

Jesus said,
"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name
welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9: 37



The Parishioner

September 2017



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Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

As you receive this magazine I will be on holiday. Audrey and I have travelled to Malta for two weeks.

*'Hospitality sits
at the heart of
the Gospel.'*

Getting ready for a holiday can be a stressful time. Yes, you look forward to seeing somewhere new and experiencing another culture. At the heart of the holiday will be the expected hospitality. You quickly settle and hope to enjoy the holiday.

Hospitality sits at the heart of the Gospel. You have Jesus receiving a welcome from others and you

Continued overleaf



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see him hosting the Last Supper. He attends a wedding reception and eats with those others may have rejected.

In Matthew, Chapter 10, Verse 14, we here rather dating words. We are told '...and if anyone will not welcome you or heed your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town....'

Clearly a great emphasis is put on the nature of welcome and hospitality. Over the summer months we have welcomed many visitors. The Canal Festival brought people through the door and the Open Doors day affords another opportunity to welcome others.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals also offer us an opportunity to welcome folks into our lovely church. We should seek to make good use of all the opportunities we find to open wide the door and welcome folks in. However, let us not forget to take the good news from the Church to the wider community. Church can be quite alien to some people. May St Mary's be a good example of a welcoming Church.

I look forward to your welcome upon our return.

Kindest regards

Mak.



Find us on:



@minsmpc



st mary's
kirkintilloch

Parish Register

Baptisms

'Jesus said 'Let the children come to me, for as such is the Kingdom of heaven' . . . he placed his hand upon them and blessed them.'

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| July | 16 | Georgia Rose Male , daughter of Donna and Stuart |
| | 30 | Sophia Herriot , daughter of Alan and Ashleigh |
| August | 13 | Zoe Janet Busby , daughter of Elaine and Graham |
| | | Charlotte Vogan , daughter of Karen and Mark |
| | 20 | Bella McDaid , daughter of Patrick and Elaine |

The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Weddings

'God is love and those who dwell in love dwell in God and God in them'

We celebrated the marriage of:

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| June | 17 | Gemma Kane and James Gilmour |
| July | 07 | Andrew Leishman and Susan Gerc |
| | 22 | Carron Thomson and John Wright |
| August | 04 | La Von Rutherford-Felix and Grant Griffen |
| | 11 | Gillian Rankin and James Daley |
| | 12 | Elizabeth Berry and John Alexander Love |

Funerals

Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life ...'

'Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted'

Jesus said 'The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God'.

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| June | 09 | William Anderson, 42 Glasgow Road, Kirkintilloch |
| | 20 | Mrs Annie Davidson, 122 Highfield Road, Kirkintilloch |
| | 21 | George Millar, 4 Alloway Drive, Kirkintilloch |
| | 30 | David Anderson, 7 Forrest Gardens, Lenzie |
| July | 27 | Mrs M Robertson, 85 Larkfield Road, Lenzie |
| August | 04 | Ewing Thomson, 5 Millersneuk Court, Lenzie |
| | 08 | Mrs Jean Smart, Clarkston House Care Home, Glasgow |
| | 10 | Mrs Isobel MacLean, 10 Bridgeway Road, Kirkintilloch |
| | 17 | Jean Cunningham, Kelvin Court, Kirkintilloch |

Change of Address

Janice Cowan, formerly 12 Armour Court, Kirkintilloch now residing at 29 Beechtree Terrace, Milton of Campsie

Heather Lowther, formerly 64 Glen Sannox Drive, now residing at 78 Glen Sannox Drive, Craigmarloch, Cumbernauld



Church Flowers

We wish to thank the following members who will donate the flowers for the chancel of our Church during September.

| | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| September | 03 | Mrs B Little, Mrs R Stevenson, Miss E Cousin |
| | 10 | Mrs M Glennie, Mrs D McMillan, Mrs J Stewart, The Fisher Family |
| | 17 | Mrs C Devine, Mrs J Bett, Mr M Miller, Mrs B Cowie, J & A Marran |
| | 24 | Mr H Biggans, Mrs J McKean, Mrs M Girault, Mrs A Differ |
| October | 01 | Mrs M Malcolm, Mrs S Nicol, Mrs J Smith, Mrs M Wilson |

The following members, whom we wish to thank for their assistance, will be responsible for distribution.

| | | |
|-----------|-----|---------------|
| September | 03) | Mrs D More |
| | 10) | Mrs I Kennedy |
| | 17) | Mr G Burns |
| | 24) | Miss E Cousin |
| October | 01) | Mrs B McEwen |
| | 08) | Mrs S Burns |

Thank You

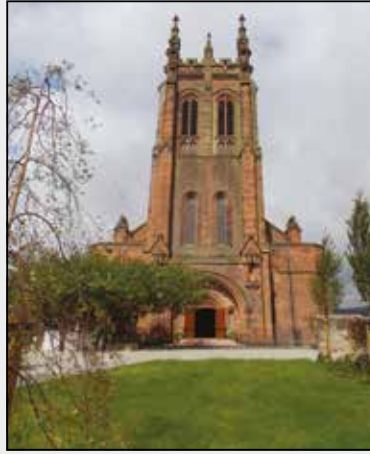
Thank you letters are acknowledged from the following who received chancel flowers during the summer months.

Mrs J. Robertson, J & A Pearson, Mr Mrs H. Miller, A & M Stirling, Miss J. Provan, Mr J. Smith, Mrs B. Little, R & N Cowan, Mrs S. Nicol, J & J Kempself, Mrs F. Leishman, J & E Morrow, Mrs F. Green, C. Devine, Ed & Laura Pears, J & M Pears, M. Douglas, Mrs M. Stirling, Mrs M. Wilson, Bryce and Helen Calder, A & E Henderson, Mr Mrs R. Neill, Mr E. Archibald, R & C McLachlan, G. Thomson on behalf of her Mum, Mrs F. Wilson, Mrs J. Jennings, Mrs M. Fyfe, Miss J. Campbell, Mrs M. Wilson, Mrs V. Hogg, Miss

A, Tassie, M. Primrose, Mrs N. Rees, Mrs A. Clelland, B. McMillan, H & J Biggans, Mrs S. McLellan, A & E Beveridge, R & G Corner, Mr Mrs R. McGowan, Mrs J. Clarke, Mrs S. Walker, Miss D. Brown, Mrs M. Devine, C & E Kerr, Mrs J. Smith, D & Somerville, Mrs I. Hay, Dr J. Redpath, Mrs A. Frame, J & A Marran, Mrs R. Smith, Mrs J. Morrison, Mrs S. Robertson, Mrs E. Gillespie, D & M McBride, B & M Hannah, J & I Maclean, J & L Hood, Mr J. Lamb, Mrs A. Scott, Mrs R. Poynton, Mrs M. Strang.

I wish to thank our members who so generously gave towards the Chancel flowers over the summer.

Janice Reid



The Bells of St Mary's

September/October 2017

| | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| September | 03 | Linda Brown and Olivia Fotheringham |
| | 10 | Lisa and Daniel Malloy-Gibson |
| | 17 | Mary Stirling and Lesley Bevens |
| | 24 | Dorothy Stewart and Cara Bevens |
| October | 01 | Mary Stirling and Jen Biggans |

Doors Open Day

East Dunbartonshire Doors Open Day is on Saturday 09 September and noted below are various places of interest in our own town. St Mary's Parish Church - 10am-4pm; Kirkintilloch Harbour Walk - leaves from The Park Centre, 45 Kerr Street at 2.30pm; Forth & Clyde Canal Society, Kirkintilloch - 10am-4pm; The Park Centre - 10am-noon; Kirkintilloch Town Hall - guided tours at 11am, 11.45am, 12.30pm, 1.15pm and 2pm.

The Parishioner

Copy for the October magazine should be handed to Sandra Burns, left in the Publications pigeon hole in the Hall vestibule, or sent by e-mail to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 24 September**.

The Publications Committee are always interested in the activities of all our Organisations, especially the young people of Church, so if you wish your voice to be heard, or have something you would like published in The Parishioner, please let the Editor know.

Visitors are welcome

St Mary's is a sit anywhere Church and visitors are always welcome. If you feel there should be more to life than retail therapy and Friday night clubbing, try coming along to the 11 o'clock service on Sunday morning. You may hear something to change how you value your life and your relationships with those around you. You don't have to join up to join in.

Church Office Hours

Please note the Church Office hours are now: Monday – Thursday, 8.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Fabric Report for Summer Work

This summer the members of the Fabric Committee have been very busy working in the halls. The main job this year was repainting of the Stage wall and Proscenium Arch to match the rest of the Hall. The Mid Hall floor has been resealed and we are in the process of applying putty to the outside of the windows and repainting the fascias and other woodwork. These major items and other minor jobs have been completed by my faithful team of workers yet again. It would be nice to see some of the younger members of the congregation getting involved with the ongoing maintenance of the fabric of the buildings.

David Tinto, Fabric Convenor

Session Report

Welcome back to the start of a new session in the life of St Mary's. September is a busy month, with our organisations starting up again after the summer break. The summer months have also been busy, with lots of activity around the Church and our halls. The contractors continue to make progress with the roof restoration project, with work on the high level roofs all complete. However, our own team of enthusiastic helpers has also been busy with cleaning, decorating and various repairs in our suite of halls. I am very grateful to our Fabric Convenor, David Tinto and all of the folks involved in these activities. We are not always aware of how much work is going on when our halls are closed, but we receive the benefit when they reopen. All of these efforts are very much appreciated. Our last Session Meeting was in June when again we were joined by members of the congregation. We also incorporated our Annual Stated Meeting into the evening, when our accounts to December 2016 were presented for information.

At the end of June, I attended St Columba's Parish Church, along with Garry Burns, our Presbytery Elder. The occasion was the Ordination and Service of Induction for the Rev Philip Wright. On the same evening, Mark was attending the service of Induction for Bryce Calder at his new charge of St Mary's in Motherwell. Our very best wishes go to Philip and Bryce, along with their families, as they settle in to their new surroundings.

Finally, as Mark will be on holiday, the Kirk Session decided that this year we would not have our normal celebration of Communion in September. This is a one off change to our normal arrangements and so we will next celebrate Holy Communion on 5th November.

We wish Mark and Audrey an enjoyable and relaxing holiday – a well earned rest!

Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk

Heritage Lottery Bid

Update – August 2017

Dear All

In an ongoing effort to keep everyone in the congregation informed, as this project involves all of us; we are again writing a newsletter to let you know where we are in the process at this time. To those of you who have asked us why we have not talked to you, the congregation, in person, we would say that we would have been delighted to have been invited to do so.

As you will have seen, the upper section of scaffold has been taken down as the refurbishment of the main sanctuary roof has been completed. We would have liked to have completely stripped the main sanctuary roof, but the cost of doing so was well beyond the funding that we have available for the project. The contractors have, however, spent a great deal of time and effort ensuring that all deficiencies on the roof have been rectified. They have removed all broken, cracked and chipped slates and have replaced sarking boards and waterproof membrane as necessary. We have not had any leaks into the main sanctuary since they completed this work and, given the recent rainfall; we feel that the roof has been comprehensively water tested!

The contractors are now working on the other sections of roof. They have found considerable amounts of rot in various sections of the sarking boards, but no rot in any of the main beams, apart from two small sections on the roof over the passage between the 'ladies' room and the session house which they have replaced. This work is ongoing.

As you will also have seen; the upper gutters, hoppers and down pipes have been replaced with new, painted, cast iron rainwater goods in keeping with the vintage of the building. The lower ones will be replaced with similar rainwater goods.

All of the lead work on the church roof has been, or will be, replaced with new. Having seen the quality of the lead work that has been completed so far, it can only be described as a work of art. We are of the opinion that it is better than the original lead work.

The roofers are now working on the lower roofs over the side aisles and over the transepts. When the tiles were removed from the side aisle roofs

Continued overleaf

we found that the original stone roofs were still in place, albeit covered in a layer of concrete. This will be left in place as its removal would cause considerable disruption and dirt, not to mention it would cost a considerable amount of money, which we do not have. Battens will be installed over the top of the original stone roof, sarking will then be fixed to these battens, a breathable, waterproof membrane will be installed and the roof re-slatted with original, or reclaimed, Scottish slate as laid down by Heritage Lottery Funding and Historic Environment Scotland.

All of the pointing, except the chimneys, has been completed. As you will have noticed, the colour of the new pointing is lighter than the original. Given that the original has been in place for over one hundred years, this is to be expected and the colour of the new pointing, which is lime based, will tone in with the original over the next few years. Access to the chimney to the rear of the church is difficult and will necessitate the use of a very large 'cherry picker', which will come on site later in the project.

We would suggest that you have a look at the four pieces of stone that have been cut out and replaced with new. Once again the colour of the new stone is brighter than the weathered parts, but the quality of the carving and stone cutting is excellent.

We are very happy with both the quality of work and the relationship that we have with the contactors and our advisers to date.

We have completed the draft copies of our storyboards and they are now with the graphic designer. She has sent us a draft copy of the first of our storyboards, which all of your committee agreed was excellent. On your behalf we have therefore asked her to go ahead with the other eight storyboards, which we believe she has almost completed.

The committee who have designed the storyboards were also tasked with devising a system for the increased opening of the church to the public, which was one of the tasks that we agreed with HLF that we would undertake. We are at the initial stages of this element of our funding bid and will keep you in touch with development and will no doubt all upon you for your help and support in implementing our agreed strategy.

We have also completed the worksheets for visitors to our church from our local schools. These will be made into 'easy access' folders and distributed to the head teachers of our local primary schools, so that

Continued overleaf

when they visit us they can prepare the young people before their visit regarding what to expect and what they might see.

As is to be expected with a project of this scale, there will be some dust in the sanctuary, and whilst we and the contractors are doing everything we can to clean this before each service, we would advise everyone that their clothes might get a wee bit dusty.

We would again like to thank all of you for your patience, forbearance and support during the ongoing works to our church.

Again, as always we would like to thank everyone who has helped us in whatever way to reach this stage of the project and we look forward to your continuing support.

The Restoration Group – August 2017

Organisation Starting Dates

Young Church starts back on Sunday 03 September. Open to all young people from ages 0 – 16 years. Come along and join us whenever you can. We do not expect young people to come every week as we realise there are other activities also on a Sunday.

Ladies Bowling Club resumes on Monday 04 September from 1.30 – 3.30p.m. New members will be made most welcome. There is no waiting list, so come along for a game of bowls, tea or coffee and of course a ‘wee’ biscuit and a chat.

Country Dance Class resumes on Tuesday 12 September at 7.45 p.m. in the Lesser Hall, when ‘old’ dancing feet.



Flower Circle

St Mary's Flower Circle resumes on Thursday 14 September at 7.30 p.m. They look forward to another session when they will learn more. Please bring some greenery with you on this date.



Listeners Circle

The first meeting of the new session will be on Friday 15 September at 2pm in the Session House. Everyone is cordially invited to come along to hear ninety minutes of a wide range of music selected by Sydney Ashmall, with a break in the middle for tea and conversation.



The Guild

The Guild commences their new Session on Friday 06 October. Please note they will meet every second Friday. All are welcome, including gentlemen, to come along and enjoy the fellowship and listen to a varied selection of topics throughout the Session year.

Annual Flower Show



The Kirkintilloch Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 02 September from 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. There will be a Tea Room, Raffle and Tombola.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday 08 October. Donations will be gratefully received and should be brought to Church on the Sunday morning. Donations can either be produce or, if you prefer, a monetary donation. Suggestions for produce are: cereals, tinned soup / meat / fish / vegetables / tinned fruit. Also acceptable are tea, coffee, sugar, rice, pulses, red / brown sauce and vinegar. **No fresh products please.**

We will NOT be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion on 03 September.

Kirkintilloch Trefoil Guild

The first meeting of the new session is on Wednesday 27 September at 7.45 p.m. in the Mid Hall. The speaker will be Errol Burchell of Kirkintilloch Horticultural Society.

SOB (Save Our Brownies)

We have a wonderful Brownie Pack butWe really need more adult help. If you would like to assist, please contact Alisha McGowan – 0141 775 0244.

Thank you – 2nd Kirkintilloch Brownies

A New Session Dawns!

A new session is about to begin and the Social Committee have planned a number of events for the future. Here are the dates for you to put in your diaries so you do not miss anything.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 20th October 2017 | Quiz |
| Sunday 3rd December 2017 | Celebration Lunch |
| Saturday 20th January 2018 | Burns Night |
| Sunday 11th February 2018 | Pancake Lunch |
| Friday 16th March 2018 | 'Chippy and Film Night' |
| Friday 18th May 2018 | TBC |
| Sunday 10th June 2018 | Strawberry Lunch |

More details about all these events will follow nearer the time.

Come and join the Celebration!

Having spent a few months avoiding the dust, dodging the fencing and not using the Church car park; we are almost at the stage where we no longer have to avoid the raindrops falling on our heads or the dust particles descending on our seats and we can celebrate the end of the first stage of the church renovations. There is still much to be done but at least the roof will no longer let in water and we can think about the interior.

On Sunday 3rd December, there will be a celebratory service in Church followed by a lunch in the halls. This lunch will be provided by Table 13 and will be a sit-down meal. More details about this celebration will follow nearer the time.

Tickets costing £2 to reserve a place (an opportunity for donations will be provided on the day) will be on sale at the beginning of November. All profits will go towards the ongoing work needing to be done in the Church.

Time to Activate Your Little Grey Cells!

The Social Committee's first event of the session will be taking place on Friday 20th October. They will be holding a quiz night and as usual teams will comprise 6 people (maximum). Come in a readymade team or form one on the night. There will be a variety of questions to suit all types of people and interests with an emphasis on having fun.

The evening will start at 7.30pm in the Church Halls and will cost £6. Light refreshments will be provided at half time.

As you are probably aware the roof will be almost finished by the end of October, but there is still a lot of work which needs to be done to the Church and all profits will go towards this.

Life and Work

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In a History spanning over 130 years, it has established itself as the pre-eminent voice of the Church of Scotland. The magazine can be purchased from the stand in the Church vestibule.

An Analysis of our Offerings

Once again we have carried out a review of the freewill offerings made by the congregation in the year to 31 March 2017. The data has been refined this year to show the number of recorded members who do not take envelopes, for various reasons. As can be seen from the table below, over fifty per cent of our members appear to be giving nothing or less than 50p per week as in the previous year. The total giving has increased largely due to one substantial donation.

| Weekly Amount | Number | Numerical Percentage | Total Amount | Monetary Percentage |
|---------------|--------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| No envelopes | 264 | 42.72 | 0 | 0 |
| Nil | 40 | 6.47 | 0 | 0 |
| Nil-50p | 22 | 3.56 | 273.10 | 0.29 |
| 50p-£1 | 12 | 1.94 | 496.30 | 0.34 |
| £1-£1.50 | 8 | 1.28 | 528.70 | 0.57 |
| £1.50-£2 | 13 | 2.13 | 1202.04 | 1.30 |
| £2-£3 | 40 | 6.47 | 5236.10 | 5.65 |
| £3-£4 | 43 | 6.96 | 7877.30 | 8.50 |
| £4-£5 | 56 | 9.06 | 13030.30 | 14.06 |
| £5-£7.50 | 54 | 8.74 | 17354.85 | 18.73 |
| £7.50-£10 | 24 | 3.88 | 10928.99 | 11.79 |
| £10-£15 | 25 | 4.04 | 15826.19 | 17.08 |
| £15-£20 | 10 | 1.62 | 9001.00 | 9.70 |
| £20-£30 | 4 | .65 | 5160.00 | 5.57 |
| >£30 | 3 | .48 | 5760.00 | 6.22 |
| Total | 618 | 100.00 | 92674.87 | 100.00 |

Continued overleaf

The figures are slightly distorted as some members no longer take envelopes and simply put cash in the plate, which is beneficial to us now as we can claim Gift Aid on it under the Small Gifts Scheme. This does not account for the vast majority however. The numbers above are also affected by joint giving as only one member is recorded in these cases. It is pleasing to note that the total giving has returned to the level for the year to 31 March 2015 after the significant decline in 2016. In 2016 our running costs amounted to just over £148,000 and Gift Aid received on our freewill offerings amounted to £15,997. Taking these figures into account, our deficit could reach almost £40,000, which is clearly unsustainable and must be addressed sooner rather than later.

As mentioned last year, if we were to treat the above table as a ladder and each member was able to step up a rung based on the average giving for each rung we would increase our giving by £13,219 which would take us only a part of the way to breaking even. Where are you on this ladder and can you climb a rung higher? We know a number of you did this last year and we thank you for your additional contributions.

We are conscious that many of you have contributed handsomely to our Roof Fund, but we do however need to generate sufficient income to pay our bills and to meet our obligations to the Church of Scotland in full together with the arrears we have built up.

Whilst we consider the basis of calculation of the contributions for Ministry and Mission to be flawed, and we are continuing our efforts to have our views heard, we are duty bound to comply with the decisions of the General Assembly.

Hugh Biggans, Finance Convenor

John Thomson Treasurer

OUR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS IN A SIMPLER FORM

Once again we are producing a simplified set of abstracts from our annual accounts which include only the figures for the Church itself. These are intended to show a true reflection of our finances for the year. We have also given some explanations for the variations in the figures from 2015 to 2016 to provide you with a fuller picture of our performance and requirements for the future.

ABSTRACT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| INCOME | £ | | £ | |
| Offerings | 89342 | | 91687 | |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovery | 17708 | | 15997 | |
| Legacy | 4000 | | 1000 | |
| Church Organisations | 1890 | | 1800 | |
| Other Income | 170 | | 100 | |
| | 113110 | | 110584 | |
| Hall Lets | 5493 | | 4704 | |
| Interest Received | 59 | | 195 | |
| Dividends Received | 593 | | 585 | |
| Weddings & Funerals | 0 | | 0 | |
| Coffee Mornings etc. | 0 | | 0 | |
| Sundry Donations | 0 | | 262 | |
| Total Income | | 119255 | | 116330 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Ministries & Mission | 75103 | | 78316 | |
| Less: Endowment Income | 1505 | | 1540 | |
| | | 73598 | | 76776 |
| Presbytery Dues | | 3978 | | 4283 |
| Voluntary Stipend | | 0 | | 0 |
| Minister's Travel etc. | | 2511 | | 2604 |
| Local Staffing | | 16798 | | 16440 |
| Fabric Repairs & Maintenance | | 5493 | | 6523 |
| Laundry & Cleaning | | 1585 | | 2412 |
| Council Tax | | 2261 | | 2251 |
| Heat & Light | | 20753 | | 25756 |
| Insurance & Water Rates | | 9516 | | 9237 |
| Telephone, Stationery etc. | | 4386 | | 4213 |
| Organ & Music | | 1210 | | 1279 |
| Depreciation of Equipment | | 3361 | | 3361 |
| Sundry Expenses | | 667 | | 65 |
| Outreach | | 292 | | 275 |
| Pulpit Supply | | 235 | | 210 |
| Loss/(Profit) on Centenary Events | | (17) | | 244 |
| Total Expenditure | | 146627 | | 155929 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | | (27372) | | (40599) |

As you can see our offerings have fallen this year by £2,345; however the amounts contributed to our Special Projects Fund totalling £29,476 (including gift aid and legacies), have increased by just over £3,500 (these are not included in general offerings). A substantial part of these funds were once again donated anonymously and by our Social Committee and we wish to thank the donors. The Gift Aid recovery has improved this year as we have been successful in recruiting a number of new members to the scheme. The Small Donations Scheme allowing us to claim on donations of under £20 each up to a maximum of £8,000 was once again fully utilised. As Gift Aid makes a substantial contribution to our income, if you are a tax payer and have not joined the scheme please ask any elder for a form as we need to improve our income by all means possible. If you are not sure whether you have joined the Gift Aid Scheme and you would be eligible please contact one of the contributors to this article.

We were fortunate to receive another two legacies during the year which boosted our General Account and our Special Projects Account and would once again wish to remind members to think about including such donations in their wills.

Our allocation for Ministries & Mission from the Church of Scotland has given us much cause for concern once again this year, and we reaffirmed our decision not to pay the full amount requested as we could not sustain the level of payment without completely depleting our reserves. The level we are expected to pay is unsustainable in the long term as about 60% of income generated locally is taken by the National Church. The payments we have made cover the full costs of our minister and meet our liability for Mission and Renewal. Whilst we are happy to make a contribution to the work of the Church in general and support poorer parishes, we feel that the substantial costs of operating a large church need to be taken into account, not only our level of income. We have once again this year reduced our overheads by £9,000 although we did pay for some repair work to the organ totalling £5,880 from our Special Projects Account. We take this opportunity to thank the Fabric Committee for their diligence

in obtaining good prices for work done and in most cases have completed the work themselves. Heat & Light costs have been reduced further as indicated would be the case last year and we expect this trend to continue following entering into a new agreement through Church of Scotland.

As you are well aware, we have obtained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland to enable us to carry out the necessary repairs to our roof and the work is proceeding well. We still actively need to raise more funds to ensure that we can maintain the property once the works have been completed and also to carry out work on the interior of our sanctuary. We once again take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their generous giving to date and to thank the Social Committee for running regular fund raising events which have contributed handsomely to our fundraising efforts.

The accounts continue to show that we require to increase our income by approximately £525 per week or to cut costs substantially to break even. There are very few costs which can be trimmed other than our Ministries and Mission allocation over which we have no control. If we do increase our income as required we will then be faced with contributing about 60% of it to the National Church over the next three years and so the cycle goes on. We understand that a Strategic Plan prepared by the Council of Assembly is to be presented to the 2018 General Assembly and we hope this will make substantial changes to the method of funding operated by the Church of Scotland.

We trust that you find the above extracts from the accounts, which relate to the Church only, to be easier to understand than the full accounts. If you have any questions on the accounts, or want to join the Gift Aid Scheme, or pay by Standing Order, please contact either of the contributors.

Hugh Biggans, Finance Convenor
John Thomson Treasurer

Prayer of Thanks to our Faithful Father

Faithful Father,

Thank you for your presence with us, all the time. Thank you for your goodness towards us, all the time. Thank you for the forgiveness you offer when we put our trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross, so that not even the most desperate circumstances can cut us off from you. Thank you for the on-going possibility of a new start with bright hope for each tomorrow.

Thank you, thank you Lord,
In Jesus' name. Amen.

British Teens at Risk – from the Internet

How long does your teenagers spend on the internet each day? The sober news is that nearly one in four pupils in the UK are now considered 'extreme' internet users, with tens of thousands spending three times longer online than the average teenager in the rest of the developed world.

British schoolchildren spend an average of 188 minutes per school day online, as well as using social media at home. Yet staring at a screen for hours on end seems to lead to unhappiness, susceptibility to bullying, and health problems.

Researchers warn that when teenagers turn to the internet as 'a coping mechanism', they face an increased risk of sleep disorders, obesity, poor academic performance, depression and an inability to form real-life relationships.' The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (Pisa) tests recently found that British teenagers rank in the bottom 10 nations for life satisfaction.

The Rectory . . .

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It is good to be back from my holidays – even if I discovered on arriving home that, as I motored back with my car full of my exchange colleague's plums in the boot, he was doing the same with my apples; I had expected better of him.

I was equally disappointed that he insisted on inviting parishioners back to the Rectory after Mattins for a sherry, as it creates a dangerous precedent. That he entertained them on my sherry was a step too far. I think a letter of reproach will be called for – or at least as soon as I feel he will have got over the discovery that I liberated the plums from his own orchard.

One of the main reasons I allowed him to come here was that I remembered his sermons being long and memorably dull. Sadly, he has had a conversion experience and they are now short and interesting, which was definitely not what I wanted. I am already making tentative plans to exchange with a colleague next year who has a heavy Welsh accent and speaks with a stutter.

You rather smugly commented that at least on the Norfolk coast I didn't have to worry about marauding pythons, as you did in your somewhat more exotic holiday. But had you had to deal with an

irate dowager marchioness whose flower arrangement had been moved from the pulpit to the font without her permission, you would understand where real danger lurks. You can be inoculated before your holiday against typhoid; there is no known medical protection against a lady of substance in full charge.

So the autumn round approaches. Afternoons are occupied in sweeping up leaves from the lawns and evenings, after dark, of tipping them over the wall into Colonel Adamson's garden. That will be an activity quite foreign to you, I know. Imagine your morning collection of discarded take-away containers dumped in your garden and you have a close parallel.

And then there is Harvest to prepare for. The plums that I brought back from my colleague's trees that remain uneaten should find a good home on the church window sills – which may almost compensate for the absence of the Rectory apples. They will sit, totally upstaged, alongside Miss Fanshawe's Harrod's hamper – which she always makes sure everyone knows she donated anonymously. Some, as they say, have their reward already.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Treasurer's Report

MAY OFFERING

| DATE | FREEWILL OFFERING | GIFT AID | OPEN PLATE | STANDING ORDERS |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 07.05.17 | 470.50 | 373.00 | 98.00 | |
| 14.05.17 | 391.50 | 377.00 | 72.50 | |
| 21.05.17 | 377.60 | 515.86 | 139.40 | |
| 28.05.17 | 328.50 | 284.50 | 256.83 | |
| Standing orders | | | | 4041.00 |
| TOTAL | 1568.10 | 1550.36 | 566.73 | 4041.00 |
| Total for the Month | | 7726.19 | | |

JUNE OFFERING

| DATE | FREEWILL OFFERING | GIFT AID | OPEN PLATE | STANDING ORDERS |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 04.06.17 | 343.00 | 938.76 | 95.50 | |
| 11.06.17 | 408.90 | 302.50 | 162.50 | |
| 18.06.17 | 536.00 | 340.00 | 167.60 | |
| 25.06.17 | 407.60 | 601.10 | 111.50 | |
| Standing orders | | | | 3697.00 |
| TOTAL | 1695.50 | 2182.36 | 537.10 | 3697.00 |
| Total for the Month | | 8111.96 | | |

JULY OFFERING

| DATE | FREEWILL OFFERING | GIFT AID | OPEN PLATE | STANDING ORDERS |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 02.07.17 | 309.00 | 375.02 | 67.00 | |
| 09.07.17 | 454.60 | 236.00 | 85.50 | |
| 16.07.17 | 411.90 | 344.00 | 113.14 | |
| 23.07.17 | 227.00 | 559.50 | 173.20 | |
| 30.07.17 | 523.00 | 375.50 | 131.44 | |
| Standing orders | | | | 3717.00 |
| TOTAL | 1925.50 | 1890.02 | 570.28 | 3717.00 |
| Total for the Month | | 8102.80 | | |

RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS Received During May, June & July

with thanks and gratitude for your consideration of our Church

| | |
|---|---------|
| Donation from St Mary's Badminton Club | 1000.00 |
| British Heart Foundation | 50.00 |
| Donation from Tuesday Ladies Badminton Club to Special Projects Fund | 430.00 |
| Donation from District Grand Priory of Strathclyde to Special Projects Fund | 300.00 |
| Donation from Trefoil Guild to Special Projects Fund | 150.00 |
| 1st Kirkintilloch Rainbow Guide Unit to Special Projects Fund | 50.00 |
| Anonymous Donation | 200.00 |
| Donation to Roof Fund | 100.00 |
| Donation to Parishioner | 60.00 |
| Donation from Regent Gardens Medical Centre | 250.00 |
| Donation to Roof Fund | 10.00 |
| Donation to Roof Fund | 1500.00 |

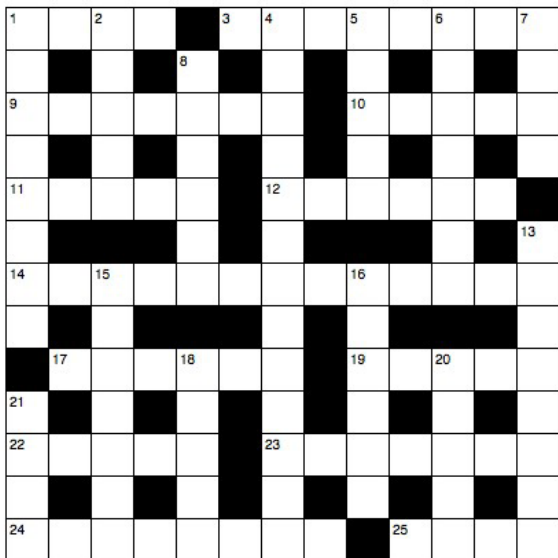
Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the —' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — —, O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — —, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — —' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all —, but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

Crossword



ANSWERS AT FOOT OF PAGE

- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27-28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

| DAY | ORGANISATION | LOCATION | TIME | CONTACT |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday | Ladies Bowling | Main Hall | 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. | Cathie Devine |
| | Shipmates | ditto | 5.45 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. | ??? |
| | Running/Walking Group | Hall Vestibule | 7.00 p.m. | Bob Brown/Sheena Nicol |
| Tuesday | Ladies Badminton | Main Hall | 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. | Doreen More |
| | Senior Badminton | | 8.00 p.m. – 10.30p.m | ??? |
| | Prayer Time | Meeting Place | 7.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. | Rev Katy Owen |
| | Country Dancing | Mid Hall | 7.45 p.m. – 10.00 pm. | Moir MacNeill |
| Wednesday | Wednesday Welcome | Session | 10.00a.m. – 11.20am. | Mary Stirling |
| | Wednesday Worship | House | 11.30 a.m. – 12 noon | Rev Mark Johnstone |
| | Over 50's Badminton | Main Hall | 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. | Ann Allan |
| | Brownies | ditto | 6.30 p.m. – 7.45 p.m. | Alisha McGowan |
| | Rainbows | ditto | 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. | Agnes Marran |
| | Guides | ditto | 7.45 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. | Lucy McCallum |
| | Vestry Hour | Vestry | 7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. | Rev Mark Johnstone |
| | | | | <i>Telephone Church Office</i> |
| | Running/Walking Group | Hall Vestibule | 7.00 p.m. | Bob Brown/Sheena Nicol |
| Thursday | Flower Circle (alternate weeks) | Mid Hall | 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. | Elizabeth Walker |
| Friday | Listeners' Circle (monthly) | ditto | 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. | ??? |
| | Guild (alternate weeks) | Mid Hall | 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. | Moir MacNeill |

For further information on any of the above –

Please contact the Church Office on

0141 775 1166 or email: office.stmarys@btconnect.com



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