

ST MARY'S NEWS



Welcome to **December's** and Advent newsletter. If you have any ideas, promotions and suggestions for the monthly newsletter, please talk to any member of the Vestry or email Fiona Walthall.

THE VESTRY: WHO WE ARE

Rector Mark-Aaron Tisdale
Graeme Stirling (Treasurer)
Elaine Hammersley (Lay Representative)
David Rowe (Property Convenor)
Sue Rowe
Jean McGuinness
Louise Speid
Alistair Speid
Karen Willey
Fiona Walthall (Secretary)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Thank you for joining us for our AGM on Sunday 24 November, during which the Vestry reported to you of St Mary's and the Diocese business which will be continued throughout the remainder of 2024 and into 2025. The vestry would like to warmly welcome Louise and Alistair Sepid along with Karen Willey and look forward working with them as they contribute in helping to take St Mary's forward into the future.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

St Mary's will again mark these days from 25 Nov to 10 Dec. This year, we will be collecting for Women's Aid Dundee. Donations for the following will be greatly appreciated:

1. Moving in donation: e.g., toilet bags with toiletries, children's pants
2. Moving on donation: e.g., items for women to use when they move into a new home, e.g., kitchen utensils, crockery, dishtowels, washing up liquid, etc.

Please bring the donations in and put in the basket at the back of the church.
Thank you.

ST MARY'S SINGERS

All are welcome to meet up with the St Mary's Singers at 1020am on the Sunday mornings of the 8th, 15th and 22nd December and at 400pm just before the Nine Lessons and Carols (500pm) on Sunday 22nd December.

On Sunday 1st December, I will bring some suggestions from the 'Carols for Choirs' music books (multiple copies are available at St Mary's) and do please feel free to make some suggestions too. The list of selected pieces will be circulated ahead of the first Sunday morning meeting on 8th December.

DSO CONCERT

Some members of the Dundee Symphony Orchestra will be producing and performing a concert with a Christmas theme at St. Mary's Church, Queen Street, DD5 Saturday on 14 December at 1400. All members are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy seasonal music with a hot drink and mince pies. Entrance by donation.



Foodbank Donations



'A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes non-perishable food items to the donation basket located at the back of the church. Your generosity does not go unnoticed. As the basket fills, I collect the donated items and deliver them to the Dundee and Angus Foodbank, here they are always warmly received with deep gratitude.'

Christmas can be an especially challenging time for families who are already struggling or for those living on a limited income. Your thoughtful donations make a meaningful difference, helping to ease some of the burdens they face during the festive season. By sharing what we have, we offer these families the chance to experience a bit more peace and joy, making their Christmastime less stressful and more enjoyable than it might otherwise have been. Thank you for embodying the spirit of giving and for being a source of hope and comfort to those in need.'

As Enza is likely, and sadly, be moving from St Mary's in the future, she would like to appeal for a volunteer, or team of volunteers, from the congregation to take over the collection and delivery of donations from Christmastime onwards.

KNIT & NATTER GROUP AND COSY SPACES

On Wednesday 11 December at approximately 1130, we invite you to come and join in the fun for our first ever Christmas quiz (very easy!!) with Fiona as the quizzer in chief!

There will be prizes for the winners plus a 'bring-and-share' finger nibbles buffet. Competitors are welcome to join in groups or how many you may prefer to take on your opponents and win!! See you there ...

St Mary's Circle of Prayer

Prayer is a profound expression of love, a sacred gift where we entrust another person's joys and struggles to God in our hearts. To pray is both our privilege and responsibility as members of the community. At St Mary's, each person is daily upheld in prayer by their designated Prayer Companion, fostering a unique bond of shared trust and spiritual support. The Circle of Prayer not only offers a confidential space for sharing hopes, fears, and gratitude but also reflects the deep commitment and love of those who pray faithfully for others.



Can I gently remind you that there is a Circle of Prayer board in the church where people can see who their Prayer Companion is and new members can ask to be included. Please check that your name is there and let me, Enza know if there are any omissions.

As Advent approaches, a season brimming with anticipation and reflection, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. This period invites us to embrace its themes—hope, peace, joy, and love—and to find renewal in the promises they bring. We give heartfelt thanks to each of you who selflessly dedicate time and care in prayer for your designated prayer circle. Your devotion is a tangible expression of God's love, strengthening our community and bringing comfort and encouragement to others. May you be blessed as you continue this meaningful work, and may the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent renew your heart as you hold others before God.

ROTAS TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024

01-Dec-24	Advent 1	Reader	Intercessor	Welcomers
Violet	HCs	LS	CD	L & AS
	Christingle	EG		
08-Dec-24	Advent 2			
Violet	HCs	GS	RT	JD
	Taizé-style Service			
15-Dec-24	Advent 3			
Violet	HCs	HM	LT	GS & MR
22-Dec-24	Advent 4			
Violet	HCs	IS	RT	DGR & Derek
	Carol Service			
24-Dec-24	Christmas Eve			
White	HCs	LS	SR	FW
25-Dec-24	Christmas Day			
White	HCs	CB	M-A+	HM
29-Dec-24	Christmas 1			
White	HCs			

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

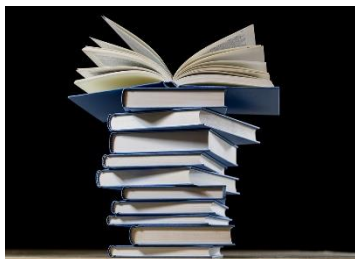
Please join us for our Advent and Christmas services on:

- Sun 1 Dec at 1700: Christingle Service followed by light refreshments.
- Sun 8 Dec at 1700 : Taizé Style Service.
- Sun 22 Dec at 1700 : Nine Lessons & Carols Service followed by refreshments.
- Tue 24 Dec at 2330 : Midnight Service
- Wed 25 Dec at 1100 : Christmas Day Service followed by light refreshments.
- Wed 25 Dec: there will be no 0830 Communion



KNIT & NATTER GROUP AND COSY SPACES

St Mary's will reopen for Knit & Natter and Cosy spaces on Wed 8 January 2025 after the Christmas break, once again providing a warm, welcoming and friendly place for company, chat, activities and warm refreshments. After knitting our Christmas angels in December, we look forward to knitting our Easter chicks and bunnies for Easter in April.



BOOK AND READING DISCUSSION GROUP

Lawrence is once again inviting members, plus new participants to join him in 'Willows Café', Brook Street, Broughty Ferry on 6th January at 2.30 in Willows.

The book under discussion is '**The Poisonwood Bible**' by Barbara Kingsolver - a best-selling novel about a missionary family, the Pricers, who in 1959 move from the U.S. state of Georgia to the village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo. The book is narrated by the wife of the missionary and each of his four daughters as they adapt to African village life and the political turmoil that overtakes the country in the 1960s. The book was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1999.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024-25

Date & Time	Event	Notes
November		
Thu 28 Nov 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Sat 30 Nov	St Andrew's Day	
Sat 30 Nov 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
Sat 30 Nov 1900	Hypercoaster Concert	St Mary's Church

December		
Sun 1 Dec	First Sunday of Advent	
Sun 1 Dec 1700	Taize Style Service	
Mon 2 Dec 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Wed 11 Dec 1130	K&N Quiz & Small Nibbles Buffet	Jean & Fiona host: please sign up
Sat 14 Dec 1400	DSO Christmas Concert	St Mary's Church
Sun 22 Dec 1700	Christmas Service	
Tue 24 Dec 2330	Midnight Service	
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day	
Thu 26 Dec	Boxing Day	
January		
Sun 5 Jan 1700	Evensong	
Mon 6 Jan	Epiphany	
Mon 6 Jan 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Sat 25 Jan 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
Mon 27 Jan 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
February		
Sun 2 Feb 1700	Evensong	
Mon 3 Feb 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Fri 14 Feb	Valentines Day	
Sat 15 Feb 1215	Convivial Lunch	Fiona organises: please sign up
Mon 17 Feb 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Sat 22 Feb 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
Mon 24 Feb 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
March		
Sat 1 Mar 1000	Diocesan Spring Synod	St Mary's hosts
Sun 2 Mar 1700	Evensong	
Mon 3 Mar 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Tue 4 Mar 1300	Shrove Tue (Pancake Day)	Social Committee: please sign up
Wed 5 Mar	Ash Wednesday	
Mon 17 Mar	St Patrick's Day	
Mon 17 Mar 1900	DSO Rehearsals	St Mary's Church
Sat 29 Mar 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
Apr		
Sun 6 Apr 1700	Evensong	
Sun 13 Apr	Palm Sun	
Thu 17 Apr 1830	Maundy Thu Supper	Bring & share: please sign up
Fri 18 Apr	Good Fri	
Sun 20 Apr	Easter Sun	
Mon 21 Apr	Easter Mon	
Wed 23 Apr	St George's Day	
Sat 26 Apr 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
May		

Sun 4 May 1700	Evensong	
Fri 17 May 1630	Prep for Craft Fayre	Fiona organises
Sat 18 May 1000	Spring Craft Fayre	Fiona organises
Sat 31 May 0930	Men's Breakfast	Mark-Aaron organises
June		
Sat 7 Jun 1215	Convivial Lunch	Fiona organises: please sign up
TBA	Teddy Bear Parachute Drop	

*To all in St Mary's have a Happy and Joyous Christmas and
New Year*

