



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch  
November 2022

PARISHIONER



# St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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



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## Front Cover ...

Please take a few moments to look at the front cover of this Parishioner as the poppies were all knitted or crocheted by members of our Church, along with their relatives and friends from far and wide.

It was started way back in the month of February this year and has been painstakingly done with love and care. Every poppy has been sewn on by some of the Craft Group Ladies who meet on Monday afternoons and also met some evenings in order that it was ready to hang on the side wall of the Church in time for Remembrance Day on 11th November.

As you can imagine, it has been a mammoth task and one we will remember for years to come.

**To everyone involved in whatever way, thank you just doesn't seem sufficient, so well done you good and faithful servants !!**



# Pastoral Letter ...

*Dear Friends,*

**As we move into November, often a month for remembrance and reflection, I can hardly believe that we are nearing the end of 2022. Much has happened this year, not least in relation to Presbytery planning, in response to the Radical Action Plan approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2019.**

As you know, St Mary's was placed within Zone 3 of Glasgow Presbytery's plan and we formed a cluster with Kirkintilloch: St David's Memorial Park, Lenzie Old and Lenzie Union. Using M&M contributions and parish population, ministry allocations were calculated for each zone and cluster by the Presbytery Mission Plan Creation Group (PMPCG). Our Zone was allocated 10.5 posts, which resulted in the allocation of 2 FTE; that is, 2 Ministers of Word and Sacrament for our cluster.

On Saturday 8th October and Tuesday 11th October, Glasgow Presbytery met, and the draft Presbytery Mission Plan for 2023-27 was approved. It will now be submitted to the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees for their consideration and approval and can be found here:  
<https://www.presbyteryofglasgow.org.uk>

Having completed a mission pro forma for our cluster in the summer, we were asked by the PMPCG to provide more detail on how we would use the 2 allocated ministry posts and what the future shape of our mission and ministry might look like. The feedback we received detailed the ways in which the cluster congregations could 'adjust'. These include: linkages, unions, team ministry, local mission churches, dissolution and a number of other options.

We met again as a cluster to discuss these options and it was proposed that St Mary's and St David's Memorial Park work together to explore the possible shape of a shared future and ministry. A similar proposal was made for the two Lenzie Churches to work together.

The Kirk Session of St Mary's met on 12th October and approved the proposal to take these next steps. There is a great deal to discuss and discern but I think it is important to clarify a couple of things:

1. Within the approved Presbytery Mission Plan, all buildings within our cluster have been categorised as A. It is, therefore, anticipated that all four sanctuaries will remain open within the life of this plan regardless of what shape ministry and mission will take.
2. Whilst the proposal to take this next exploratory step has been approved by the Kirk Sessions, it will be the congregations that approve future adjustments.

There is a great deal of work ahead of us but let us go forward as we always do, in faith. Let us seek Christ's lead and be open to the possibilities that lie before us. Let us ask our questions, share our hopes and fears and encourage one another. And, in and through it all, let us pray to God for the reforming and reshaping required across the Church, so that we can get on with the work of sharing the Good News of God's love in this place and beyond.

***In this month of remembrance and reflection, may God's peace be with you all.***

***With love and blessings,***

*Ruth*

## 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

## Recycling

***Please note in the meantime Nursery are no longer collecting bottle tops as they cannot get anyone to take them. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully brought them along over the past few years.***

# Parish Register

## Funerals

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*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'.*

October 02 Walter Fleming, Springvale Care Home, Lennoxtown.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.*

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*The funeral of Mrs Marion Smith, 24 Market Road was held in Church on 28th July 2022 and was not recorded in the next appropriate publication of our magazine, which was September Parishioner. With sincere apologies to her husband Ian Smith and family for this oversight.*

**The Editor**

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## ***The Parishioner Online***

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



Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner ... why not go to [www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk) and see this month's copy.

Stephen McKean, Webmaster, has built up previous issues online so you can look back on past copies.



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch  
December 2022 / January 2023

Copy for the November magazine should be e-mailed to [sandraburns.me@gmail.com](mailto:sandraburns.me@gmail.com) no later than **Sunday 27 November**. If there are any changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly.





# Church Flowers

We continue to display four arrangements in church each week using two pairs of flower arrangers/deliverers. We hope to start a rota of folks willing to assist with the delivering and if this is something you would like to do, please get in touch with one of us.

As with everything else, the cost of flowers has increased dramatically and we are grateful to everyone who regularly contributes to church flowers. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers, or are no longer able to contribute, please let us know so that the calendar of donors can be updated. Donations for flowers can be handed to any of us or left at the Church Office.

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



# ***Nursery Update***

We are still awaiting a visit from the registration team at the Care Inspectorate before we can go ahead with our plan to introduce two-year-olds early in 2023. Let's hope we are able to give a positive report about this in the next magazine.

The Lending Library has been reintroduced post Covid. This encourages children and families to borrow books to read and enjoy together at home. To celebrate Scottish Book Week the children will visit the William Patrick Library on 14th November.

Wellbeing Walks are ongoing with the staff and children walking five laps of the church halls twice per week. The new soft surface has now been laid and is looking great. This provides a safer area for the children to play in. We are grateful for the grant which helped to fund this. The new hall doors should be installed within the next couple of weeks which will further enhance the area.

Following the success of our opening of the carpark for pick up time, November will see a trial opening of the carpark for morning drop off.

**Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener**

# Session Report

The Kirk Session met on 12th October, specifically to discuss progress in regard to our Presbytery Planning process and seek approval of the next steps. The draft plan has been approved by Presbytery and has now been submitted to the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees for their consideration. In addition, the Kirk Session has approved the next steps being planned by our Cluster Group and Ruth has referred to these steps both from the pulpit and in her pastoral letter.

We are very much at the early stages of this process, but we are keen to share progress with you and discuss the way forward. To this end, it is proposed to hold a congregational meeting in the coming weeks, where we can share our thoughts, hear your views or concerns, and hopefully answer any questions you may have. Session meet again on the 9th November, at which time we would hope to be able to confirm a date and time for this meeting.

It has also been suggested that there should be an opportunity for members of the congregation to raise questions in writing and so we will have a box in the vestibule of the Church for the next few weeks for you to leave questions or comments for us. Equally, please don't hesitate to contact me directly, if you would like any additional information in the meantime. Catch up with me at Church, or simply drop me an email at [morrisgo@sky.com](mailto:morrisgo@sky.com).

With my thanks and kind regards,

**Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk**

# Christmas Cards

The Church will once again be collecting Christmas cards for delivery in Lenzie, Kirkintilloch, Auchinloch and Waterside. As well as Sunday 27 November and Sunday 04 December for bringing cards to Church, you can also hand them in any day to Stewart Walker Newsagent until 1.00p.m. on Sunday 04 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.**



# Treasurer's Report

**Once again thank you for your continued support and giving.**

**Some recent receipts I wish to mention:**

Donations to Parishioner totaling £70

Donation to Fabric Fund £20

Donations to General Funds of £40, £40, £20, £100, and £200

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Monetary Donations**

I have pleasure in reporting that due to your generosity we received a total of £795 in monetary donations; this would be over and above all the produce that was generously donated and distributed. I can confirm having sent the above noted sum in equal proportion to East Dunbartonshire Food Bank, Lodging House Mission Glasgow, and St Rollox Community Outreach Project. Thank You.



**Your Treasurer,  
JOHN M. THOMSON**

## A Prayer of Remembering and Looking Forward

Loving Father,

Here we are in November, the month of short days and mist and remembering. And this year we have so much to remember. The year our Servant Queen left us and came to be with you, the King of Kings she had served so faithfully. Remembering celebration and sadness Lord, as we thank you for Queen Elizabeth, but looking forward too as we prepare for Advent.

As we work towards Christmas, yes, we remember your coming as a baby in Jesus, but even more reassuring in these difficult times we can hold on to your promise that You will come back again as our glorious King, when there will be no more death or mourning, crying or pain – when You will make all things new, when all shall be well!  
Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

**By Daphne Kitching**

**ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH**  
**Cowgate, Kirkintilloch**

**CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday 12th**

**November**

**10 am – 4 pm**

**Teas Coffees**

**Soup and more.**

**A Lovely range of quality**

**Craft Stalls**

**Great Ideas for Christmas**

**Gifts**

We are looking for donations of tombola prizes and donations for the Christmas hamper raffle. Please hand in to any Young Church leader or bring to hall after the service any Sunday.

We would like some in the tearoom and help on evening Friday 10th to set up the tables and tearoom and on Saturday 12th at 4pm to help put tables and chairs away.



# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WITH  
KIRKINTILLOCH MALE  
VOICE CHOIR

**SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER, 2022**

**@ 2.30pm**

**ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, KIRKINTILLOCH**

**SPONSORED BY**



**Tickets £6.00**  
**Primary School Children FREE**

**Available from Choir Members, 0141 775 2437**  
**or email: [tickets\\_kmvc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tickets_kmvc@hotmail.co.uk)**

**[www.kmvc.org.uk](http://www.kmvc.org.uk)**



**Tickets also available from Sally and Gordon McLellan or David Burns**

# The Flower Circle Elizabeth Walker

68 OAK DRIVE  
LENZIE,  
G66 4BU.

DEAR RUTH AND MEMBERS OF THE KIRK SESSION  
ALSO LADIES OF THE "FLOWER CIRCLE",

I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU  
OF MY SAD DECISION TO END MY  
TIME AS LEADER OF THE FLOWER  
CIRCLE.

FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS OUR  
EVENINGS HAVE PROVED TO BE  
ARTISTIC AND ENTERTAINING.

BUT IT IS NOW TIME FOR ME TO HANG  
UP MY THURSDAY SCISSORS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE LOVELY LADIES  
IN THE ST. MARYS FLOWER CIRCLE FOR THEIR  
LOYALTY AND ENTHUSIASM.

OSCAR WILDE ONCE SAID "A FLOWER BLOSSOMS  
FOR ITS OWN JOY," BUT I LIKE TO THINK OVER  
THE YEARS WE HAVE ALL HELPED TO SPREAD  
A LITTLE JOY TO OTHERS.

WITH THANKS AND MUCH APPRECIATION.  
ELIZABETH WALKER.



# Working Together Update

**Stars** - As you know we plan to decorate the sanctuary with stars this year and we'd like everyone to make a star to display. You can use any medium you like to create your star; paper, card, natural materials, knitting, crocheting or sewing it – the sky is the limit! The only rule is that it should be no bigger than an A4 sheet of paper. All stars should be handed in to the church by no later than Sunday 20th November.

If you feel you would like some help with your star or need some materials to make it feel free to pop along to the Craft Group any Monday in November from 2pm. There will be lots of friendly folks ready to help you.

**Painting** – We've had no volunteers to help with this task. The painting won't be onerous and you only need to be able to paint within the lines. Please consider helping with this. Volunteers won't be needed until closer to the end of November.

**Baking** – Our Saturday Bake will take place in the halls on Saturday 10th December. Please see Isobel Tinto or add your name to the sheet in the church vestibule.

**Fairtrade Advent Calendars** – Thank you to everyone who ordered a Real Advent Calendar. The order has now gone and should be delivered in plenty of time for advent. I have ordered a few extra and those should be available, along with Christmas cards, at our Fairtrade Stall at the Craft Day on 12th November. We will also be hosting a stall at the Christian Aid Coffee Morning to be held in our halls on 26th November.

***Whatever your skills and talents – please share them!***

**Fiona Leishman**

## Painting

**The Cancer Research Shop in Kirkintilloch has a quality painting of St Mary's. The suggested price based on internet search c£200. If you are interested please pop in and ask for Ruby, the manager.**

# Young Church Update

## Dates

- Sunday 27th Nov – 1st Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday 30th Nov – St Andrews Day

Young Church invite everyone 0-16yrs to join us on a Sunday morning 11am-12noon in the Church halls. We have lots of fun with stories, singing and crafts etc in our different groups. There is no need to attend every week. Visiting children are very welcome.

Creche: 0-3yrs

Kidzone: 3yrs - Primary 5 age group

Seekers: P6 – 16yrs

## Prayer

We thank you God for...

Every prayer we have prayed.

Every song we have sung.

All the things we have learned.

All the laughter and fun.

Thank you for all the joy you bring and our wonderful times together.

May we walk with you as each new day begins.

This moment and forever.

Amen.

**Fiona Green**

## Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Christian Aid Group

are holding an Advent coffee morning in our Church Hall on Saturday 26th November 10 am -12 noon. We have a few stalls with jewellery, baking, books and tombola.

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid's Christmas appeal, to support work in Malawi. Tickets will be £3 and can be bought from Paul Malcolm, or on the door on the day.

Please come along and support Christian Aid's mission to end world poverty.





# Christmas is Coming ... ... nearer!

**Last month we apologised for talking to you about Christmas but we do not need to apologise this month as we have reached November and Christmas is just round the corner.**

Even Advent Sunday is in November this year. Over Two thousand years ago the wise men had probably already begun their journey by now and even if they were not actually travelling, they would certainly have been looking at the stars and making plans. If you are planning to be away on or before Christmas, you have probably also made plans even though your journey will not be as arduous as the wise men even if it is as long, even economy in a plane must be more comfortable than a camel! As part of your plans for Christmas we hope you have included joining your friends at St Mary's for the Advent Lunch. It will take place after the service on Sunday 11th December and will be a three course sit down lunch. The social committee are looking forward to sitting with you all for the meal this year and we have received very good reports about the caterers.

The choices for the meal will be:

**Starter** – Soup or Chicken Pate

**Main course** - Turkey with trimmings or Braised Beef with appropriate accompaniments.

**Pudding** – Christmas pudding or Apple pie.

As we explained last month, because we will be using caterers the meal will be a little more expensive than in previous years and we need to have an accurate number of people coming. For these reasons when we start selling tickets on Sunday 20th November, we will need to know your choices and a deposit of £5. This will reserve your place and then on the day you can donate whatever you think the meal is worth. Children will need a ticket but do not need to pay the £5.

We also need to know when you buy your ticket of any dietary requirements. We know that many of you buy tickets for friends, and we are very happy for you to continue doing so but if this is the case you will need to provide their choices and details of any dietary requirements so we have a full picture of everyone who is coming.

**We do hope you will join us for this meal as it will form part of what we hope will be a Merry Christmas for us all.**

# Boys' Brigade

## **1st Lenzie Company are appealing for volunteers as follows:**

1. Volunteers that can commit to most Friday nights to run games, crafts, faith, and activities.
2. Volunteers that can join a rota and do every 2nd or 3rd Friday night to run games, crafts, faith, and activities.

## **In the first instance please contact either:**

Company Chaplain Rev Dan Carmichael at Lenzie Union Parish Church or  
Callum Dewar Company Chaplain  
Company Captain and Chair of Trustees  
1st Lenzie Company, The Boys' Brigade  
M: 07587095409  
E: firstlenziebb@hotmail.com

# Two Minutes Silence

In the month when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives.

In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (eg: Luke 5:16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to Him, just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.

'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.'



# ***The Rectory***

## ***St James the Least***

### ***My dear Nephew Darren***

It is a great shame that your church doesn't have chandeliers – although in your low-ceilinged converted cinema, any chandelier more than a few feet tall would also be embedded in your floor carpeting. But I find that there is nothing like watching the standard bearers on Remembrance Sunday parading up the aisle with their flags and getting them caught up in our brass candelabra.

One year, the procession ground to a halt while a bearer fought to retrieve his flag and was obliged to leave it flying in the centre of the church while he presented me with an empty pole. I always feel obliged to tell parishioners that, since all the candelabra will inevitably be sent spinning, not to stare at them, or they may leave the church hypnotised. On the other hand, Miss Simpson generally leaves the church looking like that.

Major Hastings always arrives bejewelled with so many medals that every time he kneels for prayer, it sounds as if he is taking the collection. Their weight increases his stoop by at least ten degrees, to the point where some feel we should support him with a personal flying buttress.

Since the trumpeter playing

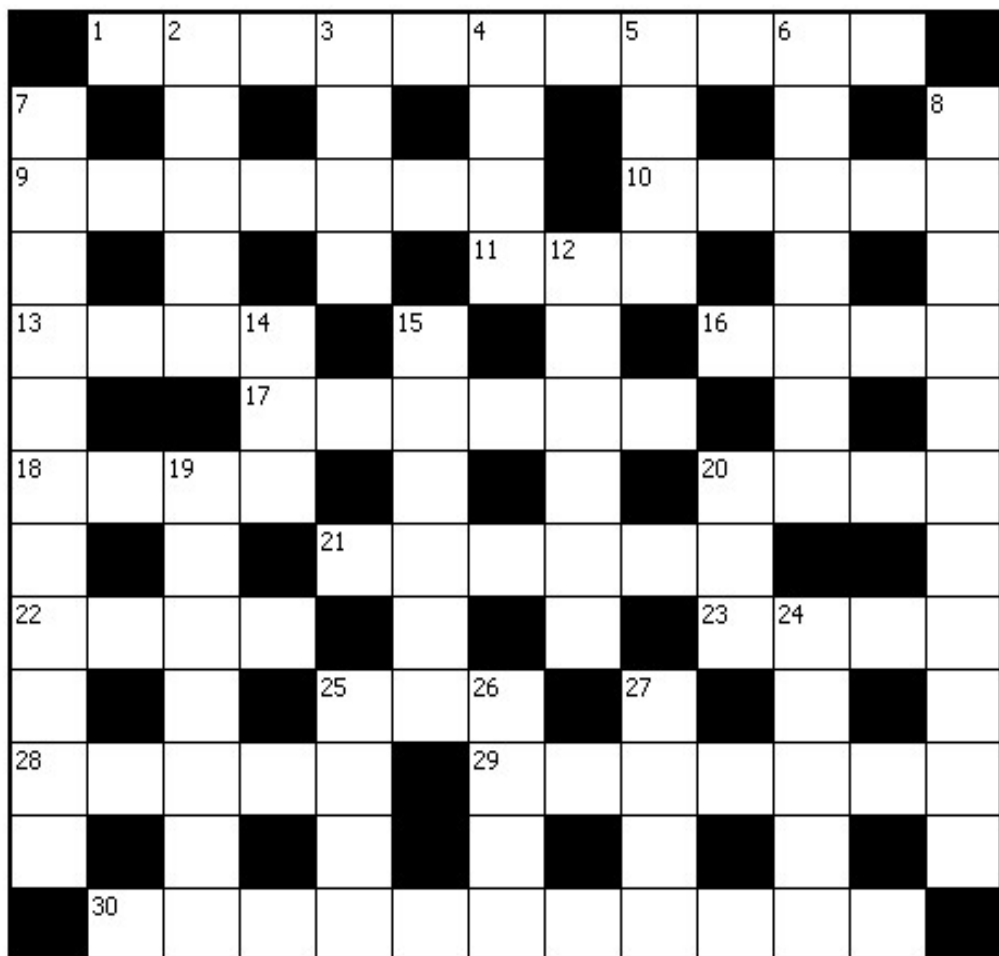
the Last Post can be of varying quality, your idea of broadcasting it from London into your church is inspired. However, your worries about whether your radio will be good enough need not trouble you. If you tell your congregation that they are about to hear the broadcast silence and you then simply not switch the thing on, no one will be able to tell the slightest difference whether the silence is being broadcast or not. In fact, they will even congratulate you on hitting 11am at exactly the right moment.

I always use subterfuge; I have the church clock disconnected and then when we reach the time for silence, irrespective of the true time, I get a churchwarden to toll the bell eleven times. This way, I have apparently come to the exact moment without a hitch for the last 30 years.

You will also find that preaching about warfare and of man's inhumanity to man will give you greater insights into the working of your church council. The only difference is that on committees – sadly – the use of machine guns is rather frowned on.

***Your loving uncle, Eustace***

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all \_\_,  
Lord of all \_\_, whose trust,  
ever child-like, no cares  
could destroy'(11,3)
- 9 Mosesí question to a fighting  
Hebrew labourer: 'Why are  
you \_\_ your fellow Hebrew?'"  
(Exodus 2:13) (7)

- 10 Acclaimed cellist who  
contracted multiple sclerosis  
at the height of her fame,  
Jacqueline \_\_ (2,3)
- 11 'At even \_\_ the sun was set,  
the sick, O Lord, around  
thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad  
(xNumbers 26:16) (4)

- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem,  
but \_ for the gift my Father  
promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44)  
(6)
- 18 Peter's response to  
questioning by the  
Sanhedrin: 'We must \_ God  
rather than men!')(Acts 5:29)  
(4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author,  
artist and campaigner, \_  
Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of  
other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds  
gathered round him that he  
got into a boat and sat \_ \_  
'(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease  
(4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should \_  
you, nor should my hand be  
heavy upon you'(Job 33:7)  
(5)
- 29 For example, to Titus,  
Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with  
Pentecost Sunday,  
according to the Church's  
calendar (11)

### Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem \_ how \_I have  
longed to gather your  
children together' Matthew  
23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)

- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-  
parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of  
God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey,  
Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22)  
(6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of  
religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on  
gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is  
death, but the \_ of God is  
eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our  
Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)





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