

The Parishioner

December 2018 / January 2019



will see the introduction of this year's latest 'must have' decoration and gift. This popular gift has ranged from Rubik's cube to Power Ranger, from Spice Girl merchandise to Cliff Richard memorabilia. Trees have gone from plastic, fibre optic to freshly cut, smelling of pine with eternal pine needles.

My hope, as I prepare services for Christmas is to see Jesus as the 'must have' gift this year.

I hope we can see his birth, his words and his story as something that can change our life and brighten up even the darkest mood, night or situation.

As you unwrap Christmas this year think, seriously

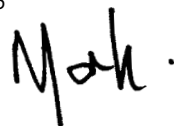
about unwrapping the true meaning of Jesus presence with us. It is a promise we are not alone and have an ever-faithful companion by our side.

We never face this season and its challenges alone always in the company of the one who came into the world to restore our relationship with God.

In a season when many elements will fight for our attention may we find the resolve to focus on one gift that truly matter – the gift of Jesus – it is unique and life changing.

Seasons Greetings.

Kindest regards



Find us on:



@minsmpc



st mary's
kirkintilloch

Parish Register

Weddings

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

We celebrated the marriage of:

November 03 Calvin Wilson and Linsey Fraser

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 Clare Telfer, 15 Montgomery Terrace,
Milton of Campsie
09 Mrs Beatrice (Betty) MacKenzie,
Stobhill Care Home, Glasgow
10 William Rodger, 16 Bellevue Road, Kirkintilloch
15 Richard Cook, 20 Westfields, Bishopbriggs
24 Donald Graham, 4 Orchard Place, Kirkintilloch

New Members

By Certificate of Transference

Mrs Jessie Johnstone, Regent Street, Kirkintilloch.

We welcome Mrs Johnstone into our midst and trust she will find fellowship and joy in the faith.

Change of Address

Mrs Muriel Girault, formerly 42 Broomfield Walk, Kirkintilloch, now residing at Callebourn Court, 30 Callebourn Road, Bishopbriggs.

Mrs Cara Daniels, formerly 23 Blackthorn Avenue, Lenzie, now residing at 1 Waterside Cottages, Bankhead Road, Kirkintilloch.



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	09	Mrs I Hay, Mrs N Marshall, Mrs R Downs
	16	Mrs J Reid, Mrs M Lang Mr J Wilson
Christmas Eve		Mrs E Walker
	23	Miss M Weir, Mrs R Bennie, Mrs L Brown
	30	E & C Kerr, Mrs J Finney, Mr G Fraser
January 2019	06	Mrs A Somerville, Mrs M Girault, Mrs J Reid
	13	Mr Mrs D Burns, Miss J Provan, Mr Mrs J Cuthbertson
	20	Mrs J Pearson, Mrs S Nicol, Mrs S Burns
	27	Mrs J Cardwell, Mrs B McMillan, Mrs J Clarke
February	03	Mrs M Taylor, Mrs L Black, Mrs M Smith

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

December	09/16	Mrs E Donnelly and Mrs M Gaston
	23/30	Mrs M Hardie and P. L. & C. Malcolm
January 2019	06/13	Mrs S Nicol and Mrs C Devine
	20/27	Mrs B Walker and Mrs L Dunn
February	03/10	Mrs B McMillan and Mrs C Kerr

Thank you acknowledgements have been received from the following people who received Chancel Flowers during the month of November. Mr Mrs M Lynch, Mrs A. Rodger, Mrs N. Middleton, Mrs A. Marran, Mrs M. Taylor, Mrs B. Campbell, Mrs V. Lindsay, Mrs B. McKenzie, Mrs J. Finney, Miss M. Douglas, Mrs E. Gillespie, Mrs M. Day, Miss M. Henderson.

Janice Reid



Listeners Circle

Listeners Circle on Friday 21 December in the Session House at 2.00 p.m. will be a selection of Christmas music chosen by Mrs Edith Dunn. Visitors are always welcome, especially at this festive season. You may even get a mince pie and slice of cake to accompany your cuppa in the interval. The first meeting of the

New Year is Friday 18 January when the music presenters will be William and Barbara Walker.

The Parishioner

The next issue will be **February 2019** 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.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 27 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 all involved who give of their time every month assisting in the production of the magazine and keeping the Website up-to-date.

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 Margaretann Dougall, is available in the office Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 a.m. and may be the first point of contact for general enquiries. Margaretann will be able to refer you to the person best suited to respond. Church office telephone 0141 775 1166 or e-mail: office.stmarys@btconnect.com

Friday Fellowship

Friday Fellowship meets every second Friday in the Lesser Hall at 7.30 p.m. The programme for January is as undernoted.

January 11 David Tinto – Slides Selection
25 Sing Along

Open Doors

There will be no Open Doors during the months of January or February. They will return on the first Wednesday in March and continue through to December 2019.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered this year and we are looking forward to working with you again in March. The sheets to sign up for March onwards will be available from Sunday 13th January 2019. **New volunteers are always welcome.**

Friday Night is Chippy Night!

The first event in the New Year will take place on Friday 1st February. This will be a film night accompanied by a choice of a fish supper, pie supper or sausage supper. Tickets will cost £7 and will be on sale from Sunday 13th January.



The Bells of St Mary's *December 2018 /* *January 2019*

December	09	Dorothy Stewart and Cara Bevens
	16	Paul Malcolm and Lesley Bevens
	23	Mary Stirling and Jen Biggans
	30	Fiona and Mhairi Green and Olivia Fotheringham
January 2019	06	Mary Stirling and Lesley Bevens
	13	Lisa and Daniel Malloy-Gibson
	20	Dorothy Stewart and Cara Bevens
	27	Paul Malcolm and Lesley Bevens
February	03	Mary Stirling and Jen Biggans
	10	Fiona and Mhairi Green and Olivia Fotheringham

Organsiations Accounts / Auditors

Will treasurers of all organisations please ensure that a copy of their annual audited accounts are passed to the Treasurer or Finance Convenor no later than 28 February 2019. These accounts will be made up to their year-end falling into the year to 31 December 2018. Those organisations whose accounts are included in the Church Accounts should work to a deadline of 14 February 2019.

The members of the Finance Committee who have volunteered to act as auditors for the church organisations are John Pears, Gordon Sinclair, Lewis Wilson and Hugh Biggans.

Please note Hugh will be on holiday from mid-February until mid-April; therefore any Accounts which are to be checked by him will require to be submitted to him by 31 January 2019.

Session Report



So to say November has been a busy month for the Kirk Session is a bit of an understatement – it feels as though I have been intimating Session Meetings every week since the end of October! I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and for their valued contributions across all of the meetings that have taken place of late.

As previously intimated, the Kirk Session met with the Presbytery Clerk and representatives of the Stewardship & Finance Committee on 7th November. The meeting was very worthwhile, giving both parties the opportunity to share their concerns regarding the current shortfall in our Ministry & Mission contributions. We expect the next step for Presbytery will be to bring a full report to their General Meeting in December – we wait with interest to see the content and substance of their report. For ourselves, we now need to think about how we develop our plan into actions and start to take further positive steps to address our financial position. A significant part of that proposal will be the development of a Stewardship Campaign and I would hope that we can start to share some ideas in the New Year.

You will read elsewhere in *The Parishioner* about the recent unannounced visit to our Nursery by the Care Inspectorate and their subsequent inspection report. On behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to thank the staff for all of the work they do in the nursery and offer our congratulations on receiving a truly outstanding report. Well done!

So November has been busy, but we know from experience that the Advent Season is also a busy time in Church. I hope you find time to participate in the many activities will be happening in our midst. On behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year.

Kind Regards
Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk



Nursery News

Our nursery children have had another busy month taking part in Shake 'n' Wake sessions, learning about the letter 'P' and electing a new Eco Committee. The children are working hard to improve the outside area and are enjoying being outdoors.

The children are currently rehearsing for our Christmas Nativity. This will take place in church on Thursday 20th December. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this event. To cover costs a donation of £3 is requested.

During October we had an unannounced visit from the Care Inspectorate when the following two Quality Indicators were looked at:

- **Quality of Care and Support**
- **Quality of Environment**

We are delighted that both indicators were graded as very good. The report described the care given by skilled, experienced staff that is highly motivated, professional and informed. Children were engaged in a range of stimulating play experiences, facilitated by resources that promoted interest, creativity and problem solving. Parents who were asked to comment on the service made very positive comments about our nursery.

A copy of the report is available from the Church Office or can be downloaded from the Care Inspectorate website using the following link: www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=299487

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convenor

Treasurer's Report

OCTOBER OFFERING

DATE	FREEWILL OFFERING	GIFT AID	OPEN PLATE	STANDING ORDERS
07.10.18	237.00	497.50	195.74	
14.10.18	490.00	515.50	213.00	
21.10.18	283.00	421.60	59.00	
28.10.18	512.60	601.45	414.22	

Standing orders

4304.00
4304.00

TOTAL **1522.60** **2036.05** **881.96**

Total for the Month **8744.61**

RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS Received During October

with thanks and gratitude for your consideration of our Church

Donation to Parishioner	10.00
Kirkintilloch Horticultural Society for Hall Use	558.00
Maintenance and Roof Donation	40.00
Donation following the Baptism of Willow Knight	50.00

Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!

Learn a poem by heart this Christmas – and stay sharp

So here is a challenge for you: learn a poem, by heart, by Christmas. That is the challenge that Gyles Brandreth, actor and broadcaster has set his grandchildren this year.

Memorising poetry is good for everyone. Brandreth cites scientific research to say that memorising poetry can help keep your brain fit and well.

The Duchess of Cornwall, who recently took over from the Queen as patron of The Royal Society of Literature, admits to reciting poems to herself as she goes to sleep. Dame Judi Dench can still recite the whole of Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Prayer for Christmas Joy

Loving, generous Father,

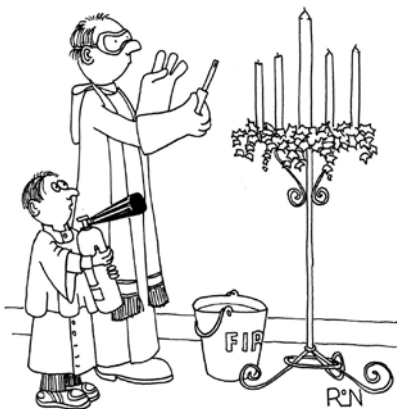
This Christmas, please help us to keep you at the centre of our preparations and celebrations. May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son, Jesus, motivate all that we think and say and do. May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who don't know what Christmas really means, so that they want to find out!

In Jesus' name and for His glory,

Amen.

The Parishioner Online

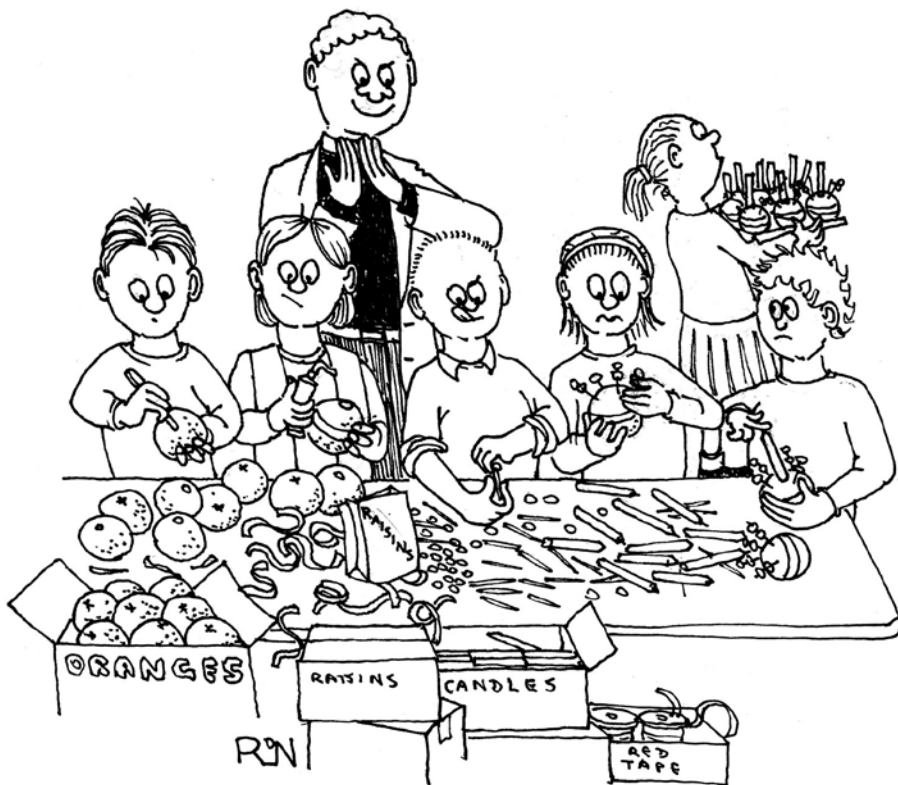
Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner ... why not go to www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk and see this month's copy. Stephen McKean, Webmaster, has built up previous issues online so you can look back on past copies. Also if you wish any news or information to be put on the website over the summer months please e-mail webmaster@stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk and we will put these on the News page of the website.



After the first candle fiasco, Brian took no chances



...and if you scan it, you can download my Christmas sermon!



Brian had found a nice little earner

The Rectory . . .

My dear Nephew Darren

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten foot rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much

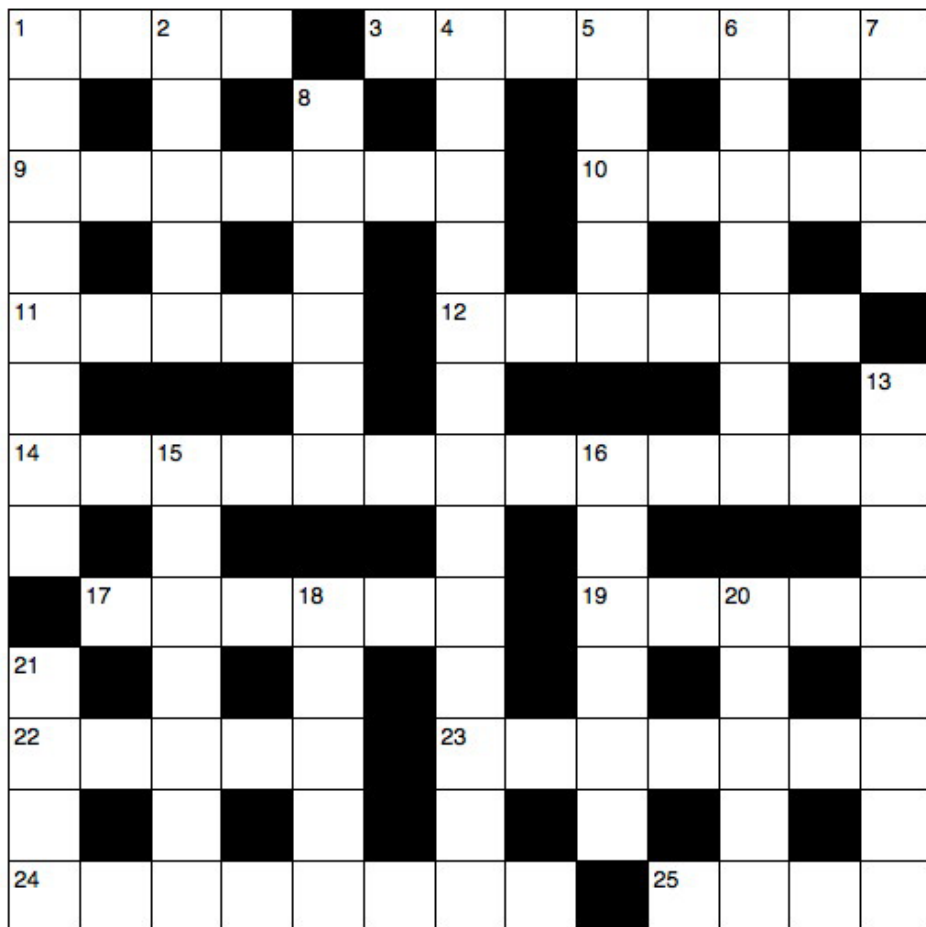
appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our vergers something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Crossword



Across

- 1 'How long will you – your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the – he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans

8:15) (7)

- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not – the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)

Continued overleaf

- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23)

- (5)
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

H	I	D	E		D	I	S	G	R	A	C	E
I		O		S		M		R		L		A
S	O	N	S	H	I	P		O	A	T	H	S
S		O		R		R		A		E		Y
T	U	T	T	I		I	G	N	O	R	E	
A				N		S				E		S
F	O	R	E	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E
F		E				N		A				A
	A	S	H	R	A	M		M	E	N	O	R
J		T		E		E		E		E		C
A	R	O	M	A		N	I	N	E	V	E	H
D		R		C		T		T		E		E
A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T		T	R	O	D

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH *Organisations*

Contact list 2017.18	Organisation	Location	Time	Contact
Sunday	Sunday Worship	Church	11am	Rev Mark Johnstone
	Young Church	Church Halls	11am	Elaine Stevens
	Fairtrade Stall	Main Hall	12 noon	Leslie Baird/Fiona Leishman
	Badminton - Senior	Main Hall	7.30-10pm	Liz Barrie
Monday	Nursery	Church Halls	8.30-11.45am	Elaine Connor
	Ladies Bowling	Main Hall	1.30-3.30pm	Cathie Devine
	BB Shipmates	Main Hall	6-7pm	Nichola Colquhoun
	Running/Walking Club	Session House	7pm	Bob Brown
Tuesday	Nursery	Church Halls	8.30-11.45am	Elaine Connor
	Ladies Badminton	Main Hall	1.30-3.30pm	Anne Selbie
	Badminton - Senior	Main Hall	8-10.30pm	Liz Barrie
	Prayer Time	Meeting Place	7-7.30pm	Rev Katy Owen
	Country Dancing	Mid Hall	7.45-10pm	Moir MacNeill
Wednesday	Nursery	Church Halls	8.30-11.45am	Elaine Connor
	Wednesday Welcome	Session House	10-11.20am	Mary Stirling
	Wednesday Service	Church	11.30-12noon	Rev Mark Johnstone
	Over 50's Badminton	Main Hall	1.30-3.30pm	Anne Allan
	Rainbows	Mid Hall	6.30-7.30pm	Janet Millin
	Brownies	Main Hall	6.30-7.45pm	Cara Daniels
	Vestry	Church Vestry	7-9pm	Church Office
	Running/Walking Club	Session House	7pm	Bob Brown
	Guides	Main Hall	7.30-9.30pm	Cara Daniels
	Trefoil Guild (monthly)	Mid Hall	7.45-10pm	Edith Dunn
Thursday	Nursery	Church Halls	8.30-11.45am	Elaine Connor
	Flower Circle (Alternate Weeks)	Mid Hall	7.30-9pm	Elizabeth Walker
Friday	Nursery	Church Halls	8.30-11.45am	Elaine Connor
	Listener's Circle (Monthly)	Session House (church)	2-4pm	Edith Dunn
	Friday Fellowship (Alternate Weeks)	Mid Hall	7.30-9pm	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



Supported by
The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Find us on:



@minsmpc



st mary's kirkintilloch

Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee

Registered Charity No SC007260