



St Mary's Parish Church

Kirkintilloch

October 2020

THE PARISHIONER



I sought the Lord,
and he answered me;

*he delivered me
from all my fears*

Psalm 34:4



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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My Dear Friends . . .

It is Sunday afternoon 27 September and I am writing this letter for *The Parishioner* so aware that it was back in May that I last wrote. The summer is behind us and autumn is showing itself as the trees are changing colour and now dropping their leaves. Four months have passed and who would have thought then that we would still be in a state of lockdown. This morning at St Mary's was a wonderful day as the church was opened and we were able to meet for worship albeit with several restrictions to observe such as, not being able to sing and being socially distanced with face masks worn by everyone. Not church as we have known and loved in the past, but having been closed for so long, it was such a blessing to be at least back even though congregational numbers attending had to be limited. A big thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently to make this happen.

May we pray for the scientists and all those in the caring professions that a speedy medical solution will soon be found that will allow life to get back to a healthy normal.

I am delighted to let you know that my three months off during the summer was a real blessing as it allowed me time to rest and recharge my batteries. I do feel so much the better for it! With so many negative changes to our lives resulting from the Corona Virus, I was so grateful for how technology has helped in being connected with others. Sunday mornings at 10am Maggie and I would join our friend Eric's on-line service from Perth and at 11am we would then switch over to St Mary's. Never been so well churched on a Sunday morning in my life!!!! During the weekdays we are meeting on line for prayer with folks from "Ebeneezer Operation Exodus"

(A Christian organization who seeks to serve and help the Jewish people return to their homeland of Israel as prophesied in the Old Testament). This is an exciting meeting as it is attended by folks from all over the world eg Britain, Germany, France, Sweden, Moldova, India, Australia, New Zealand, Central and South America to name but a few countries. Hearing stories of the many ways God is active and moving globally is such an encouragement to us as we are thrilled to hear how HE answers the prayers of His people by doing great and amazing things.

In my experience it is when we lift our eyes up and out and see the big picture, it is then that we can find and appreciate the promises and treasure contained in the Bible. This morning in church we took a few moments to reflect on Psalm 23 which is so a familiar to us, "The Lord is MY Shepherd

etc...", we learned that King David penned this out of a situation of desperate need for survival as his rebellious son Absalom was seeking to kill him and take his throne. David looked to his God, the great Shepherd, to save him and spare his life. Faith in God's love and adequacy borne out of bitter experience!!!!

You know friends, as the people of God, may we lift our eyes up to our God, and no matter what comes our way, may we be able to join with King David and confess from the bottom of our hearts that, "The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have EVERYTHING I need (v1)....I KNOW that Your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and YOUR house will be MY home as long as I live" (v6).

May the Lord richly bless you all!

Your Locum Minister and friend,



**Rev. Morris Dutch
Locum Minister**

Parish Register

Death

It is with sadness we intimate the death of **Mr. Harry Miller**, 66 Gallowhill Road, Lenzie.

Prayers and thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Church Flowers

We wish to thank everyone who has continued to donate to the flower fund at this time. We cannot deliver church flowers to anyone at present, but please be reassured that your donations will be put to good use once all restrictions are lifted. 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**

Church Re-opened on Sunday 27 September

Services will last approximately **40 minutes** and ScotGov guidelines remind us that numbers are limited to **50 people** in total. To avoid the disappointment of anyone arriving at church to find that our quota of 50 people has been met, we will adopt a **booking system** whereby anyone wishing to attend church on any given Sunday should contact the church office (**Tel: 0141 775 1166 before 13.00 on the Thursday of that week** giving their name, the number of people attending with them (partners or household groups only please) plus their contact details. Should the church quota be full for that week, your name, etc will be entered onto the list for the next consecutive Sunday. Should you not wish to attend on that Sunday, we would be most grateful if you could again contact the church office to let us know.

When you arrive at church, please remember at all times:

- **To “socially distance” at a distance of 2 metres**
- To use Sanitising Hand gel as you enter the sanctuary (this will be provided for you)
- To use your mask in the sanctuary (unless a medical condition prevents this)
- To give your name and contact details to the duty elder to enter on the attendance register
- To place any offerings that you might want to make in the plate at the entrance door
- To sit only in designated “locations” which are designed to accommodate, individuals, couples or family groups and to which you will be guided as you enter

- To remain seated as there will be **NO** Congregational singing, although you may bring your own bibles for your own use only
- To indicate to a duty elder should you require to use the toilet or if you are feeling unwell
- To enter and exit using the signed one-way system as requested
- Ensure that where children and young people are part of our worshipping community, they should sit in their family groups when in the sanctuary



Bell Ringers

We are pleased to intimate that the bells will be rung on alternate Sundays until further notice by Leslie Bevens and Jen Biggans



British Summer Time Ends

British Summer Time ends on Sunday 25th 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.*

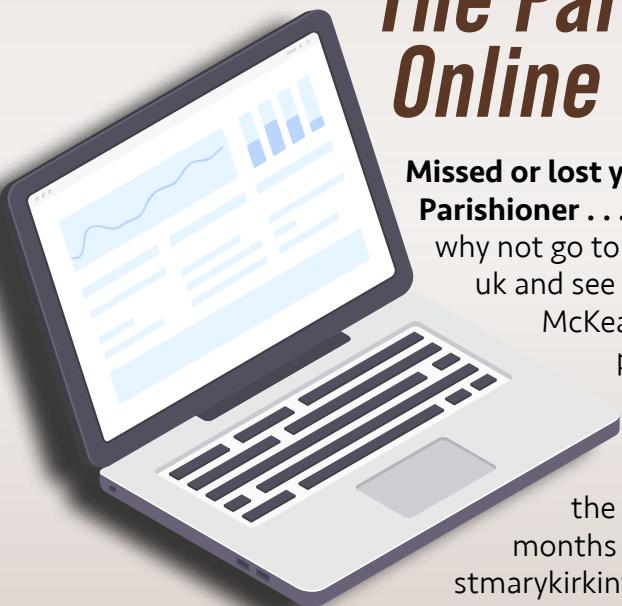
*It's time for reminiscing,
Recalling summer days,
For sharing hope and happy
thoughts
In many quiet ways.
A time of relaxation,
Of fellowship and joy,
Creating autumn memories,
That winter can't destroy.*



THE PARISHIONER

Copy for the November magazine should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 25 October**. If there are any changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly.

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@stmarykirkintilloch.org.uk and we will put these on the News page of the website.

Church Office

The secretary, Mrs Denise Japp is available in the office Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 1.00 pm and may be the first point of contact for general enquiries. Denise 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**

Please note . . .

Although we continue to print Organisation details in the magazine, please note that the Church Halls are closed until further notice.

Don't 'Go it alone'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

Why singing in church is the same as shouting at the pub

How dangerous is it to sing in church, when it comes to spreading coronavirus? About the same as it is to speak loudly in a pub. So say researchers at the University of Bristol. They have found that speaking loudly and singing generate about the same amounts of aerosol droplet – tiny particles of liquid – which are thought to carry Covid-19. Of course, the louder you sing or speak, the more the aerosol droplets.

Nursery Update

The children in the nursery have settled well. Children and families continue to adapt to the 'new normal' and have been incredibly supportive of change. Children are enjoying the use of the extended outdoor space and new shelters. Packed lunch with friends is going down a treat and everyone seems to be embracing the longer days.



Our numbers are increasing, and we will shortly have 42 children.

The groups moved areas earlier this month following a further sanitisation of the halls. This has given the children the opportunity to work in a new environment, with different resources. In fact, Hallowe'en parties will take place in these 'bubbles' – spooky times ahead!

The theme for this month is Autumn – changes in the environment. Letter of the month is 'H' for Hallowe'en.

Learning summaries will be issued to families this month as we are unable to have Parents' Evening.

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convenor

Is our facemask making your skin break out?

Face masks are giving us skin complaints. In fact, so many of us are now suffering that the complaint has been given its own name: 'maskne'.

The causes are obvious. Our breath is warm and moist, and every time we exhale into our masks this humid air gets trapped. Masks move, and so we have friction. Added to that is the unpleasant fact that our saliva is actually teeming with bacteria (with more bugs per square inch than even a loo seat!).

Acne mechanica is the medical term for 'maskne'. With all that bacteria being trapped and rubbed against our nose and chin, no wonder 'mask breakouts' are rising dramatically.

Stress is another cause for skin complaints, and the pandemic has given many of us huge stress this year. We may face crippling anxiety over job security, finances, the health of loved ones, social isolation, or even being trapped in an abusive household. No wonder our faces are breaking out in a rash!

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept “just in case” and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

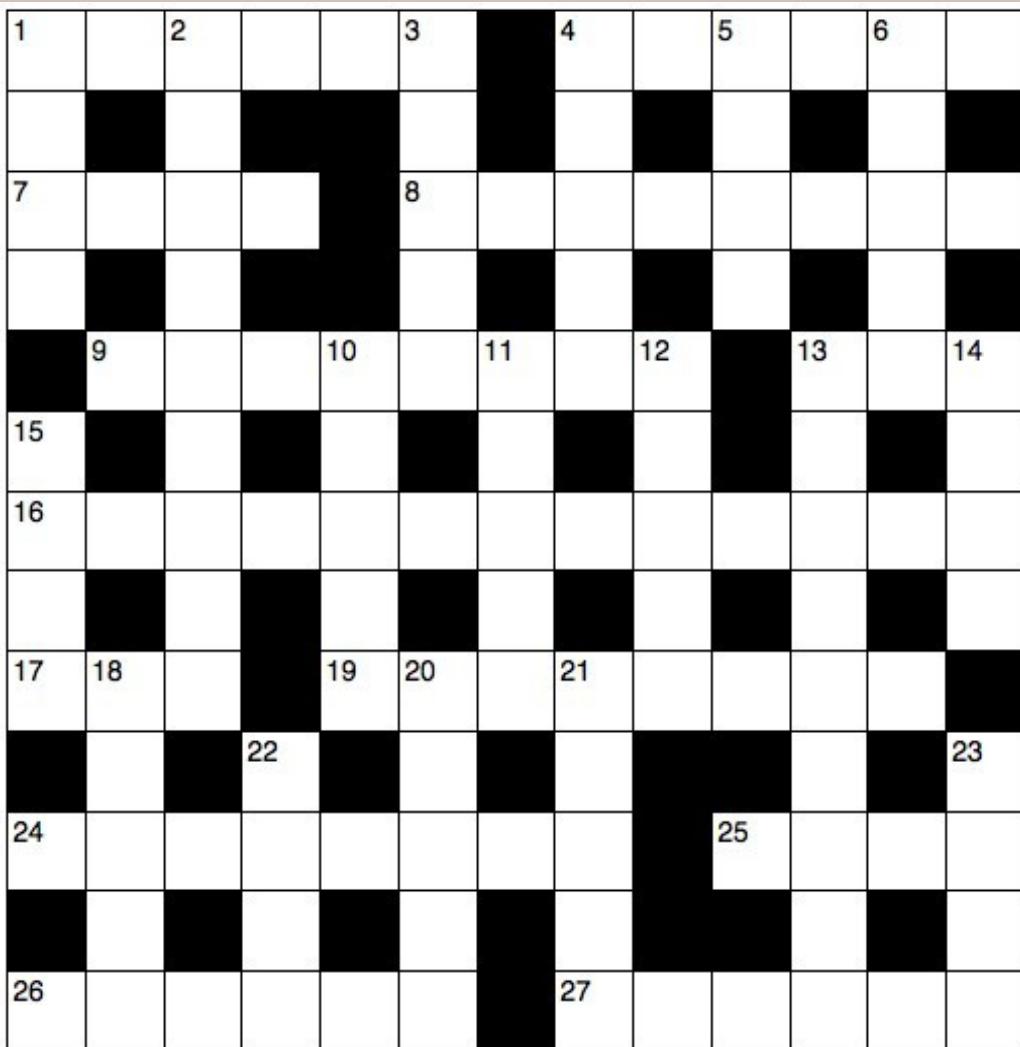
I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can’t bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can’t keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare

smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that they all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him. Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking. My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts’ tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden’s shed.

**Your loving uncle,
Eustace**

Crossword



Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2

Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the

greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the — '(Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)

25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)

26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

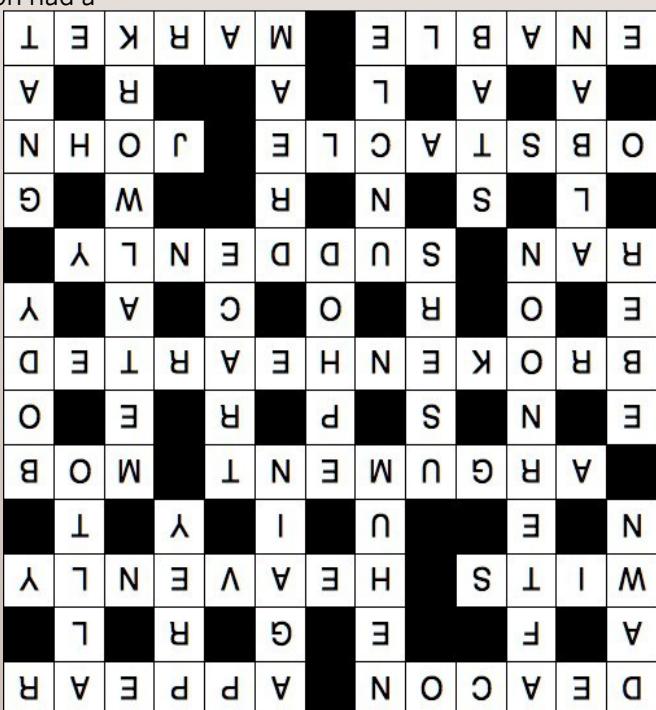
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount. every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the difference between those who follow me and those who only say they do.

Church Organisations

| Contact list 2019.20 | Organisation | Location | Time | Contact |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Sunday Worship | Church | 11am | Rev Morris Dutch |
| | 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 | Joanne McDonald |
| | Ladies Bowling | Main Hall | 1.30-3.30pm | Cathie Devine |
| | Running/Walking Club | Session House | 7pm | Bob Brown |
| Tuesday | Nursery | Church Halls | 8.30-11.45am | Joanne McDonald |
| | Ladies Badminton | Main Hall | 1.15-3.15pm | Ann 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 | Moira MacNeill |
| Wednesday | Nursery | Church Halls | 8.30-11.45am | Joanne McDonald |
| | Wednesday Welcome | Session House | 10-11.20am | Mary Stirling |
| | Wednesday Service | Church | 11.30-12noon | Rev Morris Dutch |
| | 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 | Joanne McDonald |
| | Flower Circle (Alternate Weeks) | Mid Hall | 7.30-9pm | Elizabeth Walker |
| Friday | Nursery | Church Halls | 8.30-11.45am | Joanne McDonald |
| | Listener's Circle (Monthly) | Session House (church) | 2-4pm | Edith Dunn |
| | Friday Fellowship (Alternate Weeks) | Mid Hall | 7.30-9pm | Moira 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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