

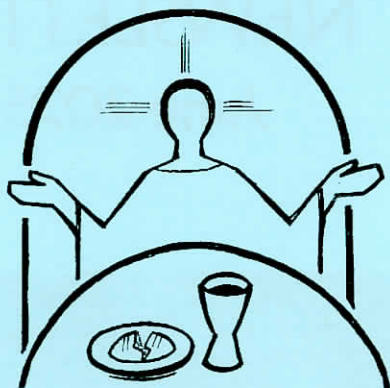
St Mary's Parish Church NEWSLETTER

June 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 a **Single Service**
at 10am on Sunday 8th June 2025

Children are welcomed at the Lord's Table

This will be followed by The Stated Annual Meeting

The SAM of the congregation will be held on
Sunday 8th June directly after worship.
This is an important meeting at which our
Church Treasurer will present our accounts.
Please come along if you can.



You are warmly invited to share in these important parts of
the life of St Mary's Parish Church. Tea and coffee will be
served afterwards.

Summer Worship

On Sunday 29th June, we
will begin our 10am
Summer Services.
There will be a single
Sunday service at 10am
until the end of August.

Newsletter

Editor

John Weierter



Thanks to all who have
contributed articles to this, our
summer edition.

Send articles for the next
edition to:

newsletter@stmaryskirk.co.uk
by 12th of August 2025.

News Between Newsletters

Remember that you can get
church news between
Newsletters from our website
and our Facebook page. (See
the back cover.)

Treasurer Wanted



We are still looking for a new
Church Treasurer to work
alongside others in our Finance
Team. The main aspect of the role
is to prepare management
accounts and financial reports to
our Kirk Session and to prepare
annual year end accounts. There
are also other small tasks to carry
out on a weekly, monthly, or on an
annual basis. Our bookkeeping has
been outsourced to Accounting for
Good and many tasks such as Gift
Aid and invoicing hirers of the
church are carried out by
volunteers. We use Xero and
Apron accounting software. The
role is expected to take up approx.
2 hours per week.

We are also looking for more
volunteers to join the Finance
Team to assist with uploading
supplier invoices, helping with
online banking and payroll.

Do you have or know anyone in
our congregation or community
who has finance, accountancy,
banking, payroll or bookkeeping
experience?

For more information, please
speak to
our **Session Clerk, Mrs Rae Goode**
or to any of our Finance Team.

From Alison McDonald

Dear Friends,

The services on Palm Sunday and Easter Day were both very special. It was wonderful to come into St Mary's on Palm Sunday and see the East End filled with tables and colourful flowers all ready for lunch and the West End ready for worship.

Thank you for all your gifts. I was quite overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity, and I will treasure them, as I do the time I have spent as your minister.

The service on Easter Day was the most joyful and uplifting Easter worship I have ever led; the church full to overflowing, there were many visitors from many places, a gospel reading in French, a baptism and great music from Praise band, choir and organist. I had said to several people that I wanted to go into retirement singing 'Thine be the Glory'. To sing it

with you in a packed church with the organ giving its all, was something I will never forget. Thank you for sending me on my way filled with gratitude to God for you and for all that has been.

As I said on Easter Sunday, in faith we believe that in every ending there is a beginning. I pray God's blessing on you as you move into a new chapter of faith and service in Haddington.

Alison

From Our Interim Moderator



Dear Friends,

A few months ago, I was complaining that I was bored. Then I was asked to consider becoming Interim Moderator of St Mary's and into the union with Haddington West.

Perhaps this was the next step in my journey in ministry, even after retiring in December 2023. I still felt that I had something to

contribute to the Church, despite various health issues that have been limiting as well as frustrating.

And so, I began to explore that call by speaking to Alison McDonald and Rae Goode. I felt that, with their assurance of a willing and able Kirk Session and congregation to work with me, I could agree to be Interim Moderator but not Locum.

It's not been as easy as I'd hoped to find cover for Sundays, but I now have a rota almost complete for the next few months until the union after September. There will be some new and some more familiar faces leading worship which I hope will help the congregation to prepare for a new ministry in the future. We may also have some opportunities to worship with the folk from the West Church preparing us for our new life together as Haddington Parish Church.

As I have said to the Session and congregation, I am here to guide and support you in the life and work of the church and to help you prepare for a future ministry. We will need to wait

until after the union to progress the search for a minister but in the meantime positive talks are continuing to take place and I will do my best to listen and learn from everyone who will be part of the exciting new prospect of Haddington Parish Church. At this time of vacancy we need everyone to play their part in the life of the church to help it to thrive and grow and attract a new minister and have a positive effect on our community as we follow Jesus' commandment to love our neighbours.

I am grateful for the immense support I've had from individuals already and Rae Goode, as Session Clerk, and the offers of help with pastoral care from Rev Maureen Duncan and Rev Kristina Herbold-Ross (one of the new faces who will join us in June).

I am now not bored, quite the opposite in fact, and am looking forward to the next period of my ministry with you all.

With my love and prayers,
Muriel Willoughby

Union with the West Church



On Sunday 2nd March, both congregations from St Mary's and Haddington West voted in

favour of the **Basis of Union.**

This means that the union itself is now likely to happen in **October** after Rev John Vischer moves on from the West Church. The new united congregation will be called *Haddington Parish Church* but the building that we will all worship in will be St Mary's.

The Coordinating Group, made up of the minister and four elders from each Kirk Session, has been meeting regularly and will continue to do so. They will next meet on Tuesday 3rd June. The group's purpose is to plan joint working and other aspects of the union. St. Mary's is represented by our Interim Moderator, Rev Muriel Willoughby, our Session Clerk, Rae Goode along with Shirley

Patterson, Mary McMillan and Stewart Meikle.

Please speak to any of the group if you have any questions or comments. Equally, we would welcome any suggestions you have about joint activities that we could organise to bring the two congregations closer together as we approach the union.

Following the union, we will take the required steps towards **calling a minister** for the new united congregation.

This is a time of change and uncertainty for everyone, but it also opens up many exciting opportunities for the future of the church in Haddington.

This is our church, and we all have a part to play.

Stewart Meikle



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, 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.

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 good-natured.

We are entering our summer break, and hope to resume in early September, but, 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



St Mary's is open for the last time this term for 'quiet time' on

Wednesday 18 June, 7-7.30 pm.

Why not take this opportunity to have time out from your busy schedule and just be in our peaceful candlelit church.

We have some gentle music, some words to guide your thoughts and some silence.

All are most welcome to this time of reflection.

After the summer break in July and August, our next 'Third Wednesday' will be on 17 September.

Felicity Haire & Isobel Colley

Easter Flowers



On Easter Sunday the Flower Team decorated the church with baskets of flowers. Thanks to those who purchased them after the service. More than £330 was raised and this is going towards the purchase of blooms for the posies made up and gifted to those members needing some TLC.

Shirley Patterson
(Joint Flower Convener)

Circle of Friends (Pastoral Care)

Looking Forward

- Have you made a will?
- Have you arranged Power of Attorney?
- Have you discussed with your family your wishes for "End of Life Care"?
- Do they know if you have a donor card for organ donation?
- Have you discussed your wishes for your funeral, whether burial or cremation, what sort of service, which hymns, readings or poems, refreshments afterwards?

These are the questions we can all address and by grasping and dealing with these thorny issues when we are well we can avoid the distress of our next of kin having to do so in emotional circumstances. It is good to talk!

The Circle of Friends Team continues to distribute the posies made up by the Flower Team. We can only do this if we know. So, please keep us informed.

**The next afternoon tea is
Thursday 19 June 2.30 - 4.00pm**
in the church.

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

Stamp Project



Here at St Mary's, we have been supporting the Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeals for several years now. In 2025/2026 the appeal is supporting the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.

This hospital in Northern Gaza has been in operation since 1882. It is owned and run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, a partner Church of the Church of Scotland. The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. It normally handles around 300 surgeries and 600 radiological and a total of 3,000 outpatient visits per month. It is supported by international charities such as Embrace the Middle East. In times of calm during the occupation of Gaza, Al Ahli Hospital runs as any normal hospital with varying departments and an Accident and Emergency dealing with the usual day to day ailments of a population.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza in October 2023, the hospital has conducted emergency operations 24 hours per day, operating on 30-35 people per day.

This was in addition to hundreds of medical consultations carried out each day at Al Ahli Hospital and its field clinic in Khan Younis. As well as serving as a hospital, it also provided a shelter for thousands of residents who fled their homes in northern Gaza seeking safety from Israeli airstrikes. Unfortunately, the hospital was hit by a fatal air strike killing and wounding several hundred people including children.

Despite all, and through all the bombing, the hospital continued to serve the population in whatever way they could with the small resources they had, with staff working hours under difficult conditions.

Archbishop Hosam of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East has requested all of us to join him in the following prayer: *"Please pray with us that this wave of violence will be stopped, as there are no winners in wars. All are losers"*, he said.

Please put your used stamps in the box at the back of the church.

Thank you for your support. You can read more about the Stamp Project on the website www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Visitor Season



Check out our VisitScotland site

Preparations were made for the re-opening of our church to visitors by updating posters, banners, flyers; and our online presence on Facebook and VisitScotland. All now bear the St Mary's QR code which allows instant access to the church website - and possible donations. Parking and access for the disabled is also mentioned as we do have quite a few senior visitors.

If anyone is out and about, visiting restaurants, golf courses, etc in E Lothian, would you be willing to take a few flyers please? They will be found near the Craft Stall.

Our Craft Stall does have some spare shelves this season, and if you or anyone you know makes crafts, paints, etc and would like to donate their work for sale in aid of Church funds, please chat with Bill Robertson.

The **Doors Open Days** event will be held on September 27-28 this year and has the theme 'Windows to the Past, Doors to the Future', concentrating on our rich architectural heritage and highlighting traditional skills. We would like to have displays during

that weekend demonstrating some of those skills that would have been found in St Mary's from medieval times: roofers, stonemasons, woodcarvers, embroiderers, mural artists, metalworkers, jewellery, etc!

If you know anyone - craftsman, artisan - who may have those skills or knowledge and would be interested, would you let me know? The entry for the DOD application form is mid-June.

With thanks to all.

Wendy Lund

Our Church Family

Baptism

"Then He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them".



- Reece Robert Willoughby

Funerals

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



- Mr Robin Salvesen
- Mr Porteous Gordon
- Mr Frank Davidson

"Change" (first written for the year 2000)

*Long time ago, St Mary's was born
The aim of men was this church to adorn
In its earliest time, the mass was said
And prayers were paid to the alters displayed
The trades and church, they stood together
Through troubles, strife and stormy weather
But war and want, they marched by
And St Mary's was left, part open to sky*

*The church no more a total refuge lay
Half graveyard, half building near to this day
Through Reformation and the changing scene
She stood the years and she's stood serene
The late wars came and went elsewhere
Only a plaque to show who the dead soldiers were
And flags to remind one of such times
But change goes on and the town clock chimes*

*Then one day the Elders of the kirk decided
To restore St Mary's, though views collided
However, all launched into the task with verve
To make whole a sanctuary all Christians deserve
And now today these stone walls surround
Her moment of glory has been crowned
Visitors come each year to see our church
As "Lamp of Lothian", she carries the torch*

*But now we are in another century
What future holds for our Holy Sanctuary?
Will you use these hallowed walls to pray?
Will future change allow faith its say?
We have all been handed this gift from the past
Then let us treasure it, so it can last.*

S Carruthers

Events in St Mary's



Haddington Camera Club hold their annual exhibition of photographs in the church from Saturday 31 May until 27 July 2025.

Please come and have a look at the amazing photos on display. The church will be open most days throughout the summer from 1.30pm to 4pm.



Our St Mary's at 4 series of free concerts on Sunday afternoons began on 4 May and continues throughout the summer until the final concert on 5 October. There is a huge

variety of musical styles and performers. See the posters and the fliers for full details of the programme.

All donations will again go towards the renewal project for the East End Windows.



Can you lend a Hand?

We are currently looking for volunteers to help in our Events Team with stewarding at concerts, in our Finance Team with payroll processing (approx. 1 hour a month)

and supplier payments (approx. 1 hour a week).

If you or someone you know would like to help or for more information, please e-mail to

events@stmaryskirk.co.uk or finance@stmaryskirk.co.uk



MAY 4	COREEN SCOTT & FRIENDS Local singer & band	JUL 20	SARAH MOORE Local soprano and former St Mary's chorister
MAY 11	CATHERINE DUNCAN Classical pianist	JUL 27	LINDSAY STRACHAN Singer/songwriter & guitarist
MAY 18	SCOTTISH CLARINET CHOIR Professional players, teachers & amateurs from all over Scotland	AUG 3	PHILOMUSICA Popular Edinburgh orchestra
MAY 25	TRIPTYCH TRIO Chamber music trio	AUG 10	BREVE ENCOUNTERS 16 & 17th Century music: voice, viola da gamba, flute & recorder
JUN 1	EAST LOTHIAN SMALL PIPES Traditional folk music group	AUG 17	ELINOR EVANS Clarsach (lever harp)
JUN 8	THE WINTONES Trio: gorgeous harmonies	AUG 24	THE SINGERS Chamber choir, Newcastle
JUN 15	SINFONIA HORNS French horn quartet	AUG 31	SALLY THOMAS & JUDY BARKER Songs & tunes on Scottish small pipes & English concertina
JUN 22	EVA MOREDA Medieval music on voice and portative organ	SEP 21	ABERLADY MOONSHINE ORCHESTRA Contemporary jazz & blues
JUN 29	ANDANTE CHOIR Chamber choir from the Borders	OCT 5	KEVOCK CHOIR Popular Midlothian choir
JUL 6	BERWICK CONCERT BAND Brass, wind & percussion from Northumberland	<p>If you're interested in performing, or have any questions, please email events@stmaryskirk.co.uk</p> <p>f @ www.stmaryskirk.co.uk</p> <p>Haddington: St Mary's Parish Church, (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity Number SC010614</p>	
JUL 13	KEITH MCINALLY Local singer/songwriter		



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

The Haddington Churches' Joint Service was held on Sunday 11th May, in St Mary's Parish Church, conducted by Rev Liz O'Ryan and Rev John Vischer. The Christian Aid Week stories, which were presented by lay members and friends of the local committee, took us to Guatemala, a country dealing with immense challenges. It is one of the 10 countries in the world, rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies. The church was well-filled and there was a warm feeling of fellowship among the supporters. £867 was raised at the service and another £390 raised online at the time of going to press.

80th Anniversary of Christian Aid

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of CA's founding by churches in Britain. Rev Douglas Lister was the Church of Scotland minister who first asked churches to support European refugees after the Second World War. There was a special service to mark the 80th anniversary in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on Saturday 17 May.

Future Plans

We are organising a **Talent Show** on Saturday 21st June, at 2 - 5pm in Holy Trinity Church. Entry fee £5 for individuals and £15 for groups. Apply at trinitycentrehaddington@gmail.com

We'll hold our usual **Sponsored Walk** on 13th September over our usual route from St Mary's to Holy Trinity by a six mile circuit to the south of the town.

Church Reps are Mary McMillan, Janet Penman, John & Maureen Weierner.

Thanks for all your support!
John Weierner

Life and Work is the award winning magazine of the Church of Scotland

June 2025 edition

Vital Volunteers

The value of the Church's unpaid helpers

Memories of Pope Francis

Former Moderators remember meetings with the late Pontiff

General Assembly 2025

Interview with Lady Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly. Further summaries of this year's reports.

'God Has Guided My Journey'

Carol Finlay looks back on a 36-year career in the Church, in India, Malawi and Edinburgh

'A Weight of Responsibility'

Jackie Macadam meets the recently-elected Edinburgh MP Dr Scott Arthur

Pillars of Faith

Engaging with visitors at Glasgow Cathedral

A Revival of Grace

Final part of the series focusing on the Church's work in Priority Areas

Regulars

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

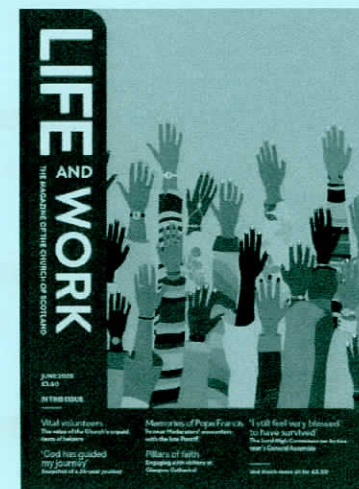
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

Plus: official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50.

Subscribe online from £9 for three issues (new readers), or download a digital copy for £2.99

Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or point your smartphone at:



CHURCH CONTACTS

Interim Moderator: Rev Muriel Willoughby

E-mail: im@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Session Clerk: Rae Goode

E-mail: sessionclerk@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Finance Enquiries :

E-mail: finance@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Church Bookings: Alison Meikle

E-mail: events@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Newsletter articles: newsletter@stmaryskirk.co.uk

www.stmaryskirk.co.uk

You can also donate and use Gift Aid here.



Haddington: St Mary's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SCO10614