

In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God.
He was in the
beginning with God.

John 1: verses 1-2



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
NOVEMBER 2021

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

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PASTORAL LETTER . . .

Hello everyone,

The clocks have just turned back and, if you are anything like me, you will spend the next few days looking at the time on various watches, clocks, phones and screens around the house and wonder if it's right! Sometimes it can be difficult to discern the time but as COP26 (Conference of the Parties) begins in Glasgow, everything I am reading, and hearing, suggests that the time for action is NOW.

There is a real sense of urgency in the air as leaders and delegates gather to discuss the climate emergency and as protesters and pilgrims rally to remind us that there is no plan b – planet earth is our home and we aren't getting another. Now is the time for the nations of the world to set ambitious targets and turn them into firm plans to realise carbon neutrality and stop the damaging and deadly effects of climate change before it's too late. Indeed, in a special edition supplement of *Life and Work*, Environmental Chaplain, David Coleman believes that COP26 is 'humanity's best last chance.'

Make no mistake about it – as I write this on Halloween, this is not scaremongering. The future facing our planet and all life upon it will be catastrophic, impacting the poorest first, if changes are not made to halt rising temperatures and we should care, not just as fellow citizens of earth but as Christians.

I like the five marks of mission and was delighted to see the inclusion of the fifth:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

I was, therefore, saddened to see a banner outside a church that said: ‘The world’s most urgent need is churches preaching Christ crucified not climate change.’ How depressing and what thoroughly bad theology. For did not God make the world? Did not God send Jesus into the world because he loves it so much? Did not Christ die and rise again, to reconcile, heal and renew all of creation? As Paul writes in Colossians 1, in and through Jesus, ***‘all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.’***

It would seem to me, that even if you don’t believe that climate change is real, we should care about creation and our impact upon it, quite simply because God cares. God loves all that God has made and we, as stewards of creation, have a responsibility to make sure that life can thrive and flourish on this planet. Sure, it won’t be easy, it is bound to change our lives if we are doing it right but, as followers of Jesus, we should be used to that and step up and model a better, more caring way. For the time is NOW.

So let’s pray, let’s act and let’s do our bit to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth that God loves so very much.

With love and blessings,

Ruth

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

*'Jesus said 'Let the children come to me, for as such is the Kingdom of heaven'
... he placed his hand upon them and blessed them.'*

October 31 ELLA MAY JARVIE, daughter of Kirstie and Stephen

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'.*

FRANK (CYRIL) RICE	17 Lubnaig Drive, Callander
SARA CARMICHAEL	22 Poplar Drive, Lenzie
BARBARA (BABS) MCARTHUR	Westbank Care Home, Troon, formerly Oxford Street, Kirkintilloch

Prayers and thoughts are with all the families at this sad time.

DIAMOND WEDDING

HELEN and JIMMY FARMER celebrated 60 years of marriage on 7th October.

Congratulations and best wishes are sent from all at St Mary's.



BELL RINGERS

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



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



FAIRTRADE UPDATE

We now have some Christmas Cards and decorations for sale. These can be viewed and ordered through the church website and paid for when collected. Please follow the instructions on the Christmas Cards section of the website and someone will get back to you. Thanks, in advance, for your support.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Church will once again be collecting Christmas cards for delivery in Lenzie, Kirkintilloch, Auchinloch and Waterside.



As well as Sunday 28 November and Sunday 05 December for bringing cards to Church, you can also hand them in any day to Stewart Walker Newsagent until 1.00pm. on Sunday 05 December.

Price remains at 25p per card, with all money being donated to the Church. Cards along with money must be put in a plastic bag.

It is important to include a house number when addressing the envelopes, thus making it less difficult for those delivering and to avoid cards having to be posted.



We Need a Hand ... or Two!



We need some help from everyone in the congregation please! . . .

Within your magazine you will have received a folded sheet of coloured paper. Please use this paper to draw round your hand and cut it out through both layers. Then return your hands to church!

This can be done in three ways:

- *Pop them into the box in the vestibule as you come into church*
- *Hand them to your elder when your December magazine is delivered*
- *Phone the Church office and we'll make arrangements to collect them from you*

Thank you in advance for giving us a hand with this project!

Angel Plea!!

As Advent begins and we move towards Christmas, our theme this year is going to be God's messengers of good news and peace: the Angels. They will appear in various places as the month unfolds and we need your help! We are also hoping to have a heavenly host of origami angels – no mean feat! – and will be releasing a short, step-by-step, video on Facebook and YouTube to help you make your own in the coming days. It would be great if you could give this a go and get others to join in. Finally, on a slightly different note, please don't forget to recycle your tea bags and bring them to church and all, in due course, will be revealed! Thanks to you all and happy cutting, folding and tea drinking!

(Note on Teabags - You need to be patient as they can take quite a wee while to dry properly. Some suggestions: in a cooling oven, on a tray with kitchen towel, or on top of a radiator.)



CHRISTMAS IS COMING . . .

. . . and among the many plans for this year, (restrictions allowing) is an open day in Church on Wednesday 8th December from 11am until 2pm. The church will be decorated by then and many new features are planned as well as the old favourites.

There will be Christmas music for some of the time as well as a time of quiet for those who just wish to sit in the sanctuary and enjoy some peace at a busy time of year.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to take part in a Christmas craft for those who want to try their hand creating their own decoration.

Tea and coffee as well as wrapped biscuits will be available.

THE PARISHIONER

Copy for the December magazine should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 28 November**. If there are any changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly.

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*

The Parishioner Online

www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk

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.



Nursery Update



Following the October Break the children moved bubbles/rooms. They have settled well into their new learning environments and are making new friends. With all the rainy weather that we have had in October, it is fortunate that a Supporting Quality Grant has enabled the purchase of waterproof jackets, trousers, wellies, hats and gloves for each child. Rain doesn't disturb outdoor learning at St Mary's!

Halloween parties were held in bubbles at the end of last month when children were invited to dress up for the occasion.

As we are still not holding face to face Parents' Evenings, reports will be sent to parents this month with the option of a follow up video call if necessary.

Our winter menu started after the October break and children are enjoying 'winter warmers' such as chicken casserole. Healthy carrot muffins are also being enjoyed by all!

The end of this month sees us celebrating St Andrew's Day when all children will be invited to wear something tartan and explore Scottish themed activities and sample Scottish fayre.

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

Treasurer's Report

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.

Some of the recent donations I have received include:

- Donation towards printing of The Parishioner £30
- Donation towards The Parishioner production costs £20
- Donation to cover our Locum Minister's final travel expense claim £123.75
- Donation to Church £250
- Donation to Church £100
- Harvest/National Giving Day Donations

Thank you to everyone that was in a position to offer support to our Harvest/National Giving Day on 24th October. We received a significant amount of produce which has already been distributed to the organisations by our Harvest Committee. We also received monetary donations amounting to £1,900.

A fantastic effort and response by The Congregation; your generosity is much appreciated.

Gift Aid

Hugh Biggans, our Finance Convenor, has just completed and submitted the gift aid claim for the quarter July to September amounting to £5,617.63. This is a valuable and most necessary programme supporting and augmenting our income and helping to balance income and expenditure. Can I commend the Gift Aid Scheme to you. If you are not currently giving as part of the gift aid scheme; If you are a tax payer and wish to augment the amount you give by 25 pence in every pound that you give, please obtain and complete a gift aid declaration for your contributions to St Mary's Parish Church. Forms are available from either Hugh Biggans or myself.

John Thomson, Treasurer

Young Church

We would like to welcome all young people aged 0-16yrs. There is no requirement to attend every week as we will be delighted to see people whenever they are able. We have creche facilities available for under 3yrs. KidZone is 3-9yrs and Seekers is 10-16yrs. The activities within each group are specific to the ages and abilities of those young people. It is lovely to have our young people back. It seems so long since we have all been able to be in the same place.

This session we are using Spill the Beans which is a resource with a Scottish flavour for all-age learning and worship resources and for children's age groups. The resource encourages the use of stories to explore our faith and re-tell the bible. The crafts and activities are different for each age group. We tailor our activities to accommodate the ages and abilities of all our young people.

We have been exploring the Letter of James which has covered the following topics:

- Hearing and listening
- More respect, less power
- Words and silence
- Envy and ambition
- Prayer and praise

The young people have participated in a number of activities and crafts related to these topics and it is so nice to be able to share in these activities with them.

Anyone who wishes further information on Spill the Beans, please speak to any of the Young Church Leaders. Information can also be found at www.spillbeans.org.uk

We recently celebrated Harvest and thank our young people for contributing to the service.

Fiona Green

30th November **Andrew** (d. c.60)

Patron Saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19)

Without more ado, they obeyed. 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus. Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.

It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland?

Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peters - until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'



This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One.

Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of peace is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'



Prayer for November

Father,

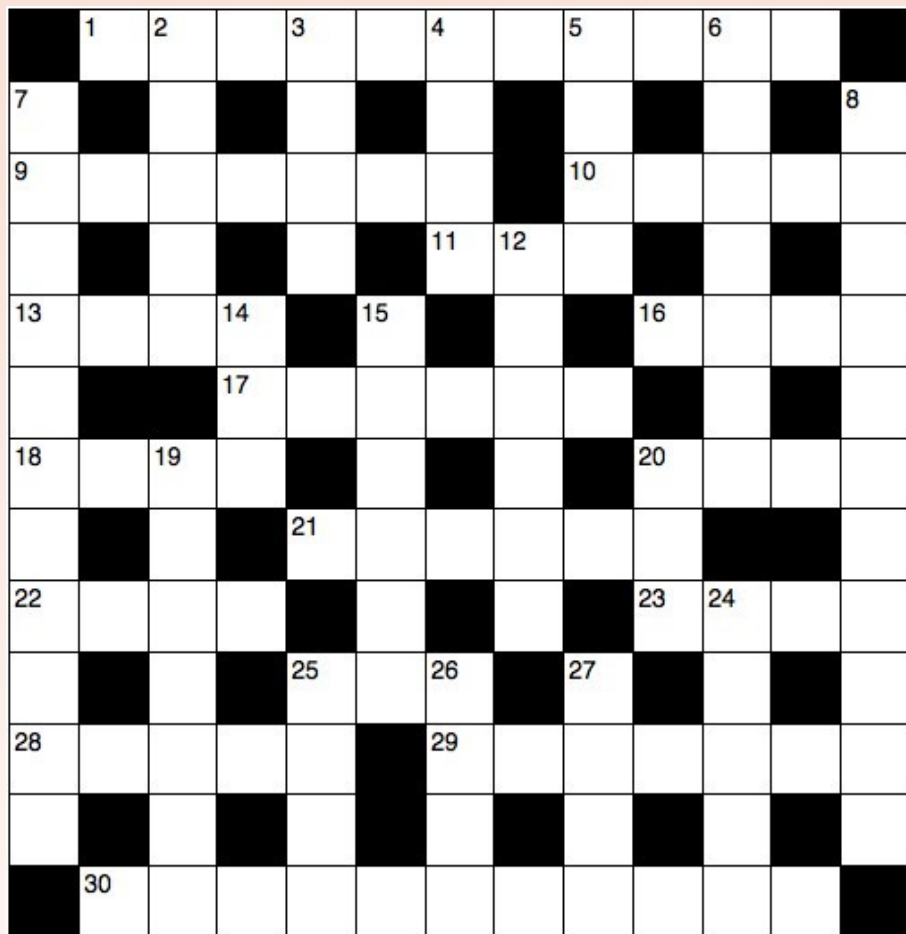
In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light – by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.

In His name – the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties – we pray.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Crossword



Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)

- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
 13 Taverns (4)
 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
 18 and 27 Down Where the magi

- came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)

- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time. No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your vergers. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurks much nearer home.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



GOD

"The Lord your God is with you

THINKS

He will take great delight in you,

YOU'RE

He will rejoice over you with singing."

AMAZING

[from Zephaniah 3:17]



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