

THE

# PARISHIONER

ThE LORD bLESS yOU  
aND KEEP yOU; ThE  
LORD MAKE His face  
shINE UPON yOU,  
ANd bE GRACIOUS TO  
yOU; ThE LORD lift  
up His COUNTENANCE  
UPON yOU, ANd GIVE  
yOU PEACE.



# St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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[www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk)



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# Rev Morris Dutch

*Locum . . .*

**My dear friends,**

**How are you all doing?  
Since my last letter for 'The  
Parishioner' we are still in  
Lockdown.**

Much has happened to change our lives and give us cause to be socially careful and avoid being too near to folks, especially the ones we know and love. It's been a really hard time and many of us miss so much the freedom to meet, visit, go out to restaurants and cafes 'fur a guid time oot o the hoose wi oor pals' If you are like me, we have had to get used to a different kind of social networking and, above all, being able to gather together each Sunday morning in our beloved Kirk.

A hymn that has been buzzing around my mind is . . .

*'The Church is wherever God's people are praising,*

*knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord;*

*The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying, to live and to share out the good news of God'*

(CH4 – 522)

Friends, our church building maybe be temporarily closed to us at this time, but we as St. Mary's people (and beyond) are not closed, we are very much alive and open for worship and offer an invitation for folks anywhere in the world to join us. Since the start of our services being recorded around two months ago, it has come to my knowledge that we have had many visitors worshiping with us and being blessed from their homes. To this end, it is my desire to acknowledge and thank the many folks who have contributed to the success of our online Services. It has been a big learning curve for us, but God by His grace has enabled us to deliver such a

quality production to give a huge blessing to all viewers. Our grateful thanks go to the outstanding commitment of time and energy to David Tinto, David Burns, Stephen McKean, Gordon Morrison and all our excellent Bible Readers. **"WELL DONE EVERYONE"** *Great team effort !!!!*

A wee howler!!! For the recent Communion Service, my wife Maggie made a wee rustic loaf of bread for me to use! Being quite solid, I cut it in two places to make it easy for me to break at the Table! When lifting the Bread at the appropriate moment, instead of splitting in two bits, it went four ways, I ended up doing a bit of juggling to avoid a quarter falling to the ground.....aaaaaargh!!!! However, we survived!!!! Think I aged 20 years at that moment, especially when so many folks would be viewing. Another LESSON learned! Keeps you young and alert!!!! Sense of humour, yeah!!!!

Pentecost Sunday was my last service until I return on 1 September after a wee holiday. Since Easter Day, it has been my plan to reflect on the events following Jesus' resurrection; His appearances, ascension and to Pentecost itself. I do hope, that you like me, have been enriched as we have marveled at God's love in the outworking of His plan of salvation for you, me and the whole world.

Maggie joins me in wishing you all much blessing, good health and peace during this summer time and pray that we will soon be meeting together again in St Mary's in the not distant future.

**Please do keep in touch with me. I'm only on holiday. God bless!!!!**

**Your Locum Minister and friend,**

*Morris*

# Rev Ian Taylor *Interim Moderator . . .*

**These past days have been so unusual for us all. In a personal and vocational capacity, I have had to change so many of my natural instincts.**

Previously when meeting someone, I would shake their hand. In passing someone I knew in the street, I would stop and chat. Now I must refrain from shaking anyone's hand, stand 2 metres away and perhaps linger to chat to someone I know. Someone who was upset in my presence could expect to receive a hug. But not so now. My natural inclination to be appropriately tactile has vanished in the face of what many are calling the 'new norm.' But I can't help feel that this inner natural resource which cannot be expressed for the moment is detrimental to my wellbeing and to others around me.

Often you will hear people speak of '*natural resources*' to refer to the likes of things such as water,

forests, land. But there is another more even more precious natural resource – human relationships. I am certain that love and social connection matter more than anything else in life. The priority of such relationships is not always immediately recognisable.

Often though in a time of crisis – whether at the family, communal, national or world level that crisis strengthens our relational wealth by drawing us closer together.

What makes things so strained just now is that we are actually being asked to distance ourselves from others. Not just physically but in some cases because of quarantine even greater isolation is called for. Such circumstances stress the very social connections we all rely upon. The resulting loneliness, fear and uncertainty cause many folk to look around for signs of hope.

One individual whose life comes to mind as an inspirational hope

in a crisis is Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). He was a gifted musician at several prominent churches in Saxony, Germany, before returning to Ministry. He then served for 30 years before his death the people of Eilenburg – years which almost overlapped with the terrible Thirty Years' War.

Because it was a walled city, refugees from the surrounding countryside, besieged by the invasions of the Swedish military, poured into Eilenburg. It didn't take long for famine and pestilence to set in. In 1637 alone, 8000 people died of disease – including other ministers, most of the town council, and Rinkart's own wife. He was left to minister to the whole city, sometimes preaching at burial services for as many as 200 dead in a single week. Known as a faithful and caring pastor, he gave away everything he owned except for the barest essentials to care for his family.

In the depth of the communal suffering around him, Rinkart wrote a hymn text with familiar words to us:

*"Now thank we all our God,  
With hearts and hands and voices;  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom this world rejoices."*

In sharing this story, I am not likening our situation to that of Rinkart's time, although there are some parallels. Today around us a raft of people are labouring to keep us safe – from the staff in our NHS (for whom we assemble on a Thursday evening to applaud), to a range of key workers, including shop workers, delivery drivers, refuse collectors, to name but a few, seen and unseen alike. Whether we like it or not, whether we know it or not, we are all in this together.

In another verse, Rinkart speaks of a bounteous God staying near us through our anxiety:

*"Keep us all in grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all harm,  
In this world and the next."*

It's a hymn worth coming back to at the present time when we are in 'lock down' wondering when we will see our most precious natural resource fully restored.

# *Update in the light of current Covid-19 Circumstances*

**Once again I would like to offer a brief update of what is happening just now. As before, all plans are subject to change or alteration until our current situation is clearer and more settled.**

1. **Locum.** Rev Morris Dutch last Service with us was 31/05/20 until he returns to St. Mary's on 01/09/20 after a well-earned rest. During his three month absence, pastoral cover will be provided by me and Rev. Adam Dillon of St. David's Memorial Park Parish Church (☎ 0141 588 3570 ✉ ADillon@churchofscotland.org.uk). If either of us is unavailable a non-Parochial Minister is on standby to assist us.
2. **Manse.** The sale of the old Manse was delayed because of the restrictions in movement. The sale concluded on 28/05/20 and our thanks are recorded to Charles Hay our Depute Session Clerk and to the staff at the Law Department at 121 for their help in exceptional circumstances. Once 'lockdown' eases we hope to buy a new Manse in accordance with the Guidelines set by the Church of Scotland. Our aim is to purchase a new build home (or a newer property) to reduce future maintenance and running costs.
3. **Nominating Committee.** As soon is permissible and practicable we will initiate the process to form a Nominating Committee.
4. **Stated Annual Meeting.** This will be held at the earliest opportunity.
5. **Stewardship.** Obviously with the closure of our buildings, financial aspects of stewardship are critical just now. If you are concerned about how to continue to support the work of your Church, please check the website for details of how to contact John Thomson

or Hugh Biggans who will gladly assist you. Staff members have been placed on furlough, utilising the Government scheme to save expenditure.

6. **What next?** Obviously at this point I do not know when we will be allowed to worship in our buildings, but the forthcoming schedule noted below gives an indication of those who will endeavour to offer us 'on-line worship' or worship in St. Mary's.

## **Provisional Pulpit Supply Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
07/06/20	Mr. James Gemmell
14/06/20	Rev. Martin Forrest
21/06/20	Rev. Dr. Sandy Forsyth
28/06/20	Rev. Douglas Clark
05/07/20	Rev. Douglas Clark
12/07/20	Rev. Douglas Clark
19/07/20	Rev. Douglas Clark
26/07/20	Rev. Douglas Clark
02/08/20	Rev. Alastair McLachlan
09/08/20	Rev. Martin Forrest
16/08/20	Rev. Alastair McLachlan
23/08/20	Rev. Martin Forrest
30/08/20	Rev. Martin Forrest

*Ian*

**Rev. Ian Taylor  
Minister, Springfield Cambridge Parish Church, Bishopbriggs**

 0141 772 1540

 [ITaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ITaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk)

# Parish Register

## Golden Wedding

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**David and Isobel Tinto** celebrate 50 years of marriage on 26 June. *Congratulations and best wishes are sent to them from their church family at St Mary's.*



## Church Flowers

While the church building continues to be closed there is no opportunity to display flowers on a Sunday. We wish to thank everyone who has continued to donate to the flower fund at this time. Please be reassured that your donations will be put to good use once we return to normal business. In the meantime, please know that we continue to think about and pray for all those who would benefit from church flowers at this time.

**Fiona Leishman, Sandra Burns,  
Ruth Poynton, Elizabeth Walker  
The Flower Committee**



Normally this would be the last Parishioner until September, but in view of present circumstances under which we are living, there will be another issue around mid-July with, hopefully, further information as to **'where we are'** now.

If anyone reading this has anything they would like to contribute please send by e-mail to **sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than Sunday 12 July.**

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***The Publications Committee wishes everyone a good summer, with continued sunshine. Thank you to all who have contributed.***

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## ***The Parishioner Online***



**Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner . . .**  
why not go to [www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk](http://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@stmarykirkintilloch.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stmarykirkintilloch.org.uk) and we will put these on the News page of the website.

# *An analysis of our offerings*

**While carrying out a review of the freewill offerings made by the congregation in the year to 31 March 2020, referring to the table below, we note that over fifty per cent of our members appear to have chosen to give nothing or less than 50p per week, which is a similar picture to the previous year.**

There may well be a number of reasons for this. Perhaps some individuals have relocated or reviewed their connection to The Church of Scotland but have not informed us to update our records. Some individuals may not be in a position to contribute, others may through the open plate, or choose not to give.

Our problem is that we need to encourage everyone to give in some way, wherever possible, to enable us to remain open for them in times of need. The total giving has decreased by £4900, however; we have to bear in mind that the church was closed for the last two weeks of March. If we take this into account, the decrease would be reduced to approximately £3,000.

This is not unexpected during a period of vacancy and in our case the very substantial and generous giving to the Advent Appeal in order that we could repay our deficit on Ministries and Mission, which has enabled us to get permission to Call a new minister without any restriction to tenure is a heartening measure of the support you have offered.

The figures do not include the Gift Aid Recovery on a substantial number of the offerings nor the Advent Appeal.

Weekly Amount	Number	Numerical Percentage	Total Amount	Monetary Percentage
No envelopes	249	47.88	0	0
Nil	13	2.50	0	0
Nil-50p	6	1.15	189.50	0.20
50p-£1	10	1.92	377.00	0.40
£1-£1.50	9	1.73	572.53	0.61
£1.50-£2	9	1.73	814.20	0.86
£2-£3	22	4.24	2870.75	3.06
£3-£4	25	4.81	4630.90	4.92
£4-£5	45	8.65	10709.21	11.37
£5-£7.50	50	9.62	16027.20	17.02
£7.50-£10	30	5.77	13767.00	14.62
£10-£15	30	5.77	19435.10	20.64
£15-£20	13	2.50	11862.00	12.60
£20-£30	5	.96	5991.00	6.36
>£30	4	.77	6909.00	7.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>94155.39</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The figures are slightly distorted as some members no longer take envelopes and instead choose to put cash in the plate. We can claim Gift Aid on this up to a capped level under the Small Gifts Scheme. The numbers above are also affected by joint giving as only one member is recorded in these cases. In 2019 our running costs amounted to just over

£126,500 (excluding the Special Project) and Gift Aid received on our freewill offerings amounted to £19,954. Taking these figures into account, our deficit could reach in excess of £12,000 which continues to give us concern but is some £17,000 less than in the previous year.

We are conscious that many of

you have contributed handsomely to our Advent Appeal and have increased your regular giving also, 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.

We would ask that all members once more review their level of giving and if your circumstances permit, increase your offering to our church. Referring to recent articles printed, any additional income would be most welcome at this difficult time, in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the current closure, and reduce the monthly deficit we are predicting in our cash flow forecasts during this period. Many of you have joined the standing order scheme and we would commend to those members who have not yet joined, if it seems appropriate and right for you, to apply to give in this manner as standing order receipts help our cashflow during the year especially under the current circumstances.

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. In the last few months eighteen new Gift Aid Declarations have been signed and returned to us which will make a considerable impact on our funds. Several other forms have been issued but are yet to be returned. If you have still to return your form, please do so as soon as possible by posting to either of the contributors to this article. We thank you for considering this and for your continued support. We have come a long way in the last year with your assistance and were making substantial headway in selling the manse and being given permission to form a Nominating Committee before other factors intervened over which we have no control.

Thank you for journeying with us this far and we look forward to the day when we can all meet again in our sanctuary.

**Keep safe.**

**Yours sincerely**

*John and Hugh*

**John M Thomson Treasurer and  
Hugh Biggans Finance Convenor**

# *Annual Accounts Information*

Once more I am pleased to present an analysis of our Annual Accounts for the year to 31 December 2019. The analysis is based on the General Fund only and does not include any of the organisations or our Special Projects Fund or the Advent Appeal. Comparative figures are shown for 2017 and 2018.

## **2019 Accounts Weekly Analysis**

### **General Fund only average weekly Income**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Offering including Gift Aid	2172.65	2312.31	2253.33
Endowment Income	29.40	29.25	29.40
Organisations	23.08	0.00	5.00
Other	28.94	35.83	26.81
Legacies	0.00	0.00	19.23
Weddings, Funerals	8.65	11.54	24.54
Hall Lets	85.65	91.67	105.58
Investment Income	12.13	5.83	6.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>2360.50</b>	<b>2486.43</b>	<b>2469.91</b>

### **Average weekly expenditure**

Offering envelopes	12.33	12.44	12.50
Ministry and Mission	1384.63	1298.38	1184.98
Presbytery dues	72.25	69.42	70.10
Locum Fees	0.00	0.00	144.63
Ministers Expenses	47.52	48.40	34.75
Pulpit Supply	3.17	8.17	4.87
Salaries	325.02	278.25	285.10

Repairs	243.63	148.56	44.46
Council Tax – Manse	48.19	49.87	6.42
Heat Light, Insurance Water	610.02	655.46	462.13
Church Office (Tel, Stat)	78.44	74.31	41.31
Organ	1.13	70.73	34.62
Depreciation	64.63	64.63	64.63
Other Expenses	66.19	58.85	43.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2957.17</b>	<b>2837.47</b>	<b>2433.65</b>
<b>Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(596.67)</b>	<b>(351.04)</b>	<b>36.26</b>
<b>Say</b>	<b>(600.00)</b>	<b>(350.00)</b>	<b>35.00</b>

The figures show a surplus for the year resulting from a substantial reduction in expenses which is largely due to the Nursery contributing £192.31 per week to our overheads.

Our fabric committee are also to be congratulated in reducing heating costs and carrying out repairs themselves rather than using contractors. We have scaled back on repair works which could result in future costs.

Our accounts show that our General Fund is now back in surplus but again this has been achieved by transferring funds from restricted to unrestricted funds.

Our Stewardship Campaign continued in early March, shortly before Covid-19 forced the closure of all churches. We were also in the final stages of selling our manse which has had to be put on hold due to the Registrar's Office closing temporarily. These additional hurdles have been put in our way and delayed our plans, but it is to be hoped that we can look forward to a brighter future once the current pandemic is overcome.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our cause during these difficult times.

**Hugh Biggans, Finance Convenor**

# Nursery Update

As you know our nursery has been closed since 20th March and we all desperately miss the children and our time together at nursery.



Our staff members continue to make contact with our families through the nursery Facebook page and are developing ideas for a virtual graduation for all of our children who will head to school in August without having the opportunity to complete their nursery education.

Joanne and Elaine are keeping parents up to date with developments and offer support where necessary.

Although schools will open in August, there is currently no date for nurseries to re-open, which is disappointing but understandable. We are currently developing new ways of working for when we do open to ensure the safety of all and look forward to receiving advice from the Government and East Dunbartonshire Council to assist with this.

Please pray for our nursery children at this perplexing time and for our staff that they may have patience and wisdom in planning for our nursery's future.

**Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convenor**



Over the next few months when we will not be having any Church services, Life and Work will be posted to all who purchase this very worthwhile Church of Scotland magazine. If you normally take yours from the rack in the Church vestibule and have not yet received it, or would like a copy (£2.80 per issue), please contact Sandra Burns on 0141 776 6322, or email: [sandraburns.me@gmail.com](mailto:sandraburns.me@gmail.com)

# ***Young Church Update***

**Recognition Service** – this service, which was set for Sunday 21st June, has been postponed due to the current situation. We are hoping to be able to reschedule the service for September. The service will be in line with government guidelines at that time and will also follow guidance from Church of Scotland.

It has now been 3 months since the young people have been able to come to church and we are aware that some of them are missing this. We are certainly missing them. The current situation is difficult for children and we were wondering if any members of the congregation would like to send messages of support to our young people. These messages can be emailed/sent to the church, submitted through the church website or posted on the Facebook page.

## ***Online Service***

We are planning to have our young people contribute to these services. This will probably include having the children film messages at home and send it in, for them to be included in a service.

As the online activity is not included on our current permission form, we need to have consent from parents regarding this. Parents can contact us on the following numbers:

**Elaine Stevens – 07889 582859**  
**email: elaine.gardenhouse@gmail.com**

**Fiona Green – 07901 106931**  
**email: fiona.green1@yahoo.co.uk**

# **Stewardship – Easyfund Raising**

While we work our way back to the new normality don't forget you can help the Church out by doing your online purchases via the easyfund raising website (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>).

If you log onto the website and choose St Marys Parish as your nominated charity your purchase for a variety of high street retail shops will generate creates a donation to the Church.

Thank you to this who have already done so.

**Charles Hay, Stewardship Convenor**

## **The Manse**

I am pleased to report that we completed the sale of the Manse in Union Street in the last week of May.

We had been due to complete the sale at end of March but unfortunately the lock down restrictions put a halt to that. We were however able to get everything across the line two months later without any change to the price agreed with the Purchasers. We wish the purchasers well with their new family home.

The Manse Committee will now turn its attention to the matter of purchasing a new Manse.

Thanks to everyone who helped to keep the gardens tidy till we got the deal completed.

**Charles Hay, Associate Session Clerk**

# *Treasurer's Report*

## *February Offering*

I personally thank you for all your support. I am heartened and grateful to those that have been able to continue to pay by standing order, have started standing order, or have increased their standing order amount. I am equally encouraged and grateful to those that have managed to make payment for offerings, by whatever means available, cheque or bank transfer, or indeed cash where appropriate.

If offering or Church income is something that you are thinking about, and you wish to support St Mary's, or explore alternative ways of continuing your support during our continued period of closure, my contact details are contained in this Parishioner, on our website, or through your District Elder/Congregational Helper who will be able to put you in touch with myself or Hugh Biggans.

### **April Actual:**

I am pleased to report that

although there were some variances in my predictions for April as reported in last month's magazine, we were able to end the month with a small surplus. The surplus between our actual April income compared to our expenditure was **£344**. This was only made possible by your continued support.

It was also helpful to receive the gift aid claim for first 3 months of this year and we also received advanced receipt of funds for a recent insurance claim for which the work and expenditure has still to be executed. Other than for these factors we would be in deficit, but in reality a welcome relief to March.

Our total income in the period amounted to **£14,313** compared to expenditure of **£13,969** in the month.

**A summary of this can be seen below.**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>
Offerings By Standing Order	4985
Gift Aid Tax recovery Jan to Mar	6274
80% Wages Recovery	1159
Offerings	1305
Insurance Claim net of Excess	590
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14313</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Ministries & Mission	5950
Locum Fees	940
Minister's Travel Expenses	111
Salary Costs & Organist Fees	1445
Repairs	51
Water Rates	149
Insurance	862
Heat & Light Gas and Electric	938
Heat Oil (Halls)	1411
Cleaning	1016
Church Office	170
Other Expenses	139
UNICEF Jars of Grace Distribution	787
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13969</b>

Some of the items of expenditure may apply to, and be an expense generated from consumption in March or previous to this. But most are ongoing expenses that your Church continues to have.

## **Predicted May:**

Although all of the information is not available when I write this, heading towards the end of May, I provide a small insight into how the month may look.

Gift Aid Offering Receipts	2387.00
Freewill Offering Receipts	300.00
Offering Receipts by Standing Order	5160.00
Payments of life & Work Subscription	61.20
Donations towards Parishioner Production	58.80
Anonymous Donation towards Expenses	480.00
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant	831.59
Advent Appeal 2019	200.00
Donation from 1st Kirkintilloch Rainbow Guides	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9528.59</b>

Our cash flow forecasts would predict our expenditure for May to be £10,303, so you will see that our expenditure exceeds our income and I am therefore predicting a deficit in the region of £774.44.

So at this given time we could perhaps see a deficit of £775 for the month of May; to be honest a better picture and outcome than I was expecting for the month. But we will see as this situation could change depending on final income and expenditure.

I can't reiterate enough how important a source of income gift aid recovery is at no cost to the Church or the giver. In the fear of repeating myself, thank you to all who continue to support our Church and thank you also to those who have been able to respond recently to help our current situation trying to manage income and expenditure during closure, I am sincerely grateful.

**Yours sincerely**

*John*

**John M Thomson, Treasurer**

# C.S. Lewis 1942

Satan: "I will cause anxiety,  
fear and panic.  
I will shutdown  
business, schools,  
places of worship  
and sports events.  
I will cause economic turmoil".

Jesus: "I will bring together neighbours,  
restore the family unit,  
I will bring dinner back  
to the kitchen table.  
I will help people slow down their lives  
and appreciate what really matters.  
I will teach my children to rely on me  
and not the world.  
I will teach my children to trust me  
and not their money and material resources.

# *The lament of Psalm 13*

As we struggle with the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, we might echo the words of Psalm 13: *'How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?'* It is one of a number of lament psalms, where the psalmist cries out in pain, because he feels abandoned by God. In our current circumstances, these psalms enable us talk to God about our fears and frustrations, while renewing our confidence in Him. What does Psalm 13 say?

**Bring your complaint to God:** The psalmist brings his pain and questions to God: *'How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?'* (2). He is open with God about his complaints, despite the anger he feels.

**Ask boldly for His help:** He goes on to ask for God's help: *'Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him...'* (3-4). While avoiding despair ('there's no hope') or denial ('everything's fine'), the psalmist is confident in God's power to deliver.

**Choose to trust Him:** *'But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me.'* (5-6). The lament is a journey to the point of renewing our trust in God in the brokenness of our life.

The psalms of lament (eg. Psalms 10, 22 and 77) give us a prayer language for dark times. They enable us to be honest with God about what is happening to us and remind us that God has not abandoned us. He is a God who is both sovereign and good.

*'Laments turn toward God when sorrow tempts you to run from Him.'*

# *Shield me*

As we struggle with the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, we might echo the words of Psalm 13: 'How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?' It is one of a number of lament psalms, where the psalmist cries out in pain, because he feels abandoned by God. In our current circumsta

## *New version of Apostles' Creed*

When our church began live streaming its services, our minister was at first a bit nervous. Still, he kept his cool, and you would never have known he was struggling until he reached the Apostles' Creed. Then he firmly announced that Jesus was..."confused by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."

## *Why did God make mothers?*

***Here are some of the answers seven-year-olds gave to the following questions . . .***

*Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?*  
God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

*What kind of little girl was your mum?*  
I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

*What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?*  
His last name.

*Why did your mum marry your dad?*  
She got too old to do anything else with him.

*What's the difference between mums & dads?*  
Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

*What would it take to make your mum perfect?*  
On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

# The Rectory

## St James the Least

### My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing "away in a manager", mangers apparently being unknown to our machine. If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers – that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with. Never, ever, print on them 'Do not take home' as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction 'Take this sheet home for reference' would ensure that

they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

**Your loving uncle,  
Eustace**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them...

I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves



David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.



David's brothers were not happy.



But David didn't stop...



We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!



I have killed lions and bears with God's help.



I can't move with all this on!



He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.



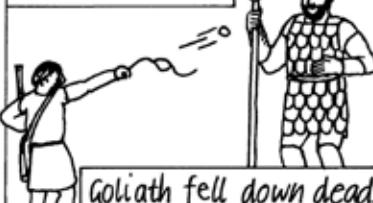
Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.



I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles

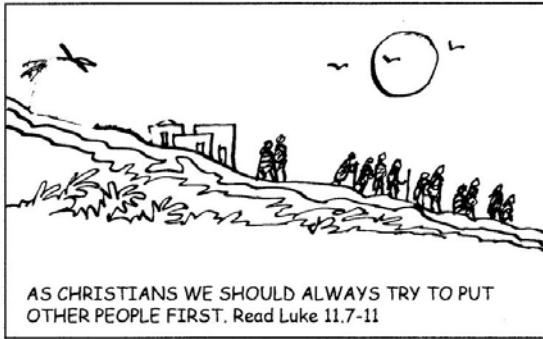
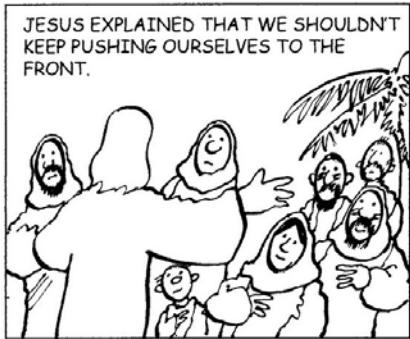
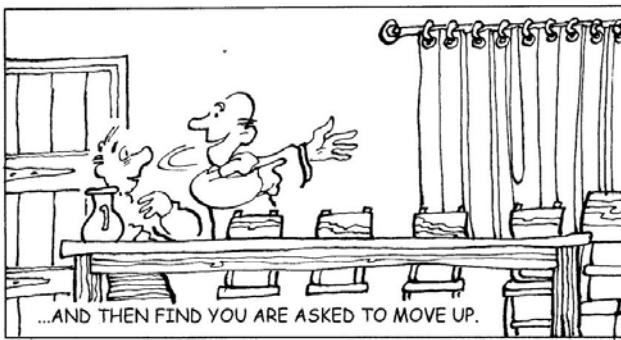


David slung his stone and hit him on the head.



The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.







They were trying to remember  
when they had last left the house.

# Church Organisations

Contact list 2019.20	Organisation	Location	Time	Contact
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Rev Morris Dutch</b>
	<b>Young Church</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Elaine Stevens</b>
	<b>Fairtrade Stall</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Leslie Baird/Fiona Leishman</b>
	<b>Badminton - Senior</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>7.30-10pm</b>	<b>Liz Barrie</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>8.30-11.45am</b>	<b>Joanne McDonald</b>
	<b>Ladies Bowling</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>1.30-3.30pm</b>	<b>Cathie Devine</b>
	<b>Running/Walking Club</b>	<b>Session House</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Bob Brown</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>8.30-11.45am</b>	<b>Joanne McDonald</b>
	<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>1.15-3.15pm</b>	<b>Ann Selbie</b>
	<b>Badminton - Senior</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>8-10.30pm</b>	<b>Liz Barrie</b>
	<b>Prayer Time</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>	<b>7-7.30pm</b>	<b>Rev Katy Owen</b>
	<b>Country Dancing</b>	<b>Mid Hall</b>	<b>7.45-10pm</b>	<b>Moira MacNeill</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>8.30-11.45am</b>	<b>Joanne McDonald</b>
	<b>Wednesday Welcome</b>	<b>Session House</b>	<b>10-11.20am</b>	<b>Mary Stirling</b>
	<b>Wednesday Service</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>11.30-12noon</b>	<b>Rev Morris Dutch</b>
	<b>Over 50's Badminton</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>1.30-3.30pm</b>	<b>Anne Allan</b>
	<b>Rainbows</b>	<b>Mid Hall</b>	<b>6.30-7.30pm</b>	<b>Janet Millin</b>
	<b>Brownies</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>6.30-7.45pm</b>	<b>Cara Daniels</b>
	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Church Vestry</b>	<b>7-9pm</b>	<b>Church Office</b>
	<b>Running/Walking Club</b>	<b>Session House</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Bob Brown</b>
	<b>Guides</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>7.30-9.30pm</b>	<b>Cara Daniels</b>
	<b>Trefoil Guild (monthly)</b>	<b>Mid Hall</b>	<b>7.45-10pm</b>	<b>Edith Dunn</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>8.30-11.45am</b>	<b>Joanne McDonald</b>
	<b>Flower Circle (Alternate Weeks)</b>	<b>Mid Hall</b>	<b>7.30-9pm</b>	<b>Elizabeth Walker</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Church Halls</b>	<b>8.30-11.45am</b>	<b>Joanne McDonald</b>
	<b>Listener's Circle (Monthly)</b>	<b>Session House (church)</b>	<b>2-4pm</b>	<b>Edith Dunn</b>
	<b>Friday Fellowship (Alternate Weeks)</b>	<b>Mid Hall</b>	<b>7.30-9pm</b>	<b>Moira MacNeill</b>

**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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