

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Broughty Ferry
Annual General Meeting 2023/24, 24NOV24

Rector's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Once again, I wish to thank you all for your continued attendance at worship and participation in our numerous social engagements throughout the past 12 months; I am also very grateful for your continued support of my ministry amongst you, and our surrounding community.

Secondly, I wish to thank our Vestry for their dedicated commitment to the administration and oversight of our Church life as Trustees. Last year, Jean joined us when Enid stepped down; during the past year, we co-opted Louise Speid to strengthen our constituency and for more resilience. I understand that her husband, Alistair is putting himself forward to be voted on to the Vestry this year, which will round out our numbers; this will add further balance and bring his professional expertise to the Vestry, as we steer St. Mary's towards our Net Zero targets.

Regarding Worship, our Worship Team remains: Iain Stewart, Elaine Hammersley & Sue Rowe, Ruth Toy & Lis Thoms, together with Enza Gibson, our 3rd-Year Placement Student [Enza is in her 3rd year of Theological Training and is in her 2nd year of her placement with us.] It cannot be overlooked just how brilliantly we are served by our Worship Team, who assist in most worship services; thanks also go to our Lection Readers, our Intercessors, our Welcomers and our Sacristy Team. This past year, Anne Aitken passed on her laundering & pressing of our linens to Vera; thanks to the both of you; finally, we cannot worship in a clean environment without Margaret & Barbara; THANK YOU!

We are looking forward to Advent 2024ce, when we will hold our first Christingle Service since before the Great Human Pause.

The early-20thC processional cross could not be properly restored, so our insurers have paid for a modern processional cross, which is now in place. Also, an anonymous donor has gifted St. Mary's two (2) Liturgical sets in Green and Purple: Burse, Veil, Stole & Chasuble, for which we are grateful!

The St. Mary's Worship tempo is now: Wednesdays @ 1030hrs for Holy Communion; Every Sunday @ 0830hrs for a BCP Eucharist and @ 1100hrs for a 2022 Eucharist; a 1700hrs Evensong slot on the first Sunday of the month; and, we have begun a bi-monthly Taize-style service on the Second Sundays. Our thanks to Clint, who made our Evensong Poster and to Louise & Michael Speid for our Taizé booklets.

Regarding Training, several courses and Bible Studies have been on offer, this past year; another year of offerings is planned for 2024/25.

Regarding Ministry, your Ministry Team consists of the Rector, Readers and a Placement Student, which meets to consider and pray for the Spiritual Life of our Church Community and how best to serve it and you. This also includes our Ministry to Ballumbie Court Care Home, where Ruth and I attend twice a month for Singing, praying

and the offer of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament; Ballumbie Court value our services and time spent with them. In Advent 2023ce, various members of St. Mary's sang carols at Ballumbie Court, which was very well received; we look forward to doing so again next month. You are welcome to join us; just ask!

Throughout the year, I have conducted five (5) funerals and one Burial of Ashes. I also conducted two (2) Baptisms at St. Mary's and one (1) each at St. Ninian's & St. Martin's, this past year. Moreover, I was privileged to have conducted a Wedding, this past year, held at the Woodlands Hotel for members of St. Ninian's Church.

Your Rector continues to be a member of the Chaplaincy Team of Grove Academy, a member of the Broughty Ferry Church Group, a member of the Mothers' Union (MU), a member of the Diocesan Council and am a General Synod First Alternate for our diocese and the Diocesan Deliverer. Finally, I am the Padre (Chaplain) for the 1232 (Dundee) Air Training Corps (ATC) Squadron and am a member of the Dundee Fairtrade Forum.

St. Mary's remains committed to the UK-wide Warm/Cosy Spaces scheme; since we already worship on Wednesdays, and have a wee natter and refreshments afterwards, it was logical to volunteer for Wednesdays, which we did from November 2023 through March 2024. We're providing the same offer, this winter... As a result, St. Mary's continues to increase in membership by 1 or 2 a year, our knitters and seamstresses continue to make and distribute, Advent Angels, Easter Egg Cosies, Premature Babies' caps, Mission to Seafarers' hats, poppies for our Remembrance display...and are preparing to make parachutes for the Summer2025 charity fundraiser where we throw our toys out of the aerial appliance... Thank you!

I did a pulpit swap with the Dean, this past year; this allows me to express just how grateful I am to my clerical and Lay colleagues who have covered worship slots during my holidays. Thank you!

Enza created our Prayer Circles, which members appreciate and from which a new initiative has arisen to create a Pastoral Team... Kudos to our ordinand and all who are helping her and St. Mary's to care for each other!

Regarding ministry to School, I have signed up to be an MCR Pathways Mentor, Balgillo Nursery has been upstairs during Christmastide, for a Pancake Race... and for Eastertide, while I gave Christmas & Easter assemblies as part of the Chaplains Team at the Grove.

Regarding Mission, a Social Committee was started, this past year, while our community met socially for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, a Harvest Lunch and a Convivial 'Pub Lunch' arranged by Fiona, among other events. We have raised money for Aberlour, the Firefighters' Charity, the MU, and a successful Shoebox Appeal, not to mention collected and donated goods and funds to the local Foodbank and for Women's Aid. The Vestry have added a permanent Agenda Item for Mission, now; I am keen that we begin to meet more regularly to create more missional activities and initiatives, for Christ instructed his disciples to minister, teach and prepare the Way for the Lord to come into people's hearts!

I look forward to Mary Popple, the Chair of True Origin [trueorigin.org.uk] is coming to talk to us about Fair Trade in January 2025ce at the 11 o'clock Eucharist.

The Men's Breakfast started slowly; however, I am determined to provide a vehicle for the Men of St. Mary's to meet, to share food and fellowship...and in hope of presenting to the world a model of wholesome men's fellowship.

This will be the final year that Enza Gibson will be with us and I'm grateful for her ministry and service amongst us.

There may well be things I've overlooked; but, I wish to personally thank our Officers, namely our Secretary Fiona, Treasurer Graeme, Lay Rep Elaine, our industrious Property-Convener Dave and our Safeguarding Officer Derek for ALL their hard work!

Finally, as our membership continues to grow, with 50+ Canon 41 forms received, the new railing banner may help to bring more people through our doors; that said, Sue & Dave Rowe have been very active in recruiting folk to hire St. Mary's, Derek has helped to bring in the Blood Transfusion Service...and Fiona has organised 2 craft fairs! Please do continue to support me, your Vestry, the Worship Team and each other in our efforts to further the Kingdom of God on our frontlines.

Yours in Christ,

Revd. Mark-Aaron B. Tisdale
Rector

Christ the King 2024

