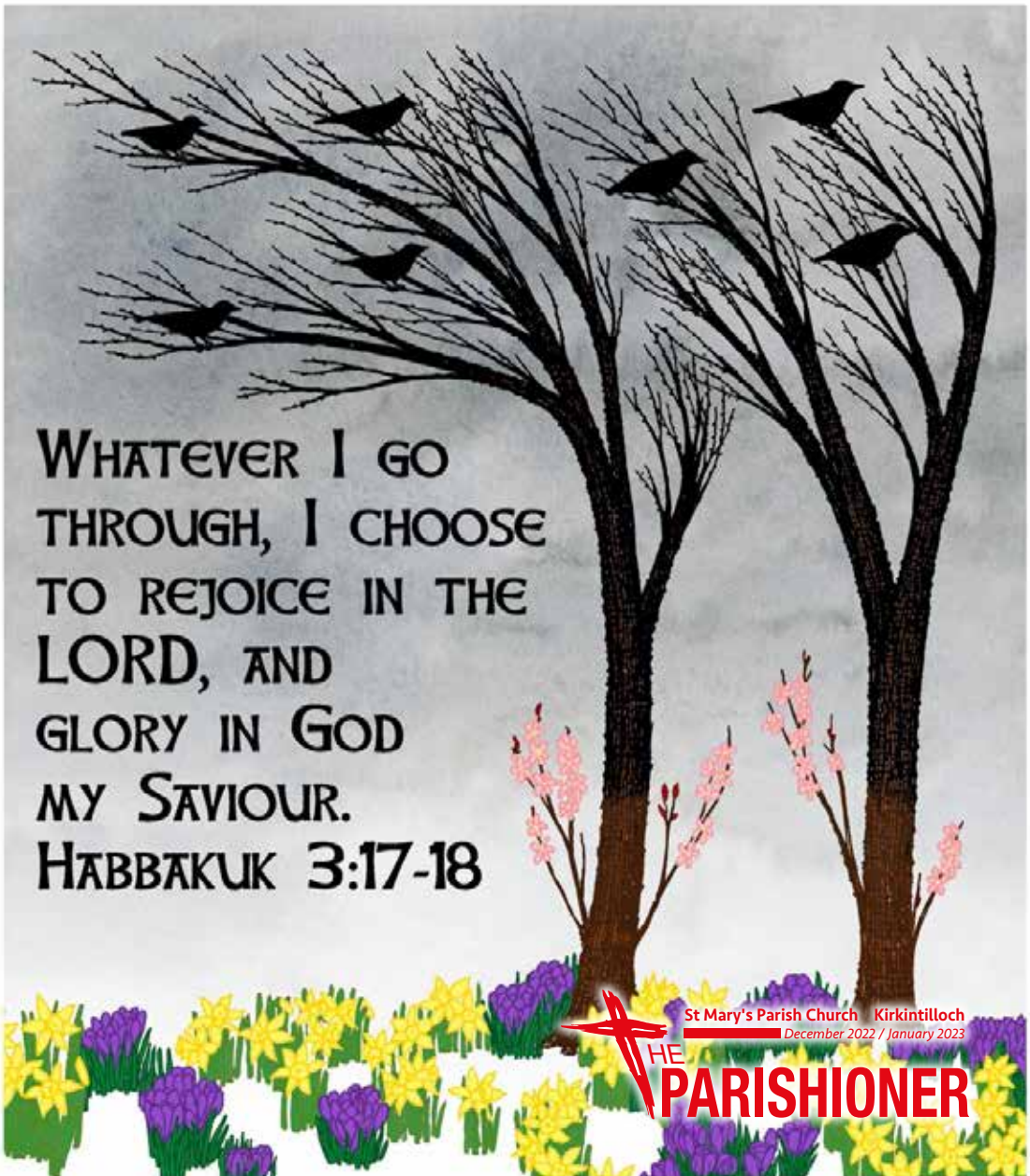


February  
2023



WHATEVER I GO  
THROUGH, I CHOOSE  
TO REJOICE IN THE  
LORD, AND  
GLORY IN GOD  
MY SAVIOUR.  
HABBAKUK 3:17-18

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

THE  
**PARISHIONER**



# St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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*Church Website:*

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



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# Pastoral Letter ...

*Dear Friends,*

It was so good to join with the congregations in our cluster on Sunday 22nd January to worship together in Lenzie Old Parish Church. The sanctuary was packed, the sermon spot on and the singing – wow! – it was superb! It was a joy to be there and praise God together.

For those who were present or watched later online, you will know from the all-age chat that I am now a LEGO convert, having received an orchid at Christmas from the botanical collection! It takes pride of place in my study and every time I see it, it makes me think about Jesus' words when he spoke about us being part of the vine and Paul's words about the church being like a body with many parts. Like LEGO pieces, we are all different. We are made up of different ages, genders, interests, gifts and talents and we were reminded of that in hymn 204 from CH4 on Sunday:

*We're many kinds of people with many kinds of faces:*

*All colours and all ages too, from all times and places (and yet),*

*I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the Church together.*

In Jesus, through baptism, we are one, we are the church, and it is Jesus' prayer that we should be united in faith, hope and love. Each of us is important and have a purpose within the vine, the body, the family of God, and, on Sunday we saw something of what that might look like at its best.

I am very encouraged and look forward to continuing the conversations within the cluster and with St David's Memorial Park. As intimated, our Kirk Sessions met together for the second time in early January and the conversation was very positive. We agreed at the end of that meeting that we should work towards a union of

St Mary's and St David's Memorial Park and decided that the next steps would be for a smaller group of people, comprising Elders and members from both congregations, to be formed and take things forward. All going well this will happen in the coming weeks, so that we can get on and move ahead together.

I will keep you updated as we go but, as always, please feel free to ask any questions and know that whilst we do not want to waste any time, we will, at every step, be seeking to do things prayerfully, carefully, and wisely. So, please pray. Pray for all the conversations that will happen between St Mary's and St David's Memorial Park. Pray for our cluster. Pray for Glasgow Presbytery and the Church of Scotland as a whole. And, when you've done that, look outwards and around you and beyond, and pray some more! For in and through all of this, we need to remember that Jesus is at the centre and it's God's mission in the world that we, the church, are called to participate in. So, let's keep our eyes open, our ears listening, our hands serving, and get our hearts ever in tune with heaven, as we seek God's Kingdom come.

Here's to our next joint cluster worship, here's to journeying with Jesus on.

With love and blessings,

*Ruth*

## CHURCH OFFICE

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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](mailto: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'.*

December	02	Mr James Pearson, 6 Auchinloch Road, Lenzie
	13	Mr James Walker, 51 Kerr Street, Kirkintilloch
	15	Mr John McIsaac, 3 Belmont Court, Kirkintilloch
	30	Mr Iain Frame, Inchmurrin Avenue, Kirkintilloch

**2023**

January	13	Mrs Elizabeth McLean, 112 Hillhead Road, Kirkintilloch
	17	Mrs J Allan, 1/1, 4 Lanfine Drive, Kirkintilloch

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

## ***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.



The next issue of the magazine will be **March 2023** and any material should be e-mailed to [sandraburns.me@gmail.com](mailto:sandraburns.me@gmail.com) no later than **Sunday 26 February 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.





# 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***

The new term has been very busy and we are delighted to have welcomed new children and their families.

The Variation visit from the Care Inspectorate has now taken place and we are working with our Fabric Convenor to take forward a couple of issues. The visit was very positive and a further visit will take place in the coming weeks. We hope to be in a position to accept two-year-olds soon.

Two very successful Open Days were held recently. This gave parents and carers the opportunity to visit during nursery hours and see the nursery in full swing. Visitors were able to talk with staff members while their children participated in nursery activities. They were very busy mornings and as a result we welcomed a new child and their family this week!

As you will have seen new doors have been fitted to the church hall. These allow more light into the nursery making the area brighter and more welcoming. We've received lots of positive comments from children and families. Our thanks go to David Tinto for his help and patience with this project.

Nursery staff would like to thank everyone from the church for making parents and carers so welcome on the morning of the Nativity. Thanks also to everyone who came along to support the nursery children – it was a great morning. The feedback from everyone was very positive.

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

# Communion

You are all invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion which we will be celebrating on Sunday 26th February, the first Sunday in Lent.

## Door open day

Our next Doors Open Day takes place on Wednesday 8th February. All are welcome and doors are open from 10.30am until 3.30pm.

More volunteers to help welcome visitors at our monthly Doors Open Days will always be appreciated. If you would like to add your name to the list of 'helpers', please contact John Pears on 07803 014657

## Life & Work

Despite ongoing increased production costs, the cover price of the magazine has remained the same for the last two years. After much analysis and to safeguard this important resource a small increase has been applied to the cover price making it £3.50 from January 2023.

The annual subscription therefore this year is £42.00 for 12 issues and is now due. If you do not already take Life & Work and are interested in doing so, please contact Sandra Burns.

The content of this Church of Scotland Magazine is very varied, including a letters page, feature articles by various people and church news from around the country to name but a few.

Why not give it a go – even if it is only one issue – we're sure you will then wish to subscribe.

## Church pew cushions

Twechar Parish Church is now closed and the internal fittings have been removed. We, at St. Mary's, were given the opportunity to take the church pew cushions and decided to do so.

They have been randomly placed and can be moved to suit the comfort of our members.

Thank you to those who helped in both the transporting of the cushions and in the refreshing of them for our use.

# Treasurer's Report

Once again thank you for your continued support and giving.

**Some recent receipts during December and early January, from information I currently have, that I wish to mention:** (noting that January is not complete at date of preparing this). (Most of these donors wishing to remain anonymous).

**Donations to Parishioner costs totaling £60.**

**Donation from Arthur Main £15 towards Parishioner.**

**Donations to Fabric Fund totaling £60.**

**Donations to General Funds totaling £110 following some recent funerals.**

**Other Donations to General Funds totaling £490.**

**Donation to Special Projects Fund £100.**

**Christmas Cards £930.**

**Gift Service and Nominated Charities £2,035.**

*November Offering receipts:*

	FWO	Gift Aid	Open Plate	Standing Orders
06.11.22	156.00	365.00	159.00	
13.11.22	496.50	305.00	206.00	
20.11.22	407.50	155.00	97.00	
27.11.22	182.00	275.00	150.00	
01 to 30.11.22				6117.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1242.00</b>	<b>1100.00</b>	<b>612.00</b>	<b>6117.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9071.00</b>			

*December Offering receipts:*

	FWO	Gift Aid	Open Plate	Standing Orders
04.12.22	178.00	263.00	124.50	
11.12.22	254.20	350.00	99.00	
18.12.22	102.00	220.00	95.00	
25.12.22	89.00	55.00	84.70	
01 to 31.12.22				6417.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>623.20</b>	<b>888.00</b>	<b>403.20</b>	<b>6417.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8331.40</b>			

## **Gift Service and Nominated Charities Monetary Donations**

I received an amazing total of £2,035 during December as part of the Gift Service giving for others and for giving to our nominated charities for Christmas 2022.

From the £785, money in envelopes received for Gift Service, we were able to support East Dunbartonshire Social Work, Ravenswood Interim Homeless Residential Support Service Kirkintilloch, St Rollox Community Outreach Project, and Lodging House Mission Glasgow. Monetary donations for Guide Dogs amounted to £555, and for Cancer Research UK £695 and I can confirm having forwarded these funds to support those named.

And of course, over and above this, there were the material gifts that were generously given and these have been distributed to the relevant authorities to help others.

**Thank you to everyone who gave in any way.**

**John M Thomson**  
**Treasurer**



# Christmas Card Delivery

This year the sum raised was £930.00 which is going to Church funds. With sincere thanks to Ruth Poynton for all the hard work she put in; collecting, sorting and delivering the cards to all those, who in turn, delivered them around the various districts. Thank you also to Stewart Walker Newsagent for accepting cards this year.

## Craft Group

The Craft Group meets in the Session House each Monday from 2 - 4pm. We are currently knitting baby hats for a hospital in Bwinde, Uganda and will soon move to other projects including Easter, The Coronation and Christmas!

If you can knit or sew or just enjoy a cuppa and a chat, please come along - we'd love to see you!

## Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help three ways during this Fortnight.

First, why not join an online Big Fairtrade Get Together? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future.

Secondly, let your friends know of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night. Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

## ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT MAKE A SUMMER!

**Nor does one pancake make a spring, but it is a step in the right direction.**

Sunday 26th February is St Mary's Pancake Sunday. This is the first one since 2020 when we just got one in before the lockdown, so this is yet another celebration of normality.

There will be both savoury and sweet pancakes being served after the service on that day. Savoury will include bacon and maple syrup or cheese and tomato sauce. Sweet will be sugar and lemon or cinnamon apples or more maple syrup if you wish.

Hopefully all our tossers will also be back! Our annual pancake tossing competition will return and we look forward to welcoming past competitors as well as new ones. No running required, seated competitors are welcome and all ages can take part. All you have to do is toss as many pancakes as possible in 30 seconds.

Come and join us for a good lunch, good company and a bit of fun.

Tickets go on sale on Sunday 5th February costing £1 and donation on the day.

# WHAT DOES A KING AND A CANAL HAVE IN COMMON?

Normally not a lot. This summer, however, both feature in our planned activities.

## 1. Coronation Lunch

Following the Coronation of Charles III on the Saturday, St Mary's will have its Coronation/Strawberry Lunch after the service on Sunday 7th May. This is earlier than usual, but we cannot allow this historic event to pass without celebrating it. We had a very good time last year when we celebrated the late Queen's platinum jubilee and now, we can have an equally good time celebrating the coronation. Put the date in your diary and come and join us. Tickets go on sale on Sunday 16th April costing £1 plus a donation on the day.

## 2. Come cruise with us! (along the canal.)

Back by public demand! An evening in June sailing along the Forth and Clyde Canal courtesy of Seagull Trust Cruises. We had a very successful series of trips on the boat almost ten years ago and we have had many requests to run them again. They will sail every evening during the week beginning Monday 26th June leaving Southbank Marina at 6pm. The cruise will last approximately 2 hours returning to the marina. These cruises will include a 'chippy supper' choose from fish, sausage or pie to go with your chips and tea or coffee. The food will arrive hot and ready to eat just before we sail.

Places are limited as each boat can only accommodate 12 people and we have 2 boats sailing each evening. Each boat has a toilet on board and a lift for anyone who has difficulty with steps.

Tickets go on sale Sunday 4th June. The cost has yet to be decided as it will depend on the food supplier.

*Further information about both events will follow in forthcoming issues of The Parishioner. (alternatively ask Isobel Tinto or Jen Biggans)*

## Dear Lord,

Here we are in February – month of cold days, winter days, but days that promise hope and signs of Spring. Snowdrops and lengthening light; echoes of the hope and light that Jesus brought to Simeon and Anna all those years ago in the Temple.

Thank you, Lord, that you always bring light, you always bring hope and peace and joy when we put our trust in Jesus, our Saviour. Jesus, Lord of all our days and seasons. In His name we thank you, as we look to His Light.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

# The Churches Walking Group

Throughout 2022 the Churches Walking Group met on Thursday afternoons for an hour's walk and talk. Six of us from St Mary's have joined this group on a regular basis along with some of the members of St Columba's Hillhead and other local churches. The largest walking group we had over the year was seventeen and the smallest was two. There was a walk every week. The format is simple. We meet at a Kirkintilloch location with reasonable car parking at 1:30. We walk for approximately 2.5 miles. We try to walk a circular route and are normally back at the cars by 2:45. We use local paths and lanes to avoid traffic as much as possible. These are the guidelines used

on "plotaroute.com" to plan each walk.

You may gather from above that this is a gentle walk suitable for all ages. If you are available on a Thursday afternoon and would like to make some new friends, or walk with some old ones, then please come and join us. No special equipment is required. All you need is a waterproof jacket and a stout pair of shoes.

As mentioned above, the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons and we vary the routes. The start locations for February 2023 are shown below. If you would like to join us for a walk, then please turn up on any of these dates and we will be delighted to see you.

<b>2nd February</b>	-	<b>Merkland Nature Park</b>
<b>9th February</b>	-	<b>St Columba's Church</b>
<b>16th February</b>	-	<b>St Columba's Church</b>
<b>23rd February</b>	-	<b>Donaldson Street, beside Lairdsland School</b>
<b>2nd March</b>	-	<b>Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre</b>

**Trevor Patterson**

**trevor\_patterson@outlook.com**

## The Language of Love

**Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us.** But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

### **Listening**

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

### **Touching**

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

### **Speaking**

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

**Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?**

# Young Church

This year we celebrate the beginning of Lent in February. Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to **Easter**, an important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent starts on Wednesday 22nd February and is known as **Ash Wednesday**. The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week**.

## The Story of Lent

*Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God.*

*Jesus was tempted several times by Satan but was able to resist.*

*Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline.*

*There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate.*

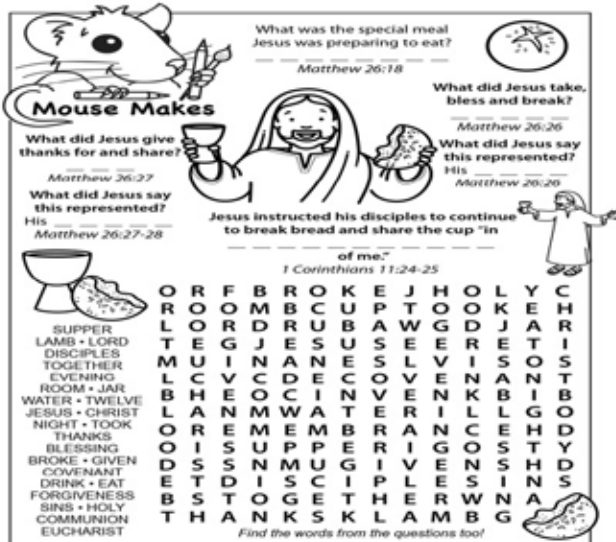
*The day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as Pancake Day and was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent. This year Shrove Tuesday is on February 21st.*

*Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a simple meal that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour. Shrove comes from the verb 'to shrive' which means to confess sins.*



We would love to see pictures of your pancakes.

These can be posted on the church Facebook page or emailed to [stmarys.youngchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.youngchurch@gmail.com)



# ***The Rectory***

## ***On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church***

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

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has

soared these past few weeks.

There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

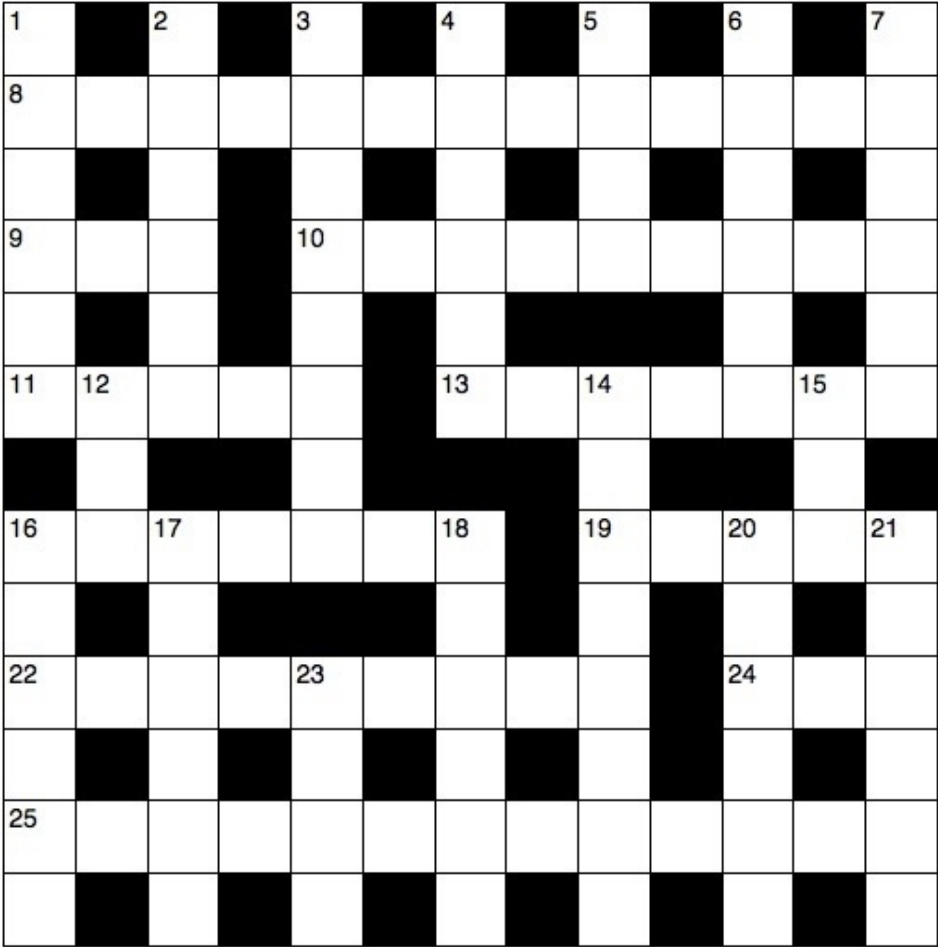
What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon, was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

***Your loving uncle, Eustace***  
*The Parishioner – February 2023* 13



# Crossword



**Across**

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 ‘Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap’ (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and

the Maccabees are part of it (9)

- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 ‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s

mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices’ (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David’s plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: ‘On — — let them escape’ (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

#### Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 ‘Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father’ (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau’s grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God’s instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ‘ — salt to —

your offerings’ (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 ‘All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me’ (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd’s reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow’s son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn’t rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Oceans. 2, Hopini. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.  
DOWN: Sovereign Lord. 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25,



Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee