
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS NOTICES

The Provost and Vice Provost wish a very happy Christmas to all those who find themselves in St Mary's at this time of celebration. Below you will find details of what's going on in St Mary's not just over the next week or two but some of the things that will be coming up in the first few months of the new year.

THE Y FACTOR

THE Y FACTOR ... Lorraine Darlow will be leading a new fortnightly course for 11-15 year olds starting on 15 January 2017. This course could lead to confirmation and will be a fun way of exploring the Christian Faith for teenagers. Contact lorraine@thecathedral.org.uk for more details.

WAYS OF SEEING

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUALITY - ... There will be a School of Spirituality evening with Dr Debbie Lewer, Senior Lecturer in the History of Art at the University of Glasgow on Wednesday 18 January 2017 in the Synod Hall. No need to book, just turn up.

GOD FACTOR

GOD FACTOR - ... St Mary's Cathedral regularly offers a course called The God Factor. This is a nine-week course designed for anyone with questions about the Christian faith and what it may offer to everyday life and to the world today. It is designed equally for people who don't go to church, for people who do but find themselves exploring or re-thinking their faith, and for anyone interested. It is not high pressure sales, nor can we promise to have a clever answer for every question, but we aim to make it relevant and it can be fun. For some people it may lead to baptism or confirmation. For others it is just a space to explore ideas afresh.

Participants set the agenda and determine the meeting dates. There is food and a drink, a short presentation, and time for open discussion and questions in a small group. Venue: St Mary's Cathedral Office. Cost: £3 per session to contribute towards the food and drink (first session free) or £20 for the whole course (concessions available).

The first session of the new course is at 12.30 pm on 12 February 2017. Please phone 0141-339 6691 or complete and submit the form on the website for more details.

ROUGH GUIDE TO ST MARY'S

There will be a series of three introductory sessions to St Mary's on 28 January 2017.

Behind the Scenes Tour

See parts of the Cathedral you've never seen before—this behind the scenes tour will include the church itself, the Sacristy (with a look in all the cupboards and how to find the Cathedral Office. See what it feels like to stand in the pulpit! Tour of the belltower (tbc)

Everything You Wanted to Know...

The Vice Provost, the Rev Cedric Blakey offers this session on "Everything You Wanted to Know about St Mary's But Were Afraid to Ask". He will be talking about the ethos of the congregation and how it functions. In particular he will be talking about how to get the most out of St Mary's.

Any Questions with the Provost

The Provost, the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth invites new and not so new members of the congregation to join him for a conversation in which he will speak about what brought him to St Mary's, his vision for the congregation and what makes him tick. This will also be an opportunity to meet and get to know new friends. This is open to anyone who has not been to this event before or its predecessor which was called "Knowing Me, Knowing You".

All sessions are free. Please book in advance either by filling in the form on the website or by contacting the Cathedral Office on 0141 339 6691

CHORAL EVENSONG

CHORAL EVENSONG – ... The sublime service of Choral Evensong is sung in this cathedral church each Sunday in choir term. Evening services begin again on 8 January 2017. Choral Evensong is open to everyone who wishes to be surrounded by the most beautiful music in the world in this holy place of prayer. Admission free.

BAPTISM DATES

BAPTISM DATES – Baptism/Christening is available on the following dates in the new year: 12 February 2017, 19 April 2017 (at 7 am!), 4 June 2017. Please speak to the clergy for details.

Confirmation is also available in this church. The clergy are happy to receive enquiries about being confirmed or received into the Scottish Episcopal Church at any time.

UPCOMING SERVICES

COMITES CHRISTI - ... The three days following Christmas are all feast days and there will be a Eucharist at 9.30 am on each of them. St Stephen is celebrated on 26 December, St John on the 27th and the Holy Innocents on 28th. The latter day is a time when we remember especially those for whom Christmas may be a difficult time and remember all those who are caught up in conflict that is not of their making. These days are designated "Comites Christi" - the Companions of Christ.

THE NAMING OF CHRIST... 1 January 2017 is the Feast of the Naming of Jesus. There is always at least one Eucharist on this day at St Mary's - this year it being a Sunday there will be services at 0830 and 1030. The 1030 service will include the blessing of the diaries - please bring mobile phones, diaries, calendars, tablets, laptops etc for a blessing by way of marking the consecration of our time in the year to come.

EPIPHANY...The Epiphany will be marked with a Sung Eucharist on 6 January 2017 as we remember the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem. At this service St Mary's will be hosting Muslim guests and sharing festive greetings with them.

CANDLEMAS... There will be a choral mass for Candlemas on Thursday 2 February 2017 at 7.30 pm. This is the service when we remember Jesus being presented in the Temple and is a time of year which is celebrated with lovely music and candlelight. It marks the end of the Christmas season and the time when our thoughts turn to the great feast of Easter.

ASH WEDNESDAY... There will be a choral mass for Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 1 March 2017

PALM SUNDAY... Palm Sunday in 2017 is on Sunday April 9

HOLY WEEK... There will be a full programme of events at St Mary's for Holy Week. Maundy Thursday Liturgy with footwashing takes place at 7.30 pm. The Provost and Vice Provost will be leading the Good Friday devotions at 12 noon on Good Friday. Bach's St John Passion will be sung on Good Friday in the evening by Caledonian Voices

EASTER DAY... Easter Day will be celebrated with glorious services on 16 April 2017

NOTICES

WELCOME... If you would like to keep in touch or are finding your way into the Cathedral congregation please fill in a welcome card. These are available in the pews and at the back of the church, and can be returned either on the offertory plate or handed to a steward or one of the clergy.

SITUATIONS VACANT... 1) There is a grand team of volunteers who organise tea/coffee after the 10.30 am service. It is one of the ways we welcome people at St Mary's. However we need more volunteers as people retire - you would be 'on' once every 6 weeks. 2) Further help is also needed for supervision and stewarding for concerts and events. 3) Help is also needed for the Traidcraft Stall - you would be 'on' once a month (again there have been changes as people have retired). Please speak to Volunteer Coordinator Franny Mawditt for more information (contact details below).

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE... There will be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Mary's on 11 March 2017.

ST MARY'S LENT RETREAT... at Millport, Isle of Cumbrae 31 March- 2 April, speaker Pat Bennett (Programmes Development Worker, Iona Community). A weekend time for reflection, relaxation and renewal. For more information and a booking form please email office@thecathedral.org.uk

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 14-26 May 2018... The Vice Provost will be leading another pilgrimage starting in the Negev Desert, then travelling through Jericho to beautiful Galilee before exploring Jerusalem and Bethlehem. If safe it may include an optional further 2 days in Istanbul on the way home. Anyone interested in seeing the brochure should email viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk

DEC YEMEN APPEAL... There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Yemen on 8 January 2017.

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT... There will be a Diocesan Sleepover event in the Cathedral on 18-19 February 2017. Details from lorraine@thecathedral.org.uk

FOODBANK INFORMATION... The Justice and Aid network encourages members of the congregation to support foodbanks close to where they live. There are also collection boxes near to the Cathedral at Sainsbury's (for Emmaus Glasgow) and Tesco (for Trussell Trust). Please note the list of the best items to take to a food bank (synod hall notice board). The network also supports the Interfaith Glasgow food justice campaign. Contact: Robin Webster.

HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS... Give a destitute asylum seeker a hot meal and a safe night's shelter. A contribution of £5 would provide this. Please give this to Marion or Fergus on Sunday mornings after the 10.30 service. For more information call Marion 07719 976791

"THIS IS THE KIND OF CHURCH I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR... I'm so glad I found it". Thank you so much. Remember that making a regular pledge really does enable this place to exist, and provide a welcome space to belong to and to grow as a Christian. Please contact Andrew Heatlie for a Pledge Form, or ask one of the Stewards today. Andrew is looking forward to hearing from you. snap43@gmail.com 0141 334 8115.

ST MARY'S BIBLE CHALLENGE 2017... Over 40 people embarked on the Bible Challenge in 2016. This is great programme for Christian formation however experienced or new to faith people are. A programme enabling people to read the whole Bible in one year is now available for 2016-17. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the leaflet detailing what to read each day is invited to email Cedric Blakey viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk

DAILY BIBLE READINGS... The Provost has published a leaflet detailing daily bible readings with the Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar 2016-17. Copies are available from him costing £3 each.

WHO'S WHO... An updated version of the St Mary's Who's Who is available.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S... The association of people who feel they belong here and wish to support St Mary's Cathedral but live away or worship elsewhere and former members of this congregation. For further details and to sign up please see the website <http://thecathedral.org.uk/friends/> For further information see the Provost or Vice Provost.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL... On Sundays after the 10.30 service there is stall at the back of church selling fair-trade products including coffees, teas, chocolates, cereals and greeting cards. The stall also has NRSV Bibles and choir CDs for sale.

ONLINE SERMON ARCHIVE... www.thecathedral.org.uk/spirituality/preaching

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS... Written prayers may be left on the prayer board by St Anne's Chapel, behind the organ console. Candles are available at the back of the church. Donations for candles can be put into the money box marked "Candles" in the pillar at the back of the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS... Requests for inclusion in the public prayers of the church can be made to any member of the clergy. The request will be included in the Sunday 10.30 intercessions for 2 weeks and remembered at Daily Prayer.

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION... traditionally known as confession, this practice is open to all. For information and/or to book an appointment please contact one of the clergy.

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REGULAR GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

BELLRINGERS... The bells are rung before Sunday evening worship and meet on Tuesdays to practice from 19.30 – 21.15. Anyone is welcome to come to the tower on Tuesday evenings to meet the bellringers and see what ringing involves. Contact Margaret Williams 01505 502429 or glasgow@sacr.org

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP... There is no Bible Group meeting in December, so the next gathering will be on 30 January 2017.

BOOK GROUP... meets in the Synod Hall on the first Tuesday of the month 1745 for 1800 start. There is no meeting in January, so the next meeting is on Tuesday 7 February 2017 and the group will discuss Paula Hawking's "The Girl on the Train". All are welcome. For more information contact Gordon McCulloch, mccullochgordon@hotmail.com or tel: 07759605045.

CONTACT GROUP... St Mary's has a group of trained people who are available for pastoral contact. Anyone feeling that either they or someone they know might welcome support for any reason please contact Anne Robertson, email contact@thecathedral.org.uk

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE GROUP... St Mary's has a group of trained visitors, who are happy to keep in regular contact with older members of the congregation. If you would like a visit yourself, or know of someone who would, please speak to Margaret Brown on 0141 357 2548, or contact the office on office@thecathedral.org.uk

JUSTICE AND AID NETWORK... Anyone wishing to join the network and receive regular updates about events and campaigns, please email office@thecathedral.org.uk

LGBT NETWORK... For further details or to be added onto the mailing list for the network, please contact Beth on elizabeth.routledge@gmail.com

THE NEEDLE ARTS GROUP... next meeting on Monday 9 January 2017, 19.30-21.30pm at the iCafe (Gt. Western Rd opposite the Cathedral). Everyone is welcome to come along with their current project. Contact Pam Barrowman (tel: 0141 357 0212) or Sandy Fraser (tel: 0141 357 4398).

POETRY GROUP... meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the small meeting room at 1800. Next meeting will be on Thursday 19 January 2017 in the small meeting room at 1800. The contact person is Chris Athorne (ca@maths.gla.ac.uk)

THE OPEN SILENCE... The next opportunity of shared silence will be on Sunday 15 January at 2000 and Thursday 19 January at 1230. All are welcome.

ST MARY'S @ THE MOVIES... The contact person for this group is Chris Athorne (ca@maths.gla.ac.uk).

STUDENTS AT ST MARY'S... A group of students and young adults brought together by our connection with St Mary's meets for lunch after the 10.30 Eucharist on Sunday morning for food, conversation and socialising. The group also meets for the occasional Bible study, day out and trips to the pub. For more information speak to Dan Cruickshank dandcruickshank@gmail.com or any other student.

EXTERNAL NOTICES

WEDDING CEILIDH... Rosemary Hannah and Sophie Agrell are to be married on Wednesday 28 December 2016 and are hosting a celebratory ceilidh in St Mary's that evening from 1900. They invite all who would like to celebrate with them to come to the ceilidh, bringing something to drink. See Rosemary or Sophie for more information.

HOSTING A REFUGEE... From Positive Action in Housing: Do you have a spare room? Willing to host an unaccompanied asylum seeking child? Find out more <http://www.paih.org/host-a-refugee/refugee-hosting-information/> If you want to register to host a refugee - www.roomforrefugees.com For more information please speak to Marion Bryans.

CALEDONIAN VOICES CONCERT... "Atlantic Visions: A journey from The New World to the Scottish shores" on Saturday 7 January 2017 at 1930. Tickets £10 see www.caledonianvoices.co.uk

FIRST VESPERS FOR ST KENTIGERN... will be sung in Glasgow Cathedral on the Eve of his feast, Thursday 12 January 2017 at 1700, for the first time since the Reformation, by The Cantors of the Holy Rude. Admission free, retiring collection. See poster at the back of church for more information.

CONTACT

Office	Office Manager: Jo Russell 3 Napiershall Street, Glasgow G20 6HQ office@thecathedral.org.uk 0141 339 6691 Office hours: 1000 to 1400 Monday to Friday
Provost	The Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth can be contacted via the office or on 0141 530 8643 provost@thecathedral.org.uk He keeps a blog at www.thurible.net
Vice Provost	The Rev Cedric Blakey can be contacted via the office or on 07580 068328 or viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk
Canon Missioner	The Rev Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart can be contacted via the office or on canonmissioner@church.scot
Associate priest	The Rev Canon Prof John Riches can be contacted via the office or on randj.riches@virgin.net
Director of Music	Frikki Walker - 0141 959 4434 music@thecathedral.org.uk
Children & Families Development Officer	Lorraine Darlow – 07769 784776 lorraine@thecathedral.org.uk
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Vestry Secretary	Prof Jim McKillop - 0141 339 7000 vestrysecretary@thecathedral.org.uk
Volunteer coordinator	Franny Mawditt volunteering@thecathedral.org.uk
Internet	The Cathedral website is www.thecathedral.org.uk
Facebook	www.facebook.com/openinclusivewelcoming

E-MAIL THESE NOTICES... If you would like the Cathedral notices to be sent to you by e-mail, please send an e-mail to office@thecathedral.org.uk with NOTICES as the subject line.

NEWSLETTER... If you want to receive the online newsletter, please sign up via the Cathedral website.

The Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Glasgow (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral) is a charity registered with OSCR, number SCO0622