

# ST MARY'S CHURCH, DALMAHOY



## In Touch

December 2020 - January 2021

Registered Charity No. SC014203

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## Pastoral Letter from Christine



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are fast approaching the most Joyous season, a time of warmth and companionship. This year however we know it will be different, in the words of the song-

*“One day, the world stopped  
Without any warning  
Spring didn't know to wait  
Showed up not even a minute late”*

But we have been slowly adjusting and even finding joy along the way. People say the whole world has changed, and that is true, but I know that the importance of relationships never changes. Sometimes these relationships are strengthened and sometimes they are weakened.

In the same way we may feel we are standing in the rain with no end of it in sight but if we can reach out even virtually, the darkness and grey will lighten and just like the glow from a small candle, the light we allow in will make our way clear.

Remember, we are to “Prepare the way of the Lord”, and we are preparing to celebrate the birth of the Great Light that burst upon our world over 2000 years ago.

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

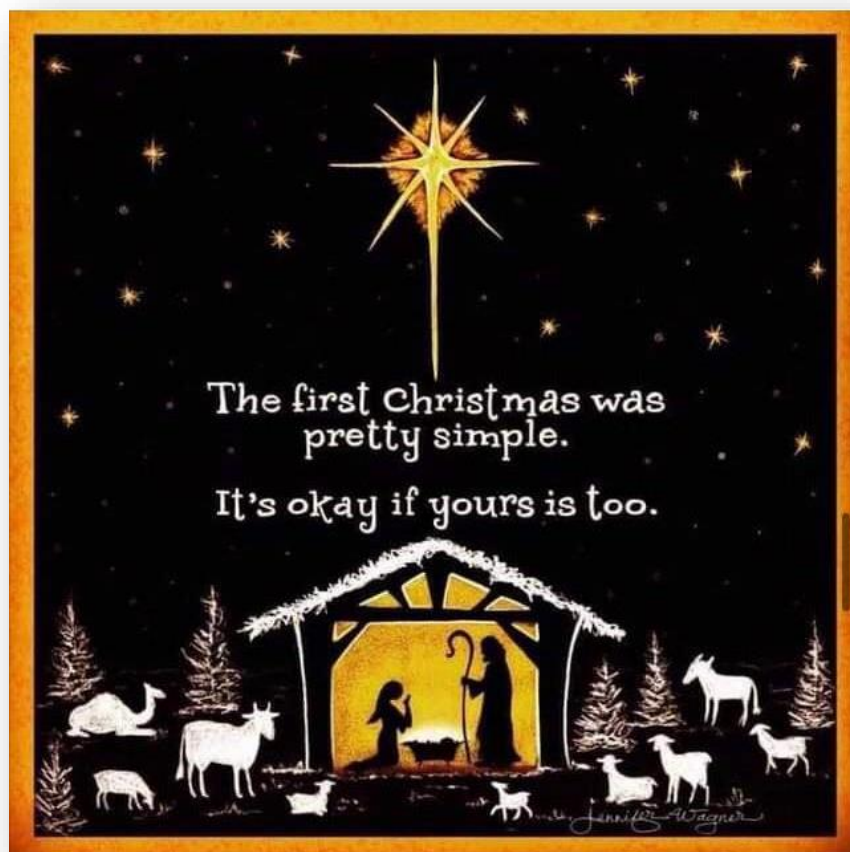


We have been blessed this year with many things, good friends and family, food for our bodies and souls, quiet enough to stop and think. Still, things are not ok for many in our communities. So, it is even more important for us to stay in contact, to participate even online in the Advent services and events.

At this time of the year we are invited, by the old familiar carols, and the prayers to gather closer to each other, and to the warmth that is our Lord Jesus. Strive to be light, and if you simply can't, then reach out and sit close with someone whether that's on the phone, via email or Zoom, by sending cards, via Messenger, or Face book.

This Advent season, I invite you to "Prepare the way of the Lord", 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, and prayers of this season to work their timeless healing.

Christine +



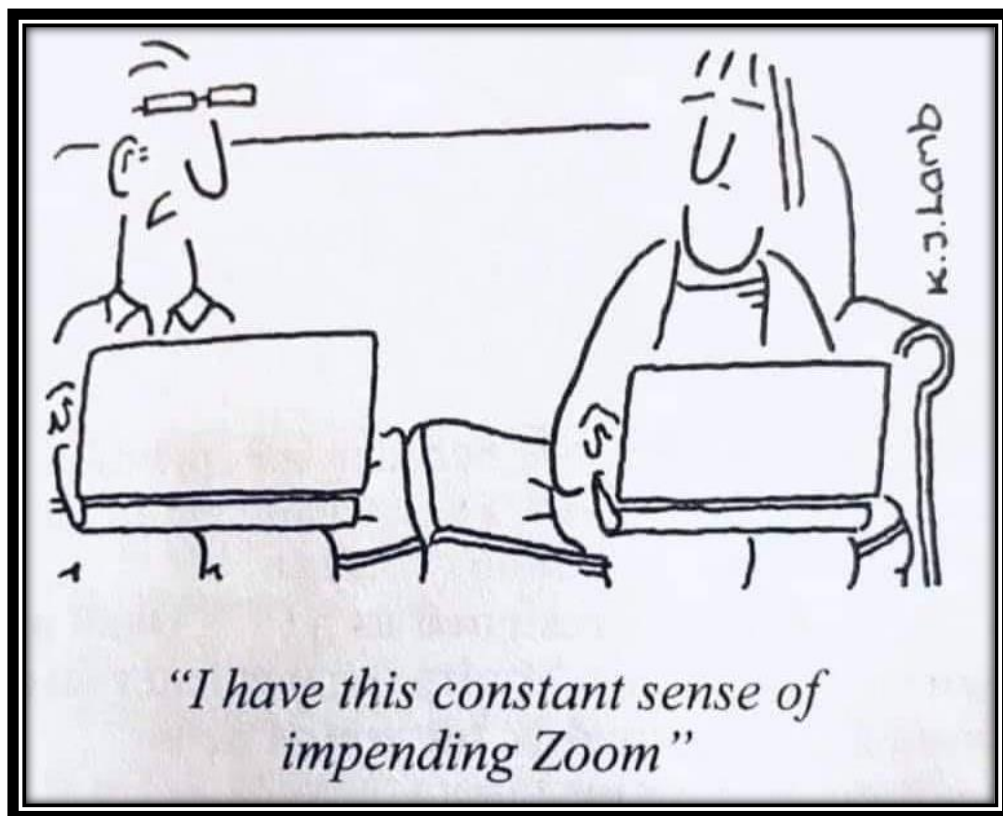


## From the Registers (December 2020 – January 2021)

### No Baptism

### Weddings

2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Lauren Sarah Hyde & Andrew David Patterson
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Kimberley Webster & Robert Stephen Hovey
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Samantha Newlands & Keith Marinello



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

## Ben and Ted's Excellent Cyber Adventure

So, what is all that 'stuff' at the back of The Douglas Hall?

When the first lockdown happened it quickly became apparent that St Marys needed to find a new way to connect with each other on a Sunday. Some Parishioners couldn't travel, some had to be shielded and some, like the rest of us, didn't really know what we were allowed to do. The Diocese said we couldn't hold Services in the Church, in the Hall or even in the parking lot. Yes, we had the idea of a 'drive-thru-communion' where Christine used Ben's slingshot to give you a wafer and a squirt-gun for the wine. Okay that's an exaggeration, it was really a pill cup of wine and a wafer on a long stick, I suggested using my hockey stick because it had a flat blade, vetoed immediately by your Rector!

Rev. Christine was quick to start doing small videos, posting them to YouTube and that quickly evolved into short cyber-services from our dining room table or the comfort of her 'big, cosy chair'. As we started to experiment with online Easter Services and lockdown restrictions were looking to be eased a bit, Ben's mind started getting ideas, as it does and streaming online services started to become a reality.



From those Easter Services until now Ben and Ted have slowly put together a system that streams online services. We use the popular Zoom conferencing program to broadcast live, with Parishioners welcome to join Zoom, and then use the same program to broadcast live on FaceBook.

Ben's MacAir computer is the digital brain that links the audio and the camera together, broadcasts to the internet using our new fibre-optic wifi and records everything so that Christine can edit it (if needing) and then post it to YouTube. We're working on getting it



live on YouTube but that's another project completely, so we'll wait a bit.

Our first setup using just the camera (thanks for the donation



Carole) hooked up to the computer kind of worked but not the best. Ted's advice on different kinds of microphones led to the purchase of our first 'professional' microphone from a company called RODE, its official name is a RODE Wireless GO.

It has two parts, the wearable mic with its fluffy top, can be used as in the pic or with a lapel mic plugged into it. So far this is the favourite choice to mic-up readers and others. It sends a wireless signal to the receiver which has a cable that carries the signal to the RODE made Rodecaster Pro podcast soundboard, which is hooked to Ben's computer.

Now you may have seen a tall metal frame above all the equipment at the back. This is where the receivers are and we have to put them high because otherwise they cannot get the microphone signal. We bought a frame one that opens to 10' wide and raises to a full height of 8.5'.

We lower the frame to a working height of 3' to attached everything and then move it up to get a clear line-of-sight across the entire hall.



The Rodecaster Pro is the audio brain and it



looks complicated with all the wires going into it, lights, buttons and slides but it's not once you get used to it. The Rodecaster is made to use four microphones but with Teds help we 'evolved' the system to use up to nine now. We also bought some smaller speakers from Behringer, which sit under the camera tripod, so that we can produce sound in the hall and the soundboard helps us to eliminate that

awful high-pitched feedback.



Ted has loaned us an additional wireless microphone on a stand that Steve uses for solos at the moment.

Currently we have six of the Go's, one for Christine, one each for readers and intercessions, an extra soloist if needed and even one on the piano to get better sound. So that's a total of seven we can use for every service without people moving around, people just stand and do what they need to at their chair. Ted and I also have found a way to mic people who have mobility issues so they can sit if they want.



We are working on a way to get people heard during the notices but the directional microphone we require would also need a Go to work properly and due to the cost will have to wait until next year, sorry.

In the meantime, if you can, please get your notices to Rev. Christine or Pippa in the office, so that they can be included in the weekly bulletin. Christine will relay all notices from the bulletin and announced in the hall so they can be heard online.

We're also trying to get people from Zoom to be heard online and I apologise to Steve as he tried to do the intercessions last week, but it didn't work...but it will...one day...keep the faith. I feel it's important as it will allow people who are shielded or can't travel in winter to participate in services as well.

For instance, we can livestream Ella's school choir event to schools and for working parents to see in the evening (we're still working on which microphone(s) setup we'll need).

As we already know there will be certain restrictions during Christmas, Christine is planning extra services and we will livestream from inside the Church, however I'm a little worried about the organ music as I know we don't have the right microphone(s) (would be the same as the choir mic's) for a good sound quality.

Is it working? We hope so, please let us know, good or bad. If we can make it better, we will but we can't solve every problem, sorry.

Ted and I continue to learn more (honestly, I couldn't have figured out the sound without him, big thank you) and as we do, we have new ideas that will help St Marys Dalmahoy reach out to more people in our communities in this digital age.

Lastly, Patrick from RODE support has been an invaluable support as we have travelled this journey. Although located in California he has answered all my emails and always had the solution we needed. The quality of the equipment and the support is why will continue our relationship with RODE for the rest of this adventure.



## The Weight of the Glass

Once upon a time, a psychology professor walked around on a stage while teaching stress management principles to an auditorium filled with students. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the typical "glass half empty or glass half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, the professor asked, "How heavy is this glass of water I'm holding?"

Students shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple pounds.

She replied, "From my perspective, the absolute weight of this glass doesn't matter. It all depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two, it's fairly light. If I hold it for an hour straight, its weight might make my arm ache a little. If I hold it for a day straight, my arm will likely cramp up and feel completely numb and paralyzed, forcing me to drop the glass to the floor. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me."

As the class shook their heads in agreement, she continued, "Your stresses and worries in life are very much like this glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and you begin to ache a little. Think about them all day long, and you will feel completely numb and paralyzed – incapable of doing anything else until you drop them."

**The Moral of the Story:** On days when you're stressed out and feeling overwhelmed, learn to embrace the inevitable and let go. Some things cannot be controlled and no amount of worrying could put all your burdens away. Instead of letting stress get to you, embrace it and conquer it. Let yesterday's worries inspire you to a productive day. ([www.inspirationalife.com](http://www.inspirationalife.com))

## Double the Love for Children in Liberia

We hear every day about the hardships people are facing as a result of Covid-19 in this country and many of us are moved to do what we can to help. Imagine what it must be like for children in countries like Liberia, one of the poorest countries in the world, also suffering from the epidemic. A third of children under 5 have stunted growth because of malnutrition, 21% of primary school aged children are not in school and less than half of those who do go complete primary school.



Massa walks for 40 minutes each day to school. In the rainy season she carries her uniform in a plastic bag to keep it dry. Her mother finds it hard to find food for her at home, and there is often nothing for her to eat before she goes to school. She says the food at school makes her feel good and happy, and helps her to concentrate in class. She is only able to go to school because of the food, and she really wants to learn

Mary's Meals feeds over 158,000 children in school or, during school closures, at home in Liberia. We hope to feed another 43,000 children like Massa in 167 primary schools in Bong County. All donations will be matched up to £2 million by the UK Government, including donations through the demijohns in the Douglas Hall. You can also make donations via [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) or Freephone 0800 698 1212.

Please help if you can. Thank you. John Helliwell





## A New Life in Dorchester

A few of you may know that Peter and I finally decided to relocate at the beginning of this year to be nearer to our family. As it happens we couldn't have put our house on the market at a worse time, three days before the first Lockdown. Despite all of that we moved down to Dorchester at the beginning of August, a week before our grandchild was due! About a week later Jessica Skye Frances arrived!

Dorchester is the county town of Dorset and lies 8 miles North of Weymouth on the River Frome. The area was first inhabited by Neolithic man and on our regular dog walk we pass two ancient tumuli. About a mile and a half away is the famous Iron Age fort of Maiden Castle. This is a lovely area for walking with spectacular

views over the surrounding countryside.



**This photo of the excavations at Maiden Castle was taken in 1937 by Major George Allen**

The Romans arrived in the first century and built a garrison here, calling the present site of Dorchester, Durnovaria. You can still see the remains

of a Roman villa in the centre of town also the Roman amphitheatre of Maumbury Rings. There is so much to see as you walk around the town.

Over the centuries Dorchester developed as a busy market town until now in the present day it has a population of almost 20,000. Sadly the town centre has changed considerably with the loss of many shops but there is a thriving Wednesday market which has everything, food, vegetables, plants, clothes, textiles etc and is

very popular. There is also a famous auction house in the town named Dukes.



### **Dorchester, the town pump monument, Corn Exchange and Clock Tower.**

(Picture taken from Wikipedia).

Dorchester is infamous for being the site of the 'Bloody Assizes' presided over by Judge Jeffreys after the Monmouth rebellion. The first Duke of Monmouth claimed to be the rightful heir to the throne and tried to overthrow his uncle James II, a rebellion arose in the South West but Monmouth's army was defeated at the battle of Sedgemoor by government forces. He was executed along with many of his supporters under the orders of Judge Jeffreys.

Later in 1834 the Tolpuddle martyrs, a group of six agricultural workers, were convicted of swearing an illegal secret oath when joining a Friendly society of Agricultural workers. They were sentenced to Transportation to Australia, in reality the landowners were fearful of unrest amongst their workers who were poorly paid and treated badly. The plight of the Tolpuddle martyrs was taken up by the newly formed Trades Unions in the Industrial areas and they later received a pardon and returned to England. They became a cause for the improvement of workers' rights and conditions.

Another famous citizen of Dorchester is the writer Thomas Hardy, he wrote many well-known novels set in the Dorset countryside such as 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' and 'The Trumpet Major'. In 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' Dorchester features as the fictional town.

Adjoining the town is the well-known new residential area of Poundbury. This has been built on Duchy of Cornwall land and developed from an idea of Prince Charles in which the village spirit is built into a modern housing development and people have priority over cars. . It is a mixture of architectural styles from town houses, cottages, shops and businesses. The first house went on sale in 1994 and there are now approximately 5,000 people living there.

We are lucky to be living right next to a footpath which leads into lovely countryside and we have been intrigued to see, for us, unusual crops being planted such as mustard, oats and rye, quite late in the season. When I asked the farmer he explained to me that they are all harvested for the 'Digester'. Apparently just close to Poundbury lies the Rainbarrow Farm Anaerobic Digester Plant which is the first AD plant to inject Biomethane into the National Gas network. This is a joint venture between local farmers and the Duchy of Cornwall.

So you can see Dorchester is an interesting place to live even though we miss Scotland greatly and I don't think I will ever find a Church community as supportive and friendly as St Mary's, Thank you all!





## Christmas Fair 2020 Style

### FUNDRAISING AND POTENTIAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

Items are available on the table in the Douglas Hall for sale, with a view to Fundraising for St Mary's.



**Botanical Cards** Donated by Janet.

**£2 each or £5 for three.**

These are ideal cards to have in your home for those occasions when you can't be bothered going out to buy a card.

They would be useful for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thank You Cards, Sympathy Cards and just general keeping in contact cards. They would also make a nice gift for a friend rather than the usual chocolates, sweeties or biscuits.

**Hand knitted, 100% wool, cosy hats. £10 each**

These would suit males, females and children from about 3 upwards.

Most are knitted with

Shetland Wool but not all.

The others are just 100% Pure Wool.





## Small Meringue Shells



Available for purchase or to order directly from Carole.

**£2 per dozen.**

Please bring a container if you would like to buy any.

They will be bagged in dozens, hopefully in paper bags and should be stored in an air tight container when you get them home.

## Beautiful Needlework priced from £20



## Gorgeous handknitted cardigans £10 each



Please remember to put some cash into your pocket before you come along on a Sunday.

If you are not able to come in person but would like to order something, please contact Carole by email and the necessary arrangements can be made for deliver



## Eucharist Readings:

<b>Year A Eucharist</b>	<b>(Year A2 for Morning Prayer)</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
6 December	Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11
13 December	Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
20 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	1 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
27 December	First Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
3 January	Second Sunday after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14
10 January	First Sunday after the Epiphany	Genesis 1:1-5
17 January	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
24 January	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
31 January	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
7 February	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31
14 February	Last Sunday after the Epiphany	2 Kings 2:1-12
21 February	First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17
28 February	Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

## October 2020 – January 2021

Second Reading	Gospel
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 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 <i>or</i> Luke 2:41-52
Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38



## How can I keep from singing?

1. My life flows on in endless song;  
 Above earth's lamentation  
 I hear the sweet though far off hymn  
 That hails a new creation:  
 Through all the tumult and the strife  
 I hear the music ringing;  
 It finds an echo in my soul—  
 How can I keep from singing?

2. What though my joys and comforts die?  
 The Lord my Saviour liveth;  
 What though the darkness gather round!  
 Songs in the night He giveth:  
 No storm can shake my inmost calm  
 While to that refuge clinging;  
 Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth,  
 How can I keep from singing?

3. I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
 I see the blue above it;  
 And day by day this pathway smoothes  
 Since first I learned to love it:



The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
 A fountain ever springing:  
 All things are mine since I am His—  
 How can I keep from singing?

*Robert Lowry (1826-1899)*

## Hymn Hummers

*'O Lord, open thou our lips'.* Certainly not under the present restrictions! However, there is an alternative – *humming*. Just as long as we keep our mouths shut, there seems to be no reason why we should not hum along with the hymns.

*'The Church with psalms must shout, No door can keep them out'*  
 (George Herbert)

*'And shall man alone be dumb Till that glorious kingdom come?*

*No, the Church delights to raise Psalms and hymns and songs of praise'* (James Montgomery)

*And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. (Luke 19:39-40)*

*'...you may now kiss the bride.'*



## The Meaning of Christingle



Over fifty years ago, Christingle, a traditional German service, was introduced to Anglican churches by The Children's Society. Since then, collections and donations given on the occasion of Christingle have enabled the charity to change the

lives of thousands of vulnerable children and young people in England.

Since 1968, many Episcopalian churches in Scotland have celebrated Christingle and The Aberlour Trust has been fortunate to have benefited from many collections and donations marking this occasion. If you would like to donate please use our sort code and contact Gavin Craig.

The Christingle celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape/ribbon, sweets and a candle. A Christingle celebration is an opportunity to bring your everyone together and to experience the joy and wonder of this well-loved Christmas tradition.

There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration, meaning that it's easy to adapt if you can't get together in person. The service usually includes prayers, readings, hymns and carols, and of course the lighting of the Christingles. Christingle was created with children in mind, and the celebrations are the perfect event for children and families and can be enjoyed by people of all ages, especially if they don't regularly attend church.

This year we recommend using glow sticks or battery operated candles to reduce contact through candle lighting.

### Shine a Light Online or In Your Home

Many of us have become a great deal more adept at meeting online this year! Whatever your technical skills, if you have access to a smartphone or computer you have lots of options for celebrating virtually in the comfort of your own home.

- St. Mary's will broadcast its own service live using Zoom and Facebook Live. Links will be sent out! If you would like a link and are worried you are not on the list please email Ben Bright at [ben.bright2@gmail.com](mailto:ben.bright2@gmail.com)
- For a low tech option, recreate some of the elements of Christingle in your home by enjoying your favourite readings, singing your favourite seasonal hymns and making your own Christingle.

### **How to make a 2020-edition Christingle:**

For in-person services, or to celebrate at home, make your Christingles!

1. Fasten a red ribbon/tape around an orange
2. Cut a small cross into the top of the orange
3. Place a glow stick or battery operated candle in the cross
4. Load a mixture of dried fruit/sweets on to the cocktail sticks, ensuring the points are covered
5. Insert the sticks around the base of the glow stick/candle



## Time and Talents Appeal

When a church decides to run a Stewardship Campaign the first thing that often comes to mind is that the purpose is to get people to commit to giving a regular cash donation or increasing the donation that they are already making. While that is always welcome Stewardship is not only about that. There are two other elements Time and Talents which can be just as important in helping a church to run efficiently.



Every church has a number of mainly unseen tasks that need to be carried out to ensure that their buildings and grounds are kept maintained, clean, and in good order. There are also plenty of administrative and service preparation tasks which are less physically onerous but still need attending to.

St Mary's is no different in requiring these tasks to be addressed. Although we have a reasonably good sized congregation, considering our location, the demographic of the congregation is getting older which means that people are less able to travel or carry out tasks in and around the church. Therefore we are in the situation where less people are taking on more tasks which is not good practice. There are a number of areas that need volunteers at present. These, in the main, are not onerous or require regular Sunday attendance. Should anyone be willing to donate some time to either taking on a task or being part of a team that takes on one of these tasks it would be greatly appreciated.



It is also the case that there is not, currently, a wide range of technical skills such as electrical, plumbing, decorating etc. to call on at St Mary's. This means that we have to employ outside contractors for work in these areas. Were we able to call on people with these types of skills who would be willing to donate some time to carry out small pieces of work when required it would be beneficial to St Mary's. These would be carried out to fit in with the volunteer's availability and costs for



materials used would be paid. Should anyone be willing to offer their skills, or know of anyone who may, a please let us know.

For the more social media aware people you may be able to help without leaving your home by raising awareness of St Mary's wedding ministry. If you are on Facebook then please search for the page [\*\*Weddingsst.mary'sdalmahoy\*\*](#). Like it, share it and follow it. If you, yourself are not a Facebook user but know of family or friends who are regular users, please feel free to contact them and ask if they would consider lending their support to spreading the news about our wedding ministry.



## Shed roof replacement

Some of the eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed some goings on with the large shed adjacent to the hall.

For some time the shed roof has not been water tight and the inside of the shed was extremely wet. Meaning,

that we couldn't use it to its full potential.

It was discussed and agreed at Vestry that we would get the roof replaced rather than a new shed, as the rest of the shed was in good repair.

Carole had noticed my posts on Facebook about my dad, John, and his projects he had completed over the summer period. Building a new shed for himself and a clubhouse for my children and me.

John, along with his project manager/supervisor wife Janet, agreed to take on the task.

Once the felt was removed, it was found that the roof was much worse than first thought.

Working around the winter weather, they managed to complete the roof so the shed is now weather proof. Well almost, we are looking for volunteers to put a fresh layer of paint on it. If you feel you could help with this please let me or Carole know.

Pippa.



## Oh come to us, abide with us our Lord Emmanuel!

What does Christmas mean to you ? I recall when it seemed to me that I encountered a “God with us” moment, the incarnation of love. I was in Sao Paulo a city of 20 million, where affluence and abject poverty sit uneasily together.

It is a dangerous city. I was taken to a Favela, a shanty town, by a godly priest, who had spent 30 years living amongst the very poor. In the eyes of many this was a foolish thing, and he told me that it was a miracle that he had not disappeared in the night by those who wanted him out of the way.



Here, were 500 people living under a flyover of the busiest motorway in the city and situated next to one of the main rubbish dumps, which provided these people with their only livelihood. They had no status, and so had no rights. As I walked through the Favela with Father Pat, we were hugged and kissed, and ushered into their “council house”, a tiny shack made of plastic and packing cases, where about 15 people huddled in the darkness.

The heat and the noise from the motorway which was about 15 feet away was appalling. It was a very poor place, rather like the stable, I thought.

We were again smiled upon and received with love and dignity. I felt privileged as the stranger. As I became accustomed to the gloom, I could just see walls covered in brightly coloured paintings. In the corner was a heavily pregnant woman. She would probably be delivered here I was told by Pat. There were other tiny babies which I was allowed to hold. How did they survive?

A young man was very eager to show me something, and took me to see a battered painting of Jesus on the wall. Interpreted by Pat, he said: “We found Jesus on the rubbish dump, thrown away by someone who had no further use for Him” and with great pride he



added, "We rescued Him, and now he is with us for ever, he is one of us and we want for nothing".

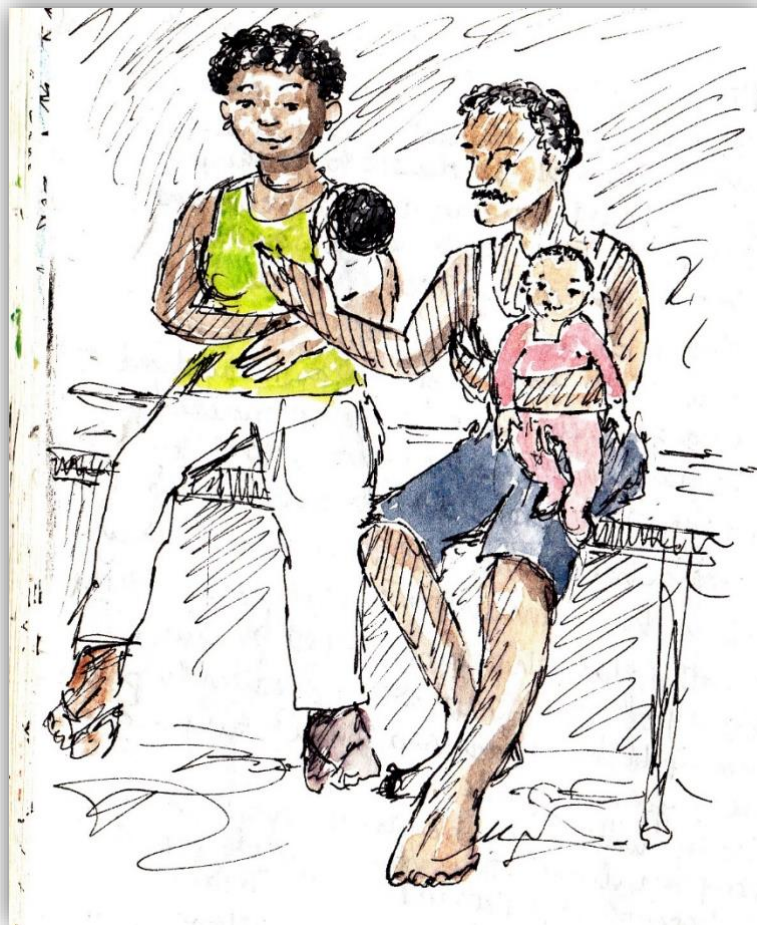
Through the stifling heat one could sense the glory all around, lighting up that hut and transforming their poverty. They who had nothing, seemed to have everything, for they had grasped the truth of how much they are loved and valued, and that, gave them a dignity and meaning and the status that the world would not give them.

That is what had set them free to love with a rare grace, in an extraordinary way.

God is with us! Is this is the glory song of angels.

Just one story and there are so many, many "God with us" stories to ponder upon in these strange times.

If you want to know more about that work of Father Pat and the Favelas, ask me! Janet X





## Recipe – Marshmallow Pudding

### Ingredients:

15 large Marshmallows (or same weight in small marshmallows)

15 digestive biscuits

Small tin condensed milk

6 glace cherries, walnuts, coconut or chocolate vermicelli



### Method:

Cut marshmallows up, chop the cherries and walnuts and crush the biscuits.

Mix together and stir in condensed milk. Form into an oblong and coat with coconut or chocolate vermicelli (or grated chocolate). Wrap in greaseproof paper and chill until firm.

This was a recipe which I got from the Marchbank Hotel/Pub before it was sold for housing development! Could be turned into a Christmas log if one felt so inclined!! Cheers Jean T-B



## Humour –

### At the Wedding

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, *"Why is the bride dressed in white?"*

*"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."*

The child thought about this for a moment, then said *"So why is the groom wearing black?"*

### The Sermon

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, *"Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"*

### Church Announcement

There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: *"I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."*

### The Sermon Preparation

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

*"How do you know what to say?"* he asked.

*"Why, God tells me."*

*"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"*

### The Ten Commandments

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to *"honour thy father and thy mother,"* she asked, *"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"*

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, *"Thou shall not kill."*



# The wonderful Pam Ayres...now 73 years old and penned her latest ode ~ To Coronavirus...



I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside

If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told



We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts  
Then we settled down, got married

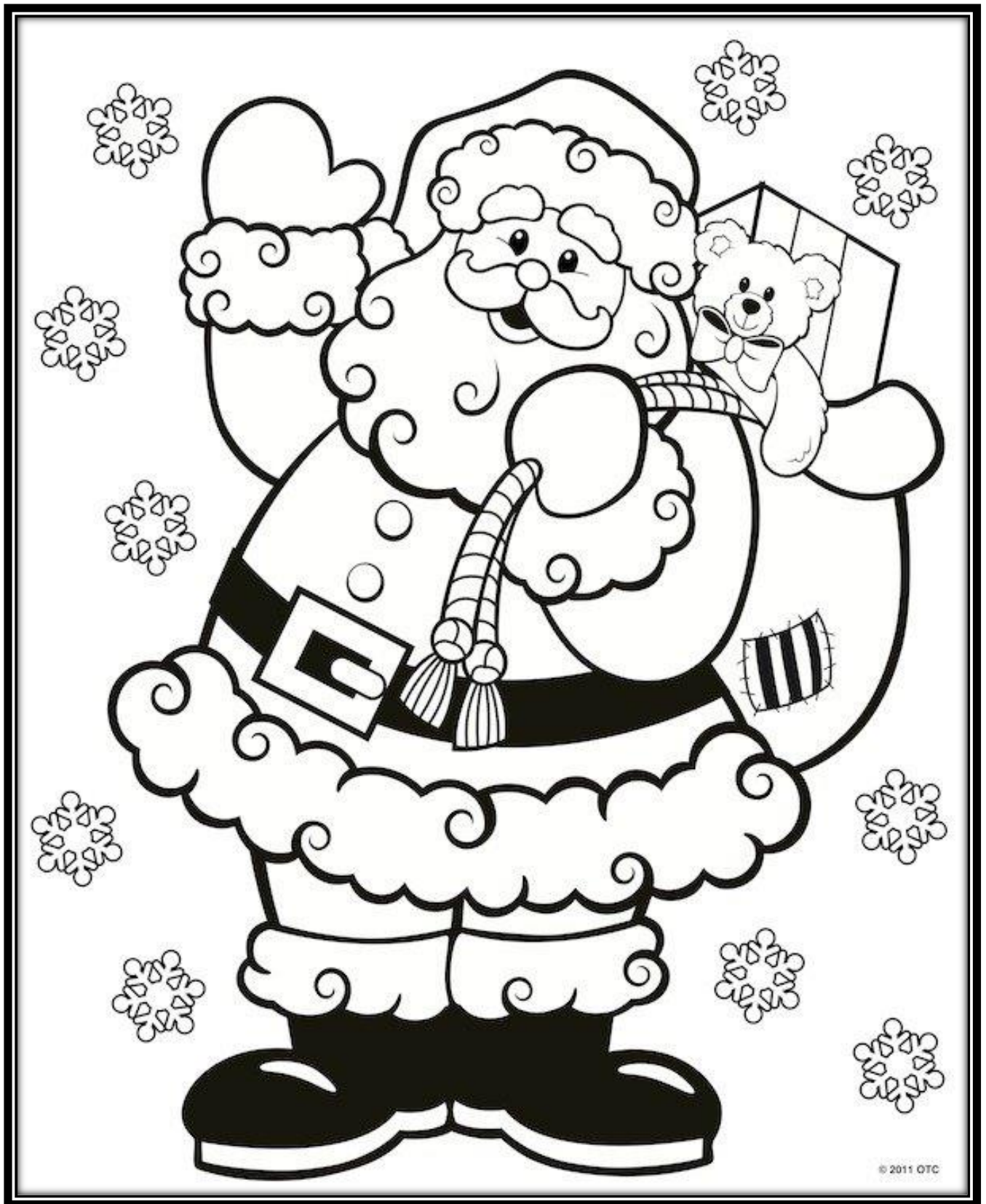


And turned into someone's  
mum,

Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside



## Children's Page –





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

### Vestry 2019/2020

Secretary	Denis King	01506 873061 secretary@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Treasurer	Gavin Craig	01506 891538 treasurer@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Rector's Warden	Wilma Brown	
People's Warden	Carole MacBride	07909 582760
Lay Representative	Jonathan Gibbs	layrep@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
Alt. Lay Representative	Ann Donoghue	
	Margaret Chill	01506 880244
	Jonathan Gibbs	07710 170127
	Ella Henderson	0131 449 2262
	Margaret King	01506 442549

### Altar Guild

Co-ordinator	Denis King	01506 873061
	Mavis Blackwell	0131 449 4711

### Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator

Caroline Gunn	0131 443 4059 protection@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
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### Gift Aid Secretary

Geoff Angell	0131 315 2639
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### Fabric Co-ordinator

Vacant

### Head Server

Denis King	01506 873061
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### Hall Bookings

Pippa Crichton	0131 333 1683 admin@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk
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## Visitors

Lois May Donaldson	0131 449 4279
Janice Goodfellow	01506 495082
Irina Grigolava	07796 305789
Margaret Hunter	01506 410761
Denis King	01506 873061
Margaret King	01506 442549
Carole MacBride	07909 582760
Jane Russell	0131 441 2346

## Prayer Chain

Ann Donoghue	John O'Connor
Revd Janet Dyer	Mandy Smart

Should you wish to add someone, or a situation, to our prayers, please email or telephone (see 'Rector's Warden' on page 2 for contact details).

## Sunday Stewards

First Sunday	Richmond Davies	07968 582543
Second Sunday	Wilma Brown	01506 440292
Third Sunday	Irina Grigolava	07796 305789
Fourth Sunday	Jane Russell	0131 441 2346
Fifth Sunday		

## 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

**‘In Touch’ Editor**

Vacant

[intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](mailto:intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)**Website Administration**

Vacant

[webmaster@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)**Organist Emeritus**

John Blaber

[emeritus@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](mailto:emeritus@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)**Service Times**

Sunday	Morning Prayer (Said)	10:00 am
	Sung Eucharist	10:30 am
Wednesday	Said Eucharist	11:00 am

**Church Open Times**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday – 10:00 am to 12 noon for quiet reflection and prayer.

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

**Deadline for articles for the February – March issue  
is 3:00 pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

If possible, please submit articles using the following formats:

Paper size: A4; Portrait; 2 cm margins.

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

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

**Subheadings: 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

**Please submit articles to:  
[intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](mailto:intouch@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)**

## Services – 2020

### Christmas and Advent



#### Christmas Eve

**5:30pm: Douglas Hall** a fun family friendly service with recorded Carols and videos. Please sign up via email.

[admin@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysdalmahoy.org.uk)

**7:30pm & 10:30pm: Church Traditional sung service with soloists.**

Please sign up via email for your preferred time, because there is limited space please make every effort to come at your chosen time. We will leave approximately 10% of pew space empty for people from the community at large who "show up".

#### Christmas Day

**10:30am: Church.** A quiet said service with pre-recorded music.

There will be Advent services added in the coming days. Please watch for the special services

