



In Touch

The Magazine of St Mary's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Dalmahoy

August – September 2013

www.stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

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A note from Deryck

As I write I am following through the initial discernment and now approaching individuals to serve on a new Ministry Leadership Team. The response of the congregation in seeking appropriate persons has been tremendous; it is a humbling experience and a joy to be part of.

I have just received the new Guidelines on Accessibility and Inclusion from General Synod. These are primarily directed at our openness to people with disabilities and additional needs, but really reflect good practice that should enhance the life and ministry of any congregation for *all* people of all abilities.

At the heart of the Guidelines is the principle of valuing every person as being loved equally as a child of God: “we have a responsibility to support and encourage everyone to participate fully in the life of our faith community. This means that we all have a responsibility to build an inclusive church in which people of all abilities and at different stages in their faith journey are empowered to be active in all levels of the church.”

That, to me, would make a pretty good ‘mission statement’ for a leadership team within a congregation. My hope is that this exercise is becoming more about participation and inclusivity – we are all challenged and at different stages of journeys in a variety of ways and we bear with one another as we travel.

May what we do together be strengthened and the support we offer to one another in the diversity of our wider ministries on behalf of the church, on all levels and all stages of journeys.

By the time this magazine is distributed we may have a Team named and be looking towards its formal inauguration at St Mary’s tide in September. Please pray for the *whole* church as well as individuals as we find our way on this road together.

With my love and prayers
Deryck

From the editors

The editors apologise for omitting two articles from the last issue, one about the latest website was included as an insert, but to make sure this has been seen, it is included on page 26 of this issue. The other omission was also an article by John Blaber – who has been assured this was not personal! – and this was about visitors playing our organ and is on page 30.

Lots of interesting articles in this issue, with a fair number about music, stressing how important a part of worship this is. As always, thanks to all our contributors – we couldn't exist without you.

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

Margaret Scott

Chris Bond

intoucheditors@gmail.com



BBQ

at the Rectory

Saturday 17th August

5.00 – 9.00 pm

Bring a friend!

Please sign the sheet in the hall if you can,
but come anyway, even if you don't!

From the Registers

Baptisms

Jul 7th Amber Louise Skelton

Weddings

Jun 22nd Scott Westworth to Rebecca Jackson
29th Graeme Paterson to Sarah Grieve
Jul 6th Andrew Banks to Sandra Heidet
19th Stuart Mckenzie to Amanda Stewart
20th Alan Sandilands to Lynsey Glassbrook
26th Simon Dodman to Kerry Porter

Renewal of Marriage Vows & Blessing

Jun 30th George and Sun Hansrote
(30th anniversary)

Interment of Ashes

Jul 3rd David Bond
21st Margaret Cox

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Janet – Gold Medal Winner

In the last edition of *In Touch*, we had an article about Janet's life as an artist. As this last issue was going to press, Janet was exhibiting her paintings and drawings at the RHS Garden show at Great Malvern. This involved a great deal of work and preparation, with many strict rules to follow; and elimination if these were not adhered to. The completed pictures were required to be covered with a particular kind of acetate to protect them. Janet could not get hold of this, so she had to substitute another type. On the morning of the hanging day, Janet and Adrian discovered that the acetate had badly wrinkled, one was so bad that the acetate had to be removed and substituted with some clear cellophane which had been used to cover some of the prints. Janet was sure that she would be eliminated by the judges as this disaster surely contravened the rules.

When Janet and Adrian returned to the halls after the judging, Janet found an envelope attached to the start of her display, with hands shaking she found she was to be presented with a prize later that day. She still didn't know what grading she had received, but on going round the corner of the stand to the rest of her work, she found she had won a Gold Medal, and the Best Work in the show! We can only imagine how Janet must have felt at this moment; delight, disbelief, every possible emotion. The chief judge, herself a multiple RHS Gold Medalist, told Janet her work was excellent and explained that the judges understood that there must have been a bit of a catastrophe! However, it did not distract from the work, and that the RHS had requested that the painting of the Giant Hogweed and the accompanying line drawing be purchased for the Lindley Library in Vincent Square in London. The International Hunt Collection in Pittsburgh had also requested a painting. Janet is still unsure about these requests as her paintings are part of a special collection of British Non-Native Plant Invaders and the work is not yet completed and will be continued to be exhibited in 2014.

The rest of the time was wonderful, with many artists starting botanical drawing asking advice on how to proceed with their dream. Janet's advice is never give up, look carefully at what you are portraying, admire it, love it, and continue to work hard and learn from your

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mistakes. Janet sold a number of prints and cards, completely selling out of her flowers of Iona card. Adrian, himself a botanist thoroughly enjoyed himself, was delighted with Janet's success, and loved talking to folk at the stall. By the end of the show, they had both practically lost their voices and spent a welcome rest with Janet's brother before returning home.

Congratulations to Janet, from all connected with St Mary's for her wonderful achievement; we look forward to sharing future success with her.

Chris Bond

Saturday 7th September 2013
Bethany Christian Trust

Walk by the loch
for homelessness

Loch Leven
Kinross

10.5 miles (or 4.5 miles)

A stunning day out to help homeless people

To find out more:

- Visit www.bethanychristiantrust.com
- Call 0131 561 8925
- Email events@bethanychristiantrust.com
- Txt 07968 024686

A Very Special Marriage Ceremony

On Saturday 25th May, the sun was shining brightly. A much better day than it had been just one week earlier. St. Mary's was the marriage venue for a lovely couple, Chad Jeudy-Hugo and Sirini Withani, who currently live and work in Brussels but it was in Edinburgh that they originally met.

However, prior to the church ceremony, another ceremony was held at The Dalmahoy Hotel. Deryck and I had been invited to attend if we were able and we made sure that we were indeed able. This was a Poruwa Siritha, a traditional marriage ceremony derived from both Sri Lankan and Buddhist customs.



Sirini, the bride is of Sri Lankan origins. In Sinhalese, Poruwa refers to an elevated timber platform which is meant to symbolise the entrance to the household of marriage. Clay pots containing coconut flowers and a lit lamp are placed in each corner of the Poruwa to pay respect to the four guardian Deities (Devas). The pots overflow with flowers and represent prosperity.

Prior to the ceremony the Master of Ceremonies (the Kapu Mahatha) throws a betel leaf with a coin to the roof of the Poruwa as a symbolic gesture to invite the Deities to bless the couple.

The Ceremony

Guests are asked to stand to the sound of drums. The bridegroom is escorted to the left side of the Poruwa to the sound of drums. The bride is escorted to the right side of the Poruwa also to the sound of drums.

The Master of Ceremonies pays respect to the Noble Triple Gem (the Lord Buddha, his Teachings, and his Disciples).

The couple then enter the Poruwa to the sound of conch shells and drums. They are each helped by their uncles. They greet each other with their palms held together in the traditional Sri Lankan greeting 'Ayubowan'. (May you have a long life).

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The father of the bride places his daughter's palm on that of the groom- a symbolic gesture of giving his daughter away. The Master of Ceremonies then begins to recite 'Ashtakas' (blessings) in the ancient languages of Sanskrit and Pali interposed with Sinhala to evoke peace, prosperity and fertility for the couple.

The Guests then take their seats.

The Master of Ceremonies hands over individual betel leaves with a coin placed in each to the couple who then drop them to the floor of the Poruwa. This is done with seven leaves to gain the blessings of seven generations of relatives on the side of both the bride and the groom. The pinkie fingers of the bride and groom are tied together with a golden thread which is blessed by the bride's father. The thread symbolises a lasting bond and unity for the couple. Holy water is poured over the tied fingers. The poured water and the ground on which it falls are intended to be the lasting witnesses to the marriage. The couple then exchange rings. The groom ties a gift of a necklace around the bride's neck to show his honour and acceptance of her. He also provides her with the first garment that she will wear as a married woman.

Presents are given to the parents of the bride and groom. The bride's aunt presents a plate of kiri bath (milk rice) to the couple who feed each other in turn. The couple pay respect to their parents and close relatives by offering them betel leaves and asking for their blessings. The 'Jayamangala Gatha' (Stanzas of Victory) is played to bless the couple. There are eight stanzas which are sung in Pali and are drawn from Buddhist scriptures.

The couple then step down from the Poruwa, helped by an uncle of the groom to the sound of drums and chanting. As the couple step down a coconut is broken to ward off evil and bless the couple. The couple light a brass oil lamp to signify the start of a bright, new future together.

A this point, Deryck and I had to head back to the church to make sure that everything was ready for the Christian marriage ceremony. It was then that I realised just how privileged we were to have been asked to attend the Poruwa Ceremony. Guests who had been invited to the church ceremony, but not the Poruwa Ceremony, were already

gathering in and around the church, making the most of the glorious sunshine.

Although the ceremonies both ran approximately half an hour behind schedule, everyone made the most of the chance to get to know each other. Following the ceremony at St. Mary's a reception was held at Kirknewton Stables.



I have been able to view a selection of the professional photographs taken on the day and they are truly amazing. The entry in the church marriage register is also quite unusual and truly international, since the bestman was from Canada and the chief bridesmaid from South Africa. Many of the guests had also travelled from far flung places. I am so glad that Scotland had her sunny face on show that particular weekend

I would like to extend my thanks to Julie Tinton Photography for allowing me to use her photographs to illustrate this article.

Carole MacBride

The Holy Land (East)

David and I booked our May 13 week in Jordan mainly to see the ancient city of Petra. The tour also included other sites, but, until we actually went there, we did not realise how important Jordan is in Christian history.

After a one day visit to the spectacular scenery of Wadi Rum in the south of the country we drove north along the King's Highway to Wadi Musa, the Valley of Moses. Moses' Spring is allegedly where Moses smote the rock which then gushed water for his people. When we left Wadi Rum three days later we passed several Crusader castles, built to defend Christian territory from the Muslim Saladin.

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We went to St George's Greek Church in Madaba, which is famous for the surviving parts of a mosaic map of the region from the Byzantine era. The map shows John the Baptist baptising Jesus on the east bank of the Jordan, just where the river reaches the Dead Sea. Our coach then turned west to Mount Nebo. The top of this rocky hill is reputed to be the spot where Moses first looked over the fertile Jordan Valley – the Promised Land. The fertile valley below the barren hills was indeed an aspect full of promise.

Our coach descended from 890m above to 395m below sea level to our hotel by the Dead Sea. Views were hazy during daylight, but at night we could look over the sea to twinkling lights of Jericho and – high on the hill beyond – Jerusalem, with Ramallah in the distance. We visited the reputed site of Jesus' baptism. As it is by the river it is in a restricted access zone, with our group's movements being watched through Israeli and Jordanian binoculars. We saw a channel leading to the ruins of a chapel where early Christian baptisms were carried out, then moved a few metres to the river itself. It has shrunk considerably in recent years, as water is siphoned off upstream to irrigate the Nablus valley fields. This once mighty river is no wider than the Water of Leith! A gentle flow of muddy green water passes between tall yellow reeds. We looked across to the "far" bank. Steps led down to a wooden paddock in the water, built to safeguard pilgrims carrying out full immersion. An Israeli flag fluttered at the buildings behind. Our guide pointed to low hills 200m away on the Jordanian side, saying that John the Baptist's cave lay over there, but was not yet fully excavated.

As we returned to Scotland we felt privileged to have seen such significant and poignant sites which are central to the Christian heritage. It has spurred us on to read the books on Deryck's list to prepare us for next year's big holiday with St Mary's friends –The Holy Land (West)!

Pat Syme

Craig Lodge

A couple of months ago St. Mary's Vestry decided that some of the money allocated each year to charitable causes be gifted to the work of the Craig Lodge Community.

Craig Lodge Community is a Roman Catholic group made up of families and single people. which welcomes people of all denominations and faiths to their home, Craig Lodge at Dalmally. Members of this community do their best by encouraging each other to live a life based on prayer, service and evangelism. An expression of this is seen in how everyone who comes to Craig Lodge is cared for. Visitors can join in one of the programmed events running throughout the year or just spend a few refreshing days away from their usual routine and surroundings.

Each year a group of around ten young people between 18 and 30 years of age, who come from all over the world, choose to spend a year at Craig Lodge as temporary members of the community. During their time at Craig Lodge they help in all aspects of running the House, leading Daily Prayer and Worship and in the welcome of all who come to stay. They also journey out from there to meet with other young people in schools and youth clubs in the West of Scotland to encourage others of their own age to hear the Christian Gospel. The impression made by these temporary members of the community on visitors is tremendous!

The young people who come to spend a year at Craig Lodge do so for many different reasons. Some come with a desire to eventually enter the ordained ministry or become a member of a religious order.

Some may have been advised that they need time to establish a prayer life and grow in their faith. Others want their new found faith to have a chance to grow stronger in a supportive atmosphere. Many though don't have a clear idea of what God is calling them to be or do. Their time at Craig Lodge is vital and valuable in helping them discern their path in life.

There are also permanent members of the community who live independently near Craig Lodge and who join in the prayer and work of the Community as their family or work commitments allow. When

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someone joins the Craig Lodge Community it is a decision that they take believing that it is through community that they are better able to grow in holiness through prayer and conversion of life.

Over more than five years and some ten visits, members of our own congregation have had the chance to visit this beautiful part of Argyll. In that time we have got to know members of the Craig Lodge Community and been deeply moved by the welcome and support given so lovingly to all who come to Craig Lodge. It is very good that we as a congregation can in our turn give a little support towards the valuable work undertaken there!

If you would like to come to Craig Lodge for a two or three nights stay, a group from St. Mary's will be visiting 9-12 September, 2013 and also next year 19-22 May. (Cost £35.00 per day full board).

Jane Helliwell

“The Vigil” according to John P.

A 4-hour Prayer Vigil was held in St Mary's on Saturday, 29th June. The aim was to prepare the church for the act of nominating at the Eucharist on the following morning those of our number who might become leaders of a proposed Team Ministry at St Mary's. We were to pray and ask for God's guidance on this very important issue. Those who couldn't come were encouraged to pray wherever they were. I couldn't come for the whole time so I planned to be in the church for the first and last hours.

Only a few of us were able to attend the first hour so we started sitting round the altar in the Chancel. Simple prayers for peace, for the recognition of God's presence and thanks for all his benefits were led by Deryck. A candle was lit as we prayed and a Bible was on the table in front for any of us to use. We were invited to pray our own prayers or contribute any Bible passage or anything that seemed relevant. Of particular note was the reading of Mark 11²⁰⁻²⁴ on how we should make our requests to God. Read it for yourself.

A reassuring peace pervaded St Mary's and the time seemed to pass very quickly. During that hour we were joined by others as they could come. It was very sad when most of us left at the end of the first hour but there was at least one who stayed to maintain the Vigil. I felt guilty that I was leaving, though looking back on it, the prayers of those who weren't there, were maintaining it – and so were mine.

On my return, a quarter of an hour earlier than I'd planned, the Car Park was empty and in the semi-darkness I couldn't see any lights in St Mary's. It was an awful shock. Had the Vigil come prematurely to an end?

When I entered the main door I found a very different scene from that which I'd left. There was Deryck in prayer sitting near the front of the nave. There was a deeper sense of peace and warmth. I sat down across the Aisle from Deryck. It wasn't at all difficult to recommence the prayers from where I'd left off.

My attention was attracted by the stark Altar cross obscuring the stained-glass picture of the Crucifixion behind it. The Crucifixion gradually became difficult to see as the darkness deepened outside. A time for tears. Some more people arrived and when the end drew near we joined together for simple prayers and responses. We set out to the blessing and the peace and the love of God whose arms "welcome us, and bring us home. Amen."

John Pelham

16.

A Special Anniversary Weekend



What an amazing break we had and 'thank you very much' does not begin to cover our appreciation of everyone's generosity. We had a very relaxing, peaceful and very happy stay at the Glengarry Castle Hotel in June.

We had a leisurely journey up to Loch Oich, with the most wonderful banks of rhododendron blossom either side of the road. The driveway up to the hotel was a luxuriant green with an archway of foliage a good part of the way.

We were given a very warm welcome and then shown to our room. From the corner window there was a saltire flying dramatically against the backdrop of the Great Glen; the scenery was so special. All the food was superb, the first time Christine has had traditional porridge as good as her granny's. The staff were so very friendly and attentive without being intrusive. We relaxed in the large lounge and library, both with wonderful views of the garden and the loch.

Deryck had always wanted to set foot on Skye. From Glengarry it was quite easy. Deryck says he knew it was Skye because we crossed a big bridge and from there travelled through the cloud. There was nothing else visible except cloud and rain, so it had to be Skye. Away from Skye the weather was lovely!

On the Sunday morning we attended the Parish Church in Invergarry where they had a visiting Lay Preacher. Before starting the service he announced he was using his I-Pad for the first time but assured us that he also had his sermon on paper in case he lost the place!

At the end of the service Christine was amused as the organist enquired 'was that your beautiful voice I heard this morning?', to which she promptly replied with a grin 'I think it must have been another visitor I cannot take credit for that'.

Deryck meanwhile was seeking his own congregation (see photo) who were remarkably receptive. He couldn't, however, persuade them to accompany us on a lovely walk around the falls near their home at Invermoriston.



We cannot recommend the experience highly enough, nor express our gratitude adequately. It was a memorable way to celebrate 10 years amongst this congregation.

With our love and every blessing.
Deryck and Christine.

Voskresenije



Russian Choir Concert

7.30 pm, Fri 1st November

18.

St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dalmahoy



**DR CAROL WILLIAMS
ORGAN CONCERT**

**Monday, 28th October 2013, at
7:30 pm**

**CAROL WILLIAMS IS CIVIC ORGANIST OF SAN DIEGO,
USA
WHERE SHE PRESIDES OVER THE WORLD'S LARGEST
OUTDOOR ORGAN
AND IS ORGANIST AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, SAN DIEGO
MORE INFORMATION ON CAROL WILLIAMS AT
WWW.MELCOT.COM**

Refreshments will be available during the Interval
Entry by **FREE** Pre-booked Tickets, with a Retiring Collection

To order tickets, please send your name, postal address & quantity
required to:

E-mail: tickets@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Telephone: 01555 666905 (voice mail)
Post: Carol's Concert, St Mary's Church Centre, Dalmahoy,
Kirknewton, EH27 8EB

19.

Pray for Peace Vigil

Saturday 7th September 2013 - 6pm to 6am:
St Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Dear Friends
Please join us in prayer.

We are holding a Pray for Peace Vigil on Saturday 7th September. The Vigil will start at 18.00 on the Saturday evening and will continue throughout the night until 6am, when we will celebrate with a dawn Eucharist.

You can pray for as short or as long as you feel comfortable. There will be refreshments available in the hall. At each hour there will be a meditation/ reading/ prayer.

If anyone would like us to pray for anywhere or anyone or even a particular group of people please drop an envelope headed Prayers for peace to the address below before the 7th September or email me at rona.finlayson@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively you may bring the prayers with you on the evening, there will be a basket at the back of the Church.

Please try to spare even just a few minutes on this evening, to pray for peace. We look forward to praying with you.
With Love

Rona Finlayson,
People's Warden

St Mary's Church
Dalmahoy
Kirknewton
EH27 8EB

RSCM Celebration Day – Two Views

- from Mandy Smart

Every year The Royal School of Church Music holds a Service in a different Cathedral around the UK and celebrates the work of RSCM all over the world and the contributions of its members.



This year the Celebration Day was held in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Edinburgh where over 200 singers from churches across Scotland came together to rehearse a wide range of music from Tchaikovsky to Philip Moore and Philip Duffy. They were joined by three leading Scottish Church Choirs: St Mary's Cathedral Choir Edinburgh, RSCM Scottish Voices and a recently formed group called RSCM Young Scottish Voices who sang "I am the Gentle Light" by Paul Mealor.

The day started at around 1pm with the assembled choirs being led in rehearsal by Andrew Reid RSCM Director, Rosemary Field Deputy Director (Education and Voluntary) and Matthew Beetschen Organist of Dunblane Cathedral and Chairman of RSCM Scotland, each of them had their own unique style of helping the assembled choir to connect with the music. After a short coffee break the majority of choirs robed up for the service where the choirs processed up the aisle to take their seats. The service finished with awards presented to RSCM members from around the UK and as far away as South Africa and Australia.

I really enjoyed having the opportunity along with members of our own choir to take part in this Service as our church is a member of RSCM.

21.

- and from Wilma Brown

On Saturday 25th May 2013 - Olive, Jane, Maureen, Mandy, Gillian, Anna, John (Starr) and Wilma went to join other RSCM choirs at the celebration day held at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh. Claire and Marjory came along to give support. John Blaber was very disappointed that he was not able to attend and so were some other choir members who had prior engagements.

John had given up his time to put us through our paces in three extra choir rehearsals ensuring we did our best when representing St Mary's Dalmahoy choir.

It was a beautiful sunny day and we sung with gusto to keep ourselves warm during the rehearsals as it was freezing in the cathedral. Cups of tea and cakes at the break and warmth from the sun outside soon had us rearing to go for the concert.

We all looked very smart in our white tops and shirts and blue scarves and ties and comments were made to us on our smart appearance and goose bumps. The choirs in robes were nice and warm. However when the performance started all that hot air kept us warm, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

After a hard day singing we went to an Italian restaurant and had some small refreshments to lubricate the vocal cords.

A big thank you to John for all the hard work he put in helping us to sing. John once said to me that everybody can sing with some practice.

Some of us now have this singing bug – if anyone hears of any more concerts that we can join, let us know, however the meal and light refreshments also seem to help.

Sunday Readings for

		First Reading
Aug 4	Pentecost 11	Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23
Aug 11	Pentecost 12	Genesis 15: 1-6
Aug 18	Pentecost 13	Jeremiah 23: 23-29
Aug 25	Pentecost 14	Isaiah 58: 9-14
Sep 1	Pentecost 15	Ecclesiasticus 10: 12-18
Sep 8	Pentecost 16	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Sep 15	Pentecost 17	Exodus 32: 7-14
Sep 22	Pentecost 18	Amos 8: 4-7
Sep 29	Pentecost 19	Amos 6: 1a, 4-7
Oct 6	Pentecost 20	Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4
Oct 13	Pentecost 21	2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15b
Oct 20	Pentecost 22	Genesis 32: 22-31
Oct 27	Pentecost 23	Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-17

August – October 2013

Epistle	Gospel
Colossians 3: 1-11	Luke 12: 13-21
Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16	Luke 12: 32-40
Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2	Luke 12: 49-56
Hebrews 12: 18-29	Luke 13: 10-17
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16	Luke 14: 1, 7-14
Philemon 1-21	Luke 14: 25-33
1 Timothy 1: 12-17	Luke 15: 1-10
1 Timothy 2: 1-7	Luke 16: 1-11
1 Timothy 6: 6-19	Luke 16: 19-31
2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Luke 17: 5-10
2 Timothy 2: 8-15	Luke 17: 11-19
2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5	Luke 18: 1-8
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18	Luke 18: 9-14

24.

St Mary's Church, Dalmahoy. Administrator Post

We are seeking someone to undertake a variety of administrative tasks for the congregation. The Vestry hope this can be achieved on a voluntary basis in order to support:

- existing work, primarily for the Rector and Wedding Coordinator,
- Any developments that may occur with the establishment of a 'Ministry Leadership Team' in accordance with the discussion paper put to the Special General Meeting on 9th June 2013, particularly in regard to outreach.

A regular commitment of 6 hours per week is required, preferably spread over 2 half days where the post holder will be a consistent presence on site although there will be some room for flexibility in this regard. The appointment is for one year in the first instance when it will be reviewed.

Tasks will include:

- Dealing with a variety of correspondence (prioritise what is coming in, draft responses, keep people informed as necessary)
- Liaison with the Diocesan office and other local bodies
- Producing information and publicity leaflets (design leaflets and compose wording) and produce regular material for *In Touch*
- Facilitating good communication within the congregation with regard to notice boards, leaflets, magazine content and congregational announcements etc.
- Maintenance of congregational records, diary and church rotas
- Maintenance of IT and photocopying equipment (ensure it is kept in good working order, kept up to date as necessary and that any problems are fixed by appropriate bodies)
- Administrative support for other office-bearers within the congregation as required

This job description is not exhaustive, and the post holder may be required to undertake other relevant duties commensurate with the post of Administrator. Activities may be subject to amendment over time as the role develops and/or priorities and requirements evolve.

To fill this post we are looking for someone who is:

- Welcoming with a friendly disposition
- Proactive, with the ability to work on own initiative, being able to work out what needs to be done and get on with it, whilst knowing when to refer to Deryck or others as appropriate
- Competent in written communication, being able to compose letters and information leaflets using appropriate language and with consideration of audience
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software. It would be helpful but not essential if the post holder were competent at using desk top publishing packages
- Well-developed in interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate with tact and diplomacy
- Appreciative of and sensitive to issues around confidentiality

For any further information, please contact Deryck or one of the Church Wardens. Please register any expressions of interest in this post with Deryck by 17th August.

Thank you.

26.

Our Church Website – stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk

HELP! I am to take over the running of our church website. In the short term, the plan is to bring the existing website up-to-date with news and information. However, the slightly longer term plan is to completely redesign the website to make it a more useful tool and source of information for all who are likely to use it, for example:

Our congregation

New residents looking for a church to join

Potential wedding couples

Wedding couples who have booked their wedding with us

Visitors to the hotel and surrounding area wishing to attend services

Tourists both local and international

Concert-goers

Children

Musicians

And many others

Do you visit our website at the moment? If not, why not? What's missing?

I am asking you all, please, do let me know what you would like to see included on our website, whether for yourself or others. Drop me an email: john.blaber@tiscali.co.uk or chat with me on a Sunday over coffee.

I look forward to hearing from you all.
John A Blaber

Chaplaincy in the General Hospital

Janet was originally meant to give this presentation to The Dalmations group in March. However due to the lovely spring weather we were having at the time (snow) it had to be postponed. As we were keen to hear of Janet's experiences in Hospital Chaplaincy an extra meeting was arranged in order that this could be accomplished. There was so much to hear in the presentation that this article can only scratch the surface of what Janet told us. It also cannot convey adequately the emotions which are involved in carrying out such a role.

Janet's first slide summed up her thoughts regarding the role of being a hospital chaplain. It stated "This is my story. How it was for me and about the privilege of entering into other peoples stories at often difficult and critical times of their lives".

Richard Holloway appointed Janet as Anglican chaplain to the RIE, after ordaining her as a priest. She was the first woman to be given such an appointment within the Scottish Episcopal Church as previously all appointments to this role had been male and priests. Women had not yet been priested so were being placed where they could be seen and heard. This obviously came with challenges. Janet served as a hospital chaplain for approximately 10 years (6 at the RIE and a further 4 between the Royal Edinburgh and St John's Livingston). In all of these she became part of an ecumenical team with a Church Of Scotland Minister always being the team leader. Although at all hospitals the RC priests were separate she found them very supportive. One in particular was always trying to convert Janet and her patients back to the 'true faith'.

The Royal at that time consisted of the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Chalmers Hospital, The Eye Pavilion, The Blood Transfusion Pavilion and The Mortuary and Chapel underneath it. All of these came under the auspices of the Anglican Chaplain as well as The Deaconess Hospital across the Meadows and occasionally The Sick Kids. So a very large remit. Janet described the Royal as being not unlike a small town and that through the efforts of the doctors, nurses, ancillary staff and volunteers to bring some normality it was 'a mix of comedy and tragedy as these places are; but it was never easy'.

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Chaplains are financed by the NHS and are a small but useful part of the great healing machine. The Health Service recognises that chaplains fulfil a variety of different and necessary roles which staff do not have time to cope with. This includes dealing with patients, staff and families.

As mentioned before being the first woman in this role caused some difficulties as some patients found this difficult to accept (especially priests) but there were also positive comments about “needing women in the church.” The role turned out to be a full time job which included night calls and was described as ‘a Ministry of availability and the unexpected’

An ordinary day would include checking admission lists and noting Anglican patients, planning a route around the hospital to allow for the most efficient use of time (so many locations to visit), visiting patients, giving Holy Communion or blessings, and carrying out short ward services which other patients were welcome to join in. It could also include call to the high dependency unit where a patient was in a coma.

Then there were the extraordinary days where there could be emergency calls to pre op or post op patients in the high dependency units at any time of the day or night. Sometime minister to their families, who wanted a prayer alongside their loved ones or comfort and reassurance in the visitors room or chapel.

There is obviously so much more involved than that brief description. Janet mentioned some harrowing and some joyful experiences. One of the latter being a baby girl who was born weighing 1lb 3oz who she met again 13 years later when she was a bridesmaid for her aunt at St Mary’s. However there were also the calls to A&E where she didn’t know what to expect and could involve a member of her own church family being brought in and dying.

The talk finished with Janet summing up what chaplains offer. This included being someone who can listen, be a sounding board for the hard questions, give support, show empathy, be a friend (especially for long term patients). Even being there and silent where appropriate can be a great comfort. Again these are just a few of the attributes required.

Here are some words from Janet which describe how challenging the role of hospital chaplain is: "But as a person of faith, you are moved out of your comfort zone. This is not like the comparative safety of parish work where one knows one's patients. One is shocked, you can only pray and listen to the Spirit of God who tells you constantly "Stay with me, watch here with me," You meet your own anxieties and insecurities and fears head on. Your props as a Christian are knocked from under you one by one, and the mask you might hide behind may be shattered. To be alongside suffering raises inner unanswerable questions. That is natural. Often Christ was more real than I wanted! The quiet chapel in the midst of the hospital was a good place to go."

So a big thank-you to Janet for what was a very informative presentation. I'm sure that she would be happy to talk with anyone who wishes to know more about her experiences as a hospital chaplain that I have been able to put into this summary.

Denis King

What was that you played?

I am often asked this after a service and am always pleased to discuss the voluntaries I have played. However, for nearly three years now at the beginning of each month I have been posting a list of the month's voluntaries on the noticeboard at the back of the church. Have you seen it?

Sometimes the voluntary before or after the service has been requested by someone in the congregation, either because they just like it, or because it is a special day and the piece is connected, such as a wedding anniversary. I am very happy to play requests, and on specific dates if preferred. Either speak to me, or drop me an email at organist@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk.

Please remember that the organ voluntaries are part of the service, and that someone in the congregation may be trying to listen to the music with a special interest. Coffee/tea is served In the Douglas Hall after the service, so do please come and have a chat there.

John Blaber

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Visitors Play Our Organ

On the afternoon of Saturday, 20th April we hosted a visit to St Mary's by members of the Stirling and District Organists' Society. I gave them a short history of the church and organ followed by a demonstration of the organ. The members were then let loose to have a go, interspersed with a few Blaber tunes. They were all very impressed with our lovely organ, and surprised at the size and range of the instrument compared to the size of the church. We all had a very enjoyable afternoon, enjoying tea and lots of food served at the back of the church while they took turns playing the organ. My thanks to Margaret King for organising the delicious food and to Olive and Gillian for serving our guests.



In the evening of Friday, 22nd February Sheila Chisholm (organist at St Peter's, Luton Place, Edinburgh) brought a group of her organ students to play our organ. It is always good for those learning to play the organ to have a go on as many different instruments as possible. There is no such thing as a standard pipe organ – each one is unique – so students gain valuable experience playing a range of instruments. I enjoyed the evening, meeting the various students, and Sheila had things well organised – she brought flasks of tea and coffee, cakes, biscuits and even her own mugs, for everyone. It wasn't like that when I was an organ student!

I am very privileged to play on such a lovely organ in our little church, and it is always good to share it with others. Happily, our organ is not just powered-up on a Sunday, but gets good use with weddings, the very welcome visiting organists and the occasional concerts.

John A Blaber

The Glamis Outing, 2013

The morning of Saturday, 1st June, dawned with an excited, yet mildly anxious, group gathered in the Douglas Hall. Excited because this was the debut trip of Rosemary/Gillian Tours and anxious as to what the uncertain skies predicted – rain or shine – for the DAY. Promptly at 9.30, 42 passengers settled into their seats, having paid their dues to Dennis and stowed their goods in the bus's "hold" and shelves. The weather had reached a compromise: it was to be sunshine and showers.

Our first stop was at Baxter's outlet at Kelty. Here we were fed excellent giant scones with jam plus tea or coffee and were granted a short period of retail therapy, giving many of us a chance to spend a little and Rosemary a few anxious minutes as she sought to keep avid shoppers to the right timings.

The next stage of our journey was longer as we passed Loch Leven, turned onto the A91 and then North through Leuchars and on towards Kirriemuir and our destination, Glamis Castle, passing the burgeoning fruit fields of the Carse of Gowrie.

Arriving at the pay gate we were told to form two groups, an idea immediately altered by the castle's tour organiser. After a short wait we set off with our guide who was to prove very knowledgeable, patient and considerate to the less spritely members of the 26 Dalmahoyans and friends in our group.

We entered the 19th Century dining room with its glittering tableware, portraits depicting the family history, stained glass and heraldic shields and then back to the 14th Century as we visited the crypt, the heart of the ancient castle with its collection of armour dating from mediaeval times and sad reminders of Victorian big-game hunting. The crypt also gives access to a secret room and to an old well. Then upstairs we went first to the Great Hall, decorated in 1930's style with many splendid family portraits and afterwards to the family chapel which is still used today as an Episcopal Church and which is said to host occasional visits from the ghost of Janet Douglas, the *Grey Lady of Glamis*. The walls are decorated with paintings of the Apostles and other biblical scenes, including a unique depiction of *The Risen Christ* wearing a hat!

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Other rooms we visited were the Billiard Room with wonderful 17th Century tapestries, King Malcolm's room and the Royal Apartments with their memories of the late Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, both of whom spent many happy hours here.

Our tour completed, we had time to spare for a picnic lunch in the beautiful grounds and to wander across huge well-kept lawns, marvelling at ancient trees and admiring the castle's wonderful setting with the hills in the background. Then, time to go and our driver took us home along a more northerly but quicker route through heavy thunder showers as we passed Coupar Angus, Scone and Perth.

Thank-you, Rosemary and Gillian for smooth organisation and a good selection of sweets. We all enjoyed a great day out and gained insight into the part played in Scottish history by the Strathmore dynasty.

Ella Henderson

Come & Sing –St Mary's Parish Church Haddington.

On Sunday 19th May, 2013 - Olive, Maureen and Wilma joined other choirs at a "Come & Sing " at St Mary's Church, Haddington. After morning service at Dalmahoy - Olive and Wilma went to Haddington stopping at the Tyneside Tavern for a light lunch and refreshment and later met up with Maureen.

The rehearsal started at 3pm and with the music score being seen for the first time - "Faure's Requiem and Cantique De Jean Racine" in Latin and French and we wondered if we were up for the task !!!! Three hours of rehearsals under the guidance of the Musical Director – Susan Hamilton and we were ready for anything. After some tea, coffee and biscuits supplied by the church and our sandwiches, we took our places for the performance at 7pm and put in a marvellous performance, worthy of an audition for the Voice or X Factor.

We are looking forward to the next "Come & Sing " (Handel's Messiah part 1) at St Marys Parish Church, Haddington on Sunday 1st December, 2013 and hope that more of the St Marys Dalmahoy Choir can join us.

Wilma Brown

St Salvador's Food Initiative - How it began



Our last Quinquennial Report brought some bad news. The church tower and spire were in need of major repairs and we had to face up to it. St Salvador's is not a listed building. It was built in 1937 to a design based on the medieval church of St Monan's in the East Neuk of Fife. The materials used were very much of the day:- concrete blocks and harling with traditional slating. But now, wind, rain and fluctuating temperatures had taken their toll with the result that the parapet at the base of the spire was little more than a soggy roof garden. The lowest estimated cost to put this right was around £30,000. How was a small congregation like ours, with only about 20 active members, going to meet this challenge?

We began by making applications to a variety of architectural trusts and funding bodies. When the replies came back, we were amazed and delighted to receive positive responses to all our applications and in the end, the total raised, including some individual gifts was £19,400. The balance required to make up the final cost of repairs was within the scope of the church's own resources, so the reconstruction work was able to go ahead.

Everything took much longer than expected but when the work was eventually finished, we felt we shouldn't just leave it at that. Having spent a considerable amount of money on our building, it seemed important to put more energy into finding ways of sharing it with the local community. Up till then, our attempts to do this had met with zero response. We needed to do better. So, conscious of the hardship that the current economic climate can have on areas such as Saughton and Stenhouse, we decided to set up a Community Food Initiative (a food bank). After checking out similar projects in the neighbourhood and talking to local support services, we opened in December 2012. The day was marked by a lively performance by Stenhouse Primary School's African choir. The mood was positive.

Then... everything went quiet. For the next few weeks, no one turned up in spite of an extensive leaflet drop and other publicity. But

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gradually, things began to change. One or two brave folk appeared. We gained one or two new volunteers and one or two new church members. Someone came to help with the garden. A couple of families used the building for toddler parties. A new play group is scheduled to start in the church in August and... our clients for the Food Initiative have increased. Some are regulars - often people with mobility problems who use us as a local convenience store and make a donation towards costs. Some are referrals from Health and Social Care and some make their way to the church because they are in crisis. The most rewarding part of the project is when folk come back to share some good news:- a successful outcome to a job interview or a new tenancy.

The Food Initiative is funded solely from St Salvador's own resources, but recently we have been very grateful to receive donations of food and other items from the congregations of St Mary's, Dalmahoy and St Martin's, Dalry. This is a huge help in resourcing the project and the donations provide a wider variety of items for users of the service. But above all, the fact that church members who have no direct connection with St Salvador's take the time to select and pay for an extra item of shopping for someone in need feels like a huge encouragement to us and a true sign of generosity and Christian commitment. You could call it 'a practical prayer' from a supermarket aisle! Thank you.



Revd. Nicola Moll

St Salvador's Community Food Initiative operates on Wednesdays between 12-2pm. During July and August the service will run fortnightly. Opening dates and other information can be found on the website www.stsalvadors.org.uk

Can you Gift Aid your contributions to St.Mary's?

At the Special General Meeting held on Sunday 9th June it was pointed out that the direct income given to the church through congregational giving had fallen gradually over the last two or three years. Fortunately wedding income remains strong, but is not extra to our requirements, it is a necessary part of the income mix. Against this on the expenditure side, money has been spent recently on the Rectory and upgrading the Hall kitchen, as well as steep rises in Gas and Electricity costs. This has meant that it has been necessary to use some of the reserves we had built up. Therefore it is important that we are aware of these circumstances, and that we try and boost income in some way. On the plus side, we are fortunate that so many tasks in and around the church are done voluntarily.

In addition, there are two main reasons why overall income has also fallen away. The first is that the return on Gift Aided donations from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), has reduced from 28% to 25%. This may not seem much of a change, but it amounts to a total of over £1,000 per year less. The second is that a number of families who gave generously, have left in the past year, and though replaced by newcomers and others giving extra, these amounts do not match the losses.

Many in the congregation are pensioners, and as we have seen our living costs rising, (utilities and food), it is unlikely that our pension has been sufficient to keep pace with this. Also sadly this may be true in today's climate for those in work as well. The number of people on the Church Roll is in excess of 200, and if everyone contributed to St.Mary's, there would be no need to send out this letter. From the regular church goers, those presently Gift Aiding their contributions are effectively just over 50, (made up of about 30 individuals and 10 couples), and has remained at this level for some time. There is obviously a limit to what more this group of members can give, and if some were to move away, we could be in serious financial difficulties. However there are some regulars putting money into the weekly collection, who have been asked to consider signing up to Gift Aid, who so far have not done so.

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If you are a tax payer, no matter what you are able to give, we will be able to reclaim an extra 25% from HMRC, so for example if you give £1 per week, on top of the £52 over the year, we could claim an extra £13; £5 per week (£260 per year), would bring an extra £65 per year; and £10 per week (£520 per year), an extra £130.

So, **PLEASE, PLEASE**, use the enclosed Gift Aid form, and return it to me. Also attached is a Standing Order Mandate if you wish to donate through your bank, or I can give you a set of Weekly envelopes St.Mary's needs your support so that we can raise sufficient income to meet the challenges now and in the future. **THANK YOU**

Geoff Angell (Gift Aid Secretary)
St.Mary's Church Hall,
Dalmahoy, Kirknewton,
EH27 8EB

You will find the Gift Aid Form and standing Order mandates as inserts within this copy of "In Touch"

Dalmations Programme 2013-14

Meetings start at around 12 noon after the 11am Eucharist and coffee, and conclude with a light lunch. (Finish around 1.30 p.m.). A donation of around £3 is suggested to cover lunch and speaker costs.

28 August 2013

“My work as a Bishop and in Papua and New Guinea”
Bishop Douglas Cameron

25th September 2013

“St. Mary’s Church Organ”
John Blaber

30th October 2013

“The work of the Linburn Centre, for the Scottish War Blinded”
Sharon McAllister, Linburn Centre

27th November 2013

“St Nicholas and European Christmas Customs”
Pet Lewis

18th December 2013

“Looking Forward to Christmas”
Our annual get-together with words and music for Christmas

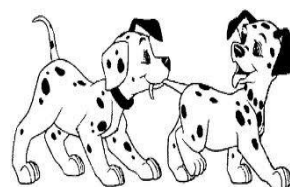
NO MEETING IN JANUARY

26th February 2014

“The New Forth Crossing”
speaker from the Education and Information Centre

26th March 2014

“Holy Land Pilgrimage”
Dalmations to speak!



30th April 2014

“The Work of Re-homing”
a speaker from “The Dog Trust”

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Diary of Events

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Aug 2 - 26	Various	Based on St John's, Princes Street	'Just Festival' – Festival of spirituality http://vimeo.com/68659080
Sunday 4 August	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist Collection of groceries/ toiletries for St Salvador's Food Bank
Wednesday 7 August	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Sunday 11 August	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 14 August	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Saturday 17 August	11.00	Church	Baptism of Oliver Forrest
	17.00 – 21.00	Rectory	BBQ!
Sunday 18 August	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 21 August	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Friday 23 August	14.00	Church	Marriage of Matthew Hay to Laura Pratt

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sunday 25 August	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
	13.30	Church	Marriage of Richard van der Wolf to Shona Grout
	18.30	Church	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 28 August	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist Dalmatians Bishop Douglas Cameron on PNG
Saturday 31 August	14.00	Church	Marriage of Tim Cartlidge to Manjit Sidhu
Saturday 31 August - Tuesday 3 September		Iona Weekend	Retreat at Bishop's House, Iona.
Sunday 1 September	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist Service taken by Eileen Thomson
Wednesday 4 September	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Friday 6 September	13.00	Church	Marriage of Leslie Ford to Juliette Fallon
	19.00	Hall	Quiz Night (See notice in Hall)
Saturday 7 September	Evening	Church	Vigil for Peace (see page 19)

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sunday 8 September	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
St Mary's Day	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist Provisional date for inauguration of new Ministry Leadership Team
September 9 - 12		Craig Lodge	Retreat
Monday 9 September	19.30	Hall	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday 11 September	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Friday 13 September	14.00	Church	Marriage of Alan Notman to Elaine Manson
Sunday 15 September	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 18 September	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
Sunday 22 September	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 25 September	11.00	Church	Said Eucharist
		Hall	Dalmatians – John Blaber on St Mary's Church Organ
Friday 27 September	19.00	Hall	Travel Evening (See notice in Hall)

Diary of Events (cont)

Date	Times	Venue	Event
Sunday 29 September Harvest Thanksgiving	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
	18.30	Church	Choral Evensong
Sunday 6 October	08.55	Church	Choir Practice
	10.30	Church	Sung Eucharist
	16.30	Church	St Francis-tide Animal Blessing Service
Saturday 19 October	10.00 – 16.30	Holy Trinity Haddington	Diocesan Festival of Prayer

Advance Warning of a Power-Packed Week!***Oct 28th – Nov 2nd***

Mon 28, 7.30pm Carol Williams Organ Recital

Wed 30, 11.00am Dalmations – on Linburn Centre

[Thu 31, 6.45pm Diocesan Synod, in Galashiels]

Fri 1, 7.30 pm Russian Choir Concert

Sat 2, 7.30 pm All Souls' Requiem

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Service Times

Sunday	Morning Prayer	10am
	Sung Eucharist	10.30am

Last Sunday of the month	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
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Wednesday	Said Eucharist	11am
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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 October/November Issue is Sunday 15 September</p>
