

For in hope
we were saved.
Now hope that is
seen is not hope.
For who hopes
for what is seen?
But if we hope
for what we
do not see,
we wait for it
with patience.

September 2023



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
September 2023

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

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Pastoral Letter ...

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that a new school term has begun, and it is nearly the end of August. As I write this letter, I am sitting in the Leisure Centre café working away whilst Grace attends her first gymnastics class. She has been asking for quite some time if she could go and so was delighted when her place was confirmed. As we walked across the car park, she reached for my hand and squeezed it tightly, mostly in excitement, I think, but maybe a little apprehension too. Isn't that often the way when we embark on something new?

It got me thinking about all of us as a new session begins and we continue our conversations with our friends at St David's Memorial Park. It has been so good to worship together over the month of August, get to know one another better and, I hope, realise that we have more in common than we might initially have thought! We are embarking on something new and that, if we are honest, is exciting and unsettling in equal measure. The truth is that whatever the future looks like, it's going to be different for us all.

Yet, as that reality dawns, there is hope, because we have the promise that we do not face it alone. We have each other and, time and time again, scripture reminds us that God is with us ... always. In recent days I have found myself turning to a song called All I know by Ian White that I listened to a lot in lockdown, especially when exploring my calling to St Mary's:

Though I feel afraid of territory unknown, I know that I can say that I do not stand alone, for Jesus, you have promised your presence in my heart, I cannot see the ending but it's here that I must start and all I know is you have called me, and that I will follow is all I can say, I will go where you will send me, and your fire lights my way.

What lies across the waves may cause my heart to fear, will I survive the day? Must I leave what's known and dear? A ship that's in the harbour is still and safe from harm but it was not built to be there it was made for wind and storm, and all I know is you have called me, and that I will follow is all I can say, I will go where you will send me, and your fire lights my way.

I hope that these words offer us all some comfort and challenge in these coming weeks and months as we seek God's will and face the unknown together, trusting, as we do so, that God will hold our hands in all things new and lead us ever forward.

With love and blessings, *Ruth*

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.



Copy for the October magazine should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Thursday 28 September**.

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

Marriage

August 26 Kimberley Ferrie and James Travers

Deaths

May 27 James Wilson, 63 Lion Bank, Kirkintilloch
June 29 Mrs Rita Bennie, 6 Fraser Gardens, Kirkintilloch
July Mrs Muriel Girault, Callebun Court, 30 Callebun Road, Bishopbriggs
August 28 Mrs Eleanor Morrow, 13 Duntiblae Road, Kirkintilloch

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'.

June 20 Mrs Christine Clingan, 7 Albert Road, Lenzie
22 James Craig, 65 Kenilworth Road, Kirkintilloch
July 06 Mrs Mary Burnett, 44 Alloway Drive, Kirkintilloch
21 Mrs Elmar Goodwin, 21 Kelvin Court, Kirkintilloch
26 Robert McLachlan, 21 Oak Drive, Lenzie
August 17 Mrs Jean Stirling, 42 Regent Street, Kirkintilloch
September 01 Lambert Sinclair, Lillyburn Care Home, Birdston (formerly Duntiblae Road, Kirkintilloch)

The thoughts and prayers of the congregation are with all those suffering loss at this sad time.

Change of Address

Mrs Ashley Matthews, formerly 15 Monkland Avenue, now residing at 33 Burns Road

New Members (By Transfer Certificate)

Mrs Margaret Stafford, 4 Hardmuir Gardens, Kirkintilloch
Mrs Louise Patrick, 65 Oxford Street, Kirkintilloch
Mrs Elizabeth McGrath, 79 Park Road, Bishopbriggs
Mrs Sinton Sneddon, 11 Antonine, Kirkintilloch
Alan Finnie, 67 Iona Way, Kirkintilloch

We welcome them all into our congregation and trust they will find peace and joy in our midst. The good wishes of the congregation are sent from St Mary's.



Church Flowers

As you know the church is decorated each Sunday with flowers. Each arrangement is delivered to someone who is unwell, bereaved or having an over 80 Birthday! To continue this ministry of flowers we depend on donations from members and recently donations have lessened, so we need your help. If you would like to donate to church flowers either on a regular basis or a one-off donation, then please let one of us know.

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



Nursery Update

Nursery opened again on 14th August to allow for staff training. We welcomed children back on 16th and everyone has settled well into nursery routine.

Our numbers in the 2-year-old room are really positive with more new children settling over the coming weeks.

As a result of Hazel leaving us before the beginning of term, we have had to employ a new temporary member of staff. We look forward to welcoming Michelle Ness to our team on 15th September.

Please note that the new email address for the office is; office@stmarysnursery.uk

We look forward to another exciting year of nursery activities!

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

Session Report

Welcome back, to the start of a “new year” in the life of our congregations.

I hope you have been able to enjoy a rest & perhaps a more relaxed pace of life over the summer months. At the time of going to print, the Kirk Session had not met since the summer break – our first meeting is planned for the end of August (just as this copy of the Parishioner is going to print).

With regard to our Basis of Union conversations, we have taken a break during the holidays, but our meetings are starting up again now and we have a workshop planned with both Kirk Sessions at the end of this month. So we expect to have a lot more to report in October, although we will continue to share information as it becomes available. Thanks to everyone (from both congregations) who sent in name suggestions for our new united congregation. We hope to be able to share an update on a proposed new name very soon.

In some ways things have been quieter over the past few weeks, but at the same time, for many folks, it has been anything but quiet! David and his team of willing volunteers have been very busy with a variety of maintenance projects in and around our sanctuary and halls. Lots of clearing out, new carpets, and of course, the paint brushes were never far away!

We also had “Wonderzone” in August – our Cluster Holiday Club for our young folks, which took place at St David’s Memorial Park and Lenzie Union Parish Church. This was our first cluster initiative and was a great success, enjoyed by all.

And at the end of August, along with St David’s Memorial Park, we took part in the Canal Festival. Fantastic to have our Church open and be part of this thriving community event.

I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone involved in all of these activities. Your hard work and enthusiasm is very much appreciated. The summer was also a time when we were able to enjoy a number of shared worship services. As well as sharing worship with St David’s Memorial Park on four Sundays, we also had our third Cluster Service at Lenzie Union Parish Church. A date has still to be confirmed, but we very much look forward to our next cluster service later in the year, which will be held in our sanctuary.

We can all look forward to an exciting year ahead in the life of our congregations in Kirkintilloch. I will keep you updated as we move forward together, but as always, if you have any questions or there is anything you would like to discuss, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. With my thanks and kind regards,

Gordon Morrison
Session Clerk
morrisgo@sky.com
07306 205303

Treasurer's Report

Once again, I am grateful for your continued support and giving; and for the generosity of those donors. To those that were able to respond to our recent articles, thank you.

Some recent receipts over the last couple of Months (Most of these donors wishing to remain anonymous)

A Legacy from The Estate of Mrs Janet Allan Deceased, £5,000

An Anonymous Donation towards Church Funds for wherever it is needed £500

Donations to Fabric Fund totaling £40

Other Anonymous Donations to General Funds totaling £45

Donation of £1400 to Special Projects Fund from The Flower Circle

Donation from an earlier Funeral following the loss of a valued member
£2,000

Fees following a couple of Funerals £150

Easy Fundraising £19.83

Donation towards the cost of new ceiling tiles for Session House £300

John M Thomson
Treasurer

Dear Father in heaven

September is a time of change, a change of season, changes in many areas of our lives as a new term begins and new opportunities present themselves. It can be a time of challenge and uncertainty for many of us as well as excitement. Thank you, Lord, that You never change, Your promises never change, Your Holy-Spirit inspired Word never changes. You are constant and rock-solid, always. Help us to remember that You make all things new when we put our trust in Jesus, You give us new life and new ways of understanding, but help us also to remember that You never contradict Your revealed self. Help us always to check out our thinking with what You say in Your Word. Help us to be faithful to You as we take each step forward, each new day.

In Jesus name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Dates for your Diary



Sunday Tea Makers

With the coming of September, the normal pattern of tea and coffee after the Sunday service will return. The Rota issued earlier in the year is still the same, so please check your dates. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Cousin. As you know, in the past we stopped serving tea and coffee after the service during the summer, however; we decided to keep going and our thanks are extended to those who volunteered to help.

The craft afternoons resume on Monday 4th September 2-4pm.

While no-one wishes to acknowledge it yet, Christmas is just over the horizon and needs to be planned for, which we will start discussing at our first meeting. All are welcome at our meetings; knitters, sewers, tea/coffee drinkers, biscuit eaters plus anyone who enjoys good company.

Wednesday Welcome resumes on Wednesday 6th September 10-12 noon

Tea, coffee and home baking together with fellowship is available every Wednesday morning in the Session House. A short Service taken by Ruth begins at 11.30am. This is yet another activity where all are welcome.

St Mary's Scottish Country Dance Class

Classes will restart in St Mary's church hall on Tuesday 19th September 7.30 – 9.30pm. This class is open to all and we look forward to welcoming the folks who were previously in the class and new dancers. Beginners will be made most welcome and the programme will be an easy and gentle restart after a long break.

National Doors Open Day is Saturday 9th September and St Mary's will be open from 10.00am until 4.00pm.

You will be made very welcome to come in and sit for a quiet moment or two, wander round the church, or be guided and also enjoy tea/coffee.

Advance Notice

Advent Lunch is on Sunday 10 December 2023. Details to follow next month.

St Cyprians Episcopal Church Lenzie

are having a Flower Festival on the dates noted below. Throughout each day there will be a programme of music: organ/piano recitals, violin, cello, flute and guitar.

Thursday 2.00 – 7.00pm

Friday 2.00 – 7.00pm

Saturday 10.00am – 4pm

The Churches Walking and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout September at the locations below. The walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and we vary the routes. If you would like to join us then

please turn up at any of these locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you.

Trevor Patterson
trevor_patterson@outlook.com

31st August

7th September

14th September

21st September

28th September

5th October

Donaldson Street

Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre

Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre

Ellisland Drive

Hillhead Basin

Lenzie Coop

The Seasons of Mist and Mellow Fruitfulness



We know summer suns have not been glowing much this year and many days have seen dark clouds drifting across the sky, but while the earth remains, there will be seed-time and harvest. Now with the arrival of autumn the harvest is in full swing. The time to give thanks for the harvest and everything else we have enjoyed this year has arrived.

Our traditional Harvest Service of Thanksgiving is on Sunday 8th October and will be followed by a lunch in the church halls. This will comprise a two-course meal: Baked Potatoes with a choice of fillings, followed by apple pie and cream. Limitless tea or coffee will also be available.

Tickets for this lunch go on sale Sunday 17th September. The cost will be £1 to reserve a place plus a donation on the day.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this lunch to which we will also be inviting our friends at St. David's.

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

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 11th November
10am – 4pm

Crafty Christmas Cafe

A Lovely range of quality Craft
Stalls

Great Ideas for Christmas gifts
(Shop Local)

Tombola and Hamper Raffle

Email stallinthehall@live.co.uk

Donations for the Tombola and Hamper would be very welcome. Please hand in to any of the young church leaders. Assistance is required for setting up and clearing down tables and also for the Cafe on the day. More details in October Parishioner

Church and Halls repairs and cleaning Summer 2023

We took advantage of worshipping in St Davids and Lenzie Union to tackle bigger jobs this year. Here is the list.

- Outside**
- Fill tarmac holes in carpark.
 - Replace floodlight.
 - Replace rotten wood supports for floodlight masts.
 - Clean out main drain.
- Church**
- Redecorate Session House. Repaint walls, instal new ceiling panels, fit new carpet.
 - Bottom step to flagpole flat. Cast in new bottom step.
 - Repaint vestibule ceiling and improve lighting.
 - Tops of stairwells. Repaint after water damage. (in progress)
 - Clear accumulation of STUFF in transepts.
 - Repair cushions in Sanctuary.
 - Fit new matting and Carpet at Vestry door.
 - Progress electrical jobs per recent report.
- Halls**
- Clean radiator filters in Main hall.
 - Clean radiators in Mid hall.
 - Wash Main and mid hall floors.
 - Major clear out in Dunny. Where does it all come from!

Once again my thanks to the band of willing helpers who have assisted in any way to complete the jobs listed above. The work does not stop as summer comes to a close, as we hope to continue freshening up the paintwork which is easily accessed around the Church.

Thank you all again.

David Tinto
Fabric Convener



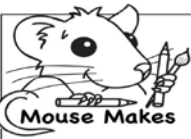
Young Church

Young Church invite everyone 0-16yrs to join them on a Sunday morning 11am-12noon across in the Church halls. The children have lots of fun with stories, singing and crafts etc in different groups.

Creche: 0-3yrs

Kidzone: 3yrs - Primary 5 age group

Seekers: P6 – 16yrs



Mouse Makes

Who sows the good seed?
Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?
the _____
and who is the good seed?
The people of the _____

Matthew 13:38

THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?
Matthew 13:25

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then
but the wheat is stored in the _____
Matthew 13:30

Who sows the weeds?
The _____
Who are the harvesters?
The _____

Matthew 13:39

READ the parable in Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43

TOGETHER SEEDS ARE
DROPPED FIRE
PEOPLE OF THE
FIELD BEHOLD
GATHERED THE
ROOTS OF THE
OYSTER IN THE
WOMB OF THE
ENEMY GROUND
EARTH OF THE
SON OF MAN
DISCIPLES


THESE REBELLIOUS
SEEDS ARE
BARRICADES
IN THE
EVIL
PLACES
GROWING
IN THE
WORLD
DEADLY
SIN
NEED
ANGELS
SM
DVA


PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN
GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE
PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!

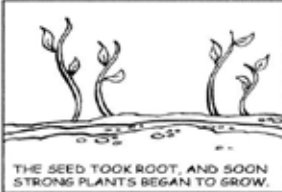
The tale of the Wheat and the Weeds

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS






ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO SOWED SEED IN HIS FIELD.




THE SEED TOOK ROOT, AND SOON STRONG PLANTS BEGAN TO GROW.


BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...




AS THE WHEAT BEGAN TO GROW, SO DID THE WEEDS.




WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.




IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW, YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT HARVEST.




NO! LET'S LEAVE THEM UNTIL HARVEST TIME!



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY, IT WAS HARVESTED INTO HUGE BUNDLES.



BUT THE WEEDS WERE BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.



The Rectory ***St James the Least***

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend - preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts - although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

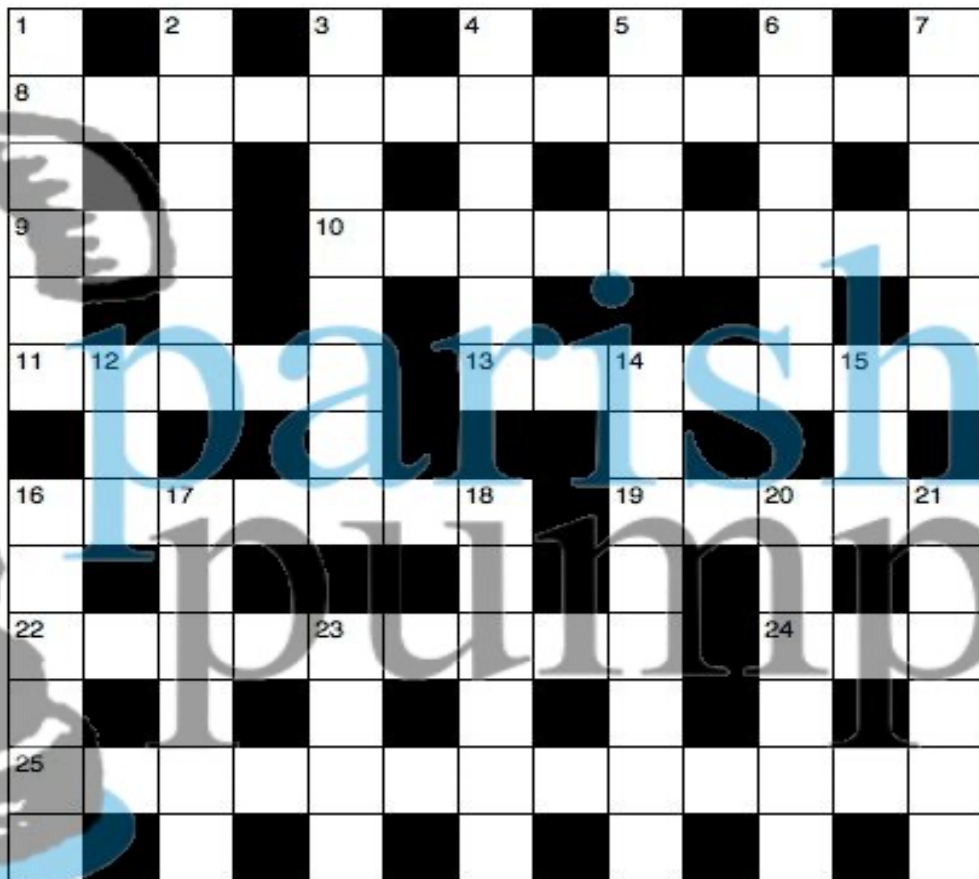
We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to

drift somewhere above his head. He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for my Queen Anne rectory to be sold and my five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential - which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counterattack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)

- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4 Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre, but one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain far too much cholesterol."

ACROSS: 8, Kinath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Millet. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph. DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



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