

The Parishioner

October 2018



**"Let the children come to me . . . for it is to such
as these that the kingdom of God belongs."**



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Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

The summer months may seem so far away. The summer sun was glowing, and people moaned about the heat rather than the cold or the rain. Are we ever happy? I did find it a bit too hot sometimes.

I love when folks come home from vacation and start to tell the stories of their trip.

This year a few folks seem to have enjoyed going to various places on or in the Mediterranean. Highlights ranged from Majorca, Barcelona, Zakynthos, Dubrovnik, Malta, Sardinia. Some folks were able to cruise the Mediterranean and enjoy waking up in a different city each day.

Having visited

***... what do we
cling to in times
of trouble? For
Paul it is God –
what will it be
for us?***

Continued overleaf



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a couple of the major cruise destinations I am amazed at how these ships manage to stay afloat. Archimedes' principle does say something like '...a body immersed in water receives an up-thrust equal to that of the water displaced....' And so large ships float.

I love travelling by boat, a dingy, a ferry or even a cruise ship. Audrey can get sea sick.

On one trip to Amsterdam the rocking of the ferry was quite overwhelming. I enjoyed dinner, Audrey enjoyed a sleep.

On board a ferry or a cruise ship the fragile nature of the sailing experience is exposed. We are very much at the mercy of the sea. Some love the adventure, others are fearful.

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul is ship wrecked. We can read how the ship is 'run-a-ground' on rocks. The

passengers on the ship cling to pieces of wood and debris from the ship as it is beaten by the waves against the rocks.

In this situation we hear how the Apostle Paul brings hope, vision and calm to the situation. Take time to read the account in Acts chapter 27.

If we allow this bible passage to speak to the storms and turmoil of life – what do we cling to in times of trouble? For Paul it is God – what will it be for us?

Do we have an anchor that is sure and steadfast, grounded in the rock which shall not move?

God can bring hope, vision and calm to the most trying of tempestuous seas.

Kindest regards

Moh.



Find us on:



@minsmpc



st mary's
kirkintilloch

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.'

- Sept. 16 **Rowan Elizabeth Phimister**, daughter of Lynne and Colin
23 **Jonny Matthews**, son of Ashley and Jamie
30 **Ruiriadh McCallum**, son of Karen and David

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:

- Sept. 22 Liberty Decker and Easton Boyd

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'.

- Sept. 14 Jean Reid, Lillyburn Care Home, Milton of Campsie
25 John McLure, 0/2, 4 Rob Roy Gardens, Kirkintilloch
25 Emma Hughes, 73 Newdyke Road, Kirkintilloch
26 Kenneth Hall, 36 Cairnview, Waterside
29 Elizabeth Stevenson, 9 Lithgow Avenue, Kirkintilloch
Oct. 02 William Carrigan, 122 Redbrae Road, Kirkintilloch

Diamond Weddings

Lambert and Jeanette Sinclair celebrated 60 years of married bliss on 20 September. Both of them are very regular attendees at Church and Lambert is one of our former Session Clerks.

Best wishes and congratulations are sent from all the congregation of St Mary's.



Church Flowers

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

October	07	Mrs A Pearson, Mrs E Cowie, Mrs N Bain, Mrs M Devine, Mrs E Henderson
	14	Mrs A Frame, Mrs E Goodwin, Mrs S Burns, Mr Mrs I Hamilton, Mrs J Morrison
	21	Miss E Cousin, Mrs M Wilson, Mrs J Kempself, Mrs L Black
	28	Mrs B McEwen Mrs J Finney

November	04	Mrs M Lawson, Mrs I Hay, Mrs D Stewart, Mrs E Walker, (Communion) Mrs A MacPhee, Mrs M Girault
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The following members, whom we wish to thank for their assistance, will be responsible for distribution.

October	08	Mrs S Burns, Mrs B McEwen
	14 / 21	Mrs E Walker, Mrs R Poynton
	28)	Mrs M Hannah
November	04)	Mrs M McCaffer

Thank you acknowledgements from the following people who received Chancel Flowers during the month of September.

Mrs N Fleming, Mrs J McKean, Mrs C McLean, Mrs M. Lawson, Mrs B. Cowie, Mrs M. MacNeill, Mrs A. Scott, D. & D. Halliday, R. & C. Smart, Mr S. Ashmall, Mrs M. Henderson, Mr G. Sinclair, Mrs S. Tolmie, Mrs C. Clingan, Mr Mrs I. Young and family, Mrs B. McKinnon, J. & M. Lang, Mrs M. Gaston, Mrs C. McLean, Miss A. Tassie, Mrs S. Gow, M. & J. Cowan, Mr T. Graham, Mrs M. Cardwell, Mrs N. Cowan, Mrs J. Jennings, Mrs L. Hay, Mrs S. Nicol, Mrs J. Whyte, Mrs S Meiklejohn, M. McNiff, Mrs F Wishart, Mrs J. Clarke.

I wish to thank everyone who donated towards the chancel flowers during the month of September and grateful thanks to our ladies and gentlemen who deliver them.

Janice Reid



British Summer Time ends on Sunday 28th October.

Please remember to put your clocks and watches **BACK one hour** before retiring on the Saturday evening or you will be too early for Church.

The summer may be over,
And Winter drawing near,
But now, it's time for meetings,
For friendship, warmth and cheer.
There's purple on the mountains,
And beauty all around
With here and there a summer rose
Still waiting to be found.

It's time for reminiscing,
Recalling summer days,
For sharing hope and happy thoughts
In many quiet ways.
A time of relaxation,
Of fellowship and joy,
Creating autumn memories,
That winter can't destroy.



The Bells of St Mary's October / November 2018

October	07	Fiona and Mhairi Green and Olivia Fotheringham
	14	Mary Stirling and Lesley Bevens
	21	Lisa and Daniel Malloy-Gibson
	28	Dorothy Stewart and Cara Bevens
November	04	Paul Malcolm and Lesley Bevens

Jessie Provan thanks all her family and friends in St Mary's for the lovely cards and best wishes received on her 90th birthday. All monetary gifts received were donated to Ceartas.

Margaret Wilson



St. Mary's Parish Church

The Rev Mark Johnstone & Kirk Session

invite you to celebrate Communion on :

Sunday 04 Nov. 2018 at 11.00 am & 6.30 pm

Wednesday 07 Nov. 2018 at 11.30 am

All will be made most welcome.

Do this in memory of me Luke 22 : 19

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

To celebrate the Lord's Supper, the invitation displayed below is for you and your family

to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, at which everyone will be made most welcome.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday 04 November at 11am and 6.30pm.

All members are encouraged to attend either service.

Preparatory Service at 7.30 pm on Friday 02 November will set the scene and allow you to prepare yourself for the Communion Services on the Sunday. This Service is for everyone who attends worship and offers an opportunity to think about Communion and what it means. Communion will also be offered at the **Wednesday Welcome on 07 November** and once again an invitation is extended to all who wish to participate.

Festival of Remembrance



The church will be holding a Festival of Remembrance to commemorate the end of World War 1 on Saturday 10th November at 4.15pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

More information in next month's magazine.

New Ways of being Church

*Your Are
Invited . . .*

Some Questions we may ask as we think about our faith
and the life of the Church in Kirkintilloch.

What is our vision? Where are we going?

How can we make a difference?

**How can we touch the lives of people in the
community?**

How do we get folk over the threshold of the church?

How can we deepen our faith?

How can we get to know one another better ?

How or why do we pray?

**How do we respond to the Big Issues
in our lives and the life of the world?**

Perhaps we could make a start by coming together as a
group to explore and discuss some of these questions
using the theme

***New ways of being Church; Church with an Open Door,
Open Heart and Open Mind.***

Let us explore the issues together.

Time and place to be arranged

Session Visitations 2018/19

Badminton Club	Ken Craig and John Galt
Brownies	Lambert Sinclair and Euan Kerr
Country Dancing	Sally McLellan and Matt Malcolm
Flower Circle	Garry Burns and Derek Mason
Guides	Iain Hamilton and Alistair McNeil
Friday Fellowship	Paul Malcolm and John Pears
Ladies Bowling	Sandra Burns and Ruth Poynton
Listeners Circle	David Tinto and Gordon Fraser
Nursery	Hugh Biggans and John Marran
Prayer Time	Alice Pearson and Janice Reid
Rainbows	Mary Stirling and Elizabeth Cousin
Running Club	Elizabeth Walker and June McCann
Shipmates	Dorothy Stewart and Gordon Sinclair
Young Church	Stephen McKean and Jean Maclean

Dates for Your Diary



Listeners Circle

The next meeting of the Listeners Circle will be on Friday 19 October at 2pm in the Session House. Everyone is welcome to come along and listen to the programme of music which has been compiled this month by Sydney Ashmall.

Young Church is hosting its annual fundraising Craft Fair on Saturday 10th November from 11am until 4pm.

There will be a range of craft stalls as well as a tombola and bottle stall. Teas and coffees will be available from 11am and soup and crusty bread from 12midday.

We would be grateful to the congregation for donations of home baking and items for the bottle stall and tombola. Please hand these into Young Church or leave them at the front door of the church where they will be collected.

If anyone in the congregation would be interested in helping in the tearoom for an hour on the day please speak to Elizabeth Cousin.

Tickets for the event will be on sale in the hall after church from Sunday 21st October.

Many thanks, The Young Church Team

November Church Opening – A Time of Remembrance

The Church will be open on Wednesday 7th November as usual, but on this occasion it will be part of the lead up to the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War One. Music and poetry from the Great War will be played during the course of the day. The opening times will be from 10 am to 3 pm and it is hoped that our own members as well as visitors will take the opportunity to visit us on this day.

Continued overleaf

To Err Is Human . . .

. . . And some 'erring' did take place in the notice of dates in last month's magazine. Below however, is a complete and accurate (hopefully) list of events planned by the Social Committee this session, together with a short description.

Handbag party – Friday 26th October – a selection of handbags, accessories and fun – light refreshments. Tickets £5 go on sale from Sunday 7th October.

Christmas is coming – Friday 23rd November – an early taster of Christmas with demonstrations of flowers, nails for party nights and craft – light refreshments – tickets £5 go on sale Sunday 4th November

Advent Lunch – Sunday 9th December – Festive Fare provided by Table13 – tickets £1, plus donation on the day, go on sale Sunday 18th November

Film Night – Friday 1st February – name of film TBC but requests are welcome – a choice of fish, pie, sausage or haggis, all with chips – tickets TBC

Pancake Lunch – Sunday 10th March – savoury and sweet accompaniments to pancakes – tickets £1, plus donation on the day, go on sale Sunday 17th February

Fashion Show – Friday 26th April – preparing for summer and enjoy some 'banter' – light refreshments – tickets TBC.

Strawberry Lunch – Sunday 9th June – cold meats, salads and strawberry themed 'puddings' – tickets £1, plus donation on the day, go on sale Sunday 19th May.

More information will follow nearer the relevant dates.

Fairtrade Stall now has a selection of Christmas Cards on sale. Please go along and have a look, that doesn't cost you anything, but you may see something you like.



Nursery News

Our two new members of staff have settled well into nursery life and are developing their new ideas.

The children have been outdoors this month visiting our forest kindergarten and practising their pedal skills in the car park! They have also been learning all about the letter 'B'.

Can you help? We are always looking for volunteers to come with us to the forest kindergarten and spend the morning there with the staff and children. If you have some spare time and enjoy the outdoors please contact Margaretann at the church office. Our computer hard drive is on its last legs. If you have one at home which is redundant please consider donating it to the nursery. You can be sure it will be put to very good use!

The Parishioner

Copy for the November issue should be handed to Sandra Burns, sent by e-mail to sandraburns.me@gmail.com or left in the Publications pigeon hole in the Hall vestibule no later than **Sunday 28 October.**

Visitors are welcome

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 Thursday 8.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.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

Church Office Hours

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

Session Report



Our first meeting after the summer break took place on Wednesday 19th September, a week later than our normal schedule. Being the first meeting of the new session, there was plenty to discuss and it was good to catch up with things after the holiday period.

We arranged the visitations for all of our organisations – details are printed elsewhere in the magazine.

We also made arrangements for our Harvest Festival, which took place on Sunday 30th September. Thank you for all of your kind donations. Produce is distributed to Lodging House Mission, St Rollox and East Dunbartonshire Food Bank. Monetary donations are also sent to Lodging House Mission and St Rollox. My thanks to everyone involved in preparing the Church for our service, as well as the Harvest Committee for organising the distribution of your donations.

We also spent a period of time discussing the latest developments in regard to our ongoing conversations with Presbytery's Stewardship & Finance Committee and our Plan for addressing our current financial shortfall. Our Plan was submitted to the Stewardship & Finance Committee at the end of August, for their consideration. We had expected the committee to submit a report to the September meeting of Presbytery, but they have instead taken additional time to review our Plan, before submitting their report to the October Presbytery Meeting.

To this end, we have received a formal citation notice, advising that the report from Stewardship & Finance Committee will be received at the Ordinary Meeting of Presbytery on the 9th October. The citation was intimated to the congregation on Sunday 30th September and Sunday 7th October.

The citation is a conventional process used to ensure a congregation's interests are represented when an item of business affects them. In this regard, we will be invited to speak at the meeting, responding to

Continued overleaf

the committee's report and proposals.

If you would like any additional information regarding our Stewardship & Finance Plan, or any other matters related to the Kirk Session, please take the opportunity to ask me.

With thanks and kind regards,

Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk

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 2018. 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 remained virtually static. The figures do not take into account the Gift Aid Recovery on a substantial number of the offerings.

Weekly Amount	Number	Numerical Percentage	Total Amount	Monetary Percentage
No envelopes	264	44.82	0	0
Nil	19	3.22	0	0
Nil-50p	27	4.58	316.00	0.34
50p-£1	9	1.53	372.76	0.40
£1-£1.50	10	1.70	610.60	0.66
£1.50-£2	8	1.36	769.10	0.83
£2-£3	34	5.77	4543.09	4.92
£3-£4	34	5.77	6278.95	6.80
£4-£5	53	9.00	12439.10	13.47
£5-£7.50	60	10.18	19501.53	21.12
£7.50-£10	26	4.41	12045.00	13.04
£10-£15	26	4.41	15963.50	17.28
£15-£20	14	2.38	12442.00	13.47
£20-£30	4	.68	5463.43	5.92
>£30	1	.17	1620.00	1.75
Total	589	100.00	92365.06	100.00

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. In 2017 our running costs amounted to just over £153,000 (excluding the Special Project) and Gift Aid received on our freewill offerings amounted to £18,240. Taking these figures into account, our deficit could reach in excess of £42,000 which is clearly unsustainable and must be addressed sooner rather than later.

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. We would respectfully request all members review their level of giving and if possible increase it. Every little counts and we would also commend to those members who have not yet joined the Standing Order Scheme to do so as this does help our cash-flow during the year. We also would ask any taxpayers who have not joined the Gift Aid Scheme to obtain a Declaration form, from either of the contributors, in order that we can reclaim tax equivalent to 25% of your offering.

We have now completed the first phase of our project to get the Church wind and water tight, but now need to plan for the next stage of internal works for which grants will be less forthcoming, and at the same time we must try to meet all of our commitments to Church of Scotland and pay our bills as they fall due.

Hugh Biggans, Finance Convener
John Thomson, Treasurer

All free!

The nursery teacher decided to tell her class about democracy. 'We live in a great country,' she began. 'One of the things we should be happy about, is that in this country we are all free.' One little boy stood up and looked indignant. 'I'm not free,' he protested. 'I'm four.'

Treasurer's Report

AUGUST OFFERING

DATE	FREEWILL OFFERING	GIFT AID	OPEN PLATE	STANDING ORDERS
05.08.18	459.50	398.50	311.00	
12.08.18	492.00	504.70	212.55	
19.08.18	384.60	397.40	102.10	
26.08.18	213.00	407.21	73.00	
Standing orders				3882.00
TOTAL	1549.10	1707.81	698.65	3882.00
Total for the Month		7837.56		

RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS Received during August
with thanks and gratitude for your consideration of our Church
Anonymous Donation to Special Projects Fund 1000.00
British Heart Foundation 100.00
Donation to Church Funds 100.00

A Screen Shot of AUGUST EXPENDITURE

01.08.18	Staff Remuneration	S/O	244.29
	David Tinto Materials	4428	233.87
02.08.18	Staff Wages	4419	564.42
	J Lightoller Organ Builder	4425	360.00
03.08.18	Church of Scotland	4423	1262.40
	Kenwil	4424	252.00
07.08.18	Rentokil Pest Control	4421	126.91
	J S Campbell & Son	4422	2643.60
	Deacon Brothers	4427	119.94
10.08.18	Scottish Hydro Electric	D/D	856.56
15.08.18	Church of Scotland	S/O	5043.10
17.08.18	Business Stream	D/D	128.00
	Scottish Hydro Gas	D/D	196.19
23.08.18	Aquaid	4426	23.99
24.08.18	McLuskey Glazing	4429	3640.80
	East Dunbartonshire Council	D/D	260.00
28.08.18	Church of Scotland insurance	D/D	842.03
29.08.18	Staff Wages	4431	368.85
30.08.18	David Tinto Materials	4433	60.90
31.08.18	Staff Wages	4430	564.42
	Totals		17792.27

Continued overleaf

When analysing the above expenditure you may notice that there are a couple of extraordinary items of expenditure, such as the replacement of The Manse boiler and replacement of broken windows, of which, the latter is subject to an insurance claim; these amounts totalling approximately £6200 which would not be regular monthly expenditure. Foregoing this, it is obvious to see that our income does not meet our expenditure.

Special Services at St Mary's 2018/19



- **Preparatory Service** Friday 02 November 2018 at 7.30pm
- **Communion Service** Sunday 04 November 2018 at 11.00am
- **Evening Service** at 6.30pm
- **Remembrance Sunday** Sunday 11 November 2018 at 10.45am
- **Gift Service** Sunday 09 December 2018 at 11am (labels out 25 November 2018)
- **Festive Event** Sunday 16 December 2018 (evening)
- **Blue Christmas Service** Wednesday 19 December 2018 at 7.30pm
- **Nativity Service** Sunday 23 December 2018 at 11am
- **Watchnight Service** Sunday 23 December 2018
Starts at 11pm for informal carol singing with service at 11.15pm and finishing at 12.15am.

Continued overleaf

- **Communion**
Sunday 03 March 2019 at 11am
- **Mothering Sunday**
Sunday 31 March 2019 at 11am. All Age Service
- **Holy Week**
14 to 20 April 2019
- **Easter Service**
Sunday 01 April 2019: 9am and 11am
All age service. (No Uniformed Organisations or Young Church)
- **Preparatory Service**
Friday 11 May 2019 at 7.30pm
- **Communion**
Sunday 13 May 2019 at 11am. Evening Service at 6.30pm
- **Pentecost**
Sunday 20 May 2019
- **Young Church Recognition Service**
(TBC)



*The new ringers were Plain Bob, Unsightly
Eric, Downright Ugly George, and Janet*

Why Christians are like pumpkins

A woman had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The woman was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: 'Well, it's like being a pumpkin.'

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. And so she said: "Well, God finds you and picks you up from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He carefully cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you, to shine for all to see.

'It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine, or come inside and be something new and bright. We can each of us smile today, and shine with His light!'

Prayer

In the changing seasons,
in the terrifying, changing world
where landscapes are no longer recognisable,
where things spin so quickly out of control,
You are the one still point.
You are unchanging,
always faithful,
always present.

In a world of shifting sands
You are the rock on which I stand,
I am secure in You alone.
You are the rock on which I stand,
Jesus,
My Saviour.

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.



*Every week they gathered for
Bible Study*

The tale of the Salt and Light



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED PRESERVE FOOD....

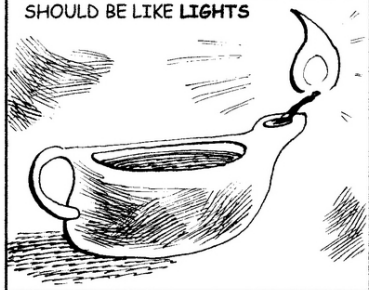


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR. IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



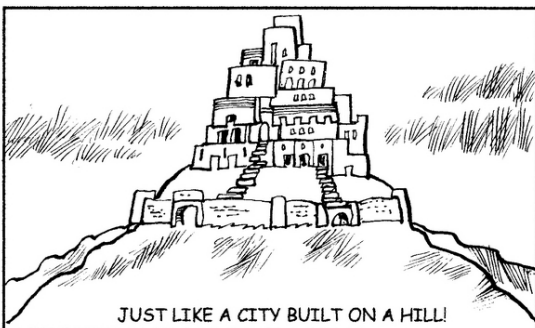
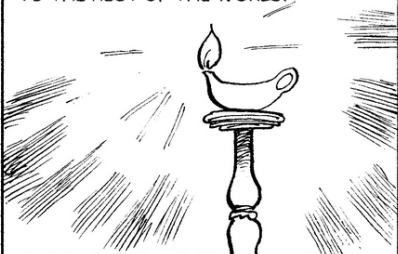
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!



Remember
all the
commandments
of the Lord
and obey them

Colossians 3:25



Remember the words Jesus said:
*"It is more blessed to give
than to receive."*

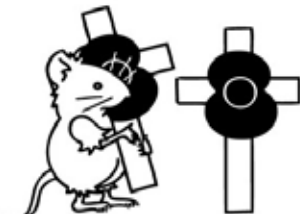
Colossians 3:25

Jesus took bread,
gave thanks,
broke it and said,
*"This is my body
which I am giving
for you, do this to
remember me."*

Luke 22:19



Jesus said:
*"No one can have
greater love than
to give his life for
his friends."*



John 15:13

Remember to keep
the Sabbath day Holy

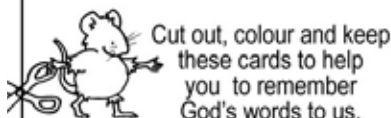
Exodus 20:8



Remember what you are taught,
and listen carefully to words
of knowledge.



Proverbs 23:12



The Rectory . . .

My dear Nephew Darren

Plans for our Harvest Supper always start several months in advance, with the annual argument about whether we dare increase the price of tickets by 20p to £1.50. After endless wrangling we compromise on 15p, with several warning that this will sound the death knell of Harvest. That every member of the committee cheerfully pays £50 a head to dine out elsewhere seems irrelevant.

Hotpots are provided by the ladies of the parish. It is always interesting to speculate on who has made which: some are robust and meaty, while others are wan and watery. Having sampled these dishes for the past 30 years, I can match each offering with the personalities of their creators. It is also amusing to watch how the cooks manoeuvre to make sure the correct people receive their own dishes. Mrs French positively chases Lady Masterson with her hotpot.

After the meal, we proceed to what parishioners optimistically call the entertainment. I settle myself on the back row, smile, applaud - and think of the large gin awaiting me back at the Rectory.

that the consumption of a bottle of claret over the meal improves his intonation as he gives his annual rendition of "The Lost Chord". I can only assume the lost chords he refers to are the vocal ones he once possessed. Miss Simpson's jokes have been repeated so often that the audience enthusiastically joins in with every punch line. Miss Sprocker makes her annual (failed) attempt to hand around paper and pencils and hold 'a nice little quiz' - she was a primary teacher.

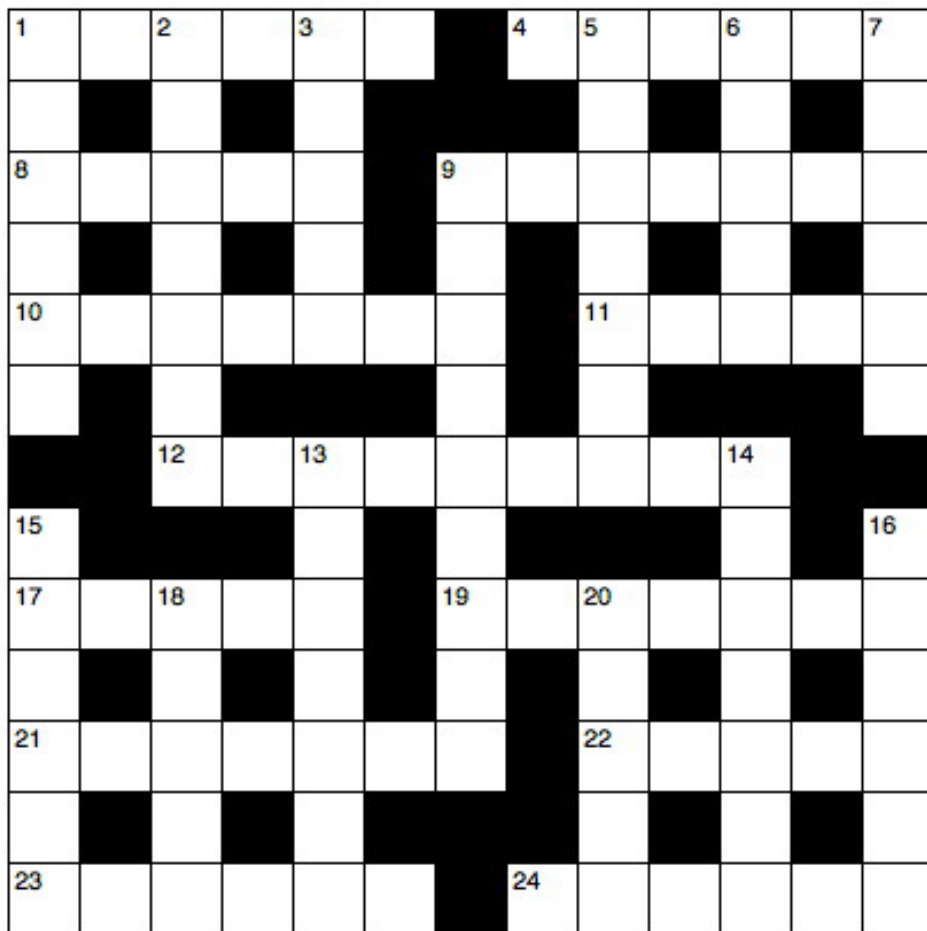
Meanwhile the ladies in the kitchen provide a musical accompaniment of crashing crockery and cutlery, which sadly drowns out all but the most tantalising snippets of their gossip about the rest of us.

The evening always ends with the Major's recitation of "The boy stood on the burning deck". Before he can commence an un-requested encore, I surge up to the stage, thank all the performers, and wish everyone a safe journey home. The Major is left looking like a boy who had just had his lollipop stolen by the school bully. On reflection, that is quite an accurate analogy.

Colonel Hetherington imagines

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Crossword



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the – has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)

Continued overleaf

- 12 'And now I will show you the most – way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of – ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is –,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of

Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)

- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each – belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to – the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in – built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand – you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)



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



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