## St Mary's Parish Church NEWSLETTER September 2025



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

## INVITATION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 9.30am (non-alcoholic juice) and 11am (alcoholic wine) on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Children are welcomed at the Lord's Table

You are warmly invited to share in this important part of the life of St Mary's Parish Church.

All services are at St Mary's, apart from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September which is at Haddington West Parish Church at 11am, as the final Joint service before Union.



Sunday 31st August - Single Service at 11am, Joint with H West Church.

Sunday 7th September - 9.30 and 11am.

Sunday 14th September - Holy Communion at 9.30 and 11am.

Sunday 21st September - 9.30 and 11am.

Sunday 28th September - Single Service at 11am at H West Church.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October –Single Service - Harvest Thanksgiving at 11am. Lunch afterwards about noon.

Sunday 12th October - 9.30 and 11am.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Single Service of Union at 11am.

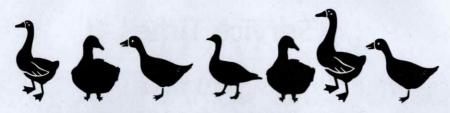
With light lunch afterwards.

Sunday 9 November - Haddington Service of Remembrance 10.50am.

Refreshments are normally served after the early service or between services.



However, after the 11am Harvest Thanksgiving Service there will be a Harvest Lunch at which Homemade Soup and Crumble will be served. Please stay if you can and enjoy food and fellowship.



## MARTINMAS FAIR

Our biggest fundraiser of the year will take place in St Mary's from 10am to around 12noon on

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### We need your help!

- Could you move chairs & tables, set up the stalls, serve behind a stall or in the café?
- Could you make things to sell jams, chutneys, cakes, breads, biscuits, tray bakes, crafts, cards, jewellery? We will need lots of home baking to sell and for the café!
- Could you donate books, bric-a-brac, nearly new items, plants, cuttings, dried flowers or surplus garden produce – apples, pears, and vegetables?
- Could you spread the word about the Fair, distribute posters & fliers, tweet and share on Facebook and invite friends, family & neighbours to come along on the day?

If you can help in any way or have some new ideas on how to raise funds for St Mary's please speak to Mary or John McMillan or e-mail <a href="mailto:events@stmaryskirk.co.uk">events@stmaryskirk.co.uk</a>.

## Union with the West Church

I recently met with the Session Clerk from the West Church - Brenda Murray, David Graham (St Mary's Interim Moderator), and Norman Smith who is Presbytery Clerk. Norman will become Interim Moderator for the West Church at the end of September, when John Vischer retires, until the Service of Union on Sunday, 19th October.

We are now drawing up a timeline for these final weeks to ensure The Union is as smooth as possible.

There will also be much work to do in the days immediately following The Union - from our Pastoral Team liaising with the West Church pastoral team to ensure that members who need support to get to church or a home visit are known about; making all members aware of the many groups carried forward from both churches that they can join to help them get to know each other; pulling together information for the new parish website; and checking that names and contacts are accurate for the parish roll, to name a few.

However, the most important task will be for all of us, to greet the

congregation from the West with warmth and love, and do our best to welcome them into the new church family of Haddington at St Mary's. The joining of the two congregations will take time but I know we will all work hard to ensure its success.

In the weeks leading up to Sunday, 19th October there will be further information about the Service of Union and how we hope to mark the event. Please look out for this in the Notices on Sunday mornings and in emails.

Thank you all for your continuing support,

Rae Goode, Session Clerk

## Our Church Family

#### **Deaths & Funerals**

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

#### May

Mrs Kit Howie Mr Ian Pryde Ms Doriel Tully-Jackson

June

Mrs Elizabeth Young

July

Mrs Agnes McAlpine Dr Jonathan Turvill Mr William Waddell

# The Journey Towards Union

The two churches exchange articles for each other's newsletters, as one of the joint activities on our journey towards Union.

In the following two messages, for our final editions before Union, we each share our thoughts and feelings about the Union.

A Message from St Mary's



#### to Haddington West

We at St Mary's are already in Vacancy and are having to get used to having a different minister or worship team each week and varying times of service as we align with the West Church at the end of each month. Some people find this unsettling, but we recognise that we need to embrace it positively as we journey towards a new, more settled situation.

When I think of the various joint activities that I have been involved in, from the Christian Aid events to

our recent programme of joint services in both churches, I take great heart from the buzz of fellowship which has followed each event. The joyous chatter in the West Church Hall after the recent July service was almost deafening.

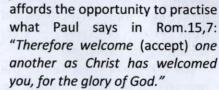
So, the two churches are getting to know each other better and we at St Mary's recognise what those at the West Church are giving up particularly their building. Some may have spent a lifetime caring for it and being cared for within it. Like us, they are also going to give up the name of their congregation and we will both come together as, "The Parish of Haddington at St Mary's". We embrace this as a fresh opportunity - to move on and together under the grow leadership of a new minister.

We are looking forward to welcoming members from The West Church to the St Mary's building. Remember that after the Union, when we have become one new congregation, St Mary's will be your building just as much as ours and we will enter it together, welcoming and supporting each other in our new church life together.

**John Weierter** Editor of St Mary's Newsletter

#### A Message from Haddington West to St Mary's

One of the happy things about a union is that it



When I imagine such welcoming, I think of two things.

To welcome one another one must acknowledge the presence of different and differing backgrounds and be prepared to invest joyfully the time and effort required to build up trust. Surely there must also be a willingness to demonstrate that the encounter (the coming together) shall be mutually beneficial and enriching. There may be those who need no justification (anymore) that the union is right and spiritually reasonable, but there will be those also who are not there yet or might even think they shall never be. Welcoming one another will be crucial.

'As Christ has welcomed you' — That surely is the point of orientation and of reassurance and of wisdom. He has welcomed us not for what we are or for who we are, but he has welcomed us just as we are (even sinners) and for what by his love and grace we will

become. The point of Christ's welcome is our unity.

For the blessed work of welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed us - for the glory of God, no less — it is vital always to remember his parting words: "Surely I am with you to the very end of the age" (Mt.28,20) and "A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (Jn.13.34)

Could there be a better and truer word for thought and heart engaged for union than Col.3, with which I (outgoing minister of the West Church) wish the forthcoming union every blessing and success:

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew. circumcised or uncircumcised. barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, West Church or St.Mary's, but Christ is all and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved, clothe vourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (vv. 11-14)

**Rev John Vischer** 

## Newsletter Editor

John Weierter



Thanks to all who have contributed articles to this, our final edition under the auspices of St Mary's Parish congregation.

Watch out for information about dates for the production of a Newsletter for the new Haddington Parish at St Mary's congregation.

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## New



#### **Treasurer**

We are delighted to be able to inform you that David Williams has agreed to become our new treasurer. He and his wife Angie are new to area and have been participating enthusiastically in our church activities.

We are still looking for more volunteers to join the Finance Team to assist with uploading supplier invoices, helping with online banking and payroll. For more information, please speak to our Session Clerk, Mrs Rae Goode or to any of our Finance Team.

## St Mary's @ 4

We've hosted concerts every Sunday afternoon this summer. Details of the remaining concerts are on page 16. There has been a great mix of music of all styles and from many centuries – truly something for everyone!

We are trialling tea before the concerts and look forward to getting constructive feedback about this so that we can decide what works best for next year – comments please!

The list of concert stewards has expanded and 27 of our church members have been involved in various ways — greeting the audience, providing tea, introducing the performers and locking up at the end — all important jobs to ensure the smooth running of each event. If you would like to join the stewarding team please contact Janet Chrystal or Alison Meikle.

£2,468.67 has been raised to date which will go towards the cleaning of a window in the choir.......we hope to raise the full cost, approximately £3,000, by the end of this year's series. Bookings are already being taken for next year when perhaps we might raise enough to clean another window?

Janet Chrystal

## Car Run



We are looking to update the car run rota, created to provide support to those folk requiring a lift to Sunday worship and other church events.

We are also anticipating welcoming our West Church neighbours soon which may increase demand.

If you are a driver of a 4-door car (even if you would normally walk to church), we would be delighted if you felt able to volunteer your time to this important aspect of our congregational life.

Please speak to Di Kettles by calling 07812 032 226 and leaving a message, or catch me at church. (I'm one of the choir members.)

A thousand thanks in anticipation.



Di Kettles

## Crafty Folk

The Crafty Folk meet in the Church on Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 12:00. Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

We keep the Craft stall supplied with goods and the stall is open when the Church is open from May to September. All proceeds go to church funds. Please note that we hold a large stock of fabric, knitting wool, patterns, haberdashery, etc. If you can't join us on Thursdays but would like to contribute by working at home, we can supply the materials. We are always looking for new ideas.

**Jane Davies** 



## Home Group



The Home Group meets at 24 Markle Steading, East Linton, each week at 10.30 am on Tuesday mornings. We have tea, coffee etc... and chat, followed by discussion on our current topic, finishing around 12 o'clock.

We are now getting September, when we resume after the summer break, so this is a good time to find out if the home group is something that suits you.

Our aim is to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the 21st century, and we do this in various ways. As well as studying bible passages or characters, we may look at a book, written by a respected Christian author, and intended for small groups, perhaps with tv/dvd accompaniments.

Discussions are lively, but goodnatured, and, if you feel this is something you might be interested in trying out, or if you want to find out more, please feel free to get in touch. Speak to me in church, or message or phone me on 07488 360490.

Robert Lightbody.

## **Third** Wednesday



On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, St Mary's Parish Church is open from 7.00 to 7.30pm, for half an hour of 'Quiet Time'.

This is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to come in to the candlelit church for half an hour - a chance to step aside from the busyness of life - to enjoy some quiet reflection in the peace and tranquillity of this special place; there will be some gentle music and some meaningful words to guide our thoughts.

All are most welcome in this beautiful church. We hope you will join us too.

Third Wednesdays to come: 17th September, 15th October, 19th November and 17th December 2025.

Felicity Haire & Isobel Colley



## The Flower Team



Our enthusiastic and talented team prepares flower displays for the church for each Sunday and for special occasions or displays.

After the services, the more portable posies are delivered by the Circle of Friends to members who are poorly or celebrating.

We do wreaths for the War Memorials too.

For many years the St Mary's flower team have also arranged the flowers for the Nungate Gala Queen and her Retinue. See the example above.

We would like to wish Sheila Reid all the best on her retirement from the Nungate Gala team and hope she recovers quickly from her bout of ill-health.

If you would like to join the Flower Team, please get in touch through any email address on the back page.

> **Shirley Patterson** (Joint Flower Convener)

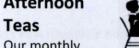
## Circle of Friends (Pastoral Care)

We continue to deliver posies. made up by the Flower Committee, each week to bereaved families, those members in Care Homes and those with special birthdays or anniversaries.

Of course, we can only do this if we know of these occasions; so do pass on the news.

Quite a lot of what we do is confidential SO we cannot elaborate further but be assured we do our best in the difficult situation with no permanent minister. We are grateful to have the Rev Maureen Duncan to guide us meantime.

#### Afternoon



Our monthly afternoon teas recommence on Thursday 17th September 2.30-4pm.

All welcome to this chatty, friendly time and the next one for your diaries is on the 16th October. We look forward to welcoming you

here in St Mary's Parish Church.

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

## One of Our Church Family

ELIZABETH YOUNG (3rd October 1930



(3<sup>rd</sup> October 1930 – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025)

Elizabeth was a quiet and unassuming person. Born the first of two daughters on the 3rd of October 1930 to Isabella and John Dunbar, with sister Mary arriving six years later. They lived in Sidegate, above what was then the recreation club, before moving to Baird Terrace in 1933. Elizabeth often spoke about how her father specifically asked for a house with a large garden and a view of the Lammermuir Hills - both of which he got!

Tragically, when Elizabeth was just nine years old, her mother passed away and subsequently Elizabeth and Mary were cared for by Miss Mathieson, the housekeeper whom their dad had employed.

Memorable times during Elizabeth's childhood were the 'black-out' when Haddington was bombed during the Second World War, and also the time when Haddington was flooded in 1948, and she recalled how it took ages for houses to get clean, dry and habitable once again.

While Elizabeth was at the Knox Institute, she was an active member of the Girl Guides and sang in the choir here at St Mary's Parish Church. She even led Sunday School for a while — a role she loved, especially as it allowed her to choose the hymns she actually liked to sing.

After leaving school she worked at the County Buildings as a shorthand typist, achieving an impressive sixty words per minute, a feat of which she was extremely proud!

Elizabeth met her John at a dance in the Corn Exchange, and they spent their courtship cycling around the county, going to dances, picnics and the cinema. John and Elizabeth were married in St Mary's on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1951 and very soon after they had a new arrival – their Alsation pup, which they called Shiel. In 1953 Isabelle was born, James in 1954 and John in 1956 and their family was complete.

The family moved to Barlae House, beside the Long Bar, where

Elizabeth and John worked together running the pub. There they had many very happy community occasions. As well as opening the first licenced beer garden in Scotland, Elizabeth started a Wednesday night 'sewing bee' in the pub's lounge. She honed her talent for needlework, as she had loved both sewing and knitting since her schooldays. Her colourful knitted clowns were legendary and helped raise funds for a great many different deserving causes.

Elizabeth and John enjoyed many adventures with the family in their VW campervan and loved the camaraderie of the Caravan Club, and she was the local Secretary for a number of years.

They retired from the pub in 1991 and, after selling it, they moved to South Queensferry, partly because John loved sailing. There Elizabeth spent time volunteering in the local charity shop, which gave her a great sense of pride and a way to give something back to the community. By now their three children had families of their own and thus much of their retirement was spent travelling to and from visiting them, or attending special year end assemblies, rugby matches and horse shows or doing

school pick-ups for their grandchildren.

After John sadly passed away in 2010, Elizabeth returned to her hometown of Haddington and bought a flat in Knox Court – which had once been son John's primary school classroom! Being so close to son John, Janice and family meant Elizabeth could share their family life a few times a week out at Letham Holdings.

We are so privileged to have had Elizabeth Young in our midst for the many years she was a member of St Mary's Parish Church and we thank God for all her time and talents that she has shared with us. She will be greatly missed by all her family, not least by her three children, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson, of all of whom she was so justly proud.

Finally, a pearl of wisdom from some of Elizabeth's writings: "Look after yourselves and one another, and don't let the sun sink on an argument."

4th August 2025

Kindly Supplied by The Young Family

## Visitor Season



Check out our VisitScotland site

We have had a steady number of visitors this season, and many came to see the wonderful Haddington Camera Club exhibition in June and July.

Our many welcomers, on duty every day in pairs, have been on hand to meet anyone arriving through our doors — be they travellers from near or far, those returning to a much-loved place, or those seeking solace from a stressful world. The historical trail now includes QR codes allowing immediate translation into several other languages.

The Crafty Folk have kindly kept the shop supplied from their Thursday sessions. Readers from the different Haddington Churches give a short reading and prayer each day at 2pm.

We are currently preparing for the Lothian Doors Open Days on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th September. These Heritage days are held throughout Europe on different weekends, and the theme this year is 'Windows to the

Past, Doors to the Future'. It celebrates the rich heritage of architecture and the traditional skills that were – and still are – used, although some are sadly getting lost. We hope to have displays from places in East Lothian where these skills are being used today with eg. stone, lead, glass, wood – and some exhibits. But we also hope to show the softer skills weaving, spinning, embroidery, etc. Perhaps readers having some of these skills may like to display them too? Please get in touch!

Nearer the time, we will be putting out posters showing other events which will include an invitation to play the Haddington Concert Society's Bosendorfer grand piano. In addition, there will be a children's activity corner, a visit to the bell chamber and teas and home baking.

A big thank you to all those who help to keep St Mary's open during the visitor season from May until September. And we thank Bill Robertson who has been on the committee team for many years but is now stepping down.

### DOORS OPEN % DAYS %

**Wendy Lund** 

## Concerts & Events in St Mary's

#### Lammermuir Festival 2025

We are delighted to once again be one of the "beautiful places" where you can hear "beautiful music" this September. Six of the



concerts in this year's Lammermuir Festival are taking place in St Mary's. It is wonderful for us to continue to be a thriving hub for the creative arts and hosting these concerts brings in much needed funds for our congregation and the work of the church. This year we welcome Scottish Opera on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, I Fagiolini on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, The Philharmonia Orchestra and pianist Stephen Osborne on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, the Royal Northern Sinfonia on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and the Dunedin Consort on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. For tickets and full information on all the concerts and events in this year's festival telephone 0131 226 0004 or go to <a href="https://www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk">www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk</a>

#### St Mary's at 4

Our St Mary's at 4 series of free afternoon concerts has been going extremely well this year with a packed programme, good audiences and a wide variety of performers, styles and genres of music. This lovely series was founded by the late Alan Faulkner a few years ago in response to a plea for fundraising ideas for the lighting project. In the years since it has steadily grown and is becoming more and more popular with performers and our community.



This year we are raising funds for the restoration and repair of another of the clear glass windows in the East end of the kirk. Our two final concerts are on Sunday 21 September when we welcome back the fabulous Aberlady Moonshine Orchestra who play jazz & blues in a contemporary style and on Sunday 5 October when the renowned Kevock Choir perform.

#### **Haddington Concert Society**

The Concert Society's *Music Close Up* series of Sunday afternoon classical concerts over the winter 2025/2026 returns to St Mary's on 12th October. For more information go to <a href="https://www.haddingtonconcertsociety.com">www.haddingtonconcertsociety.com</a> or look out, in church, for the leaflets. There will be the



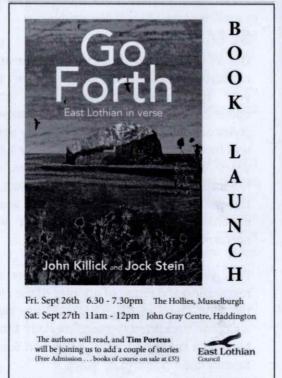
opportunity for all pianists, young or old, amateur or professional, to play the Bosendorfer piano during the Doors Open Weekend on Saturday 27 September (11am to 4pm) and Sunday 28 September (1.30pm-4pm)

#### **Garleton Singers**

On the evening of Friday 24 October there will be a special concert in the church with the Garleton Singers and a visiting choir from Iceland. Keep an eye out for more information about this and other concerts taking place in St Mary's this autumn.



#### Another local event:



### St Mary's Inside & Out:



600 years and still standing!

Join us on 12th September for 2 unique tours of the Church

St Mary's already offers a self-guided tour to visitors with volunteers available for more information and a friendly welcome. But there's always more to show and tell visitors from near and far about this most amazing and historic jewel we have hidden in plain sight. Haddington's History Society (HHS) in collaboration with St Mary's (SM) and Lost Haddington (LH) invite you to discover more about St Mary's history and its important role in Scotland's history.

#### Inside St Mary's:

Lorna Colvin-Maclean (HHS) will provide an historic overview of St Mary's, John Hamilton (LH) and John Weierter (SM) host an exhibition of rare and interesting photographs and artefacts, Wendy Lund (SM) interprets St Mary's Stained-Glass windows, Alexandra Maffei (HHS) presents the features and history of the Lauderdale Aisle and Marie Macpherson will be on hand to discuss the intrigue and impact of the Siege of Haddington.

#### **Outside St Mary's:**

In small groups we will tour the outside of the Church looking at its architecture and amazing features. This tour will appeal to new and life-long residents of Haddington who'd like to learn more about the history and architecture of St Mary's Church - 600 years and still standing!!

Please join us on **12th September** for 2 unique tours of the Church either at **10am** or **2pm**. All welcome.

Charge: £10 (Funds raised will go to St Mary's Church & Haddington's History Society).

Duration: 2hours max.

**ELAF Booking Live via ELC site: ELAF at St Mary's** 

Max no. attending each tour: 50

Accessibility: Good within St Mary's however there are gravestones, tree roots and uneven pathways in and around St Mary's Church. Please advise any mobility issues at the time of booking so care can be taken to adapt the route if required.





#### Walk With Us

In the local

Haddington Churches Sponsored Walk
In support of the Christian Aid Harvest of Hope campaign



In association with St Mary's Church Walking Group

#### Saturday 13th September 2025

Gather from 9.00 - 9.20am for Registration at St Mary's North Door.

The 6-mile walk, over our usual route from St Mary's to Holy Trinity by a six mile circuit to the south of the town, starts at 9.30am and finishes at The Trinity Centre about 12.30pm where we are invited for refreshments. Bring a packed lunch. There are points where folks can drop out, if they wish to, and return to town safely.

Sponsor forms and information leaflets describing the route are available in church or

For further information contact Gail Craven (Local CA Organiser) trinitycentrehaddington@gmail.com or one of your church reps: Mary McMillan, Janet Penman, John & Maureen Weierter.

#### You can support the walk to push back against the inhumanity of poverty:

18

- · sponsor an individual on their paper sponsor form with cash,
- or sponsor the whole team online on our CA page: https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2025/hadding

 $\frac{https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2025/haddington-churches-harvest-walk}{}$ 



## Life and Work was the award winning magazine of the Church of Scotland

#### **Final Edition**

## AUGUST 2025 COMMEMORATIVE FINAL ISSUE

#### Contents:

The Church of Scotland's 'Little Star'

A short history of Life and Work

'Our' Magazine

Long-time readers, ministers and a former editor reflect on what Life and Work has meant to them

#### **Endings and Beginnings**

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, bids farewell to the magazine

The Moderator's Gift

An appeal for Christian Aid

#### **Our Churches**

Members from Kilwinning, Ochiltree and Rotterdam conclude the series **Regulars** 

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

This edition is being sent out free to subscribers. Refunds will be issued for incomplete subscriptions. More details and contact information are in the magazine on page 6.

The Life and Work team would like to acknowledge all our readers, coordinators, and ministers and magazine editors who have supported the magazine over the years. Thank you all,

Thomas Baldwin, Deputy Editor

A Madazine





## **CHURCH CONTACTS**

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www.stmaryskirk.co.uk

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