



You are invited
to participate in the

St Mary's Future Focus Timeline

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29 verse 11

St Mary's has been with us for a long time and, God willing, will be here a long time after us. Right now, we are both part of its history and part of its future. But just being part of something, rather than participating, is often not enough. We all have to share our knowledge and experience of the past in order to focus on dreams and wishes for the future.

Building the St Mary's timeline

Building the St Mary's timeline will be the first step of a journey that starts with us finding out who we are. Further steps on the journey will follow: steps that will help us to discover where we are, what we might be, how we might serve God and go on to realise his promise for hope and a future in our community.

St Mary's has its origins in the oldest church in Kirkintilloch. It has been through and seen many changes – it has served and been served by the community. It has marked most people's rites of passage. To know ourselves we have to see the church on a timeline. What happened through the ages? And for those events in our lifetimes, what meaning did they have for us and the church? In order to discover and know all this, we have a massive resource – our membership – including YOU. We have years of memories and

30s



40s

50s



60s

experiences: happiness and hardship, weakness and strength, growth and contraction, despair and hope. We know of problems we have brought to God through the church and solutions for which we have given thanks. Join us on this first step. We can tell you some stories, but we need you to tell yours.

Giving us your input to the timeline

Your input will be used to build a timeline for St Mary's culminating in a series of events looking at our early history since 1140 and spanning pairs of decades from the 1930s through to 2010. These events are to be held in May and June 2011.

On the second page of this leaflet you will find a form you can complete with details of the celebrations and successes and struggles and disappointments in your spiritual life and the life of the church during the decades covered by the timeline. Your memories of these times will add valuable personal input to the timeline. Examples of the input we anticipate receiving are shown to the right. This input will be added to the timeline and other related documentation we may produce. Where required, your confidentiality will be maintained in the use of any written input you provide.

If you find you have several inputs you wish to provide, you may fill in more than one form, or attach a supplementary sheet to this form. You could also use one of the other methods described overleaf for communicating your input to us.

We also want to use artefacts at the events corresponding to the various decades, and space has been provided on the form for you to offer these on loan.

Some examples of input

"For me, coming to church at St Mary's has been the spiritual 'top-up' I need at the start of each week. I read my bible and pray during the week, but being able to celebrate my faith with others on Sunday is something special."

Since 1973

"Although we had always gone to church at St Mary's as a family, when my children left school between 2001 and 2003 they stopped going to church and they have never been back since. They will probably get married in the church and if they have any children they may have them baptised in the church, but they will not have the same relationship with St Mary's that we had."

2001 to 2003

"I was never much interested in church and thought church wasn't for people like me. I only got interested after reading the bible. Then it felt it was okay for me to go. I eventually plucked up the courage and went to other churches before settling at St Mary's. Now I feel accepted and encouraged to be part of things and I know church is for everyone."

1988

"When I first arrived in Kirkintilloch I was quite unhappy, but every time I went to church at St Mary's during that period it seemed the message spoke to me personally and addressed the circumstances in which I found myself. It was quite uncanny and it kept bringing me back."

September 2009 to June 2010



Your personal input to the St Mary's timeline

To which set/s of decades does your input apply? (please tick) - please use more forms if you have more input.

☐ 1930s and 1940s

☐ 1950s and 1960s

☐ 1970s and 1980s

☐ 1990s to 2010

Please provide in the space below your personal observation, memory or experience of celebrations/ successes and struggles/ disappointments in your spiritual life, the life of the church or the life of the community. If you need more space for your input, please attach another sheet to this form, or use a letter, email or online form (details provided on right).

Your input:

The applicable date or period (can be the full date/s, or month/s and year/s or just year/s):

Date/s:

If you would like your name to appear with your input on the timeline, please state here the name we should use. Note: If you do not insert your name your input will remain anonymous.

Name:

Artefacts you can offer for the St Mary's timeline and events

We would welcome the loan of any photographs or other visual material, household goods, clothing or relevant artefacts that apply to any of the decades listed above, and which can be used for the timeline and its events in 2011. We will do our best to ensure the safe return of the item/s, but please do not offer anything so precious to you that it would be a disaster if it was damaged or lost.

Description of the item/s:

Date/s:

Your contact details:

Name: _____ Telephone number: _____

Returning your completed form

Please return your completed form by dropping it in the box/es provided for the purpose in the church foyer and hall. The box is marked 'St Mary's Future Focus Timeline input'.

Other ways you can give us your input...

by filling in a form online

A form like this hardcopy version has been provided on the church website for online completion and submission. Look on the church website: www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk under 'Future Focus'

by email

You may send your input with scanned images, or photos of relevant events and artefacts to us at the email address:

futurefocus@live.co.uk

by letter

You may send your input by letter addressed to:
St Mary's Timeline
c/o St Mary's Church Office
Cowgate
Kirkintilloch
G66 1JT

Thank you for your interest

Any input you can give us will be welcome as it will result in a more interesting series of timeline events in May and June 2011. We look forward to seeing you there.