

# THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE

PSALM 118:24



# St Mary's Parish Church

Kirkintilloch Cowgate **G66 1IT** 

Locum Minister: Rev. Morris M. Dutch

0141 357 2286

Session Clerk: **Gordon Morrison** 0141 578 5887

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Treasurer: John M. Thomson 0141 777 8231

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Church Website: www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk



Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch







# My Dear Friends . . .

# Driving over to Kirkintilloch last Thursday morning my attention was taken by the beauty of the countryside.

Travelling this road frequently there is a familiarity with journey and scenery, but last Thursday morning everything on the journey seemed different! Same road and views etc. but that morning, there was a transformation in the countryside that caught my attention in a renewed way. Trees were blossoming, flowers were in abundance and proudly displaying their colours and letting the world know that they were growing with a new life and purpose. Yes!, all of a sudden things seemed changed from the dullness of Winter to the brightness of Spring! Sun was shining and it was a good day to appreciate the wonder and beauty of God's Transformation!!! The creation. change from one form to another and being something else! May we give thanks to our God for His faithful transformative hand guiding the cycle of the seasons vear after year.

It has been a full year since the Coronavirus pandemic took a stranglehold on our nation and our lives. Right now I'm sure it is our prayer and wish that this Spring will herald a transformation of our world back to some kind of normality of life and health as the various vaccines are administered. Friends, isn't it is so true that last year has not been a good one? Some of us may have felt isolated, lonely and suffered the restrictions of not seeing family and friends. Our hope is that soon there will be a positive transformation in world health that will lead us to a new day of restored freedom, joy and happiness.

Yes, it's awesome to appreciate the transforming God in Creation, such wonder and blessing that sustains and enriches our lives. Marvellous, but may we also grasp the love, grace and mercy of God related to our salvation and His sanctifying work in us, changing us to be more like His son Jesus Christ.

God who loves us and His creation

is always moving and changing things for His glory and our blessing! One Bible verse that gives me so much confidence and assurance is found in Paul's letter to the Philippians (Ch.1 - v6) where he says: "And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus."

What a promise friends? Everything has its origin in God! He works until His objectives and plans are complete! God is with us guiding and weaving our lives for His good will and eternal purposes.

Friends there is no better place to be or assurance to be had and live by!

Wishing you all every blessing...

Your Minister and friend... W()YY

# From the Interim Moderator . . . General Assembly 2021 May 22nd - 27th, 2021

This year the Kirk will meet again 'online' via Zoom in General Assembly. I anticipate that by the time you are receiving this copy of *The Parishioner*, discussions and debate will be well underway. Some of you may be subscribers to Life and Work, whose current May edition gives a foretaste of some of the hot topics that will be considered this year. Of particular concern to many of us in the Church is the target that the Church has set of having only six hundred ministries by 2025. That is, forecasting suggests that there will be around six hundred full-time ministries across Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministry Development Staff by the middle of this decade. Presbyteries will be required to plan for these posts in a fresh round of Presbytery planning, starting shortly

after the General Assembly. In effect this will probably mean that after the General Assembly of this year it will be unlikely that any congregation which becomes vacant will automatically be allowed to call a new Minister.

The figure of six hundred comes about for three main reasons. Firstly, because it is projected that over 400 ministers will reach retirement age in the next few years. That represents about 60% of the Ministers currently in charges. Secondly, recruitment has been lower than the number of retirals for many years, a difference of about 20 people per annum which builds, over time, into a significant reduction. Finally, financial projections strongly suggest that a diminishing Church will only be able to afford around six hundred ministries. We can afford no more unless something changes.

Therefore I am delighted to express my gratitude to your Nominating Committee whose members have worked prayerfully and enthusiastically to present their recommendation that Rev. Dr. Ruth H.B. Morrison, M.A., B.D., Ph.D. be invited to preach as Sole Nominee on 30/05/21 at 11am. in St. Mary's.

# Vacancy Business relating to the Sole Nominee Preaching on 30th May at 11.00am

The Presbytery of Glasgow has allowed us to proceed with these arrangements under special Covid Vacancy Protocols, and what follows I hope clearly sets out how the arrangements will operate.

Members and adherents who have registered and whose names are listed on the Electoral Register/Roll will be able to vote using the Ballot Paper enclosed with this edition of the church magazine having:

 Physically attended the Service on 30/05/21 at 11am (book to attend this Service in the normal manner);

- Viewed the Service online which will be available from 6pm via our Website and YouTube channel on 30/05/21;
- Attended a viewing of the Service replayed in the Church on Wednesday 02/06/21 at 11am (book to attend this Service in the normal manner);
- requested a DVD of the Service or an Audio CD of the Service to allow them to watch or listen by contacting the Session Clerk, not later than 02/06/21 at 11am (Gordon Morrison 3 0141 578 5887.)

Immediately after members/adherents have attended or viewed/ listened to this Service, a vote on whether or not Rev. Dr. Ruth H. B. Morrison, M.A., B.D., Ph.D. should be appointed as the new minister of this congregation of Kirkintilloch St. Mary's Church will be opened.

For those attending in Church on 30/05/21 and 02/06/21 completed Ballot Papers (please remember to bring them with you!) should be placed in the Ballot Box(es) as you leave. Those watching online or viewing a DVD or listening to a CD should return the printed version to the Session Clerk or scan and send an email version to him (Gordon Morrison morrisgo@sky.com) by 5pm on 05/06/21 at the latest. Every vote returned must have a unique number written on it. Each person eligible to vote will receive their unique number printed on their ballot paper prior to the opening of the vote.

Votes returned without a unique number will not be counted. The unique numbers will not be linked to how votes are cast. All votes must be cast or returned not later than Saturday 05/06/21 at 5pm. The Ballot Box(es) will be opened and counted on Sunday 06/06/21 and the result declared online and intimated to the congregation as soon as is practicable.

Thereafter, assuming the vote is a positive one; arrangements will be put in place to allow members/adherents to sign 'The Call Notice.' Further details of the arrangements for signing 'The Call' will be advised later.

#### Vacancy Business relating to the New Manse

We took possession of the keys to the new Manse at Braes of Yett on 29/04/21. Presbytery has approved the plans for the garage conversion into an additional room to comply with the General Trustees New Manse Guidelines. We have applied for a Building Warrant from East Dunbartonshire Council and once this has been received the builders expect to complete the works within 10 working days. Thereafter some other minor internal works will be undertaken (i.e. alarm installation, floor coverings, window coverings, TV aerial, phone installation, garden shed).

Should you have ANY questions, please contact Gordon Morrison, our Session Clerk (\*\* 0141 578 5887 \*\* morrisgo@sky.com) or myself and we will do our best to help you.

Rev. Ian Taylor, Interim Moderator Minister, Springfield Cambridge Parish Church, Bishopbriggs 3 0141 772 1540

1Taylor@churchofscotland.org.uk

# Booking Arrangements for Services on Sunday, 20th May and Wednesday, 2nd June

Bookings for Sunday 30th May - preaching by Rev Dr Ruth Morrison as sole nominee - may be made in the usual manner, by contacting the church office from Monday 24th May. Once all of our 54 'locations' are filled, then, for safety reasons, we must deem our church to be full.

Anyone not able to attend the service on Sunday 30th May, but wishing to attend the viewing of the 'recording' of the Sunday service on Wednesday 2nd June, can also make a booking by contacting the church office from Monday 24th May, where their name will be entered on a separate attendance list.

I trust that this clarifies how we will proceed regarding bookings for these two services.

**John Pears** 

## Recording Services

The church service was recorded live today, 23rd May and will be next Sunday also, 30th May. This will be done from the balcony only so if anyone does not wish to appear on the recording please ask to sit towards the rear of the Sanctuary.

Notices will be on view in vestibule if recording is taking place on that day.

**David Tinto** 

# Parish Register

#### **Funerals**

Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life ...'
'Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted'
Jesus said 'The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God'.

It is with sadness we intimate the deaths of:

Mrs Margo McLachlan, 10 Washington Road, Kirkintilloch Iain Kettings, 14 Drumhill, Kirkintilloch

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families at this sad time.

Kay Pollock would like to take this opportunity to thank all for the many cards and best withes received on the occasion of her 90th birthday.



Copy for the **Summer** issue (which includes June / July / August) should be sent by e-mail to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 18th June.** If there are any changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly.

#### Church Gardens

To those of you who normally tend the gardens – and all who admire it – the grass is being cut and edged by a Gardener. Beds have been hoed and weeded by various church folks. The pots on the Church steps have had the daffodils turned down in order that the other plants can get a bit of sunshine!! Litter is also being picked up now and again by some kindly folks. Thank you one and all. Garry Burns

#### Food Bank

Now that St. Mary's is open again, we can gather foodstuff for the Food Bank. Please bring your donations of food and toiletries to the church on Sundays and put them in the box marked Food Bank. Many thanks for your continuing support to help local people in crisis.

**Rev Katy Owen** 

## **Prayer for Pentecost**

Loving Father God, Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit;

Your Spirit who knows no restrictions or barriers;
Your Spirit who can reach us and be with us and in us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances;
Your Spirit who comforts and heals and empowers us to live with confidence that, ultimately, all shall be well:

Your Spirit who connects us, through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of lesus.

Because of Jesus' victory over death we have hope and life forever.

Thank you, loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

# Church Flowers

We wish to thank everyone who has continued to donate to the flower fund at this time. We still 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



## Young Church

We celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 23rd May this year. Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the church.

The day when Jesus fulfilled His promise of sending to his followers the Spirit of God to be with them and in them. This coming of God as the Holy Spirit was marked by the sounds and signs of God's power - a power which enabled them to carry out the task of taking the good news to the ends of the earth. God's Spirit still empowers Christians today to share and show the love of God and bring people into His kingdom. This promise is for young and old, men and women and 'for your children' (see Acts 2 verses 17-18 and 39). The story is found in Acts chapter 2.

The story takes place in the city of Jerusalem, not long after Jesus had been raised from the dead. The disciples had all gathered in the city, as Jesus had told them. They were waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised to them. On the day of Pentecost, they were all together in one room. And suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty tornado. It filled the whole house where they were meeting. And flames of fire came down from heaven and rested just above the head of each person in the room. And when this happened, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages—even languages they had never spoken before!

It caused a big commotion—such a big commotion that other people came running to see what was going on. And when they saw and heard the Christians speaking in all these different languages, they were confused. "How can this be?" they asked. "We come from many different countries, and we all speak many different languages, and yet each of us can understand what these people are saying."

And then Peter stepped forward. He explained to

the crowd that Jesus of Nazareth—whom they had crucified barely two months before—had been raised from the dead, and was now up in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God. He told them that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for—sent by God for the salvation of the world.

Many of the people in the crowd were deeply moved. They asked Peter, "What should we do?" He told them to turn away from their sins, to

turn to God, and to be baptized. And the Bible tells us that 3000 people were baptized and added to the church that day.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to have been there? To have felt and heard and experienced first-hand God's Spirit at work. To have been part of the new thing that God was creating that day – this new community of faith: the church.

Well, we might not have been there in Jerusalem all those years ago, but we are part of it, aren't we? We too are part of the church—the family of God—that came into being on that day in Jerusalem so long ago.

And just as God's Spirit filled and inspired those first Christians, so God also fills and inspires all of us who are open to the coming of His Holy Spirit. Praise God!

#### **Pentecost Activities at Home**

- After reading the story from Acts 2:1-41 in your Bible or your children's story Bible together, read it again and use your voices to make the following sound effects: whooshing wind, crackling flames, and babbling voices. End with a round of celebratory applause!
- Wonder about the story together by asking: What part of the story amazes you the most?
- Tell each other about a person who has taught you about Jesus and what you learned from them.
- Decorate (or have your children decorate!) a room or an area in your house to celebrate the birth of the church. If you have got flame-coloured streamers or balloons, great. If not, that is okay too. Use whatever you have on hand. Don't forget to sing Happy Birthday!
- What is a birthday without a cake (or something else that is sweet to eat)? Make a cake and decorate with some strawberries (to symbolise flames) on top!

- Explain to your kids that, like the wind, we cannot see the Holy Spirit. Make pinwheels and invite your kids to blow into them as you talk about how wind works. https://teachbesideme.com/how-to-make-pinwheels-with-templates
- Go for a walk and see who can find signs of the wind at work. Talk about ways the Holy Spirit is at work too!

### Picture to Print and Colour-in

(Remember to share on the church Facebook page as we love to see your pictures)

# Nursery Update

Our Nursery re-opened on 19th April after the Easter break. The children were all delighted to be back! Nary's Murson

We welcomed Charlene McKeown as a temporary Early Years Worker and trust she will enjoy her time with us.

Sandra Hay who has been treasurer to the nursery for many years, has retired. We owe Sandra a huge thank you for all the work she has done over the years to keep the Nursery financially secure. We hope she enjoys her retirement and all the extra rounds of golf that she will now have time for!!

All staff members have been issued with lateral flow tests and will test themselves for Covid regularly. However, as restrictions continue to be in place a Powerpoint presentation has been created for parents to replace Parents' Evening. We look forward to a time when we can have face to face meetings again.

We are planning to go ahead with graduations for our preschool children. These will be held within each bubble and are planned for week beginning 14th June. This is always a special event and I am sure everyone will be looking forward to a different form of graduation!

### **Treasurer's Report** January to March 2021

#### Offering

| JANUARY<br>FEBRUARY<br>MARCH | OPEN PLATE 60.00 0.00 0.00 | FREEWILL<br>OFFERING<br>390.00<br>1095.00<br>842.00 | GIFT AID<br>APPLICABLE<br>FREEWILL<br>OFFERING<br>940.00<br>990.00<br>1372.00 | STANDING<br>ORDERS<br>4741.00<br>5013.00<br>5943.00 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| TOTAL                        | 60.00                      | 2327.00   | 3302.00   | 15697.00  |

Total for the Quarter 21386.00

#### Comparable Figures for January to March 2020

| Jan-20<br>Feb-20<br>Mar-20 | OPEN<br>PLATE<br>344.45<br>292.60<br>214.70 | FREEWILL<br>OFFERING<br>1026.00<br>1412.00<br>999.70 | GIFT AID<br>APPLICABLE<br>FREEWILL<br>OFFERING<br>1811.50<br>2064.50<br>1512.50 | STANDING<br>ORDERS<br>4342.00<br>3755.00<br>4556.00 |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| TOTAL                      | 851.75                                      | 3437.70  | 5388.50   | 12653.00  |

Total for the Quarter 22330.95

I continue to receive some generous donations towards Church Funds. Thank you.

As most of the donors prefer to remain anonymous, I offer some detail for March and April:

| Donations to Parishioner          | 212.00 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Donations to Fabric Fund          | 40.00  |
| Donation towards Vacancy Expenses | 200.00 |
| Donation towards Vacancy Expenses | 163.12 |
| Donation towards Expenses         | 564.00 |
| Donation towards Expenses         | 300.00 |
| Donation towards Expenses         | 100.00 |

We also continue to receive regular periodic donations to our Special Projects Fund.

Thank you to everyone



# to the new St Mary's Manse

I am pleased to say we received the keys to our new Manse on Thursday 29th April. This is a newly built Barratt house at the Braes O' Yetts development situated at the top of Waterside Road.

The property comprises on the ground floor, a dining kitchen, a lounge, utility room and toilet. Upstairs are a bathroom and 4 bedrooms, one with en suite facilities. Once the garage conversion is completed there will be an additional public room / study.

The property has an enclosed garden to the rear and an open outlook to the front across the Merkland Nature Reserve towards the Campsie Fells.

The Manse Committee will move forward with the garage conversion plus arranging carpeting and various other jobs to ensure the property is an attractive and welcoming home to our new Minister.

We hope to make available online a short video walk around for your information.

**CHARLES HAY, The Manse Committee** 



## Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so, they waited – on Him, and for Him.

They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

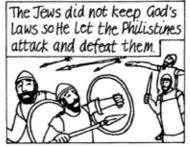
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It can be read in the Bible in Isamuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

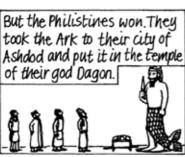
#### A short story from the Bible

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them





The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.

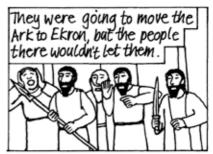


















# The Rectory

#### St James the Least

#### My dear Nephew Darren

On reflection, inviting your parishioners to join in our annual Rose Queen celebrations may not have been entirely wise. It was cheering to see that your people arrived on carnival floats, although it was less happy that some of them should have chosen to dress up as coronavirus bugs, full of those nasty spike proteins that startled some of the timid residents in our community.

Once the procession started, your drivers did not seem to have grasped the fact that the vehicles were expected to tour the village slowly, for the benefit of spectators, instead of treating it as a competitive race. I noticed that numbers on your floats gradually diminished as they were flung off while careering round corners. Those who had a walk of several miles back home while dressed as pirates and ballerinas had my sympathy. Our tea ladies, however, were less sympathetic when one of your hay bales was spun off on a tight corner and went through our Women's Guild like a row of skittles.

The local police normally use the afternoon to do a little gentle point duty while drinking gallons of sweet tea; this year, the number of tickets issued

for speeding, and not social distancing, should boost our constabulary's figures for the next 12 months.

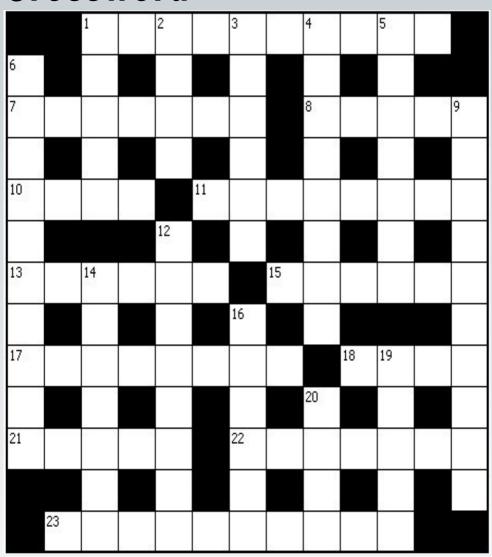
I must concede that the group who decided to make a papier mache swan for one of your floats showed great imagination. It was such a pity that they did not know a 15-foot-high swan would be driven under a 12-foot bridge. The drama of its emergence, headless, was only exceeded by the following float which appeared to have a group of Brownies being savaged by a demented, bodiless, vulture.

I am sure that some of your people's offers to help this year's Princesses campaign for election for Rose Queen next year were well-meant. However, I don't think our parish really wants a full-blown social media campaign for next year's Rose Queen, and so we will have to decline your offer.

The crowning of the Rose Queen is always a high point to the afternoon, but could I point out that the 'gold' crown is only metal foil, and the 'diamond' sceptre is only a piece of glass? So, whoever it was in your crowd who walked off with them, please may we have them back before next year?

Your loving uncle, Eustace

# Crossword



#### Across

1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10) 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7) 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5) 10 Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4) 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8) 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)

- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

#### **Down**

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the

- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the '
  (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

| and General Secretary of the |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |       |   |    |        |
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| Contact list<br>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<br>(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                      | Session House | 2-4pm        | Edith Dunn                  |
|                         | (Monthly)                              | (church)      | _ 12         |                             |
|                         | Friday Fellowship<br>(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

