





# St Mary's Parish Church

## Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

*Minister:*

**Rev Dr Ruth Morrison, MA, BD, PhD**

0141 737 4896

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

*Secretary:*  
**Denise Japp**  
0141 775 1166

*Church Organist:*  
**David Burns**  
0141 776 5484

*Treasurer:*  
**John M. Thomson**  
0141 239 2611

*Church Officer:*  
**Paul Malcolm**  
0141 578 1520

*Editor:*  
**Sandra Burns**  
0141 776 6322



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



Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Registered Charity No. SC007260

# Pastoral Letter . . .

*Dear Friends,*

As we approach the final weeks of 2022 and prepare to celebrate Christmas, I cannot help but look back; especially after listening to the app, *Lectio 365*, earlier in the day. There, the past year was described as 'tumultuous,' full of 'unexpected dangers and uncertainties,' and that, for sure, rings true. The war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, the death of Her Majesty the Queen, new Prime Ministers, workers on strike, the lasting effects of Covid; not to mention the Church of Scotland's radical action plan and personal situations that will have caused worry and grief to you. It has been quite a year and as we head into winter, the challenges continue.

And yet, as I walked into our sanctuary today, I was filled with hope, as I looked up and saw the stars dancing above me. Each one unique, made by so many of you, not only to set the scene for the Christmas story as the star slides across the room, but to remind us of God's promise to Abraham – that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky!

As we look towards Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus, so we remember that his coming among us changed everything and made it possible for us to be adopted into God's family and be counted among the stars. There is comfort in that message but also challenge, as we are reminded of our calling to reflect Jesus, the light of the world in our lives, and shine brightly. That is not always easy to do. Sometimes the happenings in our world and events in life make our faith wobble and heart question what is going on and where God is to be found. As I write that, I am reminded of a great worship song called Way Maker by Sinach (definitely worth a listen!) that has the line, 'even when I don't see it, you're working, even when I don't feel it, you're working, you never stop, never stop working.' Why? Well, because God is a loving, faithful, promise-keeper, who can be trusted to guide our footsteps and walk with us every step of the way.

And so, as we countdown to Christmas and look towards a new year and all that it has in store, may we **hold fast** to God's promises, be mindful of our calling to shine as brightly as the stars in the sky and play our part in the life of the church and the world, using our talents, time and money to spread some hope, peace, joy and love around as we follow the star into the unknown darkness, trusting that the Christ light will suffice. For Jesus is the light in the darkness, now and forever and his love will never let us go.

Thank you for your faithfulness and hard work this year in the life of St Mary's church family and love and blessings to you and yours this Christmas time and beyond.

*With love and blessings,*

*Ruth*

## Christmas Prayer

Father,

Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only You can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect Your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## 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

# 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'.*

November 16 Mrs Margaret Mathieson, formerly 13 Kelvin Court,  
Kirkintilloch

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



The next issue of the magazine will be **February 2023** and any material should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 29 January 2023 @ 5pm**. If there are any

changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine.

## *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.



# 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. 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. In order that church folks can receive flowers, e.g. illness, bereavement, special anniversaries and those who have attained the age of 80, will you please let any of us know.

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



# Nursery Update

Unfortunately, there is no update on our plan to introduce two-year-olds to the nursery as we are still awaiting a visit from the registration team at the Care Inspectorate.

December is always a busy month especially in the nursery. The children are working hard practising for their nativity. This will be held in church on Wednesday 21st December and we hope members of the congregation will join us on this occasion.

A puppet show is coming to the nursery on 15th December to perform 'The Lost Bear's Christmas'. I'm sure the children will love that!

The Christmas party will be held on 22nd December when the nursery will close for Christmas.

***The nursery staff and children would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very healthy new year.***

**Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener**

# Session Report

## **Wednesday 'Warm Welcome'**

The Kirk Session have agreed to make some changes to our arrangements on a Wednesday morning.

Our worship service will be at 11:30, but we will be open from 9:00 until 12:00 to provide a warm space and a **Warm Welcome** for anyone who would like to join us. **Tea & Coffee will be available!**

## **Nominated Charities**

The two nominated charities that we will be supporting this year are Guide Dogs for the Blind and Cancer Research UK. If you would like to make a monitory donation, envelopes will be available at Church on a Sunday morning. Alternatively, you can use your own envelope, clearly marked for the charity of your choice.

These monies can be handed in at the Gift Service on the 11th December, or on one of the following two Sundays. Then, along with additional offerings received over the festive period, monies will be passed on to the charities in the New Year.

## **Gift Service**

Our Gift Service this year is on Sunday 11th of December - the third Sunday of Advent. For a number of practical reasons, we would encourage folks to make their contribution to the Gift Service in the form of a monitory donation or gift voucher. Envelopes will be available at Church in the couple of weeks leading up to the Gift Service, but you can simply use your own envelope, as long as it is clearly marked "Gift Service".

However, we recognise that some of the congregation will prefer to make a donation of a physical gift and that is absolutely fine. In fact, one of the charities we work with look specifically for physical gifts. We will not be producing gift labels this year, so all that we would ask is that your gift is brought unwrapped in a recyclable bag and labelled to indicate the appropriate category of recipient. i.e. adult/child, male/female, age range etc.

Your donations will support the valuable work of the following organisations at this special time of year: Women's Aid; Lodging House Mission; Asylum seekers; and EDC Social Work.

## **Thank you**

A big thank you for all of your support and generosity, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

On behalf of the Kirk Session, I wish you and your families a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas, with our very best wishes for the New Year.

**Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk**



Folks hard at work  
decorating our sanctuary  
for the Festive Season





*Some Craft Ladies at work.*

# Special Services over the Festive Period

**11th December – Gift Service 11:00am**

**18th December – All Age Family Service 11:00am**

**18th December – Service of 9 Lessons & Carols 7:00pm  
(at St David's Memorial Park)**

**21st December – Blue Christmas 7:30pm**

**24th December – Watchnight 11:30pm  
(at St David's Memorial Park)**

**25th December – Family Christmas Day Service 11:00am**

**1st January – Joint Service with SDMP at St Mary's 11:00am**



## Brunch at Burns' Bistro



Start the year in style, banish the 'January Blues' and enhance the hope of the spring waiting just around the corner. The church halls will host the first event of 2023 when we have a truly Scottish brunch on Saturday 21st January. A hot drink and Scottish Shortbread will be available from 10am and then at 11am we will serve hot food until 1.30pm.

There will be rolls with three hot fillings to choose from:

**Haggis** because no Burns celebration is complete without it.

**Lorne sausage** because it is so quintessentially Scottish.

**Bacon** because who doesn't like a roll and bacon.

All cost £2.50 including a hot drink with refills. (Extra fillings £1)

# The Christian Aid

The Christian Aid Coffee morning on 26th November raised the excellent sum of £983.93p. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped out on the day, for generous donations of home baking, cash donations and other items and everyone who came along. The proceeds will be sent to Christian Aid's Christmas appeal which this year is focusing on Malawi . More information can be found on their Website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> . The Christian Aid Group thank St Mary's once again for the use of the Hall.

**Paul Malcolm**

## The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?” One child answered, “Mary.”

The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?”

Another child ventured: “Verge?”

Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?”

He replied hesitantly: “Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n’ Mary.

**Paul Malcolm**

## Organisations Accounts / Auditors

Although many organisations will have met only for a short time this year, if at all. However, it is still necessary to prepare accounts for the year to 31 December 2022 no matter how small they may be. I would therefore ask that all treasurers of organisations please ensure that a copy of their annual audited accounts is passed to the Treasurer or Finance Convenor no later than 19 February 2023.

These accounts will be made up to their year-end falling into the year to 31 December 2022. The Nursery, Social Committee, Young Church and Friday Fellowship whose accounts are included in the Church Accounts should work to a deadline of 22nd January 2023 as John goes on holiday in early February.

The members of the Finance Committee who have volunteered to act as auditors for the church organisations are John Pears and Hugh Biggans.

The Church Accounts should be submitted to Presbytery and Church of Scotland by 31 March annually, therefore it is very important that these deadlines are adhered to. We need to present the accounts to Session as early as possible to enable them to be inspected by our Independent Examiner prior to submission to the relevant bodies. Your assistance in this matter is very much appreciated by John and myself.

**Hugh Biggans, Finance Convenor**

# Treasurer's Report

Once again thank you for your continued support and giving.

## Some recent receipts I wish to mention:

Donations to Parishioner costs totaling £40

Donations to Fabric Fund totaling £40

Donations to General Funds totaling £250 following some recent funerals

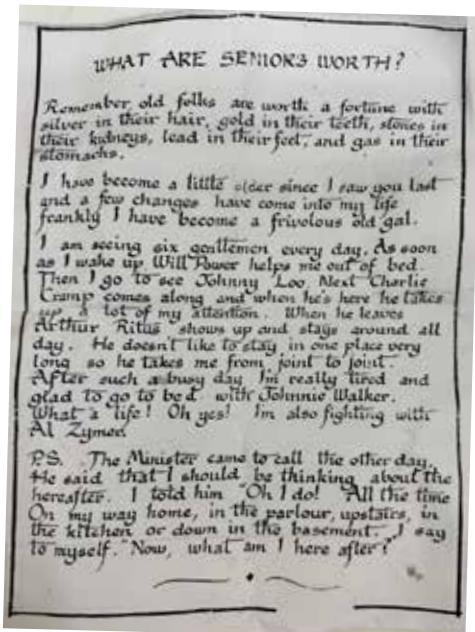
## October Offering receipts:

	<u><b>FWO</b></u>	<u><b>Gift Aid</b></u>	<u><b>Open Plate</b></u>	<u><b>Standing Orders</b></u>
02.10.22	425.00	658.00	120.50	
09.10.22	200.20	213.00	107.00	
16.10.22	172.00	170.00	182.00	
23.10.22	282.00	165.00	78.00	
30.10.22	153.00	289.00	100.00	
01 to 31.10.22				6197.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1232.20</b>	<b>1495.00</b>	<b>587.50</b>	<b>6197.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9511.70</b>			

## October Expenditure:

Our Bank statement expenditure throughout for the month of October would show as £9,167.38 and once adjusting for some outstanding cheques our expenditure for October may approximately be £10,125.11, this without adjustment for accruals etc. A couple of points worthy of note would be that October, from a Sunday offering point of view, would be a five Sunday month and therefore higher; and our expenditure does not include a payment in October for insurance as we are due to start a renewal cycle, typically in the region of £800, 10 months of the year.

**Your Treasurer,  
JOHN M. THOMSON**





warm  
welcome



warm space      warm hearts      warm meal

Every Monday from

21st November

12noon - 9pm

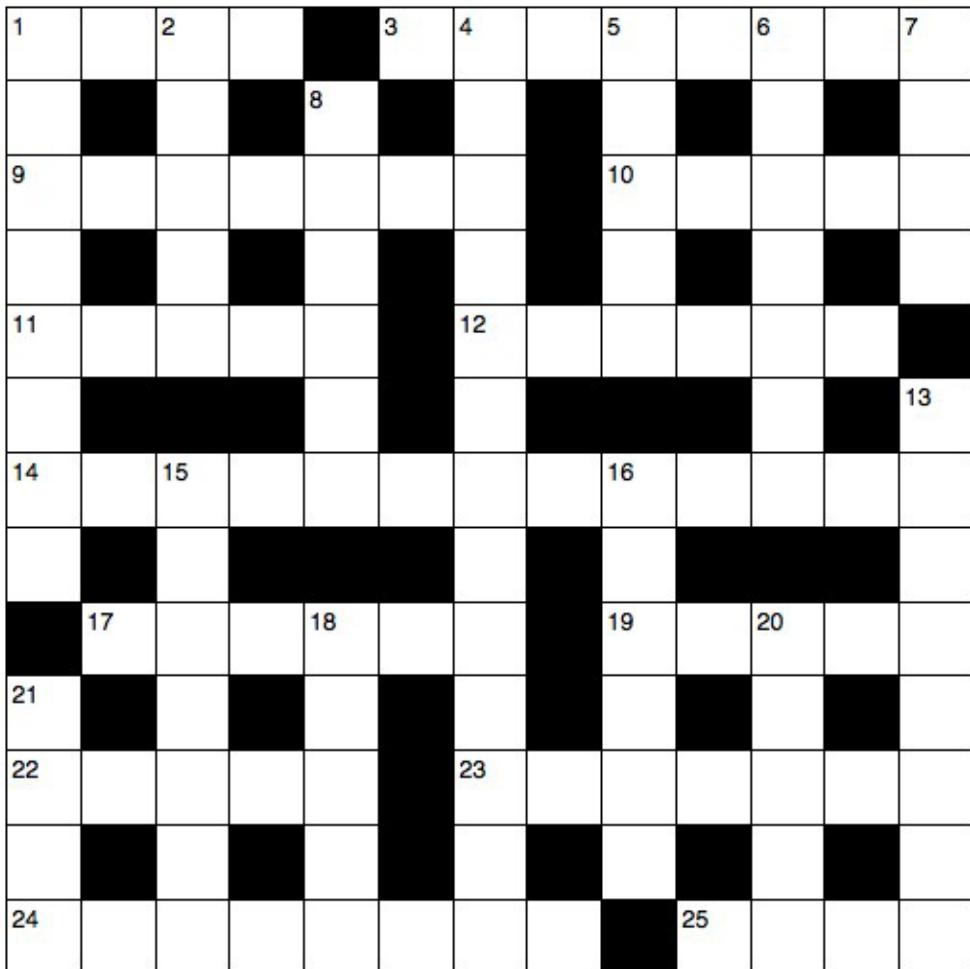


Alexandra Street

Kirkintilloch G66 1HE

[www.sdmmp.church](http://www.sdmmp.church)

# Crossword



## Across

1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)

3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)

9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans

8:15) (7)

10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)

11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)

12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)

14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)

17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)

19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)

22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)

23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)

24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)

25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)

7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)

8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)

13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)

15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)

16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)

18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)

20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)

21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

## Down

1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)

2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)

4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)

5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)





Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

heritage  
lottery fund

 **eco**  
congregation Scotland

Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee