



Happy Easter from St Mary's

St Mary's – at the Heart of Your Community

Were you at our Sale of Work – in 1930?

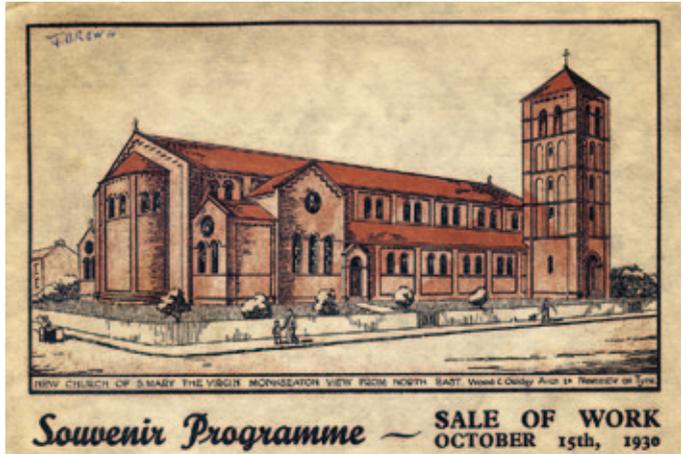
Well, perhaps your granny came along and spent a few shillings (remember them?) which helped pay for the new church.

This gem from our archives shows how St Mary's was intended to look. Thank

goodness the bell tower was never built – we'd never have been able to afford to maintain it!

By the time the present church was opened in 1931 (the same year as the Empire State Building in New York) a temporary church had already stood on the site for twenty years. The 'tin hut' as it became known had previously been an Officers' Mess in Barrasford. It was boom time in Whitley Bay in 1911. The rail service from Newcastle had been electrified and housing was expanding rapidly. Anyway, the good news is that we can celebrate our centenary twice – once this year and again in 2031!

The celebrations start at the 10.00am service on 1 May when the Bishop of Newcastle will recall the laying of the foundation stone of the



present church. In June we are hosting another art exhibition by students from Newcastle College and we will be mounting an extensive inter-active history of the church and its peoples, opening on 4 September. We will be celebrating our world-wide connections at our Christmas Carol Service on 18 December and the year-long programme will conclude with a music week in April 2012. Look out for more information in the next edition.

Meanwhile, if anyone has photographs or other memorabilia connected with our parish church, which may contribute to the centenary celebrations, please contact David Lax through the parish office (251 4216).

Principal Easter services:
full programme on page 5.



Messy Church

Messy Church is a fresh expression of church which offers an opportunity for the family to spend both quality and quantity time together chilling, creating, celebrating and chomping! It's designed for families with children under 10 and is as much for those who are not already part of a church community as for those who are.

Many families are interested in Christian faith and want to bring their children up with Christian values and with an opportunity to grow in their relationship with God. However, there are often barriers in the way of regular Sunday worship. Although churches welcome everyone of any age and often provide worship and facilities specifically for kids it can be stressful to cope with them in church if you are not very confident and very familiar with the church. Messy Church taps into kids' natural tendencies to be active, to want to roam around, to make something, to try something new.

Each Messy Church has a theme based on the stories of the Bible. So far we've looked at Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, and Moses; for Easter the theme will be New Life in Jesus. After gathering together everyone spends time doing craft activities on this theme before a short active child-orientated service in church. We finish off with sharing food together.

For our next 'messy church' session, keep an eye on the Parish website (www.stmarysmonkseaton.co.uk) or ring the Parish Office (251 4216).

BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE CASTAWAY

Bishop Martin Wharton, the Bishop of Newcastle, will be the guest castaway at a Desert Island Discs event being held in church on Friday 24 June, starting at 7.30 pm.

Bishop Martin has chosen ten pieces of music and between them he will talk about his life and work, and give his views on some of the challenges facing the Church of England today. This fundraising event is being held to raise money for the redevelopment of the Church.

Tickets are available from the Parish Office (tel: 251 4216, email: stmarymkstn@hotmail.co.uk) and cost £7.50 (including a glass of wine and finger buffet).

Baptism at St Mary's

The birth of a child is a wonderful gift and every child's baptism is a special way to celebrate a new life with friends and family members and to thank God for the precious child (although there is no upper age limit to baptism!). We usually celebrate baptisms as part of the main Sunday service at 10.00am so that the whole congregation can welcome you and your baby into God's family.

But it can be difficult for families to walk into a Church where they don't know many people and to be the centre of attention. That's why every child is offered a baptism sponsor – someone from the congregation who will be delighted to meet and reassure families beforehand, to explain what goes on and why, to be present at the baptism rehearsal and to sit near them during the service.

One Mum commented: "We have found St Mary's church very welcoming and have experienced a real sense of community. We had both our children baptized at St Mary's, which introduced us all to the church and to the friendly people who have since become familiar to us, in particular the children. We have found the church to be the centre of a large community where children are particularly welcome (even the very small ones who make lots of noise!).

We have since attended baptism parties and other church activities. As the children are growing up, we will continue to attend family services, regular events and eventually Sunday school"

Another parent wrote about her child's baptism sponsor:

"Judith became Nicholas's sponsor a few weeks before he was baptized and was very useful in helping us with the baptism arrangements and providing a welcoming, friendly face at church. Although we don't get the chance to go to church as often as we would like, Judith keeps in touch with us and keeps us up to date".

A baptism sponsor comments: "For me, being a practicing Christian should mean more than professing our faith and taking communion. Being a baptism sponsor - offering to be a 'friend in church' to a child and his or her family, letting them know about special services for children, praying for the child - gives me this opportunity; it is a privilege and a pleasure."



To enquire about a baptism, please ring the Parish Office (251 4216).

Everyone loves Easter

Fluffy chicks, lambs in the fields, daffodils everywhere and of course, lots of chocolate eggs. It's feel-good time, the moment for a new outfit, a lick of paint on the house, plans for the summer. No wonder most folk fancy a trip out on Easter Sunday –sometimes even to church - especially if it's one of those powder blue days with the sun warming the pavements.

But why must Christians persist with all the shock-horror stuff that comes before the big day, indulging themselves in an ancient story of scourging and beating which ends with an act of execution, a man being put to death in one of the most fiendish ways of torture yet devised? Do they really expect everyone else to join in? Why can't they lighten up?



These are fair questions. The world is hopeless enough, surely, without dwelling on the detail of a terrible piece of history. Why can't we, as someone once said, simply eat, drink and be merry? Isn't that the only way to live without going barmy?

Yet many people find that the pains of the world can't be brushed aside so easily. War, famine, disease, natural disasters, suffering way beyond the experience of most people in Whitley Bay, press upon us daily from our newspapers and TV screens. If only there were some way of dealing with all this pain, of unloading it and in the process, finding a vision of something better?

Christians have found that way, and Easter is the climax of that vision. The suffering of Jesus becomes the joy of resurrection, and suddenly, on Easter morning, the world is transformed. Human life, with all its undoubted horrors and fears, is revealed as something precious, to be nurtured and celebrated because, in the context of eternity and in the eyes of God, it matters.

How good is that? How much does that make you want to sing aloud and be merry? How much does it call upon you to oppose injustice and oppression, to fight against poverty and help its victims, so that all the world might join in the great celebration?

Why not come to St Mary's this Easter, and begin to find out?



Sue Scott

As a tribute to our dear friend and colleague Sue Scott, who died in January, we include the editorial (on left) Sue wrote for our first edition at Easter 2007. As a novelist, former journalist and agony aunt, who had studied theology and then as Diocesan Communications Officer edited the Diocesan newspaper, 'Link', Sue was a literal Godsend! She edited this newsletter from the outset, and for the first year wrote all the editorials.

Her words illustrate both her depth of faith and her skill in communicating her message, in this case an eternal message of hope and joy in a gloomy world, in a provocative yet inspiring way to which we can all relate.

We miss you Sue. RIP

Easter services You'll be most welcome at any of the services which lead us on our own personal journey with Jesus from his triumphal entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through his last supper with his disciples to his betrayal, trial, crucifixion and glorious resurrection.

Sunday 17 April: Palm Sunday	
8.00 am	Eucharist and distribution of palms
10.00 am	All-age Eucharist with distribution of palms
6.00 pm	Entering into Holy Week – Evening Worship
Monday 18 April	
7.30 pm	Eucharist and address
Tuesday 19 April	
10.00am-12.00 am	Messy Church - for more details see www.stmarysm Monkseaton.co.uk
Wednesday 20 April	
9.30 am	Eucharist and address
7.30 pm	Eucharist and address
Thursday 21 April: Maundy Thursday	
(At Newcastle Cathedral)	
11.00 am	Sung Eucharist with the Blessing of the Oils and the Renewal of Commitment to Service: President and Preacher: Bishop Frank White
(At St Mary's)	
7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper and Prayer Vigil until midnight
Friday 22 April: Good Friday	
9.30 am	Scripture, prayer and distribution of reserved Sacrament
12.00 pm	Ecumenical worship at St Paul's Churchyard
2.00 pm	At the Foot of the Cross
Saturday 23 April: Holy Saturday	
9.30 am	Reflections for Holy Saturday
Sunday 24 April: Easter Sunday	
5.00 am	Lighting of Easter Fire and First Eucharist of Easter
8.00 pm	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Easter Bonnet and Easter Egg Competition
Sunday 1 May	
8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Eucharist – visit of Bishop Martin to mark beginning of St Mary's Centenary Year



What St Mary's means to me

For me St Mary's Church means family, faith, friends, and future.



It is a place where I feel a sense of belonging to the immediate church family and the wider Christian community. The St Mary's church family helped me to nurture my own children through their growing years, and to support my own parents in the last years of their lives.

It offers me a place where I can express my own Christian faith in so many different ways, both when that faith is faltering and when it is certain. I meet challenge there and affirmation. I have been able to come close to God there in quiet times and noisy times, with others and on my own, through word, beautiful music and art, through dancing and fun.

St Mary's is also the place where my skills and experience as an Early Years Professional have been harnessed to support children on their spiritual journeys. I see this as my calling as a Christian, and a great privilege.

Mary Cooper

I was brought up to go to church but like most young people in the 60's drifted



away – too much else going on! When I found I needed the church, however, it was through the doors of St Mary's that I ventured. Immediately, despite being a stranger, I was struck by how friendly people seemed to be. As I became a more regular worshipper the more friendly they seemed to become. I have a vivid recollection of, on my third visit, being approached by the late Francis Weston and being made to feel welcome.

Over the following years (too many to think about) St Mary's has given me, Judith and our two girls friendships, a sense of belonging and a worshipping community which is continually evolving. Ultimately, I am sure I am not unique in believing it is the people who are the most important element in how I think of St Mary's. This has been brought home to me over the past eighteen months and I consider myself most fortunate to have walked through those doors.

Mike Stoker

I can't remember not going to church regularly; it's always been part of my life.



I was confirmed at 13 whilst at a Forces boarding school in Germany, where my father was serving in the British Army.

John and I moved to Whitley Bay in 1979 where my mother was already living, and I joined her in worshipping at St Mary's. Over the years I've become involved in different aspects of church life, seeing St Mary's expand its welcoming, friendly approach to the community.

I joined St Mary's branch of the Mothers' Union. I value the friendship of its members and believe wholeheartedly in its aims to promote the value of marriage and family life, together with the commitment to help women in the third world.

I support the development of St Mary's building, believing the church has to move forward and offer the space not only for worship, but also to encourage the wider community to make use of the facilities and perhaps in time become part of the family of St Mary's.

Judy Ross

Easter eggs that mention Easter!

It's hard to believe that out of the whopping 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is.

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

If you can't find one in your supermarket, we have a few (at £4.99). Please ring the Parish Office (251 4216).



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5 JUNE 2011

All across the world, 5 June is observed as 'World Environment Day'. The theme for 2011 is 'Forests: Nature at your Service'. The Justice and Peace Group will be working with young people to mark the day with a special 'all age' service at 10.00 am. We'll be thinking about how healthy forests and forest eco-systems influence the quality of life of all of us.

NIGHTSTOP NORTH EAST

On Homelessness Sunday Paul Marriott, Chief Executive of DePaul UK, was interviewed at our main service about DePaul's work with young people, particularly in Whitley Bay, where the Trust manages projects originally set up in the 90s by Churches Acting Together.

In a moving and inspiring talk, one of the newer initiatives Paul described was the Nightstop scheme. Nightstop provides emergency accommodation in the homes of local volunteers for young people aged 16-25 on a night by night basis. The scheme has volunteers across the North East, including Whitley Bay. Each volunteer provides a private bedroom, an evening meal and breakfast, washing facilities and toiletries.

Nightstop staff assist the young person to find a longer term solution to his or her housing need and to address any other issues they may have. This could involve referring a young person to housing providers and specialist services, as well as providing day to day support whilst they are using the service. Young people can also be assisted to return home if appropriate.

Nightstop has recently achieved 1,000 night-stays in the North East in its first two years, but is still looking for more hosts. If you'd like to know more, please ring DePaul UK's Whitley Bay office, on 253 6161. There's an excellent You Tube clip at www.depauluk.org/projects/nightstop-north-east/.

COMING UP...

Two piano recitals in church

Thursday 19 May Viv McClean
Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Scriabin.

Thursday 30 June Andrea Berbegal de Dios (Spain)
Bach, Beethoven, Chopin.

Recitals begin at 1.00 pm,
Refreshments from 12.30 pm.
Admission £5, for more information call 257 7401.

Pentecost – Anniversary Songs Of Praise

St Mary's isn't the only local church celebrating a 'big birthday' this year. Our two local Roman Catholic churches, St Edward's and Immaculate Heart of Mary, have organised an 'Anniversary Songs of Praise' service to mark St Edward's 100th and Immaculate Heart's 50th anniversaries. All the local churches have been invited to take part, and they've all chosen their favourite hymns. The day chosen is Pentecost – the birthday of the Christian church itself – when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples of Jesus with inspiration to go out and spread the good news of his resurrection. You will be most welcome to come and join in at St Edward's at 3.00 pm on Sunday 12 June.

St Mary's – at the Heart of Your Community

Church is at the heart of what we do at St Mary's, and these are our weekly services:

Day and time	Worship
Sunday 8.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 6.00pm	Evening Prayer (Healing Service on 2nd Sunday of month)
Monday-Friday 9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer, Tuesdays)

If any of the many other activities at St Mary's interest you, please ring the office, and we'll put you in touch with the right person: *Badminton club, Baptisms, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Bible study groups, Church Hall for group events or parties, COGS (a young people's group for teenagers to explore more deeply issues of faith and life), Funerals, Lunch club, Menzone (a group for men to share fellowship and to learn more about the faith), Mothers Union, Mums and toddlers group, Prayer cells, Rambling, Singing and other music making, Weddings.*

Canon Robin Greenwood, vicar of St Mary's

St Mary's Parish Office is open
Mon – Fri 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Telephone: **(0191) 251 4216**

Email:

newsletter@stmarysm Monkseaton.org.uk

Web: **www.stmarysm Monkseaton.co.uk**

We're at the junction of Clarendon Gardens
and Davison Avenue, Whitley Bay.

