



**Summer
2023**



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
Summer 2023

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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Pastoral Letter ...

Dear Friends,

I recently went in search of something that I had lost and though I didn't find what I was looking for, I came across lots of other things that I had forgotten about! One of those things was a journal I kept in 2005 when I was exploring my calling to ministry. It made for interesting reading, particularly a quote that I had jotted down after a World Day of Prayer event. At that time, following my trip to Ghana, I wasn't sure whether God was calling me to ministry in Scotland or some other work overseas. On the day in question, a lady from the Salvation Army had been speaking and she said this: 'The light that shines the furthest, shines the brightest at home.' The words are attributed to a couple of people but, whoever said it, stopped me in my tracks that day and, when I read them again a week ago, gave me food for thought.

The Church of Scotland is moving through unprecedented change and the presbytery mission planning process has left many weary and uncertain about the future. Yet, though the way of doing church has to inevitably change if we

are to thrive and grow, our calling as God's church remains the same. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour as we love ourselves. It is you and me that are tasked with sharing the good news of Jesus with the world in faith, word and action and, it seems to me, that it is here, in Kirkintilloch, that we are asked to start. For 'the light that shines the furthest, shines brightest at home.'

Of course, we are getting to the time of year when we are hopeful of blue skies, warmer air and maybe even some sunshine. I hope that you will find and make time to rest in the sun and, of course, the Son, and be recharged, a bit like a solar light! For if we are to shine, then we need to take time to come into the presence of the light of the world, breathe in deeply, enjoy the extraordinary in the ordinary and spend a bit of time looking around, praying and wondering what next? We can't always be on the go, we need to strike a balance, and I hope you will find it this summer.

Finally, in a recent conversation, one of you folks said, "as always we had a good wee team," and that, friends, makes all the difference in the world. Thank you so much to each one of you who contribute to the life of St Mary's, often quietly, behind the scenes, without any fuss. It doesn't go unnoticed, and it is appreciated; you make the church brighter by your life and work. Might it be that 'the light that shines the furthest, shines the brightest at home?'

With love and blessings for a peaceful and refreshing summer,

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 September Parishioner should be sent by e-mail to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than Sunday 27 August.

The Publications Committee wish everyone a good summer, with hopefully lots of sunshine. Thank you to all who have contributed.

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'.

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| April | 21 | Mrs Sheila Robertson, Fourhills Care Home, Glasgow
Mrs Ena McLean, 6 Orchard Place, Kirkintilloch
Henry Graham |
| May | 18 | Mrs Moyna McDonagh, 11 Hazel Avenue, Lenzie |
| | 19 | Mrs Mary Lang, 9 Almond Drive, Lenzie |
| | 25 | Mary Henderson, Westerton Care Home, Bearsden (formerly Kelvin Court, Kirkintilloch) |

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

Baptism

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| April | 16 | Millie Rose Egan, daughter of Emma and Ross |
|-------|----|---|

Sally and Gordon McLellan thank all those who sent cards, messages and flowers after the passing of Sally's mum, Sheila Robertson. They were all gratefully received.

Dear Father,

As we come to this beautiful time of year, the month of June, we thank you for the wonder of your creation and the way our spirits are lifted as we see all around us the freshness of a new summer.

This month we remember Barnabas, whose name means, child of encouragement. He was a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Lord, help each of us to be a Barnabas to someone today, to encourage and lift up, led by your Holy Spirit and full of faith.

Help us to share your love and goodness, especially with those whose circumstances are difficult. Help us all to trust you through good times and testing times, knowing you are always with us, always encouraging us, always faithful.

In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching



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

Good news! The visit from the Care Inspectorate took place on 19th April and our first two-year-olds started with us on Wednesday 3rd May. The children settled well and the only tears we had were when it was time to go home! We have been assisting families affected by the temporary closure of TLC Nursery in Hillhead by accommodating some of their children, who will stay with us until the end of term. My grateful thanks to all staff for their hard work in making this possible.

Members of staff recently completed the Race for Life raising £4000 (including Gift Aid) for Cancer Research. A huge well done to them all – what a fabulous sum to raise! The nursery will hold a bottle stall at the Kirkintilloch Gala Day on 10th June. Any donations of bottles should be handed in to the nursery where they will be gratefully received.

A nursery trip will take place this year to View Valley Park. This is an exciting venture for the nursery and is sure to be enjoyed by all.

The graduation will be held on 23rd June when we say goodbye to the children who will be going to school in August as well as celebrating their achievements in nursery.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the nursery this year – your help is always much appreciated. I'd also like to wish all staff a restful, enjoyable summer break!

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

Session Report

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 17th May. For a variety of reasons, this was our first meeting since February and so we had a very full agenda to deal with! I have picked out some of the key topics of discussion and some dates for our diaries.

Basis of Union

Within the nominated group, we are progressing our conversations with representatives from St David's Memorial Park and we will continue to share our Newsletter on a regular basis. The group are working towards the completion of the "Basis of Union" document, as well as a supporting document that will provide a narrative around our plans and proposals in terms of Mission and Outreach.

One of the requirements for completing the Basis of Union is agreeing the name of the new united congregation. To that end, we are looking for your help:

For the next three weeks, we will have a box at the front door of the Church. If you have any suggestions for a new name, please take the time to jot it down and pop it in the box. Last date for "entries" – Sunday 18th of June.

A couple of things to note

- Churches need to be named with a geographical prefix – our congregations are currently named:

Kirkintilloch – St Mary's Parish Church; and
Kirkintilloch – St David's Memorial Park

So our new name is expected to be prefixed in the same way.

- It is also suggested that, as it would be very difficult to incorporate the names of all three previous congregations (St David's Memorial, St Mary's and Park Church), the name of the united congregation should be something "New".

i.e. not contain a reference to the existing names.

If it is more convenient, rather than using the box at the Church door, you can simply send me an email at morrisgo@sky.com

We plan to have a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday 18th June, where we will have the opportunity to discuss the Basis of Union and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Again, please use the box at the Church door (or send me an email) if you would like to submit questions in advance of the meeting.



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church' resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

Session Report Cont

Stated Annual Meeting

The congregational meeting on the 18th June will also serve as our Stated Annual Meeting, when our accounts to December 2022 will be presented, along with our budget for the current year.

Summer Worship with St David's Memorial Park

The Kirk Session have agreed that for four weeks over the summer we will hold shared worship services with St David's Memorial Park. The following dates have been agreed:

- 30th July and 6th August – at St David's Memorial Park; and
- 20th and 27th August – at St Mary's.

We very much look forward to sharing in this time together.

Lenzie & Kirkintilloch Cluster

As a cluster, we are planning the "Wonderzone" Holiday Club for our young folks. This will run from the 8th to the 11th August. The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will take place at St David's Memorial Park, with the sessions on the Thursday and Friday at Lenzie Union.

Our next cluster worship service, where all four congregations meet together, will be at 11:00am on Sunday 13th August at Lenzie Union Parish Church.

The final cluster service for this year will be at St Mary's. A date has still to be fixed but it is likely to be in October or November.

There is clearly a lot happening in all our congregations in the coming weeks. As a Kirk Session, we have agreed to meet again on the 21st June, but if there is anything you would like to discuss in the meantime, as always, 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 thank you for your continued support and giving.

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

Donations to Parishioner costs totaling £128

Donations to Fabric Fund totaling £40.

Other Anonymous Donations to General Funds totaling £70

Anonymous Donation towards the cost of our Freewill Offering Envelopes £40

Donation of £500 to Special Projects Fund from Kirky Mile Crunchers Running and Walking Group

Donation following a recent Baptism £50

Donation following a recent Funeral £100

For Information

Notification of new requirements for 2023:

I have received various letters and enclosures from Church of Scotland and Presbytery in relation to financial year end, Congregational Contributions Report for 2022 showing and confirming full payment of our Ministries and Mission requirement for 2022; Schedule of Financial Statistics for 2022 which I have submitted; Investment valuation report as at 31.12.22 to name but a few! With this as would be normal was our Giving To Grow Contribution Statement from Stewardship and Finance Department at 121 detailing our requirements for this year 2023. Giving to Grow is the replacement scheme to the previous Ministries and Mission. Our requirements for this year amount to £74,450 less endowment income of £1548 meaning a net figure payable of £72,902 for the year.(2022 net figure was 70,484). So this years figure is up £2,418, 3.43% against 2022 figure. It is based on a set of calculations set by The General Assembly and is based against our 2021 income as per our accounts. This amount of £72,902 is payable either in 10 or 12 monthly instalments and since historically we have chosen to pay over 10 months, I can confirm having instructed our bank to set up a standing order February to November inclusive for £7,290.20.

Presbytery Dues for 2023:

Again as would be the norm at this time of year, in late December I received communication from The Presbytery of Glasgow detailing our required dues for this year. The amount for this year is £4,280 based on 2021 income of 133,744. At this level our contribution is 3.20%. The requested £4,280 is up £321, 8.108% up on our 2022 figure of £3959. As the amount requested is over 4000, the requested £4,280 is payable over 3 instalments by 31st March, 30th June and 30th September, for which as normal Presbytery accounts have provided pay in slips to facilitate payment.

January Offering receipts:

	FWO	Gift Aid	Open Plate	Standing Orders
01.01.23	90.00	75.00	166.21	
08.01.23	218.95	375.00	174.00	
15.01.23	504.00	326.00	134.43	
29.01.23	274.70	380.00	138.10	
01 to 31.01.23				6140.00
Totals	1087.65	1156.00	612.74	6140.00
Grand Total	8996.39			

February Offering receipts:

	FWO	Gift Aid	Open Plate	Standing Orders
05.02.23	284.00	236.00	128.90	
12.02.23	421.00	361.00	100.31	
19.02.23	194.00	151.00	105.00	
26.02.23	235.20	316.00	148.50	
01 to 28.02.23				5862.00
Totals	1134.20	1064.00	482.71	5862.00
Grand Total	8542.91			

March Offering receipts:

	FWO	Gift Aid	Open Plate	Standing Orders
05.03.23	150.20	268.00	107.50	
12.03.23	415.00	385.49	131.00	
19.03.23	111.00	252.00	129.00	
26.03.23	136.00	233.50	145.00	
01 to 31.03.23				6322.00
Totals	812.20	1138.99	512.50	6322.00
Grand Total	8785.69			

I am pleased to note that our offering income over the 3 months detailed above is up by just under £1,300 on the comparable 3 months of last year. Although a concern for me would be that referring to our total offering income month by month, and our requirements monthly for Giving to Grow amounting to £7,290.20, and Presbytery of Glasgow requirement of £4,280 payable over 3 instalments by the end of September, which would equate to approx. £475 per month; this leaves a very small proportion of your giving in the month to cover all the other items of expenditure involved in operating your Church. I am also concerned that as of 1st April we have now entered new contract tariff rates for gas and electricity as previously reported to you, these being substantially higher than we were previously paying. Please also see my article providing details of our Budget for 2023.

Budget For 2023

Our Finance Committee has prepared a Budget for this year. This was presented to The Kirk Session, along with 2022 Year End Accounts, at a Kirk Session Meeting in late February. Both the budget and the accounts were duly accepted and approved and thereafter the accounts and records have gone to our appointed Independent Examiner for checking. The accounts examination is now complete, verified, and signed off. They have now been sent to Glasgow Presbytery for statutory attestation before being filed with OSCR. A set has also been sent to Church of Scotland Edinburgh and in due course when appropriate a redacted set will be published for your information. A date for a Stated Annual Meeting has been arranged at which you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

For the moment I thought I would share with you a copy of The Budget, please see enclosed.

Did you know that our expenditure for 2022 (£133,834), averaging out over 12 months amounts to £11,152.83 per month.

Referring to our budgeted expenditure for 2023 (£173,547), averaging out over 12 months would equate to £14,462.25 per month.

You will see that a big proportion of this increase is due to the increase in Heat and Light costs. New tariffs effective from April 2023 mean that our gas and electricity costs could for this year increase from £11,873 to a forecasted £42,000.

You will see from the Treasurer Report which provides details of our Offering Income for the first 3 months of this year and would illustrate how this compares to the above indicated expenditure.

Any questions or comments will be happily received by your Treasurer John Thomson or Hugh Biggans Finance Convenor.

John M Thomson
Treasurer

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2022
INCOME		
Offerings		
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	20,000	20,502
Gift Aid Donations	77,500	78,377
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	22,500	23,025
Ordinary Offerings (Open plate)	4,000	5,463
Other Offerings, Donations, Gift Days, etc	1,000	3,101
Grants	-	-
	125,000	130,468
Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	-	-
Regular Fund Raising Events	-	-
Weddings & Funerals	1,000	1,720
Investments & Deposits	200	189
Use of Premises	1,000	2,722
	<u>2,200</u>	<u>4,631</u>
Total Ordinary General Income	<u>127,200</u>	<u>135,099</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Ministries and Mission		
National Stipend Fund Allocation	74,450	72,032
Less: Endowment Income	(1,548)	(1,548)
Locum Fees	-	80
Presbytery Dues	4,280	3,959
	77,182	74,523
Local Staffing Costs		
Voluntary Additional Stipend & Employers National Insurance	-	-
Travelling Expenses		
Minister's Expenses	1,700	1,440
Ministerial Assistance (Salaries, NI & Expenses)		
Pulpit Supply	420	429
Other Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	13,200	12,403
	15,320	14,272
Buildings Costs		
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	10,000	5,597
Heating & Lighting	42,000	11,873
Water Charges & Insurance	10,000	9,371
Manse Council Tax	4,500	2,999
Cleaning Materials & Laundry	1,500	1,342
	68,000	31,182
Other Local Costs		
Outreach	1,000	-
Training For Mission		
Telephone, Posts, Printing, Stationery, Photocopying	3,000	3,103
Congregational Organisations		
Organ & Piano Maintenance	3,500	5,567
Other expenses	1,000	642
Depreciation of Equipment	4,545	4,545
	13,045	13,857
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	<u>173,547</u>	<u>133,834</u>
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(46,347)</u>	<u>1,265</u>

Dates for your Diary



ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - DOORS OPEN DAY

As you will be aware, we have re-opened our church Doors to the community on the first Wednesday of each month and I would very much like to thank everyone who has volunteered to support us on these occasions.

Our next Doors Open Day will be on **Wednesday 7th June 2023** and we will look forward to a Lunchtime Promenade Organ Recital from our church organist David Burns.

I look forward to welcoming you all to our sanctuary where refreshments will be served.

Best wishes and many thanks,

John Pears

The Churches Walking and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout April 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 for a walk, 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

25th May	-	Merkland Nature Park
1st June	-	St Columba's Church
8th June	-	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre
15th June	-	Waterside, Luggie Footbridge. Including ½ hour stop at The Gatehouse
22nd June	-	Hillhead Basin
29th June	-	St Columba's Church
6th July	-	Kilsyth Road, Strathkelvin Walkway
13th July	-	Donaldson St. Including ½ hour stop at The Stables
20th July	-	Ellisland Drive, 88 and X87 bus turning circle
27th July	-	Lenzie, Co Op Convenience store, Kirkintilloch Road
3rd August	-	Merkland Nature Park
10th August	-	Hillhead Basin
17th August	-	St Columba's Church
24th August	-	Waterside, Luggie Footbridge. Including ½ hour stop at The Gatehouse
31st August	-	Donaldson Street
7th September	-	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre

COME SAIL WITH US!

The week of the evening sails is fast approaching and now is the time to think about which evening you want to come, who you would like to come with and what you would like to eat.

Dates and time of sailing

Starting on Monday 26th June and continuing all that week, ending on Friday 30th June. Each sail will last approximately 2 hours commencing at 6pm prompt and would like you to meet at Southbank Marina no later than 5.45pm.

Cost and food choice

The cost is £10 and includes your cruise, a chip supper, something nice afterwards and tea or coffee. The food will be delivered to the boat from Gerry's Chip Shop and the choice of accompaniment for your chips are fish, sausage or pie.

If you would like a cold drink with your meal, please bring it with you, glasses will be provided.

Because all the food is supplied by a local chip shop it may not be possible to answer all dietary needs but if in doubt please talk to us when buying a ticket and we may be able to help.

General information

There will be 2 boats available each carrying a maximum of 12 passengers and will be called boat 1 and boat 2. Both have a lift and a toilet, which is accessible to those with limited mobility.

Tickets go on sale after the service on Sunday 4th June and this will tell you:

- Which evening you have booked
- which boat you are on
- what food you have ordered

Your ticket will also be your 'boarding card' so please bring it with you.

There will be stewards there on the night who will guide you to the correct boat so do not worry if you are not sure which one you will be on. They will also make sure the correct meals go to the right boat.

Please do not attempt to approach the boats until told to do so by the steward.

If the weather is inclement, the reception area will be available for you to wait in. Seagull Trust Cruises are a charity which provides free canal cruises to those with special needs and the three members of crew providing your cruise are all volunteers. The charity survives on donations, so please come prepared to buy some souvenirs to help this worthwhile cause to keep cruising.



CALLING ALL BRAVE BEARS AND OTHER SOFT TOYS

This August we have yet another 'returning event' - The Kirkintilloch Canal Festival - and we will be taking part as we have done in the past. Children as well as anyone else who has a brave teddy or other soft toy are invited to bring them to St. Mary's Church on Sunday 27th August and watch them parachute off the church tower. We will begin our jumps at 2pm and continue until 4pm. You will see your teddy ascend the outside of the tower, then jump off and float gently to the ground. The cost of each jump is 50p and if you forget your teddy or they refuse to jump you can always buy one of ours costing £1. If you and your teddy want to take part in this event, please come to the church front door where your teddy will be fitted with a parachute and a note of its name. Those that bravely jump will receive a 'Brave Teddy Certificate'.

CAFÉ FOR TODAY

After your teddy has jumped, why not join our friendly catering team in the café across in the church halls. There you will find a warm welcome, whether or not you are accompanied by a brave teddy. Tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks will be available and will be open from 2pm until 4pm.

This day promises to be great fun for the whole family. There will be lots going on in the town and St. Mary's situated where it is right next to the canal is very happy to be in the middle of Kirkintilloch's Celebration as the 'Canal Capital of Scotland'.



Father's Day

This month we celebrate fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's fatherhood and what it means for us.

The Father tells Jesus that He is '*well pleased*' with Him. We also need to hear this, if we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. This can arise with harsh words spoken by our parents. Fathers should use every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.



The following are extracts from letters received by John Thomson and Paul Malcolm.



Thank you very much for supporting our Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. Your generous donation gift of £705.40 from the congregation will certainly make an immediate difference.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners across the region for decades and has been responding to the Syria crisis since 2012. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to the people hit by this disaster.

Michael Mosselmans
Head of Humanitarian



Thank you for your donation of £555.00. Because of you the lives of people living with sight loss are being transformed. It's down to your kindness and generosity that we can continue our life-changing work, we couldn't do it without you. Together, we are helping people with sight loss live life they choose – actively, independently and well.

Dionne Garner
Head of Support Care

Lodging House Mission

Easter Egg Appeal

I am writing to acknowledge and thank you and the congregation for your generous donation of Easter Eggs which you delivered on Good Friday in support of our work this Easter. Your donation has greatly assisted us in our work with people experiencing homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow.

We know none of our work would be possible if it were not for the support and prayers of individuals such as yourselves, so please accept our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you as you have blessed the least of these brothers and sisters of Christ. (Matthew 25:40)

Deacon Claire Herbert
Chaplain LHM

World News

This June we look back on two events which changed modern British history: it is 70 years since the last Coronation, and 75 years since the arrival of Windrush.



It is also the month of Refugee Week, with some refugees reflecting on the compassion and kindness they have found here in the UK.

Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine and now the violence in Sudan disrupts the lives of millions. Aid agencies are doing what they can, but they need our support to be able to help these desperate people.

And here in the UK food banks are still on the rise, with some alarming statistics from the Trussell Trust.

June also brings us the regular yearly observance of Trinity Sunday, Father's Day and the Summer solstice.

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does not

necessarily want to do so. I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the vergers dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

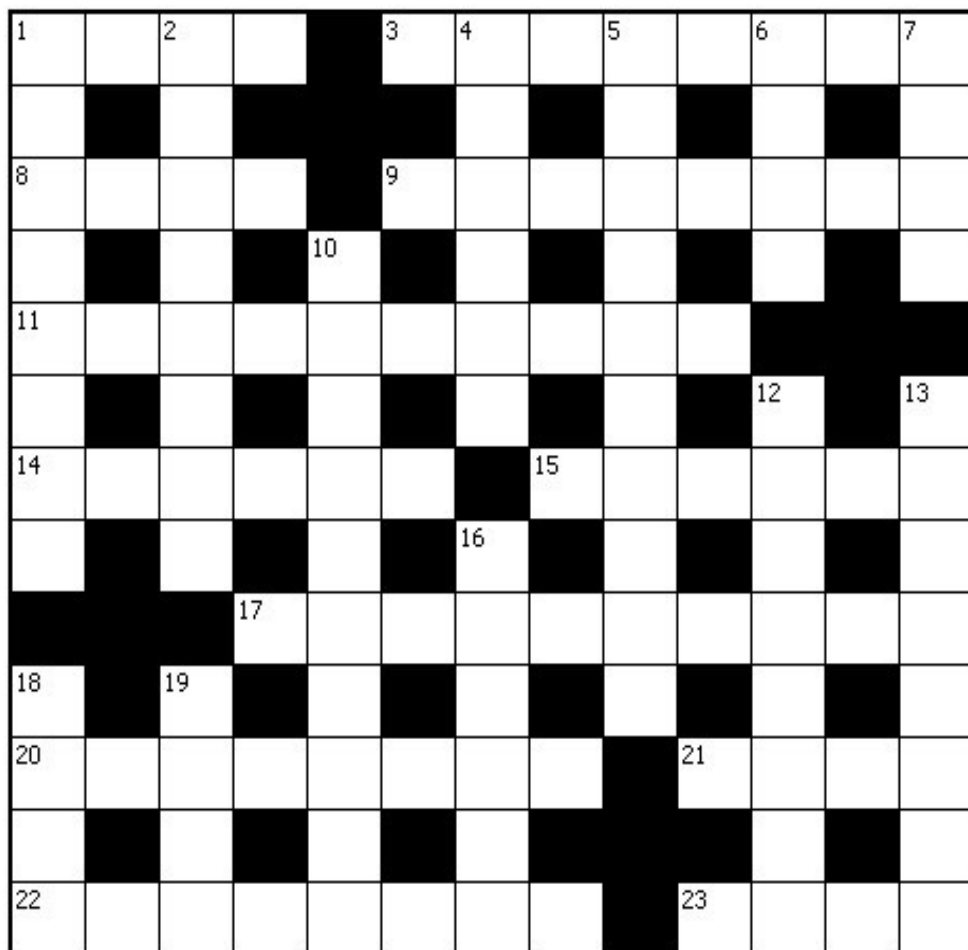
I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who

had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)

- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their

- distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — 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)



ACROSS: 1 care; 3 paradise; 8 mill; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary; 20 covenant; 21 That; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden



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