



ST MARY'S MAGAZINE EASTER 2016

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS (Bob's Bit)

'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered [Peter], 'this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.'

Matthew 26. 34

Christianity is the religion of second chances. After the resurrection Jesus reinstated Peter. There is a lovely line in the Blue Book's Eucharistic Prayer V: 'Father, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you.' Christians, and everyone else for that matter, have an infinite capacity for letting God, and other people, down. At Easter Jesus dealt with this human problem of falling short of God's standards, which the Bible calls 'Sin.' At *Romans* chapter 5 verse 8 Paul tells us that God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He adds at verse 10 that when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son. When we share the Peace during the service of Holy Communion we remember the reconciliation won for us by the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross, the reconciliation that Christians enjoy with God and with each other. Paul had begun chapter 5 by saying, 'since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.' Paul speaks here of our status as justified sinners, who fear no condemnation because by God's grace we are at peace with God. I find it helpful for understanding the meaning of the word, 'Justified' to think of it as 'Just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned.' The good news of the gospel is that we are not given our just desserts, judgment and condemnation, but mercy and the opportunity for continuing service in God's kingdom. Peter would not have understood until afterwards the need for Jesus to die on the cross. God demonstrated the success of Christ's sacrifice by raising him to new life on the third day. Jesus' first followers celebrated the victory of the Resurrection by changing the Holy day of the week from Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, to the first day of the week, Sunday. So at Easter we celebrate not only our status as justified sinners at peace with God through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ but also the prospect of eternal life and joyful service through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A final word from Paul at *Romans* chapter 5 verses 10 and 11: 'For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.'

Happy Easter!



On Ash Wednesday we celebrated the Baptism of May Hills. May, holding her Baptismal Candle, is pictured with her God-sister, Susan Ross.

EASTER SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Sunday 20 March at 10.00am: Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist

Thursday 24 March 6.30pm: Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist
(Refreshments provided by St Mary's Fellowship)

Friday 25 March 12 noon till 3.00pm: Good Friday Vigil

Sunday 27 March 10.00am: Easter Day Sung Eucharist

(There will be a St Mary's Easter Songs Singalong in Kirkton Court at 2.00pm on Easter Day. Please join our singing group!)



In February we said farewell to Rosemary Bird. Rosemary was a prayer warrior, who hosted a weekly prayer meeting in her home on Tuesday afternoons. She is pictured on the St Mary's stall at the Kirrie Show issuing prayer rocks to visitors (and enjoying a lollipop). Below she is celebrating her 90th birthday with sons, Charlie and Johnnie.





We said farewell to Mamie Bruce-Gardyne in March. Mamie was St Mary's Flower Convener and is pictured with one of her floral arrangements. Mamie trained as a florist with Constance Spry. For one of her flower festivals she invited members of the congregation to bring a single flower from their garden. She provided the Mamie magic. We had a memorable evening in the Rectory when Mamie demonstrated how to make floral arrangements. Mamie was also a moving force in Airlie Silver Surfers who ran a Cyber Cafe on Wednesdays in Airlie Hall. In 2010 they won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.



Scenes from the Hooghli River and Chinsurah during the December 2015 Diocesan visit to Kolkata for the final celebration of the Diocese of Calcutta's 200th Anniversary



Famous Forebears

On Tuesday 8 March I had a call from Eric Summers, former Rector of Webster's High School, who asked whether he could check something in our registers. He wanted to confirm that someone had been confirmed in St Mary's. I met up in the Vestry with Eric and his wife, Alison. We checked the books in the order that they came out of the drawer and were beginning to be disappointed that we were not having any success. Eventually, in the very last book we looked at, we found the information we were seeking. There had been a confirmation service in St Mary's on 6 November 1898. This, of course, was conducted in the previous building on the Roods. There is an artist's impression of this building on the magazine's back cover. On the day of the confirmation there were eighteen candidates. There was a list of their names in the register. Eleventh on the list was the name sought by Eric: Clementine Hozier. She was the granddaughter of the tenth Earl of Airlie and later became the wife of Winston Churchill.

list of those Confirmed Nov 6th 1898 By the Lord Bishop of the Diocese

1	Martha Grichton	aged 19.	
2	Harriet Smith,	- 23.	
3	Susan Pome	- 16	
4	Eggie Landon	- 24	From Presbyterianism
5	May Ann Rethay (married)	30	"
6	Emmy Nyles	(41) 30.	"
7	Jessie Lewart	(41)	"
8	Euphemia Solantine	aged 17	
9	Janet Valentine	22	
10	Maggie Valentine	20	
11	Clementine Hozier, daughter of lady Blanche (from St Andrew's -	aged 18.	
12	William Rethay	aged 30 - married.	From Presbyterianism
13	William Nyles	aged 32	"
14	William Stewart	married.	"
15	William Thomson	aged 15.	"
16	Alex. Young.	" 16	"
17	Candidate from Forfar.		"
18	Maggie Thomson	aged 18	

