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble guest,  
Through whom e'en wicked men are  
blest!

Thou com'st to share our misery,  
What can we render, Lord, to Thee!

9. Ah, Lord, who hast created all,  
How hast Thou made Thee weak and  
small,

That Thou must choose Thy infant bed  
Where ass and ox but lately fed!

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare,  
She yet were far too poor to be  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

11. For velvets soft and silken stuff  
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,  
Whereon Thou King, so rich and great,  
As 'twere Thy heaven, art throned in  
state.

12. Thus hath it pleased Thee to make  
plain

The truth to us poor fools and vain,  
That this world's honour, wealth and  
might

Are nought and worthless in Thy sight.

13. Ah! dearest Jesus, Holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

14. My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep;  
I too must sing with joyful tongue

*Full sempill in ane Cribbe lying:  
Sa lyis he quhilk zow hes wrocht,  
And all this warld maid of nocht.*

*Lat us rejoyis now and be blyth  
and with the Hyrdis go full swyth  
and see what Godis grace hes done  
throu Christ to bring us to his throne.*

*My saull and life stand up and see  
wha lyis in ane cribbe of tree.  
What Babe is that, sa gude and fair? sa  
gude and fair?  
It is Christ, Godis Son and Air.*

*Welcome now, gracious God of mycht,  
To sinnaris vyle, pure and vnricht.  
Thow come to saif vs from distres,  
How can we thank thy gentilnes?*

*O God that maid all Creature,  
How art thow now becumit sa pure,  
That on the hay and stray will ly,  
Amang the Assis, Oxin and Ky?*

*And war the warld ten times sa wide  
cled ouer with gold and stanes of pride  
unworthie yit it were to thee,  
under they feet ane stule to be.*

*The silk and sandell thee to eis  
ar hay and sempill sweilling clais  
wharin thou gloris greitest King  
as thou in hev'n war in thy ring.*

*Thow tuke sic panis temporall,  
To mak me ryche perpetuall.  
For all this warldis welth and gude,  
Can na thing ryche thy celsitude.*

O my deir hart, yung Jesus sweit  
prepair thy creddill in my spreit!  
And I sall rock thee in my hart  
and never mair fra thee depart.

Bot I sall praise thee evermoir  
with sangis sweit unto thy gloir.  
The kneis of my hart sall I bow,



That sweetest ancient cradle-song.	and sing that rycht Balulalow.
15. Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad New Year to all the earth.	<i>Gloir be to God Eternallie, Quhilk gaif his onlie Sone for me: The angellis Joyis for to heir, The gracious gift of this new Zeir.</i>

## Organ Music for December and January

### Sunday 3 December – Advent 1

Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659) - Bach  
 Communion: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - Buxtehude  
 Postlude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645) – Bach

### Sunday 10 December – Advent 2

Prelude: Comfort ye / Every valley ('Messiah') - Handel  
 Communion: He shall feed his flock ('Messiah') - Handel  
 Postlude: And the glory of the Lord ('Messiah') – Handel

### Carol Service

*Organ music before the service:*

This endris nyght – Healey Willan  
 Prelude on 'The holly and the ivy' – Herbert Sumsion  
 Walking in the air ('The Snowman') – Howard Blake  
 Three versets on 'Away in a manger' – Mark Blatchly  
 Prelude on 'O little town' – Gordon Phillips  
 Postlude: In dulci jubilo (BWV 729) – Bach

### Sunday 17 December – Advent 3

Prelude: Gloria tibi Trinitas – John Blitheman (Mulliner Book)  
 Communion: Rejoice in the Lord – Anon (Mulliner Book)  
 Postlude: La bounette / La doune cella – Anon (Mulliner Book)

### Sunday 24 December – Advent 4

Prelude: Cradle Song – Henry Ley  
 Communion: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen - Brahms  
 Postlude: Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel' – Andrew Carter

### Midnight Mass

Prelude: Sinfonia ('Christmas Oratorio') – J.S. Bach  
 Communion: Schlafe, mein Liebster ('Christmas Oratorio') - Bach  
 Postlude: Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her – Pachelbel



### **Sunday 31 December – Christmas 1**

Prelude: The Holy Boy – John Ireland

Communion: Interlude on the Coventry Carol – W.S. Lloyd Webber

Postlude: In dulci jubilo (BuxWV 197) - Buxtehude

### **Sunday 7 January – Epiphany / Baptism of Christ**

Prelude: Prelude on 'Greensleeves' – Richard Purvis

Communion: Whence is that goodly fragrance? – Harrison Oxley

Postlude: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern - Buxtehude

### **Sunday 14 January – Epiphany 2**

Prelude: Holsworthy Church Bells – Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Communion: 'Air and Gavotte' – Samuel Wesley

Postlude: Impromptu no.1 in F – Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

### **Sunday 21 January – Epiphany 3**

Prelude: Voluntary III – John Bennett

Communion: Introduction in B flat – Charles Burney

Postlude: Voluntary VIII – John Bennett

### **Sunday 28 January – Epiphany 4**

Prelude: Piece XI – John Keeble

Communion: Voluntary in F minor – Thomas Roseingrave

Postlude: Piece XIV – John Keeble



## Diary of Events: December 2017 – January 2018

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sun 3 Dec <b>Advent Sunday</b>	8:55 am 10:00 am 10:30 am At coffee At coffee	Church Church Church Hall Hall	Choir Practice Morning Prayer Sung Eucharist Collection of groceries/toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank Fairtrade Stall
Mon 4 Dec	7:30 pm	Hall	Vestry Meeting
Wed 6 Dec	11:00 am	Hall	Said Eucharist
Sun 10 Dec Advent 2	8:55 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 3:30 pm	Church Church Church Church	Choir Practice (Last for 2017) Morning Prayer Sung Eucharist Carol Service
Details of Christmas Services are also on the page 39			
Wed 13 Dec	11:00 am Noon	Hall Hall	Said Eucharist Dalmations – Christmas Party
Thursday 14 Dec	7:30 pm	Church	The Institution of Revd Christine Downey as Rector of St Mary's
Sun 17 Dec Advent 3	8:55 am 10:00 am 10:30 am At coffee	Church Church Church Hall	Choir Practice Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist Fairtrade Stall

*For the latest information see our website [www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](http://www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)*

## Diary of Events (continued)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Wed 20 Dec	11:00 pm	Hall	Said Eucharist
Sun 24 Dec Advent 4	10:00 am	Church	Morning Prayer
Christmas Eve	10:30 am	Church	Sung Eucharist
	11:30 pm	Church	Midnight Sung Eucharist and Blessing of the Crib
Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day	10:30 am	Church	Christmas Family Eucharist
Wed 27 Dec			No Said Eucharist today
Sun 31 Dec Christmas 1	10:00 am	Church	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	Church	Sung Eucharist
Wed 3 Jan	11:00 am	Hall	Said Eucharist
Sun 7 Jan Epiphany 1	10:00 am	Church	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	Church	Sung Eucharist
	At coffee	Hall	Collection of groceries/toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank
	At coffee	Hall	Fairtrade Stall
Mon 8 Jan	7:30 pm	Hall	Vestry Meeting
Wed 10 Jan	11:00 am	Hall	Said Eucharist

*For the latest information see our website [www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](http://www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)*

## Diary of Events (continued)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sun 14 Jan Epiphany 2	10:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Church Church Hall	Morning Prayer Sung Eucharist Sunday Circle resumes
Wed 17 Jan	11:00 am	Hall	Said Eucharist
Sun 21 Jan Epiphany 3	10:00 am 10:30 am At coffee	Church Church Hall	Morning Prayer Sung Eucharist Fairtrade stall
Wed 24 Jan	11:00 am	Hall	Said Eucharist
Sun 28 Jan	8:55 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Church Church Church	Choir Practice resumes Morning Prayer Sung Eucharist
Wed 31 Jan	11:00 am Noon	Hall Hall	Said Eucharist Dalmations – A Fun Day to fill the winter gloom

*For the latest information see our website [www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](http://www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)*

## Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



## Stop Press! Welcome!

At St Mary's Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> November the following people were elected to the Vestry:

Secretary	Rosie Fyfe
Treasurer	Gavin Craig (already a Vestry Member)
Lay Representative	Ted Tracey-Bower
Alternate Lay Rep.*	Rosie Mann
Vestry Member	Rona Finlayson
Vestry Member	Douglas Walker

*\*As previously reported, Canon 63 of the Scottish Episcopal Church (Of the Office of Lay Representatives) has been amended such that the Alternate Lay Representative is now an ex-officio member of the Vestry and it was agreed at the AGM that St Mary's Constitution should be amended to reflect this.*





## Christmas Humour

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking: 'Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?'

\*\*\*

I've just got home and found all the windows and doors open and everything has gone.

What kind of sick twisted person does that to someone's Advent calendar?

\*\*\*

A minister asked his Bible class: 'Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?'

A student replied: 'Because his mother was there.'

\*\*\*

What goes red white red white red white?  
Santa rolling down a hill.

\*\*\*

For weeks, as Christmas approached, a six-year old lad kept telling his school teacher about the baby brother that was also soon expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he immediately stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

As the school was about to close for Christmas, the teacher finally sat the boy down and gently asked: 'Whatever has become of that baby brother you were expecting at home?' The child burst into tears and confessed: 'I think Mummy ate it!'

\*\*\*

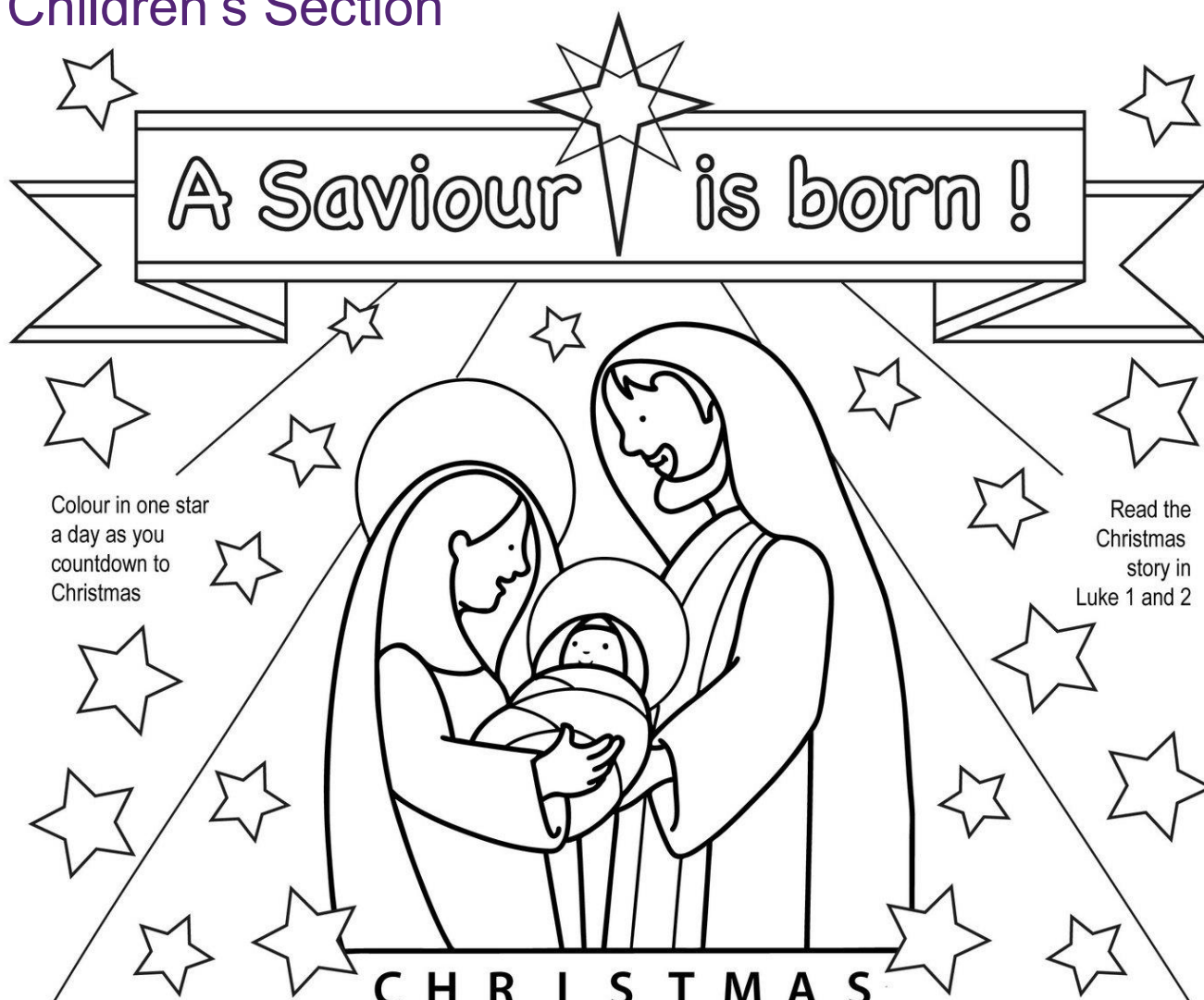
A very gracious lady was posting a Bible to her brother as a Christmas present. 'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the Post Office counter clerk.

The lady thought for a moment, then replied: 'Only the Ten Commandments.'

\*\*\*

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

# Children's Section



Colour in one star  
a day as you  
countdown to  
Christmas

Read the  
Christmas  
story in  
Luke 1 and 2

CHRISTMAS  
BABYTHOLYJUDEARTH  
BJPEACESONOFLOCKPUS  
ROFIELDEGASHEPHERDS  
IYONBORNNOZEGMARYAAA  
NMRNATOZOAPAAALIRIVV  
GODSCHILDRHLNASOSII  
LJESUSHONELIGHTOEDO  
OGUARDIBETHLEHEMZSU  
RSLSHEEPWHYERLORDOR  
YNNANGELSBHEAVENAME

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID  
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING  
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT  
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

Dec17 © deborah noble

## Who's Who (continued from Page 2)

### Vestry

Secretary	Rosie Fyfe	07951 126684 secretary@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Treasurer	Gavin Craig	01506 891538 treasurer@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Rector's Warden	Alan Coupe	0131 449 4196
People's Warden	Caroline Gunn	0131 443 4059
Lay Representative	Ted Tracey-Bower	0131 449 5312
Alt. Lay Representative	Rosie Mann	0131 442 1340
	Geoff Angell	0131 315 2639
	Rona Finlayson	01324 559301
	Carole MacBride	01506 857309
	Jane Russell	0131 441 2346
	Douglas Walker	TBA

### Altar Guild

Co-ordinator	Denis King	01506 873061
	Mavis Blackwell	0131 449 4711
	Rona Finlayson	01324 559301
	Val Lawrie	0131 333 1718

### Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator

Caroline Gunn      0131 443 4059  
protection@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

### Covenants Secretary

Geoff Angell      0131 315 2639

### Fabric Co-ordinator

Rosemary Procter      0131 333 1756

### Head Server

Denis King      01506 873061

### Hall Bookings

Paula McCall      0131 333 1683  
admin@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

## Pastoral Visitors

Lois May Donaldson	0131 449 4279
Janice Goodfellow	01506 495082
Irena Grigolava	07796 305789
Derek & Ella Henderson	0131 449 2262
Margaret Hunter	01506 410761
Denis King	01506 873061
Margaret King	01506 442549
Carole MacBride	01506 857309
Olive Metcalfe	01506 204185
Rosemary Procter	0131 3331756
Jane Russell	0131 441 2346
Claire Starr	0131 449 3045

## Sunday Stewards

First Sunday	Richmond Davies	01506 652343
Second Sunday	Wilma Brown	01506 440292
Third Sunday	Irena Grigolava	07796 305789
Fourth Sunday	Jane Russell	0131 441 2346
Fifth Sunday	Alan Coupe	0131 449 4196

## Transport

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

## Postal Address

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



## Prayer Chain

Myrtle Burnett	0131 449 2760
Margaret Donaldson	01506 466522
Janet Dyer	0131 449 3767
Rona Finlayson	01324 559301
John & Claire Starr	0131 449 3045

## 'In Touch' Editor

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	01555 663910

## Website Administration

John Blaber	webmaster@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
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## Service Times

Sunday	Morning Prayer	10:00 am
	Sung Eucharist	10:30 am
Last Sunday of month	Evening Prayer	6:30 pm
Wednesday	Said Eucharist	11:00 am

## Church Open Times

Monday & Friday – 9:30 am to 10:00 am for quiet reflection and prayer.

Wednesdays – 11:30 am to 12:30 pm following the 11:00 am service.

Saturdays – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from beginning of May to the end of September except during Wedding ceremonies.

**Copy date for the February – March  
Issue is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**



## Christmas Services – 2017

Sunday 10:30 am **Sung Eucharist** for the  
10th December 2nd Sunday in Advent  
3:30 pm **Carol Service**



Wednesday 11:00 am **Said Eucharist** followed by  
13th December **Dalmations**  
**'Looking Forward to Christmas'**  
Words, music & buffet lunch

Sunday 10:30 am **Sung Eucharist** for the  
17th December 3rd Sunday in Advent  
with our new Rector,  
Revd Christine Downey



Sunday 10:30 am **Sung Eucharist** for the  
24th December 4th Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Eve 11:30 pm **Midnight Sung Eucharist**  
and **Blessing of the Crib**

All are invited to join us in welcoming-in  
**Christmas Day**



Christmas Day 10:30 am **Christmas Family Eucharist**  
Monday (The Nativity of Our Lord)  
25th December



**We wish you all a very joyful Christmas**