

St Mary's Parish Church
NEWSLETTER
September 2024



"For the glory of God
and the solace of a whole community"

From the Manse



When Sandy and I were on holiday this summer we decided to climb Ben Rinnes, a prominent hill in Moray. It was a fine day, though breezy at the top and so we looked for a sheltered place to eat our sandwiches. Another walker had already found a good place and we joined him. We asked if he was also on holiday and he told us that he lived nearby in Pluscarden. You can imagine the laughter when he told us he was a monk and we told him that we were Church of Scotland ministers. Shortly after, another four of the brothers from the Abbey arrived. We introduced one another and struck up a friendly conversation. They were all on a special day out. Then one of the brothers said that they were just in time for divine office before their picnic. A discussion took place as to whether they would say or sing it. They

decided to sing. One of the brothers took the service booklets out of his rucksack and they began. They very kindly held out the booklets so that we could follow. The service consisted of chanted psalms in Latin. What the brothers didn't know, but what many of you do know, is that Sandy and I both sing in the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers which means that we have learnt to chant Latin psalms. Much to the brothers' surprise, the two Church of Scotland ministers joined in. Once the service was finished Sandy and I headed back down the hill with an invitation to call in to Pluscarden anytime.

It was a special and moving moment of prayer offered together by Christians from different church traditions. It was made possible because of the generous and friendly welcome given to us by the brothers and because we were open to accepting their invitation. The Ben Rinnes hilltop experience was unique, however

It shows us what is possible when we are open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Friendship and hospitality, invitation and welcome in Christ's name are at the heart of our faith and when we follow Christ's example, in our church and our community then we will find blessing in unexpected places and surprising ways.

Alison

Newsletter Editor

John Weierter



Welcome to our late Summer edition. Thanks to all who have contributed articles.

Send articles for the next edition to:

newsletter@stmaryskirk.co.uk
by **11th of November 2024.**

Anybody fancy a shot of editing the Newsletter? - just basic skills in Word needed!

News Between Newsletters



You can check out what is going on in the church by going to our website www.stmaryskirk.co.uk You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

Crafty Folk



The Crafty Folk have been meeting throughout the summer and busy keeping the Craft Stall stocked. Sales have been slower this year, especially in May and June, but are picking up now. It is not too late to **join us on a Thursday morning from 10:30 to 12:00.**

From now on, we will be thinking about preparing for the Martinmas Fair and crafting Christmas goods. We hope to have a small Christmas display in the Craft Stall in September.

Jane Davies

Moving towards union



with Haddington West Church

The coordinating group meetings continue to be positive and friendly. At our June meeting the Presbytery Clerk outlined what will happen when our minister Alison retires at the end of April next year. At that point an Interim Moderator will be appointed to St Mary's by Presbytery. A locum minister may also be employed. When John Vischer retires a different Interim Moderator will be appointed to Haddington West. The vote of the Kirk Sessions and Congregations can then be held and if agreed, the union can take place. This would be the end of summer 2025 at the earliest. Once the union takes place the process for calling a new minister can begin. In the meantime the coordinating group will work on the Draft Basis of Union.

Third Wednesday Group

On Wednesday, 18th September, 7 to 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Church will once again be the candlelit venue for 'Quiet Time'.

This offers an opportunity to step out of the busy-ness of life for a few moments of quiet reflection. Why not try this different form of worship? We would love to see you there!

Quiet Times over the next few months will be on Wednesdays:
18th September,
16th October,
20th November and
18th December.



Third Wednesday Group

Back to Church?

If you haven't been to church for a while, why not come back and give us a try? You will be sure of a warm welcome.

The Church Walking Group



The group meets on the second Saturday of each month, usually about 9.30am at the North Door of St Mary's. We take on circular walks of about 7 miles and usually travel to our starting point by sharing cars or by bus.

Mid-morning, we stop for about 10 minutes for refreshments and then for maybe 30 minutes for a packed lunch.

We might go for coffee or tea afterwards if there is a handy cafe.

Our August walk was to Crichton Castle, starting from Vogrie Country Park. In September we are hosting Haddington Churches' Christian Aid Tartan walk.

John Weierter

Circle of Friends

Please come and enjoy our afternoon teas on the Third Thursday of each month:



19 September,
17 October & 21 November

We are looking for more helpers for the Afternoon Teas, so if you can fold napkins, set tables, pour tea and coffee, provide some home baking, clear up or wash and dry dishes you will be very welcome indeed. Speak to Felicity or Isobel for further information.

We continue to deliver posies, provided by the Flower Committee, every week. These go to those who are bereaved, who have a special anniversary, who have been unwell or are housebound. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a posy do let us know.



Isobel Colley, Felicity Haire,
Lorna McDougal, Di Kettles,
Rona Bowick, Maureen Duncan.

ART AND SOUL



Many of you will have noticed 25 paintings displayed at the sides of the church. These have been painted over a number of years, usually in the context of some event or group or personal exploration. Beside each painting is a title and paragraph commenting on the picture. I hope to make these available to other churches in our Presbytery, but am delighted to start with St Mary's.

Margaret Stein

Parking at Church

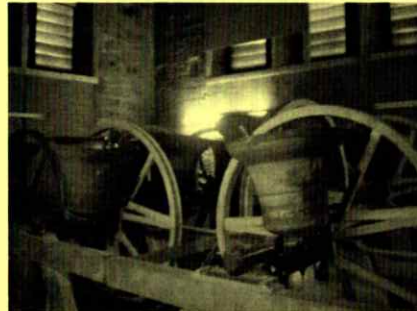


Please park considerately and as neatly as you can in the churchyard on a Sunday.

Please consider parking in the street or further away and walking, if you are able, in order to leave more room for those who need easier access.

The Bells

News from the Belfry in the 25th Anniversary Year of the new bells



June was a busy month for the ringers at St Mary's Haddington.

Tower Outing

We began on 1st June with our annual tower outing to Embleton in the north east of England where we enjoyed the ring of six. After a quick coffee stop in the sunshine at Embleton, we headed to Whitley Bay for a picnic. After lunch, we rang at St Paul's, Whitley Bay, and then onward to ring ten at North Shields and Gosforth. For some of our newer recruits this was the first time they had a ring on ten. Everyone had the opportunity

to ring rounds and call changes on ten and we enjoyed both sets of bells immensely.

Anniversary Ring

Just a few days later, on 6th June, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the new bells at Haddington with a successful ringing of a quarter of Plain Bob Minor.

Three of those ringing on 6th June had also rung in the 1999 dedication service by the Very Revd. Dr John Cairns.

This was the culmination of much fund-raising and hard work to install, at St Mary's, the redundant ring from Dunecht House, Aberdeenshire.

Annual Dinner

A couple of weeks later on 22nd June the Haddington Society of Change Ringers held its 25th annual dinner at Craighielaw Golf Club. During the day, we had successfully scored another quarter peal, with one of our newer recruits, who had learned to ring as part of the Haddington Ringing Course, successfully ringing his first quarter.

Dedication Remembered

The following day, during the morning service, the Minster highlighted the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the bells and spoke to current ringing Master Chris Thomas, and to myself about our experiences of being part of the ringing at Haddington. Then the Very Revd. Dr John Cairns, who is now retired and a member of the congregation at St Mary's, spoke very movingly about the dedication of the bells 25 years earlier. He highlighted how important the bells are as part of the life of St Mary's, and how much they mean to the congregation and the wider community in the town.

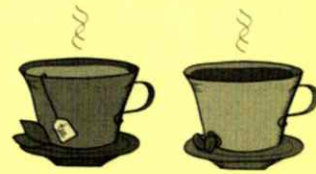
SACR coming to Haddington

There remains one more celebratory event in this our 25th Anniversary year, which is the Scottish Association of Change Ringers' autumn meeting in October. Time enough to gather our energies to welcome members of the SACR to Haddington!

Sally Thomas



Sunday Teas & Coffees



For several years now donations at the tea table on Sunday mornings have been shared with 50% going to church funds and the remaining 50% sent to various charities. This year we are supporting three local charities:

Home Start East Lothian is a voluntary organisation promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age.



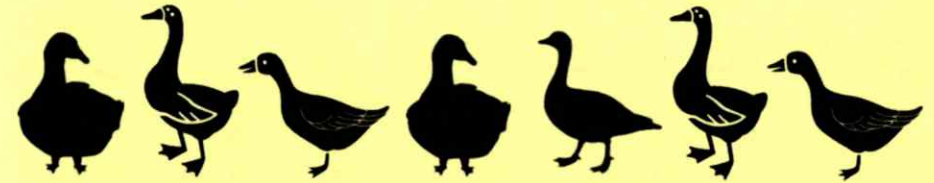
Our Community Kitchen aims to reduce isolation and loneliness by bringing people together to eat food around a table, by arranging fun activities and by planting and growing food to eat.



Care & Repair East Lothian offers a service to older and disabled people on financing and carrying out housing improvements, repairs or adaptations such as wet rooms, stairlifts and ramps.



Thank you for supporting these charities and St Mary's with your donations at the tea table on a Sunday morning and thank you to our amazing social team who provide the tea, coffee and biscuits for us on a Sunday morning.



MARTINMAS FAIR 2024

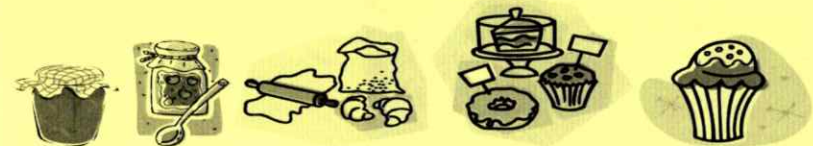
Saturday 16th November

The Martinmas Fair is our annual fund-raising event with music, stalls, café, crafts, flowers and so, so much more... We hope you will put the date in your diaries and will bring your friends, family and neighbours to support us, share in the event and be welcomed to St Mary's.

We always try to put the 'fun' in fundraising but this year we would like to explore how we promote, organise, set up and run the Fair, to maximise the opportunity to welcome folk into St Mary's and raise money for its future upkeep.

So, if you would like to be involved in promoting, setting up or helping on the day, **please join us at a short meeting between services at 10.15am on Sunday 1st September.** All welcome to attend. Please speak to Mary or John McMillan or Alison Meikle.

We need a large team of volunteers to help. We need people to move furniture and chairs and help set up the tables for the stalls and take down and replace at the end. We need volunteers to get the posters and fliers out. We need stallholders. We need people to welcome folks to the church, bake cakes for the café, wait on tables, make teas & coffees and make or donate items for the stalls – jams, chutneys, bric-a-brac, second-hand books, crafts, cards, garden produce, plant cuttings, dried seed heads – anything we can sell to raise funds for St Mary's.

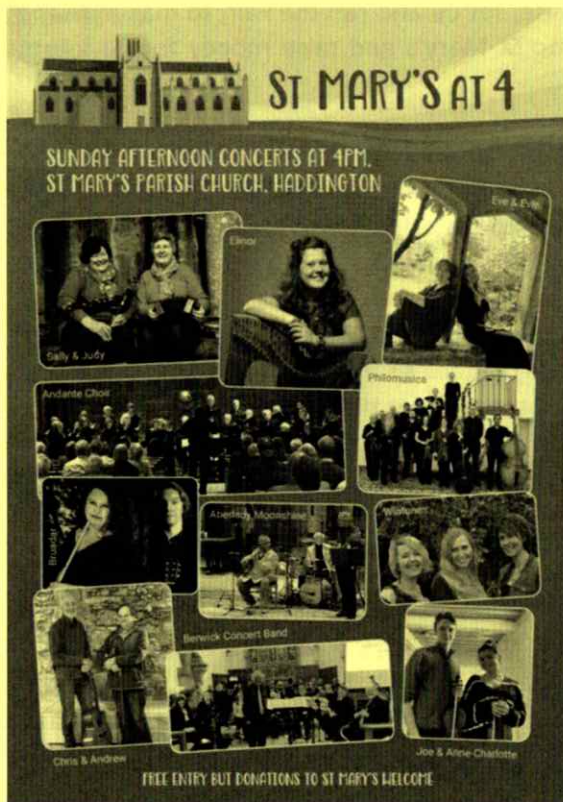


Concerts & Events



St Mary's at 4

Our "St Mary's at 4" series of free concerts on a Sunday afternoon continues into September. On **Sunday 1st** Eve Doyle & Evie Perfect, a young singer and young pianist, return to St Mary's, on **Sunday 22nd** we welcome the Aberlady Moonshine Orchestra playing contemporary jazz and blues and on **Sunday 29th** the renowned Kevock Choir returns to the kirk. The series closes on **Sunday 6th October** with a concert by local singer Coreen Scott. Please do come along and support the performers and help raise money for the St Mary's Window Project. Refreshments are offered after the short concerts which usually last between 45 minutes to an hour.



Why not come along to these free concerts?

Lammermuir Festival 2024

This popular festival of 12 days of classical music across East Lothian runs from 5-16 September and we are delighted to once again be one of the main venues. There will be four concerts by the Concerto Copenhagen, one of the finest baroque orchestras in the world and one by the Royal Northern Sinfonia. For tickets and more information go to www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk

Other Upcoming Concerts in St Mary's

On **Tuesday 8th October** we welcome the Royal Scottish National Orchestra back to St Mary's for a special lunchtime concert at 1pm - RSNO Plays Haydn. Presenter Gillian Moore introduces young and old to the wonders of classical music. For more information go to www.rsno.org.uk

The East Lothian Council Instrumental Music Service return to St Mary's on **Wednesday 9th October** for their annual concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. School pupils from all over the county take part.

On Remembrance **Sunday, 10th November**, the Garleton Singers will be performing Karl Jenkin's Mass for Peace, The Armed Man.

The Haddington Concert Society

We are very pleased that the Concert Society's magnificent Bösendorfer Concert Grand Piano has found a new home here at St Mary's. The piano will be available for community use and will, of course, be used for the society's concert series – Music Close Up - which takes place over the winter months on a Sunday afternoon here in the church. For more information go to www.haddingtonconcertsociety.com



ELAF East Lothian Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight



This is organised annually by East Lothian Council and takes place in the first half of September. This year our Visitor Team at St Mary's and Haddington's History Society have teamed up to offer a few interesting talks in the kirk:

Ten Things you didn't know about John Knox

Saturday 31 August, 2pm – 3:30 pm

In this talk Marie Macpherson author of *The Knox Trilogy*, shares some of the surprising things she has discovered in her research. **Cost:** £10 (Funds raised to be shared between St Mary's Kirk and Haddington's History Society). Booking required.

Of Tykes and Loons

Saturday 31 August, 7pm – 8:30 pm

In this presentation, Siege of Haddington historian Jon Cooper will talk about the development of arms and armour, tactics, and strategy of the armies in East Lothian. **Cost:** £10 (Funds raised to be shared between St Mary's Kirk and Haddington's History Society). Booking required.

Witchcraft in Haddingtonshire

Tuesday 3 September, 7:30pm – 9:00 pm

Why was Haddingtonshire such a hotbed of witchcraft in the 16th and 17th centuries? Who were the alleged witches and why were they accused? Who were their accusers? How were they punished? In this talk, author Marie Macpherson attempts to answer some of these burning questions. **Cost:** £10 (Funds raised to be shared between St Mary's Kirk and Haddington's History Society). Booking required.

Booking at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/archaeologyfortnight

DOORS
OPEN
DAYS 2024

Doors Open Days

"Our Heritage – Our Paths of History"

St Mary's is again taking part in this national event on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September 2024.

The Visitors' Season Committee is grateful to all of the additional contributors who have offered their ideas and their services, as can be seen below.

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 11am to 4pm

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 1.30pm to 4pm

- Self-guided Trail tells the story of ruin and restoration
- Special display celebrates 475th anniversary of end of the Siege of Haddington
- Talk and Walk round the outside of church looking for Siege damage with guest experts
- Spectacular Flower displays – *Celebration* themes for end of Siege
- View & play the Haddington Concert Society's new Bösendorfer Piano
- Teas/coffees/ home baking
- Craft stall

Additional Details & Events

SATURDAY

- Blue Badge Guide, Lorna Colvin-MacLean will lead Talk & Walk
- 2.00-3.45pm Visit the belfry to try bell-ringing. 60 steps!

SUNDAY

- Early afternoon – Dr Jon Cooper will give a talk on the Siege and at
- 3.00pm, after walking round the outside of the church, he will lead on to the Siege battle site outside Holy Trinity Church and at
- 3.45pm – to the Siege Memorial at Lady Kitty's Garden for a brief wreath-laying ceremony (This may be attended separately)
- 4.00-5.00pm – St Mary's@4 Concert by the Kevock Choir

Christian Aid



The **Midsummer Afternoon Tea** on Saturday 22 June took place in the Rectory Garden of Holy Trinity Church and was very well attended. The weather was kind to us and it was a happy occasion with a lovely atmosphere - a chance to meet friends and make new ones. The amount raised, when taken together with other donations in the last week of June, was **just over £800**. Thanks are due to all who helped but particularly for the hard work of the reps from Holy Trinity Church and to the Rev Liz who encouraged us to use her garden.

It brought the total for **Christian Aid Week to £3256**.



Tables all set



Dee Jay ready to rock n roll

Our total raised so far this year is £4879

Upcoming event - Sponsored Tartan Walk on Saturday 14th September. It was a brilliant event last year, with 37 walkers taking part. We hope for a good turnout again this year and for the same dry and sunny weather. See the full page flyer.

John Weierter

Watch out for Single Joint Services

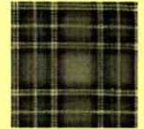
Watch for notices or check the online church calendar

The Sunday of the month will vary to suit the occasion.

Check also for the time as it may vary.



Walk With Us



The Tartan Walk - Saturday 14th September 2024

In support of the *Harvest of Hope* Christian Aid campaign

St Mary's Walking Group have kindly invited CA supporters from Haddington Churches and beyond to join them on their monthly walk in September. Not all walkers need to be sponsored – just come along for the fellowship.

The 6 mile walk starts at St Mary's Church North Door at 9.30am (Gather at 9.00 - 9.20am for Registration) and finishes at The Trinity Centre about 12.30pm where we are invited for refreshments. Bring a packed lunch.

I think only seasoned walkers will do the full 6 mile route but there will be points where folks can drop out and return to town safely. These drop-out points make walks of 1 mile, 2.5miles and 4.7 miles. We will walk as a group and stewarding at crossing points etc will be done by the leaders.

A flyer with the full route and further instructions for walkers is available in St Mary's. If you want to be sponsored there are also paper sponsorship forms in church or by email from me.

Walkers

If you intend to walk please let me, one of your church reps, or Mary McMillan know.

Supporters

can either sponsor an individual by cash/cheque (payable to "Christian Aid") on their paper sponsor form,

or sponsor the whole team online on our GiveStar page:

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/haddington-churches-ca-tartan-walk-2024>



Gail Craven

(Local CA Organiser for Haddington Churches)

trinitycentrehaddington@gmail.com

Our Church Family



Weddings

"Meanwhile, these three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of all is love".

Rebecca Williams and Roger Telford
Louise Doughty and Joshua Marsh



Baptism

"Then He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them".

Angus William Arthur Logie



Funerals

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted".

Mr Alan Faulkner
Mr James (Jim) Smith
Mrs Catherine Trotter



God Given in Prayer

*Oh switch me on when the going gets good
And put me in a better mood.
Find me a way to make one laugh.
Enjoy the moment along a merry path.*

*Oh put me on a delightful road.
Please unburden me from life's load.
Give me the cheer to spread to others.
Allow me that feeling which uncovers.*

*Make me see a sunny face.
Smiles that come with God's good grace
And company will become a joy
For all, in friendships, to enjoy.*

Stewart Carruthers

Life and Work is the award winning magazine of the Church of Scotland

August 2024

Singing Spirits and Soaring Hearts

Three contributors tell us what makes their hearts sing

Italian Love

The Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison reflects on the surprising roots of a long-standing link with Italy

A Place of Rugged Beauty

Steve Aisthorpe reports on new life for a retreat at Kilmalieu, on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula

Moderator

In his first column, the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson urges the Church to step out confidently in faith

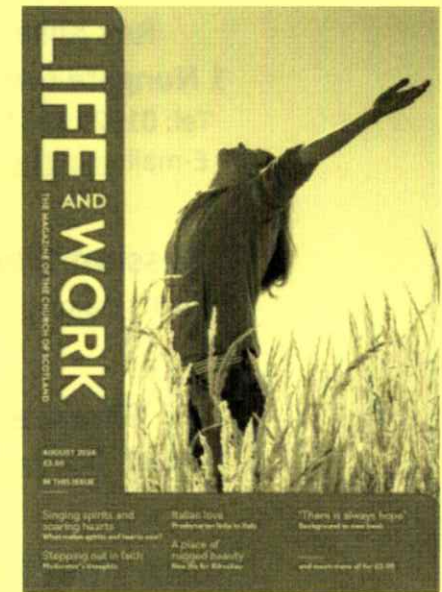
Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of International Charges
'There is Always Hope'

The Rev Neil Glover outlines the premise of his new book, Finding Our Voice

Regulars

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer
The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church
Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair
My Church: Janice Maclean of Milngavie: St Paul's



Go on-line to <http://www.lifeandwork.org>



You will see the subscription prices for both digital and paper subscriptions and you will be able to take a look inside a sample issue.

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E-mail: events@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Newsletter articles E-mail: newsletter@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Website: www.stmaryskirk.co.uk



St Mary's is on Facebook, Instagram and Threads as stmaryskirk



Haddington: St Mary's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SCO10614