

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest:

Fr. Jock Dalrymple:

0131 669 5447

Deacon:

Revd. Eddie White:

07986 015772

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after the Vigil Mass (7.30pm on Saturday) or any time by appointment

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Mr Enrico Fertini

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

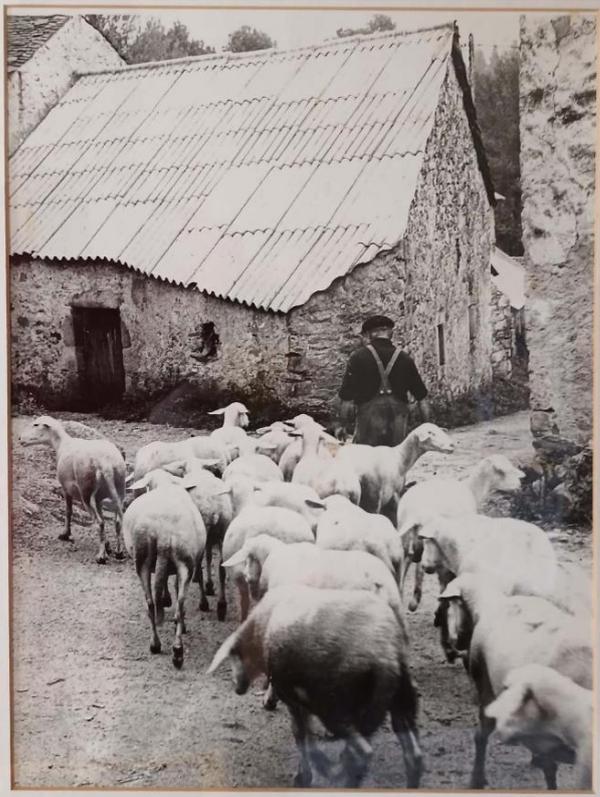
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 8 May 2022



“The sheep that belongs to me listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost, and no one will ever steal them from me”
(John 10:27-28)

(In 1978, Fr Jock, while a student at university, was on an ecumenical pilgrimage from his college to Taize in France. On the way, he stayed the night with a young couple from a Parisian parish, Didier and Dany Pachod. When he left, they gave him this photograph they had taken in their home village. It can now be found immediately on the right as you enter the Parish House.)

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life – with a second collection for the Ecclesiastical Students Fund.

We Continue to pray for Peace – ‘Dear Lord, please grant the people of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Reconciliation, Your Forgiveness, Your Love. Amen.’

THE NEXT SYNODAL STEP - OPEN MEETING -NEXT SUNDAY 15 MAY - 7PM ST JOHN’S HALL – ALL WELCOME

Pope Francis has emphasised the contribution of all members of the Church in shaping our direction in the future. We want to continue that emphasis as we reflect on the significance for our life locally of what has come to the surface so far – this is about the whole community’s engagement.

On Sunday 15 May we have a 2-Parish Evening Open Meeting from 7 to 9.30 pm in St John’s Hall. We now have a wealth of ideas, reflections and heartfelt responses as a result of the tremendous engagement in the synod process from both parishes. This came in different forms including the 268 questionnaires that folk completed on paper or online, and the post-it notes filled in at the 11 synodality meetings. We also have comments from friends in other churches in Portobello as well as the results of a questionnaire to senior pupils at Holyrood High School. **All the material from questionnaires and meetings will be on display in the hall, along with information about what is already going on in**

the parishes. The event will be organised so that people are able to look at and absorb the range of thoughts, feelings, hopes and visions that have been expressed. We will give time to reflection, listening and sharing in small groups along with prayerful silence. By the end of the evening, we hope that together we will have ‘discerned’ a way forward for our parishes as we look to the future. And by then we will deserve the refreshments/synodal party that will wind up the event! And at the end of the evening, we will have a Party with good things to eat and drink.

The experience so far has confirmed that everyone has something important to say. Please do come along next Sunday evening.’

TWO EVENINGS OF DIALOGUE AND SHARING WITH OUR FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PARENTS

Monday 16 May and Monday 23 May, 7pm-8.30pm – St John’s Hall

An Invitation to the parents from Fr Jock and the Sacramental Preparation Teams and their Co-ordinators, Arlene Lauder and Bronagh Power.

‘We hope that many of you are already aware of our plans to hold some parents’ evenings in advance of the First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies, as an essential part of the preparation for our celebration of these sacraments

We want to offer an opportunity for you to get to meet with each other and to share some thoughts and ideas on supporting one another with these important milestones in the children’s and your lives and ‘faith journeys’, and indeed, beyond.

We’re offering two evenings on **Monday 16 May** and **Monday 23 May, 7-8.30pm**. These are parents only evenings.

We only require you to attend one of the evenings. We plan to open the session with some wine/soft drink and nibbles and would be grateful if for catering purposes, you can let us know in advance which evening you’d prefer to attend – RSVP to the school or to our Administrator, Enrico, at stjohnsandsmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you all in the next few weeks.’

THIS WEEK

Saturday 7 May

9.30am-1.30pm – St John’s Hall – **Pamoja Fashion Sale**

11.30am – St John’s – **Baptism of Dominic Goodfellow**

12.30pm – St John’s – **Baptism of Harmony Hooper**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 8 May – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – World Day of Prayer for Vocation

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass**

Monday 9 May

10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

12.45pm – St Mary’s Cathedral – Requiem Mass for Christine Burns

7.00pm - 8.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel sharing**, just click below for a gentle chat on this Sunday’s readings:

Tuesday 10 May

9.45am - St John’s – **Requiem Mass for Loretta Ford** - livestreamed

No RCIA meeting this week

Wednesday 11 May - 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

Thursday 12 May - 10am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

Friday 13 May

9.45am [NB Change of Time]– St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

7.30pm - St. Martin's, Magdalene Drive – **Rob Holligan in Concert**

Saturday 14 May – Feast of St Matthias

12 midday-4pm – Duddingston Kirk Hall (entrance on Duddingston Road West) - **Sale of pre-loved accessories** (Hats, scarves, belts, handbags and jewellery) Teas and coffees available. **Proceeds will go to Dr Neil's Garden Charity.**

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 15 May – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass**

7pm – St John's Hall – SYNODAL OPEN MEETING FOR THE TWO PARISHES

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 16 (and Monday 23 May) – 7pm – St John's Hall

Meeting for Confirmation and First Communion Parents

Tuesday 17 May – 10am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Nessie Cairns**

Tuesday 24 May - 10.30am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Michael Hunter**

NOTICEBOARD

Our Prayers go with our parish pilgrims – Maria Igoe, Joyce Martin and Bernadette Gallagher set off on Tuesday for a fortnight in **Medjugorje** with five others from other parishes, while **Phyllis McLeay** departed on Thursday on the Jumbulance to **Lourdes** (for the 61st time – and her 71st Jumbulance trip overall....)

Fr Jock is away midweek with his priests' support group in Brora – all five of them now (elderly) Canons, so feeling the burden of years and of pastoral ministry and needing a little break occasionally for mutual support and reinvigoration...! As so often, **Fr Jim Smith** will kindly be covering for Fr Jock and celebrating our midweek Masses.

The Requiem Mass for Christine Burns (who taught at St John's Primary School) will take place at **St Mary's Cathedral this Monday, 16 May, at 12.45pm**, followed by cremation at Warriston Crematorium at 2.30.

Sung version of The Lord's Prayer/Our Father - **Jeremy Thorp writes:** "At the 9:30am Mass last Sunday at St John's, we sang a new 'Our Father' in place of the well-known and trusted version by Julian Wiener that we have sung for many years. This version comes from the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir, in Illinois USA. We hope that you have found it reasonably straightforward. We will be singing it again this week. For those interested, you can hear it on this YouTube, that's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmydHr4OEP0>

LEGION OF MARY CENTENARY - **Maria Igoe writes:** 'To celebrate the Centenary of the Legion of Mary, there will be a "Thanksgiving Day" at Carfin Grotto on Sunday 29 May. All who have been active or auxiliary members or who have supported the Legion over the years will be very welcome. There will be Mass, celebrated at 3pm, followed by a Rosary Procession and Benediction. It is hoped to leave St John's at 12 noon to allow for lunch at Carfin and time to look around the grounds. If you would like to please contact me on 07981333219.'

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

SCIAF Ukraine Appeal - As well as your prayers, please consider supporting SCIAF's emergency appeal for Ukraine, if you are able. Donations can be made at <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/> To find out how the Catholic Church is helping those in Ukraine see <https://www.caritas.org/>

Today (Sunday 8 May) is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please say a prayer for all those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life in our Archdiocese. If you think you may have such a vocation, please speak to Deacon Eddie or Fr Jock. You can also have a chat with the Archdiocesan vocations directors Fr Andrew Garden 0131 663 4286 | vocations@staned.org.uk or Sister Mirjam Hugens 0131 623 8902 religiousvocations@staned.org.uk. As always, please keep Deacon Eddie and Fr Jocki in your prayers as they serve God and the people of our parishes.

Event for Married Couples - The Archdiocese is hosting an afternoon retreat for married couples at 3pm today (Sunday 8 May) at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh. It will be led by Brian & Maureen Devine, a Catholic couple from England renowned throughout the UK for hosting inspiring retreats. Register for this free event at bit.ly/ArchEvenbrite or by phone at 07833 208 211.

Catholics in health and social care - If you work in health and social care and are interested in learning about the ethical challenges, register now for Catholics in Health and Social Care. It's a Zoom event and is ideal for those who missed the same event which took place recently at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. It takes place **11:30am-4:45pm on Saturday 14 May.**

Register at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/05/catholics-in-health-and-social-care>

Open Evening (online) - MA in Applied Catholic Theology - The MA in Applied Catholic Theology is being offered by St Mary's University in partnership with the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh, beginning in September. The course provides a thorough grounding in key aspects of Catholic theology and develops the key skills to apply that theology to the challenges and opportunities of the contemporary world. Teaching is flexible and the programme is suitable for graduates of most academic disciplines. Find out more at the online **Open Evening on Tuesday 17 May, 6-7pm.** Register at bit.ly/smu_openevening

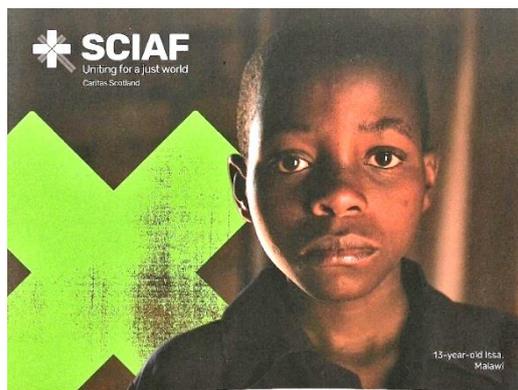
Wedding Anniversaries - Archbishop Leo will celebrate a Mass for Married & Engaged Couples on Wednesday 18 May at 7pm at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. All married and engaged couples are welcome on the night but if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, or know couples who are, the Archbishop would like to send a personal invitation. Please submit names, address and number of years being celebrated to Fr Jeremy Milne: vemarriage@staned.org.uk or at 0131 334 1693.

Corpus Christi Procession - As part of the Eucharistic renewal in the Archdiocese this liturgical year, led by Archbishop Cushley, you are invited to take part in a Corpus Christi procession at St Francis Xavier's in Falkirk on **Sunday 19 June** (time tbc). This is a major event for the Archdiocese and a beautiful and prayerful experience (as well as a chance to be a witness to the Eucharistic Christ in public).

Lourdes - If you're a nurse please consider taking part in the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 8-15 July. The pilgrimage committee is looking for a night nurse (full funding available) and nurses to join to join the medical team. Contact Claire Banks, chief nurse, on 07930 928489 for more info. There is also still space for assisted pilgrims who will have 24hr care on the pilgrimage. Helpers and hotel pilgrims are also welcome. More info at www.edinburgh-lourdes.com

A PRAYER TO DISCERN ONE'S VOCATION, INCLUDING TO THE PRIESTHOOD, DIACONATE AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

*Lord,
Let me know your ways,
Teach me your paths.
Grant me your grace
To discern what your will
Holds for me.
May I have the courage
Lovingly to embrace
What you want for me
And to be faithful
To you always.*



SCIAF WEE BOX – THE PROCEEDS

Every Lent, between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, thousands of Scots save money in their SCIAF WEE BOX to help give a hand up to people living in poverty.

By giving up a treat and putting what you save into a WEE BOX or fundraising with friends, you can make a lasting difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries.

We are delighted to announce our two parishes raised an amazing **£1050.00** (including Gift Aid) this year, thanks to the generosity of our Parishioners.

Our donations will prevent families from going hungry, help people grow more food, and heal their local environment. Across the world, extreme weather is flooding homes, destroying crops and leaving people with little or no food to eat. More than 800 million people go hungry each day.

Their need is urgent, we responded with love.

The Climate Emergency is happening now, and it's killing the poorest people first

Act in Hope this Lent, fight the Climate Emergency, and help build God's Kingdom here on Earth.



ROB HOLLIGAN

St. Martin's at 7.30pm Friday 20 May

Rob Halligan is an acclaimed Christian singer, songwriter and recording artist from Coventry (<https://robhalligan.co.uk/main/>)

His concerts are a mix of great songs and personal testimony and he has built up a loyal following over the years, including here in Scotland.

Tickets are £7 each and all the money will go to Rob to support him in his ministry.

Tickets are available by emailing tickets@billwishart.org.uk or by popping into St. Martin's between 10.30am and 12 noon, this is our free Community Café.

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - JOHN 10:27-30

We have two lovely Dobermann dogs. Their names are Stanley and Aoife. (pronounced Eeeffa - why do Irish names always want all of the vowels to themselves?) Aoife is the female – her name means ‘radiant beauty’ – though in fact she is a bit of a thug! We love them to bits and, insofar as a dog is capable of love, then they seem to be keen on us. Dobermanns are a very affectionate and tremendously loyal breed, fierce defenders of their territory and hopefully us. They are very strong-willed, never more so than when we are outside and they become distracted by sheep and lambs and rabbits, weasels and the occasional stoat. They may recognise our voice when they’re outside, but rarely listen. Occasionally, what we want them to do, and what they want to do will coincide - but these times are few and far between. You might remember that we live in a remote part of Northumberland with sheep and rolling hills as far as the eye can see. I watch the farmer as he goes about his pastoral chores. One thing I have noticed, is that his flock don’t pay much attention to his voice, but they certainly recognise the sound of his quad bike as he approaches with their food supplement. The lambs have learnt to imitate their mothers, and enthusiastically rush to the sound of the bike. Like all young, the lambs have no awareness of danger, and could easily become trapped under the quad-bike’s wheels. He must be careful. They all recognise him – but they recognise much more the sound of the bike.

The Gospel passage for this weekend set me thinking about my dogs, the farmer’s quad bike and the sheep and lambs over the wall. More pertinently, it set me thinking about myself and my response to God’s voice. I never have any doubt that the dogs can hear me, but they don’t always listen. To listen necessitates a response, ‘Come here’, ‘lie down’ ‘sit’. All are delivered with great authority. I’ll leave you to imagine the resulting response. Today, Jesus speaks to us: *The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.* God doesn’t command me in quite the same way as my frenzied calling of the dog. He is not like me as I try to regain the dogs’ focus. God doesn’t bark or scream at me, growing increasingly frantic. He doesn’t grow frustrated with me as I hold my nose high in the air, eager for a new scent to distract me. No! God doesn’t work that way. Remember that Elijah found God on the mountain at Horeb, not in the earthquake, or the mighty wind, or the raging inferno: he found him in the sound of a gentle, whispering breeze. When he heard it, Elijah went out of the cave and covered his face. He found himself in the presence of God and he was awestruck. There is always a gentleness in God’s voice, and herein lies my vulnerability, my Achilles heel. In the Old Testament, Isaiah had warned the Jewish people that God could see what was happening. Acting as God’s mouthpiece Isaiah remarked: *This people honour me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me.....*

Sometimes, I come along to church and my heart skips a beat. A beautiful floral arrangement, a stained-glass window that takes my breath away, a moving piece of music, a scripture reading delivered with faith and conviction. I love the drama of the Easter Vigil, the darkness, the gathering gloom, the light from the fire and the new Easter candle; the bells, the intoning of the Gloria – even the hardest of hearts cannot fail to be moved. So far, so good. Lip service is easy when my heart is light. Then I listen to a sermon and take on board what is said. I allow the words from scripture to penetrate my bones rather than allowing them to wash over me. Or I sit in silence, with no-one for company except God. He starts to whisper in my ear. I look for something, anything to distract me. Like the dog desperately seeking another scent to excuse him from what he knows he must do. This is where the hard work begins. I find myself startled and stunned. The Word of God is asking for a response; it compels me to challenge my comfortable way of thinking, my secure and reassuring lifestyle. He tells me that I cannot be conservative in preserving the status quo, while so much inequality exists all around me. I know which way I should respond, but like a wayward puppy that decides to ignore the call, I spend just a little longer chasing the rabbit, or sniffing the various scents coming in on the easterly wind. I choose to ignore His ‘voice’. I resolve that one day I might respond – but not just yet! I recognise Jesus, and the importance of his teaching, but I sometimes opt not to listen to that voice. Only I know the answer – but it’s the question I can never avoid. *The sheep that belong to me, listen to my voice.*

(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock who lives in Northumberland)

Parish Register

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Eileen O'Connell
Valerie Ann Barrie
Joe Mooney
Roney Fernandez*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*Catherine Hall - Bridget McTighe
Harry Haston - Martin Gaughan
John Rennie - Rustom Carpo
Angus McIsaac - Sandra Elgey*

Anniversaries:

St John's: May 8: Bridget McTighe (2018); John Rennie (2011); Jim Ponton (1986); John Kane (1949); Mary Taylor;
May 9: Rosanna O'Neill (1970); Bruno Nicora (1932); **May 10:** Michael McGovern (2004); William Cunningham (1984); **May 11:** Veronica Ginnelly (2001); **May 12:** Cathie Young (2020); Ian J Berry (2013); Helen McGuire (1991); Kathleen Ogilvie (1970); Ninian Connolly; **May 13:** John Bonar (2005); Sr.Marie McAllister (2001); Rena Tow (1992); Edward Black Sen. (1985); **May 14:** Cecelia McKenzie (2009); John Gordon Kerr (1994); Sr.Mary Tait (1994); James Waugh (1979); Ann (McCann) Murphy (1956); **May 15:** Harry Haston (2021); James Kelly (2004); John O'Brien (1954);

St Mary Magdalene's: May 8: Martin Gaughan (1998); Thomas Murphy (1968); **May 10:** Samuel Tosney (1999); Patrick Walker (1991); **May 12:** Dorothy McEwan (1995);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Mike and Maria Noonan, Baby Archie Williams, John Whyte, Maureen Lawrie, Susan Cammack, Maria Pacitti, Kim O'Neill, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonar, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Mary McGovern (jnr), Ray Donnelly, Carolynne McCann, Maureen Forsyth, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Clive Davis, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Michael Durkin, Jessica Haggerty, Lauren Sutherland, Margaret Thomson, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, Len Kirkland, Anne-Marie Pymont, John Francis Harwood-Stevenson, Jaroslav Icina, Young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Bill Henderson, Kit McCormick, Anne Rose, Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Anne Lauder, Seval Kazimoglu, Veronica Telfer, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister) Jan Meise, Margaret Thompson, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Bernard Traynor, Evelyn Tibbs, Helen Briton, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Caroline Minto, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Michael Igoe, baby Kinsley McMillan, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

Offertory 1 May 2022

St Mary Magdalene

£518.25 total including Offertory of £331.25 and Gift Aid of £187.00

St John the Evangelist

£1348.95 total including Offertory of £360.15, Gift Aid of £249.80 and online donations of £739.00

Thank You

St John's and St Mary Magdalene's Justice & Peace Group

Accounts year-ended 31 March 2022

Opening Bank Balance	£1,412	Expenditure	
		Bethany Overnight Welcome Centre - food costs	£197
Income:			
Gift Aid tax claim	£375	<i>Donations made:</i>	
		Bethany Christian Trust	£50
<i>Donations received:</i>		Bethany "Buy a Bed" scheme	£576
Hunger for Justice Fund	£854	St Teresa's Foodbank	£60
Bethany "Buy a Bed"	£576	Unicef (Yemen appeal)	£550
SCIAF Real Gifts <i>(see note 1)</i>	£2,815	SCIAF - Haiti earthquake appeal	£300
Edinburgh Direct Aid - Lebanon Appeal	£143	- Ukraine appeal	£250
		British Red Cross (Afghan famine appeal)	£200
General <i>(see note 2)</i>	£487	UNHCR (Afghan refugee appeal)	£300
		Edinburgh Direct Aid (Lebanon appeal)	£143
Total Income	£5,250	Scottish Refugee Council	£100
		Mary's Meals	£30
		Donations - Total	£2,559
		SCIAF Real Gifts <i>(see note 1)</i>	£3,129
		Total Expenditure	£5,885
		 Closing Bank Balance	 £777

Jim Roarty writes: "Because of Covid, our activities have been fairly low-level this last two years. The principal difference this year from last was the sale of SCIAF Real Gifts which was a significant success, **with £3129 being sent to SCIAF.**

Because of the low level of activity in 2020-2021, the amount we could claim as Gift Aid was only £375. This year, with a number of our SCIAF Real Gift sales being Gift Aided, we have sent off a claim for £768, which will bring the cumulative amount we have received £5825 from those nice people at HM Customs & Revenue since we registered as a charity in 2006.

The cost of providing a hot meal for homeless people at the Bethany Overnight Welcome Centre dropped from £963 the previous year to £197 last year, even though we did more nights (22) compared with the previous year (14). This is largely due to the generosity of *Apetito Ltd*, who have donated the meals on a number of occasions, and their representative, *Seton Steele*, who has also done the food preparation on most of our evenings.

Our "Hunger for Justice" Fund offers parishioners the opportunity to contribute on a regular basis, by standing order/direct debit - usually £5 or £10 per month which helps us cover Bethany food costs and respond to emergency appeals. In most cases, as taxpayers, our donors have also signed a Gift Aid document which enhances the benefit by another 25%. Last year, we had a pleasing increase from £564 the previous year to £854. If anyone would like to join the Fund, please contact any member of the J&P Group who will be delighted to get the form to you."