



St Mary's Parish Church

Kirkintilloch

October 2021

THE PARISHIONER

Every generous
act of giving,
with every
perfect gift,
is from
above,
coming
down
from the
Father of
lights,
with whom
there is
no variation
or shadow
due to change.



James 1: verse 17



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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st mary's kirkintilloch



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Pastoral Letter . . .

Hello everyone,

It has been great over recent weeks to explore the letter of James on a Sunday and I hope that you have enjoyed it as much as me. It is a short book and although criticized by Martin Luther, who described it as an 'epistle of straw,' I think it has some wise words; not least in reminding us that faith and action go hand in hand. As the letter unfolds, we get an insight into what the church, at its best, should and could look like and that boils down to our relationship with God and with each other. As we drew the series to an end, so we turned our thoughts to James' closing words of encouragement to pray no matter how we are feeling or what's going on, with a final word to remember to pray for those who have

wandered.

And so we did – we prayed for those in the St Mary's church family who are happy, we prayed for those who are in trouble, we prayed for those who are sick and we prayed for those who haven't been inside the building for some time:

*We pray for those who
used to worship here
in person,
But haven't been for
some time,
Those who are
housebound, infirm
and unable,
Those who became
disillusioned with the
church,
Those who have simply
got out of the habit,
And those who feel like
they have outgrown
their need of you, O
God.*

*We bring them to mind,
And pray your presence
with them,
And ask that we might
find ways to show
them that they are
loved, missed and
welcome.*

Six weeks into my time as your new Minister, I am delighted to be learning new names and making connections and I look forward to getting to know you all better as the weeks, months and years unfold. One of the ways I can do that is on a Sunday morning as we gather for worship, but I am aware that some of us are missing. I know that there are lots of reasons why folks do not come to church and I realised this afternoon that I should have added those who are afraid and

not ready to return to our prayer. Whatever your reason, please be assured that you are loved and missed and that a warm welcome does await you and that it really would be lovely to have you back.

For, as the new hymn we sang this morning reminds us: ***I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!***

So, let's encourage and uphold one another in prayer and, to those who haven't been in a while, if you are able ... haste ye back!

With love and blessings,

Ruth

P.S. To those for whom it is physically impossible to worship in person, please remember that you are not forgotten and that worship is available online; and do drop me an e-mail or give me a call if you would like a wee visit – it would be lovely to visit you at home.

Parish Register

Marriages

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

September 11 Lindsay Brown and Ryan Holmes

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'*.

September 23 Mrs Jane Jennings, 46 Whitehill Avenue, Stepps

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane's family at this sad time.

Change of Address

Mrs Barbara McArthur formerly of Oxford Street, Kirkintilloch, now residing in Westbank Care Home, 28 Titchfield Road, Troon.

Transfer of Member


Mrs Sandra Shirra has transferred to St Columba's Parish Church, Airdrie and we wish her God's blessing in her new church.

Treasurer's Message

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our Church recently through Offering, Fees, Charges and Donations etc; and for whatever purpose you have generously given.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

John Thomson



Church Flowers

Hopefully sometime soon flowers will be displayed in church and delivered once again before Covid-19 prevented us from doing this. Thank you for continued donations and future donations would be gratefully received. Please know 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 Office

The secretary, Mrs Denise Japp is available in the office Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. 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



Copy for the November magazine should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 31 October**.

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.

Session Report

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 22nd September – our first meeting with Ruth as Moderator. The meeting was once again held online via Zoom and was particularly well attended. We had a very busy agenda for the meeting and I have noted below some of the key discussion topics:

Fabric –

work has started on the upgrade to the hall heating system. The majority of the internal work in the halls has been completed and work has now started in the car park to install the pipe work that will connect the gas boilers in the church to the heating system in our halls.

Finance –

The Church of Scotland is promoting a “National Giving Day” scheme during September and October. More details will follow, but Session agreed that we would hold our National Giving Day on Sunday 24th October. This will be an opportunity for us all to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God.

Special Services –

It has been with much regret that, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to hold funeral services in our Sanctuary. At our meeting on Wednesday, the Kirk Session agreed that the necessary arrangements can now be made, allowing these services to resume safely.

September also saw the first wedding in our Sanctuary for more than two years and it is hoped that in the coming weeks and months we will also be able to celebrate baptisms as part of our worship services.

There are other signs that Church life is returning to something that we would consider to be “more normal”.

It was a delight to be able to welcome Young Church back last month. Our young folks continue to meet for worship at the start of our Sunday Services, before going out for their age-related activities.

Guides and Brownies have also restarted their weekly meetings in the Church halls and KMVC have commenced a weekly choir practice in the sanctuary. All of these activities are more difficult to organise because of the requirements placed on us by Covid-19 restrictions. I am very grateful to everyone who is helping to make these activities possible again.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for November, so further updates to follow in due course.

Gordon Morrison
Session Clerk

Fairtrade Update

Thanks to everyone who supported us in the early days of lockdown when we were able to deliver orders and sell all our stock - nothing wasted!



As there is no date yet for us to re-open the stall, we are planning to sell some Traidcraft Christmas cards.

Over the next few weeks, please listen out for intimations and check the church website where we hope to display available stock.

Recycling

Please note Nursery are very happy to continue receiving the following items for recycling, but no longer collect Bras.

Plastic Bottle Tops, Ink Cartridges, Spectacles, Telephones, Stamps, Batteries, Empty Mascara Dispensers.

Recording Services and Live Streaming

Currently I am recording the service on Sunday at 11.00am then editing and putting it online later in the day.

It is hoped to start live streaming the service in the near future.

To this end I am looking for volunteers interested in the technology to assist me in reaching out to those who, for whatever reason, are not able to attend Church on a Sunday.



Please contact me on 07510 307733.

David Tinto

Hall and Church Lets

For the past two and a half years, John Pears has undertaken the role of facilities coordinator on behalf of the Kirk Session, with the primary responsibility for managing our hall (and Church) letting process. John has advised me of his intention to step down from this role, although he will continue his work, with others, to look at how we can safely make our premises more available for use.

Our thanks go to John for all of the work he has been doing – and continues to do – on our behalf.

At this time, any enquiries with regard to hall or Church lets should be directed to the Church Office, or to me.

Gordon Morrison
Session Clerk

Nursery Update

We welcomed a few new children to nursery during September and they have settled well. We now have 34 children with a few more due to start next month. Hot lunches cooked by Katie, are continuing to prove popular with all the children.

Home grown potatoes, onions and carrots continue to feature on the menu and enjoyed by all! The winter menu will begin after the October break.



Following discussion over the summer we now have a new management structure to replace the Head of Centre post. Elaine Connor took up the new 0.6 Strategic Manager post and 0.4 Operational post with Joanne MacDonald taking up the Operational Manager post on a 0.6 basis. We wish them both well as they settle into their revised roles.

As the October break approaches and the first term ends, thanks are due to all the staff who continue to work very hard under strange conditions. Well done everyone!

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener



Bell Ringers

Church bells will be rung on alternate Sundays until further notice by Leslie Bevens and Jen Biggans.

Presbytery Report

After many months of meeting via Zoom, it was good that we were able to meet in person in St Mary's Church on Tuesday 14 September, attended by approximately 200 people. The meeting commenced with the Sacrament of Holy Communion, after which Presbytery Business was attended to and we then enjoyed a video presented by Martin Johnstone about COP26.

Garry Burns, Presbytery Elder

Teabag Appeal

If you are willing, please save and dry your Teabags for me. More information in November Parishioner. Thank you.

Garry Burns

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday 24th October, which is also the day when we will participate in the Church of Scotland's "National Giving Day".

Donations for Harvest will be gratefully received and should be brought to Church on the Sunday morning. Donations can either be produce or, if you prefer, a monetary donation. (A monetary donation may be more convenient, if you are unable to attend Church on the day).

Suggestions for produce are:

Cereals;
Tinned Soup / meat / fish / vegetables / fruit;
Tea / Coffee / Sugar;
Rice / Pasta / Pulses.

NO FRESH PRODUCE PLEASE.

We plan to support our usual charities if possible - East Dunbartonshire Foodbank, St Rollox Asylum Seekers and Lodging House Mission.

Further details will follow nearer the time, both in terms of Harvest and our National Giving Day.

How should we read the bible

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

St Luke the Evangelist – linking the sacred and the profane

There are three things to bear in mind when you pick up your Bible:

First, approach it expectantly. The Bible is not just another book – it is the Word of God, given to us by God to help us and instruct us. The Psalmist declared, 'Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' (Psalm 119:105). Therefore, as you open your Bible, pray that the Holy Spirit (who inspired the writers of the Bible) will illumine its meaning to you. Read it carefully, not just hurrying through it as you would a novel.

Secondly, read your Bible systematically. Aim to read about three chapters a day: begin at Genesis and work through the Old Testament. Begin in Matthew and work through the New Testament; begin in Psalms and work through Psalms and Proverbs. Simply continue these three cycles, and it will ensure that your diet of Bible reading each day will be varied and include a bit of everything!

Finally, read your Bible obediently. Be ready to obey the truth that God has for you in its pages. God gave the Bible to us 'for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16), and the Bible can change our lives as we read it and obey its teachings every day.

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' – my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

Calling All Crafters

We hope to begin our craft afternoons again in the Session House Monday 11th October at 2pm. We have lots of ideas for Christmas and look forward to renewing our fellowship with all of you who joined us two years ago and would welcome any new people. Tea and coffee will be provided with something nice to eat.

If Crafting is not 'your thing' we would still love to see you, so feel free to come for a chat and a cup of tea. The room will have been thoroughly cleaned before the meeting and it is big enough to socially distance.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact either Jen Biggans 0141 578 0586 or Fiona Leishman 0141 578 5482. This will let us know how many people to expect and allow us to contact you if there is a problem.

Twiddle Muffs

Those of you who previously came to the craft afternoons will remember we knitted Twiddle Muffs for the Alzheimer Society. However due to Covid-19 this handover did not happen.

Kirkintilloch and District Soroptimists also were busy knitting and they very kindly donated them to us.

During the summer months I distributed and delivered to Springfield Nursing Home, Lennoxton, Lillyburn Care Home, Birdston and Campsie View Nursing Home, Kirkintilloch.

All Homes were delighted to receive them.

Sandra Burns



British Summer Time Ends

British Summer Time ends on Sunday 31st 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 Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not

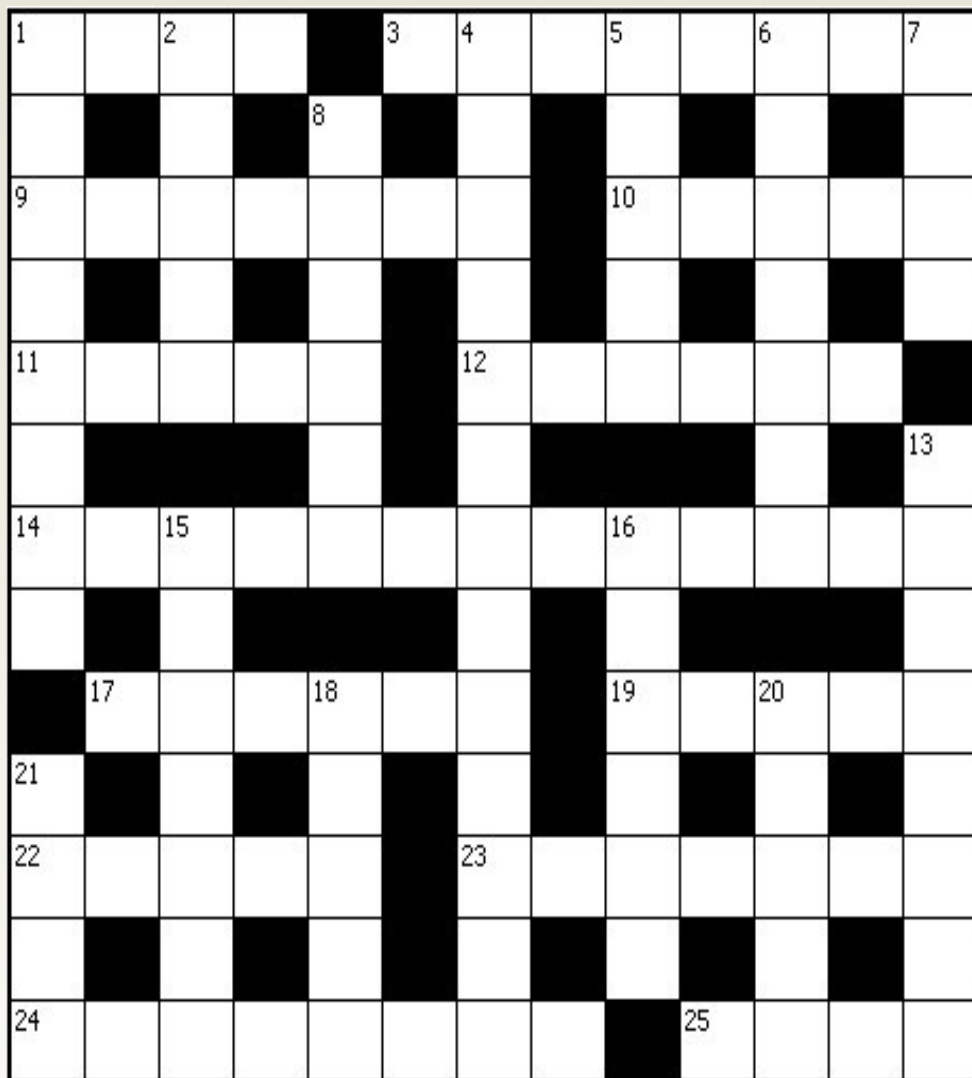
have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmount was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)

9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)

10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)

11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)

12 Listen (anag.) (6)

- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
 25 Note (anag.) (4)

- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)

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Contact list 2019.20	Organisation	Location	Time	Contact
Sunday	Sunday Worship	Church	11am	Rev Dr Ruth Morrison
	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	Moir 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	
	Over 50's Badminton	Main Hall	1.30-3.30pm	Anne Allan
	Rainbows	Mid Hall	6.30-7.30pm	Olivia Fotheringham
	Brownies	Main Hall	6.30-7.45pm	
	Vestry	Church Vestry	7-9pm	Church Office
	Running/Walking Club	Session House	7pm	Bob Brown
	Guides	Main Hall	7.30-9.30pm	Emma Lowe
	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	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



Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee