



April
2024



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,
You settle
its furrows and soften the earth
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
April 2024

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

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Pastoral Letter ...

Hello everyone!

I read a post this week that said, 'if it gets cold one more time, I'm putting my Christmas tree back up!' It certainly feels as if winter has lingered a little longer this year or perhaps with Easter being earlier, we have a sense that the weather should be better. Certainly, by the time you read this, our clocks will have moved forward, and it should, at least, be brighter!

Brighter days, whether literal or metaphorical, are always welcome. Of course, there are times when it is hard to see the sunshine because of circumstances in our own lives or events in the world but, as we stand on the other side of Easter Day, may we remember the hope of the gospel and the power that the story of an empty tomb and a risen Saviour offers to the world.

I was reminded of that just a couple of weeks ago, whilst leading an end of term school service. As I shared the story, there was a loud, audible gasp from one of the children, when I told them that the stone had been rolled, the tomb was empty,

and Jesus was alive. It was a truly beautiful moment and reminded me that in our world today, we cannot take it for granted that people have heard the story of Jesus and know the hope of resurrection and new life. For so many, young and old alike, they will be hearing it for the very first time and what a privilege it was to be able to share it. Indeed, what a privilege it is to share it! It is good news, precious treasure, entrusted to us, to live out and pass on, as surely as the first disciples did, as their shock, confusion, and fear, gave way to courage, joy and peace, in the sure and certain hope that Jesus was alive and promised always to be with them. That promise is given to each one of us too by the Lord Jesus, who knows us each by name, loves us beyond all imagining, and calls us to follow him all our days, living as citizens of the kingdom of heaven, making the light of God's love known. What a calling! What an adventure! What a joy!

So, whatever the weather, this Easter season, may our faith be strengthened to face the challenges, may our hope be bolstered to support one another, and may God give us courage to journey ever onwards whatever we face, trusting in his stone rolling love, that turns everything upside down for good. For Christ has risen, he has risen, indeed! Hallelujah! Let us not be afraid to enjoy and share the treasure that we have been given.

With love and Easter blessings to you all,

Ruth



Copy for the May Parishioner should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than Thursday 25 April. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine.

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, please e-mail webmaster@stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk and we will put these on the News page of the Website.

Church Office

The secretary, Mrs Denise Japp is available in the office Monday to Thursday 8.00 a.m. – 2.15 p.m., Friday 8.00 a.m. – 2.00 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@stmarysnursery.uk

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for cards received, phone calls and messages, visits and gifts, and indeed for being there to support us during John's stay in hospital, prior to, during and post-surgery. Your support, words of encouragement, prayers and good wishes were so invaluable to us. We appreciate all of this so much.

John and Gillian Thomson

St Mary's Parish Church – Open Doors Day

Many thanks again to all of you who have previously supported our Doors Open events and just to remind you that our next one will be Wednesday 1st May 2024, from 10.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

At 12.30 p.m. there will be an organ recital given by our Organist Mr David Burns. Those of you who have attended previous organ recitals will know how enjoyable they are and how varied the music is.

Everyone is invited and we hope that you will feel able to join us again and encourage you to bring your friends who enjoy musical entertainment.

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available in the sanctuary from 12.00 until 14.00.

John Pears

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven – how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.



Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."



Church Flowers

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. Grateful thanks to all who have donated over the past months.

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

Nursery Update

It has been a very busy term and our staff and children are now enjoying a well-earned break. Our two-year-olds now eat lunch in the Rainbow Room along with the other children.

This provides an opportunity for the little ones to socialise, have a healthy lunch and taste new foods as well as developing skills of independence.



Some of our two-year-olds have just moved to the 3-5 rooms. We wish them well as they extend their learning. Two members of staff visited a local nursery recently to observe and share good practice.

The end of term was celebrated with an open Shake and Wake which was well attended by families. As part of this session, we held an Easter Parade where the children showed off the bonnets and hats they had made at home! There was also some yoga before the session ended with an easter song.

Ruth continues to visit the nurse each Wednesday. These visits are appreciated by all and the children enjoy spending time with her. New windows are being installed in the halls and vestibule over the Easter break.

Once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all of their hard work and wish them a restful break.

**Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener**

Dates for your Diary



STRAWBERRY LUNCH

The annual Strawberry lunch will be after the service on Sunday 12th May and will comprise two courses. Tickets go on sale after the service on Sunday 14th April, costing £1 plus a donation on the day.

The lunch will provide an opportunity for fellowship, good food and a chance to gain more information about the important work of Christian Aid.



Christian Aid News

The annual service will be held at Hillhead Church, Newdyke Road, Hillhead on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome so please come along and find out more about the work of Christian Aid.

Christian Aid week this year is from 12th to 18th May. Once again, along with other churches in the area, we will be delivering envelopes in Lenzie. Please note this is a delivery only effort and there will be information on the envelope where to return it. Anyone interested please contact Paul Malcolm on 578 1520.

There will be an opportunity to make a contribution to Christian Aid in church in the usual manner.

8th April – Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice – humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

The Churches Walking and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout April at the locations below. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary.

Throughout the past two years the group has combined friendly conversation with gentle walks around Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside. The pace is suitable for all ages, most fitness levels and all are welcome.

There are currently more than 20 on the WhatsApp group but there is no membership and all are welcome for occasional or regular walks. 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.

The walk on the 2nd of May will be outside of the local areas. On this occasion the meeting point shall be St Columba's Church at 1:15, note the earlier time, and a car sharing operation will take place. Please note that normally at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of our walkers arrive by car and are happy to provide transport for non-car users where required.

Trevor Patterson
trevor_patterson@outlook.com

28th March	Ellisland Drive (Bus turning circle).
4th April	Kilsyth Road (end of Railway Path).
11th April	Donaldson Street.
18th April	St Columba's Church. Including refreshments at Café Sorelle.
25th April	Merkland Nature Park.
2nd May	St Columba's Church. 1:15 for transport to Lennoxtown.

Primary School Chemistry!

Question:

What do you get if you combine painted lollypop sticks, various pieces of card, wool, sheep rings, salt dough, pink rocking bunnies, some glue and colour pens?

Answer:

44 busy happy children.

This is what we had in St. Mary's on Thursday 21st March when we welcomed two Primary three classes to attend a craft morning in the church. Each child went home with a 'goody bag' containing the three crafts they had made plus a St. Mary's pencil, a booklet explaining the Easter story and a crème egg sitting in a knitted chick, lovingly made by the ladies of the craft group.

The teachers also had their own 'goody bag' containing a St. Mary's pen the same booklet about Easter plus a knitted daffodil hiding a crème egg. Some of the children had no idea what the building was, even though they passed it most days and hardly any had ever been inside a church before. They all left with at least some knowledge about what happens in a church and a positive attitude towards it.

21 St. Mary's members took part supervising the 9 crafts, providing juice and biscuits for the children and tea/coffee for adults, time keeping, general helping, piano playing and musical direction. Everyone taking part found it was time well spent and was very enjoyable.

Scottish Bible Society Representative

It is a privilege to be the St Mary's Representative for the Scottish Bible Society. As many of you will be aware, the aim of the Society is to make available a copy of the Bible to everyone in their own language and dialect. There are still 3776 languages that have no Bible translation and 201 million people around the world who do not possess a single book of the Bible in their language.

At a recent conference the CEO of the Bible Society learned a new word 'poly-crisis'. This is a term used to describe many different problems and challenges happening at the same time so that together they have a big effect. It is not an inappropriate word to use of our world today. Anxiety levels rise as we navigate through big issues of conflict within and between countries; the cost of living and changes in the climate.

How do we live as God's people during a poly-crisis? We have to be realistic about the world in which we live. But we are followers of Jesus and that should shape our reactions to the challenges around us.

As different Bible Societies share the Bible in their unique context and we do the same here in Scotland, together we are declaring that there is hope to be found. God offers us life and hope through his Son Jesus Christ, revealed in the Bible.

A Spring Bible Reflection (1 John 3 : 16-18 GNB)

'This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then ought to give our lives for our brothers! If a rich person sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God? My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action'.

Dorothy Finnie

Scottish Bible Society Representative



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

Young Church ...

...meet every Sunday at 11am and welcome children of all ages. They have fun enjoying games, stories, songs and crafts each week. The children have been following the same lessons as the grown-ups and learning how God's son Jesus, tells us many stories to help us understand his love and how important it is to share his love. He asks us to be sheep and follow him, be fishers of men and to be the seeds that grow in his love. They are very busy doing all these things for Jesus.



Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked: "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"





READ the story in John 21



B S N F F I R E R F
W A T E R I F D A Y C W
R I G H T A N I I B O A T Y
J O H N D S S O C S I N
M S H C B N T B A
T S E A H I I R O J E T
I S I M O N P E T E R H
L A N D R G L A H S I A
F O J K M E H E D I U A N D
B R E A K F A S T N S S A
D F I S H U N I G H T E
C A U G H T L D O F U L L

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)

Frogs (Heket)

Gnats (Geb)

Swarms (Khepri)

Death of Livestock (Hathor)

Boils and sores (Sekhmet)

Hail (Seth and Nut)

Locusts (Nepri)

Darkness (Ra)

...but Pharaoh still said 'No!'

God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them...

Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.

That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



The Hebrews left Egypt...



but Pharaoh followed with his army.



The Hebrews were trapped by the Red Sea...

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians...



and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across...



...but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.

FLEETING THOUGHTS

Every Sunday, wet or fine I trot along to the
Half-past-nine. I go because I think I should
To praise the Lord,
For He is good.

The service starts; then goodness knows
Where all my concentration goes!
For though I speak and sing the words
My thoughts fly off like little birds!

I call them back on to their perch
And tell them they must stay in church;
But soon, when I'm supposed to pray
I find they've fluttered miles away!

Again I summon them to me,
And scold them for their truancy
And when the lesson's clearly read
They settle down inside my head.

Five minutes later, all in vain
The blighters have escaped again!
The Lord must think I'm very weak
To let them play this hide and seek!

At least I get them to confess
To all their sins and waywardness.
I tell the Lord I'm filled with shame
But anyway, at least I came.

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

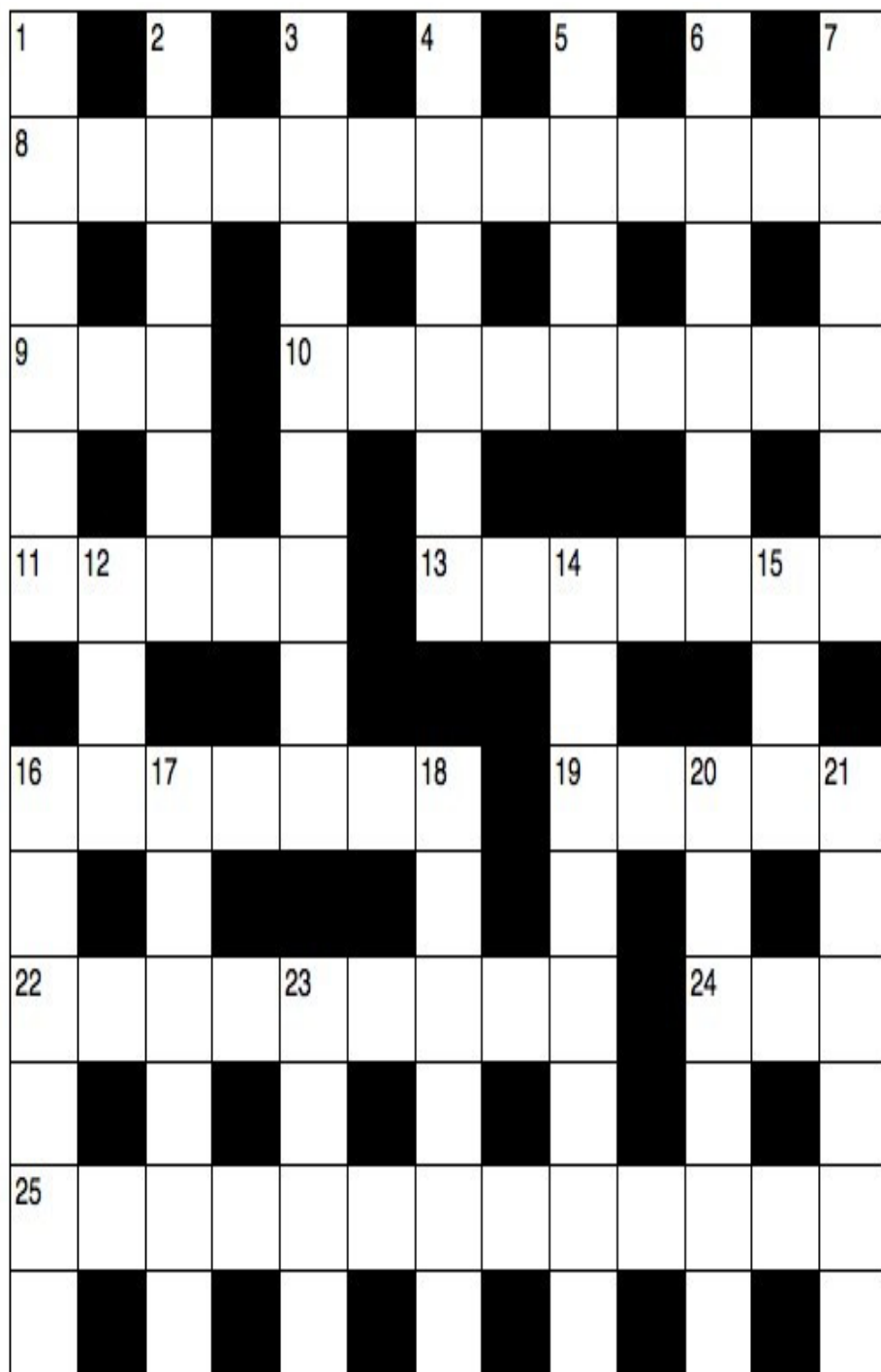
So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel

Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors, 9, Out, 10, Ephesians, 11, Throb, 13, Ramadan, 16, Nearest, 19, Neath, 22, Childless, 24, Ant, 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost, 2, Easter, 3, Assemble, 4, Archer, 5, Isis, 6, To hand, 7, As a son, 12, Hoe, 14, Monastic, 15, Apt, 16, Nuclei, 17, A piece, 18, Tied up, 20, Ararat, 21, Hatred, 23, Dome.



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