

The **Parishioner**



December
2011



January
2012



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Pastoral Letter

December 2011

Dear Friends,

Over the past twenty four hours I have been in Copenhagen. I am here on Church of Scotland business, engaging with the church in Scandinavia. On Friday night I went to an event in the city cathedral called 'Night Kirk'. The cathedral in the centre of the town is opened late in the night, 9pm until midnight. The theme for the evening on Friday was 'God is a DJ'. Within the church there were images projected on to the ceiling, music playing, with tea and coffee available. The church was busy, the average age was young and the mood was very relaxed. During my time within the cathedral two things struck me. One, the church was open at a time the city was busy with different people from a Sunday morning. Two, the activities within the church caused you to look up; literally you had to look to the ceiling to see what was going on. It is so tempting to be caught up with the everyday activities of life that we fail to see the holy things of living. I wonder if we should be a Night Kirk

Continued overleaf

during advent. We are well placed in the middle of the town, people will be shopping, getting ready for Christmas and may just welcome a place to stop, take stock and think for a moment of the real reason for Christmas. I don't think we would need to be open too late, just being opened at all may make a difference to some people. We may encourage some people to look up during advent and see beyond the shopping trolley and bank statement. Today, Sunday, I head to Stockholm and meet up with other folks who create the cathedral of silence. I'll tell you about this next month.

Kindest Regards

Mark.

Wednesday, 14 December Blue Christmas Service . . .

Blue Christmas Service - although the Christmas lights may illuminate the streets and even our living room, our mood may not reflect the joy that many feel. During our Blue Christmas service we will have an opportunity to give expression to any sense of loss, pain, regret or fear — in the midst of the twinkling lights we take time to be still, silent and in the silence we know a deeper kind of listening. The service begins at 7.30 p.m.

The Guild

The Guild meets on Fridays in the Lesser Hall at 7.30 p.m. The programme for January is as undernoted.



January 2012	13	Richard Bolt – Olympic Games
	20	Louise Barry – Trip to Japan
	27	Rev David Lunan – My time as Moderator
February	03	Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir (Open Night for all to attend)

**Advanced date for your diary –
Guild Coffee Morning Saturday 11 February**

Parish Register

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.'

November 05 Mr J Campbell, 40 Queen Street, Kirkintilloch

15 Mr K J Miller, Salisbury, England

A memorial service for the late Ronald Cook, who lived in Spain, took place within the Church on Saturday 05 November.

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

Special Anniversaries – Golden Wedding

Mr Mrs A Stirling, Dumbreck Farm, Kirkintilloch celebrate their Diamond Wedding (60 years) on 07 December.

We extend to them our warm congratulations and good wishes.

New Members

(By Profession of Faith)

Lauren Caven, 20 Dalrymple Court, Kirkintilloch

Lindsay Speirs, 22 Ellisland Drive, Kirkintilloch

We welcome them into our midst and trust they will find fellowship and joy in the faith.

Change of Address

Miss K Halliday, formerly Easdale Cottage, Waterside, now residing at 8 Winthank Court, Kirk Wynd, Coupar.

Mrs Margaret Johnstone, formerly 12 Blackthorn Avenue, now residing at 17 Campsie Court, and not Castle Court as intimated last month.



Listeners Circle

LISTENERS CIRCLE on 16 December will be a programme of Christmas music with some mince pies to accompany our cup of tea in the interval. Everybody is welcome to come along.



Church Flowers

We wish to thank the following members who will donate the flowers for the Chancel of our Church during December and January.

December	11	Mrs I Livingston, Mrs S Gow
	18	Mrs I Hay, Mrs N Marshall, Mrs R Downs
Christmas Eve		Mrs A Hill
	25	Mrs D Kerr, Mrs R Laing
Jan. 2012	01	Mrs E Stirling, Mrs V Anderson, Mrs S Shirra
	08	Mr G Fraser, Mrs M Smith, Mrs J Finney, Mrs A Somerville
	15	Mrs J Nicol, Mr Mrs J Cuthbertson, Mrs J Reid
	22	Mrs S Burns, Miss J Provan, Mr Mrs D Burns
	29	Mrs J Pearson, Mrs D McPherson, Mrs J Cardwell
February	05	Mrs L Black, Mrs D Smith, Mrs M Taylor

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

December	04/11	Mrs J Reid and Mrs J Kempself
	18/25	Mrs S Burns and Mrs B McEwen
January	01/08	Mrs E Walker and Mrs R Poynton
	15/22	Mrs J Meggat and Mrs M McMurrough
	29)	Mrs V Carmichael
February	05)	Mrs M Stirling

Burns Supper

The bi-annual Burns Supper takes place on 28 January 2012 and tickets will be on sale from Sunday 04 December at a cost of £16.00 per person.

Thank You . . .

Thank you acknowledgements have been received from the following people who received Chancel Flowers during the month of November.

Mr Mrs D Thomson, Mr C. McDonald, Mrs B. Kerr, Mrs A. Pearson, Mr T. Cruickshanks, Mrs M. Lang, Mrs C. Semple, Mrs J. Reid, Mrs H. Brown, Mr Mrs C. Cruickshanks, Mrs A. Dickinson, Mrs A. Pearson, Mrs R. Bruce, Mrs M. Lesley, Mrs M. Cant, Mrs J. Ewing, Mrs G. Young, Mrs C. Stewart, Mr J. Barrie, Elizabeth Lipp and the Bamford family, Mrs M Middleton, Mrs R Corner, Mrs J Stirling, Mrs J Craig, Mrs E Donald.

Mrs Annie Cunningham thanks the Church for flowers and to all who have sent their good wishes after her recent fall.

Thank you very much to all in the men's club for the £125 donation towards the pot plants and to all the members who have given Janice donations for the Chancel flowers and pot plants

The Bells of St Mary's

December	11	Paul and Charlotte Malcolm
	18	Andrew and Fraser Leishman
	25	Linda Brown and Jean Ralph
January 2012	01	Angela Montgomerie and Shona McKay
	08	Lisa Thomson and Karen Morrison
	15	Lynsey Ferris and Janet Millin
	22	Dorothy Stewart and Ross Johnstone
	29	James Paterson and Scott Millin
February	05	Mary Stirling and Jen Biggans



Prayer Secretary

Dear Friends . . .

As we reach another 'turn of the year' we thank God for past blessings and pray that we will continue to be blessed as we walk the unknown path of the coming year.

As always when I am preparing a page for 'The Parishioner' I turn to my books. The one I opened is yellow with age and stuck together with cello tape. A crumpled scrap of paper fell out on which I had written years ago, "Christmas is not a date - it is a state of mind." Frank Topping wrote in 'Lord of the Evening' about Christmas Eve

"On this special night,
I am thinking about children...."

....

In the past few days, since receiving a plea from Bernardos', I have been thinking about children who care for their parents or siblings who are ill. The two case histories which are given are for a boy of seven and a girl of twelve. They are only two of many who have no childhood because of their love for their parents.

What is your 'state of mind' as the Christmas lights begin to twinkle? Too busy to bother or listening to Jesus saying, "As you have done it to the least of one of these, you have done it to me."

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us every one."

Happy Christmas, Margaret

The following article was sent to the Editor anonymously.

During the last 12 weeks I have been enjoying the Wednesday Welcome morning service in the Church. I must say it is well named. The ladies are a happy group who make you more than welcome. Pity that more men don't attend, (four in all), 'only two of them being Elders'. I only mention this in the Church magazine as I am sure that after only one visit you would be a regular. Hope to see more of you becoming regulars.

'Sincerely'

The Parishioner

The next issue will be February 2012 and copy for this should be handed to Sandra Burns, left in the Publications pigeon hole in the Hall vestibule or sent by e-mail to sandraburns@ntlworld.com no later than Sunday 29 January. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine. The Publications Committee take this opportunity of wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year. Personal thanks from the Editor to Stephen McKean for keeping our Website up-to-date and to all involved who give of their time every month assisting in the production of the magazine.

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.

The Church office is located on the right as you enter the Church Halls. The secretary, Mrs Lynn Hay, is available in the office Monday to Friday 9.15 a.m. – 12.15 a.m. and may be the first point of contact for general enquiries. Lynn will be able to refer you to the person best suited to respond. Church office telephone and fax 0141 775 1166 or e-mail: office.stmarys@btconnect.com

Session Meeting

The Session Meeting in November took its usual format. It was however slightly different in that we were without two of our most loyal Elders. As you will know Lex Gaston and Ian Brown, both Elders of the Session, passed away recently and we will miss their contributions. Their contributions were very different, but their commitment to St Mary's and its members was undoubtedly the same. St Mary's played a big part in their lives and we are very grateful for their contribution.

As to the current business, David Tinto, our Fabric Convenor advised that the hall curtains will be shortly replaced and everyone who uses the halls will need to be aware of the new cord operating system for opening and closing. Also he advised that we are hoping to have some roof repairs carried out. This will not be the major overhaul that the roof requires, but it will address some of the major leaks.

Our Nursery Convenor, Elaine Hall provided her final report before handing over to Gordon Morrison as the new convenor. The Nursery has seen a considerable period of change over the past couple of years and we are grateful to Elaine and her committee for taking us through this period of change successfully. The Nursery faces a challenge in the climate of public service cutbacks and it is important that we take every opportunity to let our community know what a good Nursery it is.

It was reported to Session that we have received from the former Drumry St Mary's Church in Drumchapel a donation of their communion glasses along with some other items. Drumry St Mary's was Mark's family church and it sadly closed due to falling numbers. We are grateful for this generosity and will ensure that this donation is put to good use.

Finally, if you have a spare minute on your computer, have a look at the Sacred Churches website <http://www.sacredscotland.org.uk>. The Sacred Churches scheme is an ecumenical trust designed to promote Scotland's churches of all denominations. St Mary's joined the scheme earlier this year and the website provides access information on hundreds of wonderful church buildings, including our own.

On behalf of the Kirk Session, I wish you a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Charles Hay, Session Clerk

New Year (Gal 3:29, Mt 28:20)

Jesus,
Heir of the promise,
Hope of the years,
You are here.

Help us Lord,
To know that you are there, too,
Before us
As you are behind us,
Already in the new moment,
The new day,
The new year.

Help us Lord
To delight in your company,
To walk your safe way,
To shine your clear light
Of hope for the year.

By Daphne Kitching

St Mary's Nursery School



Our nursery school operates in the Church halls during term time, 8:30am to 11:45am 5 mornings per week.

Working in Partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, we offer ante-pre-school and pre-school education for approximately 60 children between the ages of 3 and 5.

The nursery currently has places available for children starting in August 2012. August may seem like a long time away, but to receive funding from East Dunbartonshire Council, it is essential that children are registered in January. For more information about the nursery, or details of the registration process, please contact us at:
Telephone 0141 775 1166
e-mail office.stmarys@btconnect.com
Website www.stmarysnursey school.co.uk

Moderator Designate announced

The founder of an international interdenominational charity that helps street children has been chosen to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Albert Bogle, minister at St Andrew's Parish Church in Bo'ness has been nominated Moderator Designate by the Church of Scotland's Committee to Nominate the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Mr Bogle set up the Vine Trust in 1985, which helps some of the poorest children and communities around the world. Currently, the charity's Amazon Hope Project provides a health service for around 100,000 patients every year.

Wise Men?

Three young brothers were being told the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, the six-year-old observed, "A Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

Boys' Brigade Junior Section

On Saturday 26 November the Boys' Brigade Junior Section hosted a fun day in the hall and the following email has been received from the Battalion President.

Hi All,

A big thank you to all who participated and took part in yesterday's fun day, what a turn out! 9 Companies took part with 16 officer/helpers all taking part and enjoying the games and the fun.

The fun started by putting the boys into teams, with officers included (colour **co-ordinated**), 6 different stations (**timed**), Stuart Hay (**timekeeper/scorer**). Off the boys went at great speed and with gusto visiting each station with great delight. **Hoopla, Making a drinking cup, Space Hopper, Throwing the bean bag, Over the wall under the parachute, Badminton. Tea break/juice/crisps.** While the scores were being added up the teams were **entertained by the officers in a mini version of the games. The Red Team** being the winners. All winning teams of boys/officers receiving a big tube of Smarties as a prize. **WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR BATTALION SUPPORT.**

Sadie Boyle, Battalion President, Strathkelvin Battalion

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the relief of Mafeking and a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then has to leave Mattins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St. Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes; on the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism.... and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

TREASURER'S REPORT

October Offering

DATE	FREEWILL OFFERING	GIFT AID	OPEN PLATE	STANDING ORDERS
03.10.11	492.50	414.60	70.10	
10.10.11	779.50	1656.06	104.87	
17.10.11	515.30	359.00	90.10	
24.10.11	611.00	485.50	66.05	
31.10.11	663.95	496.40	104.07	
Standing orders				3422.00
TOTAL	3062.25	3411.56	435.19	3422.00

Total for the Month **£10331.00**

OCTOBER RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS

Over 50s Badminton	50.00
Harvest Donations	762.20
Sponsored Cycle Money to Friends of St Marys	297.00
Parishioner	10.00
Donation to Friends of St Mary's	100.00
Donation to Friends of St Mary's	500.00
Miss Anne Robertson	52.00
St Mary's Running Club to Friends of St Mary's	150.00
Donation to Fabric Fund	20.00
Mr & Mrs Corner	100.00

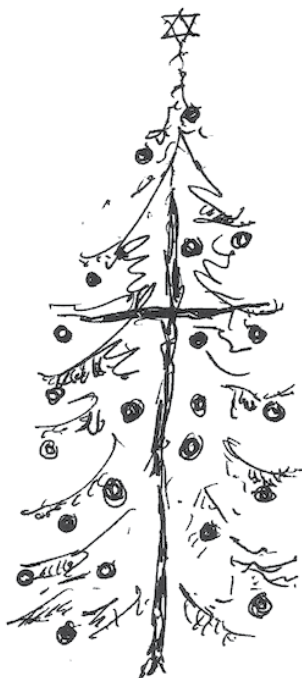
Bible Sketchbook

Precious Symbols



Find out more at church
this Christmas!

Christmas tree
Symbol of Jesus,
Dying on that
Glorious Cross.
So celebrate with
Bright lights, tinsel
And living colour.
A crown of holly,
Sharp thorns,
Victory wreath,
Berries blood-red.
Presents from
His death
And life.
Gifted in mistletoe
Forgiving love
For you, for me.

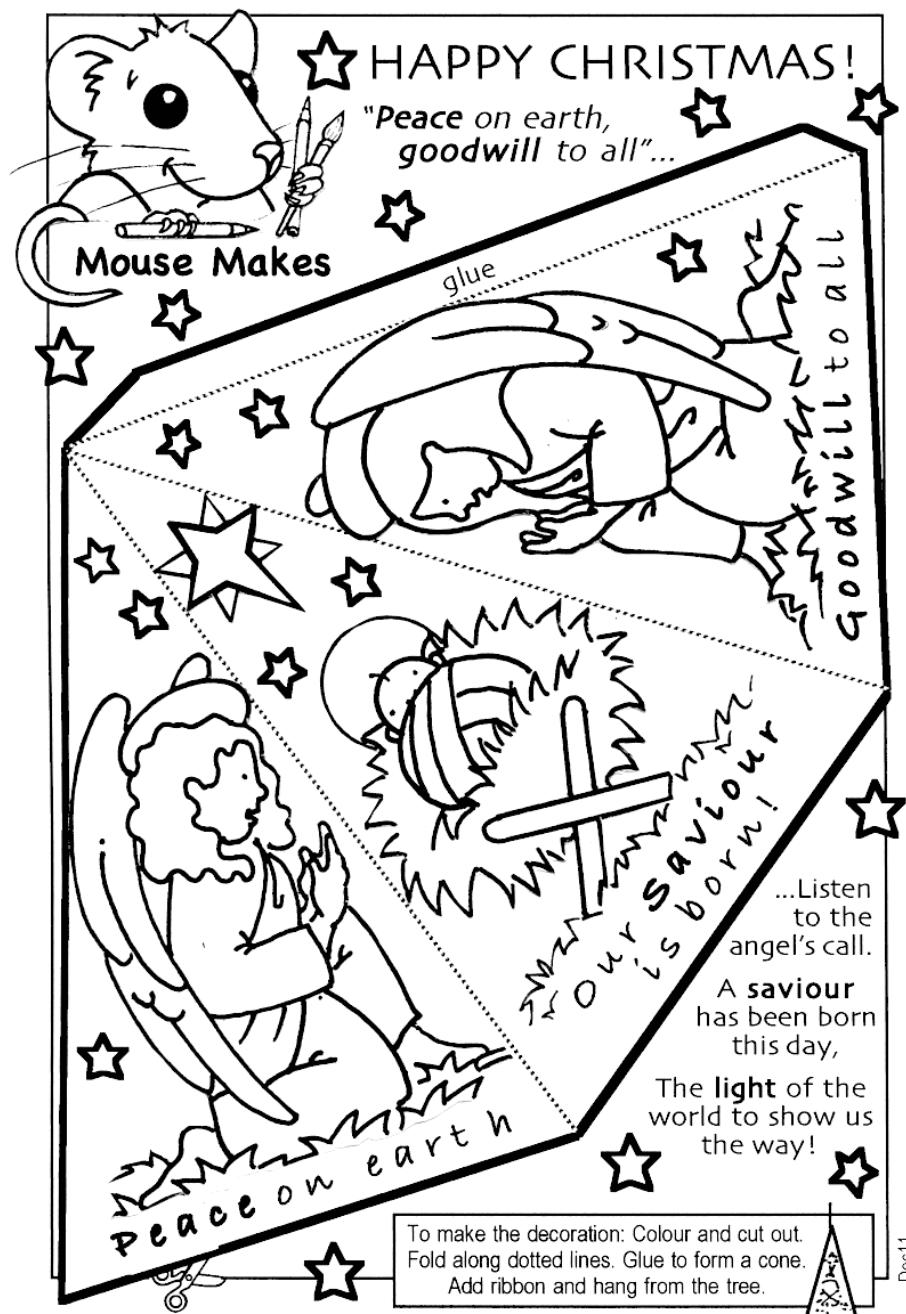


William Mather ©



Christmas Poem

Some people think that
Christmas time is
gifts and grub and booze
but the best bit is
that Jesus came —
Gods son in human shoes
(From the Youth Group,
St Peter's, Littleover, Derby)



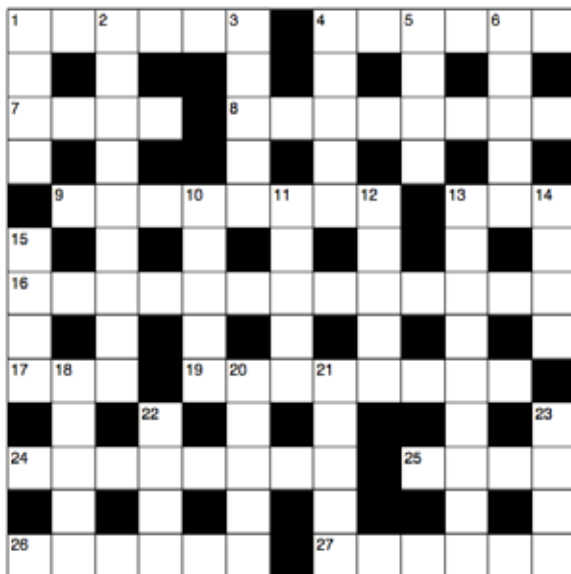
Crossword

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)



ANSWERS AT FOOT OF PAGE

- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench. DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.



CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?

**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**
Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.

Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

DAY	ORGANISATION	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT
Sunday	Sunday Worship	Church	11.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Rev Mark Johnstone
	Sunday School	Church Halls	ditto	Elaine Stevens / Louise Barry
	Seekers	ditto	ditto	Ken Craig
	Crèche	ditto	ditto	Dorothy Stewart
	Fairtrade	Main Hall	12 noon – 12.30 p.m.	Fiona Leishman/Leslie Baird
	Badminton			
	Beginners	ditto	4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Trevor Patterson
	Junior	ditto	5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.	Susan Wilson
Monday	Senior	ditto	7.30 p.m. – 10.30p.m.	Trevor Patterson
	Youth Fellowship	Mid Hall	7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.	Lorna McCallum
	Ladies Bowling	Main Hall	1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Cathie Devine/Bessie Cousin
	Shipmates	ditto	6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Lindsey Campbell
	Junior & Company			
	Section Boys' Brigade	ditto	6.45p.m. – 8.30 p.m.	Iain Hill
	Men's Club	Main Hall	7.30 p.m. – 10.00p.m.	Archie Smith
Tuesday	WRVS Lunch Club	Main Hall	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	Jane Hutchison
	Ladies Badminton	ditto	1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Doreen More
	Junior Badminton	ditto	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Trevor Patterson
	Senior Badminton	ditto	8.00 p.m. – 10.30 p.m.	Susan Wilson
	Prayer Time	Session House	7.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.	Rev Katy Owen
	Country Dancing	Mid Hall	7.45 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.	Moir MacNeill
Wednesday	Wednesday Welcome	Session House	10.00a.m. – 11.20a.m.	Mary Stirling
	Wednesday Worship	Church	11.30 a.m. – 12 noon	Rev Mark Johnstone
	Over 50s Badminton	Main Hall	1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	
	Brownies	ditto	6.30 p.m. – 7.45 p.m.	Elizabeth Cousin
	Rainbows	ditto	6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.	Agnes Marran
	Vestry Hour	Vestry	7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Rev Mark Johnstone
				Telephone Church Office
Thursday	Flower Circle (alternate weeks)	Mid Hall	7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Elizabeth Walker
	Choir	Session House	7.45 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	David Burns
Friday	Listeners' Circle (monthly)	ditto	2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	
	Guild	Mid Hall	7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Moir MacNeill

Saint Mary's
parish **church** kirkintilloch

Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee