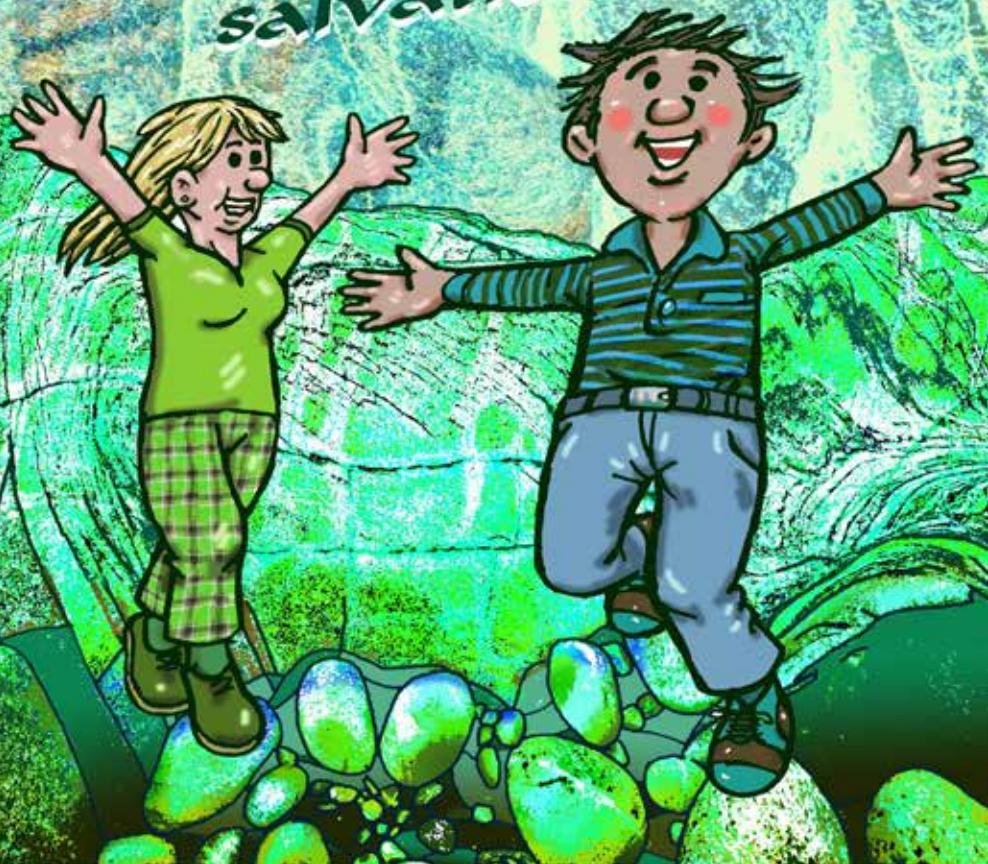


*O come, let us sing  
to the Lord;  
let us make  
a joyful noise  
to the rock of our  
salvation!*

*Psalm 95:1*



MAY 2024



# St Mary's Parish Church

## Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

*Minister:*

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

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



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



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# Pastoral Letter . . .

*Hello everyone!*

Last week I was on a retreat at The Bield in Tibbermore – a silent retreat. I confessed the Sunday before that I was a bit nervous about this, but I needn't have been. It was a wonderful experience. There was worship, guided silence during sessions pondering the book of Ecclesiastes and thinking specifically about time, delicious food, encouragement to rest (and sleep during the day if we felt like it!), a chance to swim whenever we wanted, walk the outdoor labyrinth and plenty of opportunities to read, wander, pray and play – whether in the art room or on the adult sized swing in the garden (yes, I did have a go!). I was struck by a few things: 1) how grateful I was to have the opportunity to get away, 2) how noisy my head space is a lot of the time, and 3) how beneficial it is to be quiet and still, breathe and be – especially outside. I was particularly encouraged one night when I went for a walk after dinner. There was a huge wooden cross in the distance that intrigued me, so I moved towards it. As I did, I realised that around it, there were lots of slates. Upon closer inspection, I realised that each slate had words written upon them. Words of remembrance, hope and inspiration. I read them all but the words that touched

me most that night were these: 'God always forgives our absence and delights in our presence.'

Sometimes in life, it is easy to focus on the negative, the things that aren't happening and the stuff that is a mess. We look at the world, the church, ourselves – our distracted, messy, imperfect, fractured, busy living – and conclude that even if were to slow down, show up and seek to connect with the Almighty, God might have run out of patience with us and be long gone. Ever felt like that? If you have, then hear this. We are loved beyond all measure and understanding by God who delights in us and rejoices when we come home, just as the story of the Prodigal Son reminds us (Luke 15.11-32) and, the good news is, that we don't have to go on a silent retreat to find that out, although sometimes that helps! No, often what is needed is to slow down, show up – 'here I am, God' – and be. When we do that, we might discover that God is closer than the air we breathe and more patient than we can imagine, for God is merciful, all loving and yes, maybe just maybe, 'always forgives our absence and delights in our presence.' So, as the sun grows warmer and the days longer, may we enjoy the opportunities to be outside and do more of that which delights our Maker.

With love and Easter blessings to you all,

*Ruth*



Copy for the Summer Parishioner (June, July, August) should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Thursday 23 May**. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine.

# *The Parishioner Online*



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

Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner ... why not go to [www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk) and see this month's copy. Stephen McKean, Webmaster, has built up previous issues online so you can look back on past copies. Also, if you wish any news or information to be put on the website, please e-mail [webmaster@stmarykirkintilloch.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stmarykirkintilloch.org.uk) and we will put these on the News page of the Website.

## Thank you

The Social Committee thank Young Church for the donation of new Tea Pots, Coffee Pots and some cooking utensils.

**Isobel Tinto**

# Church Office

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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**

## Craft Group

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The ladies of the Craft group are busy with a few projects. We are knitting some more poppies to extend the Remembrance Banner. We have started our Christmas project for the public to remove from the trees in the church garden and are knitting squares to make blankets. The blankets are for a project supported by our local Inner Wheel group; Hamlin Fistula UK. This charity sends blankets to Ethiopia's hospitals for women and girls who are post-surgery and hope to be able to send twelve at the end of this month. We also made some smaller blankets which were gratefully received by Whitefield Lodge Care Home.



Our Fairtrade stall is winding down for the summer break and although it has low stock there are still some nice things to buy. We also have small bags of Malawi white and brown rice available.

Fairtrade celebrates its 30th birthday this year and we hope to have a fully stocked stall and some exciting events to look forward to after the summer break. We look forward to your continued support.

## Parish Register

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### Baptism

March 31 Adam Anderson Hart, son of Ruth and Graeme Hart

### Funerals and Deaths

April 22	Mrs Edith Dunn, 10 Kelvin Drive, Kirkintilloch
26	James Kilpatrick, 54 Marmion Drive, Kirkintilloch
04	Mrs May McKechnie, Boclair Nursing Home, Bearsden (previously Bishopbriggs)
15	Mrs Margaret Devine, Lillyburn Care Home

### Special Anniversary

David and Caroline Wade celebrated 40 years of marriage on 14th April. Congratulations and best wishes are sent from all at St Mary's.

# 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*

## Treasurer's Report

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

Donation to Special Projects Fund £200

Donations to Parishioner costs, amounts received totaling £108

Donations to Fabric Fund £40, £40, and £120

Donations to General Funds totalling £90

Fees or donation following a recent Funeral £50

A Donation towards the annual expenditure cost of supplying Offering Envelopes £40

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Church, your consideration, thoughtfulness, and generosity are very much appreciated.

**John M Thomson  
Treasurer**

# Nursery Update

The Nursery has now reopened following the Easter break and staff and children are looking forward to a busy final term. Windows were installed during their break and everyone has come back to new windows in the corridor, the office and the small and mid-halls. These have already made a difference to the temperature and light in the playrooms. Parents/carers and children have also commented positively on these.

We recently held a parent/carer group meeting in the nursery. This was an opportunity for us to share information on nursery life. Among other items, we also shared our improvement plan with parents/carers, in particular our priority on family engagement. This gave parents an opportunity to provide valuable feedback on what is going well and address any areas for improvement. Parents were very complimentary of the nursery and gave positive and constructive feedback. We look forward to hosting these on a termly basis.

Our two-year-old room continues to be a success and numbers remain high.

Our tender with East Dunbartonshire Council is up for renewal and I am most grateful to Elaine who completed the tender application. We look forward to a positive outcome within the next few weeks.

**Fiona Leishman,  
Nursery Convener**

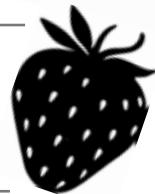


# Dates for your Diary



## STRAWBERRY LUNCH

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



## Christian Aid

Christian Aid week this year is from 12th to 18th May.

Join us this Christian Aid Week and help turn hunger into hope. Hope lives in you. Christian Aid Week is the biggest act of Christian witness in the country. Christian Aid is the relief and development agency of 41 denominations, including the Church of Scotland. It works to eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

There will be a retiral collection in church on 12th and 26th May.

Once again , along with other churches in the area, we will be delivering envelopes in several streets in Lenzie. There will be no knocking of doors and there will be information on the envelope where people can return it to. Anyone interested please contact Paul Malcolm on 578 1520.

## St Mary's Parish Church - Open Doors Day

Our next Doors Open day will be on Wednesday 5th June 2024, from 10.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

At 12.30 on this day you are all invited to join us at a lunchtime concert where Mrs. Sally McLellan will entertain us by playing 'Jazzy Hymns" on the piano. Those of you who have attended previous concerts given by Sally will know how enjoyable they are and how varied the music is.

We hope that you will feel able to join us again and would 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.

Dear Lord,

**John Pears**

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?"

May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,  
In Jesus' name.

Amen

**By Daphne Kitching**

# The Churches Walking and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout May 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.

2nd May	St Columba's Church. 1:15 for transport to Lennoxtown.
9th May	St Columba's Church.
16th May	Lenzie Co Op.
23th May	Hillhead Basin.
30th May	Ellisland Drive
6th June	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre

If you would like to join us for a walk, then please turn up at any of the locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you.

The walk on the 2nd 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 ¾ of our walkers arrive by car and are happy to provide transport for non-car users where required.

Trevor Patterson

trevor\_patterson@outlook.com

## Session Report

If you have been in and around the halls over the past few weeks, you will have witnessed a significant level of activity organised by our Fabric Team. Easter, when the nursery was on holiday, was a particularly busy time:

A new electricity cable has been installed – supplying power to our suite of halls; New double glazed windows have been installed in the small halls, office & vestibule – making a huge difference to the appearance and energy efficiency of our halls; and Structural repairs to the hall roofs have been carried out.

All of this work takes a great deal of organising, and of course, there is the redecorating and the cleaning required when the contractors have finished! And all completed on schedule, in time for the nursery starting back.

A huge vote of thanks to our Fabric Convenor, David Tinto, and his team, for all their efforts - well done!

Cluster Service: Our next shared worship service with Lenzie Old, Lenzie Union & St. David's Memorial Park will be held on Pentecost Sunday – 19th of May.

The service takes place at St David's Memorial Park Church in Alexandra Street and starts at 10:30am.

Finally, conversations are continuing in regard to our planned union with St David's Memorial Park. We hope to be able to provide an update on progress in the coming weeks.

As always, please feel free to get in touch at any time if there is anything you would like to discuss or if you would like any additional information.

Kind regards  
**Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk**  
Telephone: 07306 205303  
email: morrisgo@sky.com

# Duke of Edinburgh appointed as Lord High Commissioner

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Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, has been appointed as the Lord High Commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a decade after he last took on the role of royal representative at the annual gathering.

The Lord High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and is appointed by His Majesty the King to attend proceedings on his behalf. The Duke of Edinburgh is also expected to participate in other events and functions while visiting the capital.

Prince Edward was previously Lord High Commissioner in 2014, when he held the title of Earl of Wessex, and represented his mother, the late Queen.

## Scottish Parliament

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Scottish Parliament recognises 'iconic' St Giles' as the congregation celebrates 900 years.

A recent motion has been laid in the Scottish Parliament recognising St Giles' Cathedral as "a prominent part of the life of Edinburgh and Scotland for 900 years". It commends the "iconic" cathedral, which was probably founded by King David I in 1124, for "its various projects, designed to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths across the city".

The citation continues stating that "1.5 million people from around the world visited St Giles' in 2023, underlining its status as a dynamic centre celebrating Scotland's heritage and culture, as well as being an active place of worship".

The motion was laid down by Miles Briggs, a Lothian MSP, and will now be circulated for other MSPs to sign. If you would like more information about the 900th anniversary, please check for updates on the St Giles' website.

## The hymns of the Wesleys

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The Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley on 24th May. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing', 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

40 years ago, almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, and while the audience for 'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are older people.

Nowadays, with only about five per cent of the population going to church, there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace', because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

# 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**

READ the story of Pentecost in Acts 1-2  
Look up the Bible verses to find the answers to the crossword clues.

How many words can you make from the letters of:  
DAY OF PENTECOST

1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*

2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*

3 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*

4 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*

5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*

6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*

5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

7 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*

8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*

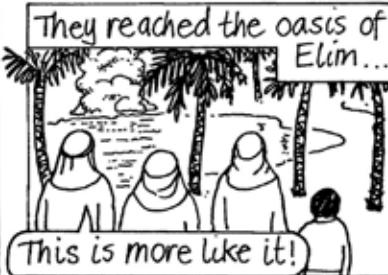
9 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15: 22 to 19: 2

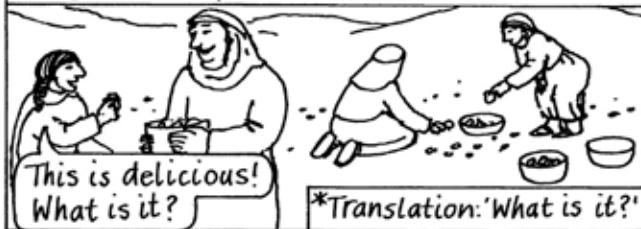
God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days....



but they couldn't stay...



God gave them quails, and manna\* to eat as bread.



At Rephidim, God gave them more water to drink.



They were attacked there by the Amalekites, but

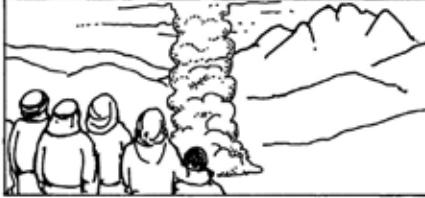


Moses' father-in-law brought his family to him...



Grumble, moan!

After two months of travelling, they arrived at Sinai mountain.



# May Bank Holidays

Who doesn't enjoy the fair month of May?  
Not one day but two we can spend time away;  
With workbags and satchels left under the bed  
We sing as we pack up a picnic instead!

The sun in the sky and the wind in our hair  
As we eat our lunch in the fresh open air;  
The river chants secrets to daisies nearby  
And birds sing their anthems beneath the blue sky.

Replete, we can take to our feet, or a bike  
Instead of a schedule we can do what we like!  
Catch up on a novel, or stroll 'neath the trees  
Our laughter transported on warm summer breeze.

From two days of duty, we are thus relieved  
And so we should judge them a blessing received;  
A pause in life's rhythm, a gift from above  
To substitute stresses with laughter and love.

# The Rectory

## **St James the Least** *On the perils of building a kitchen in church*

### **My dear Nephew Darren**

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally,

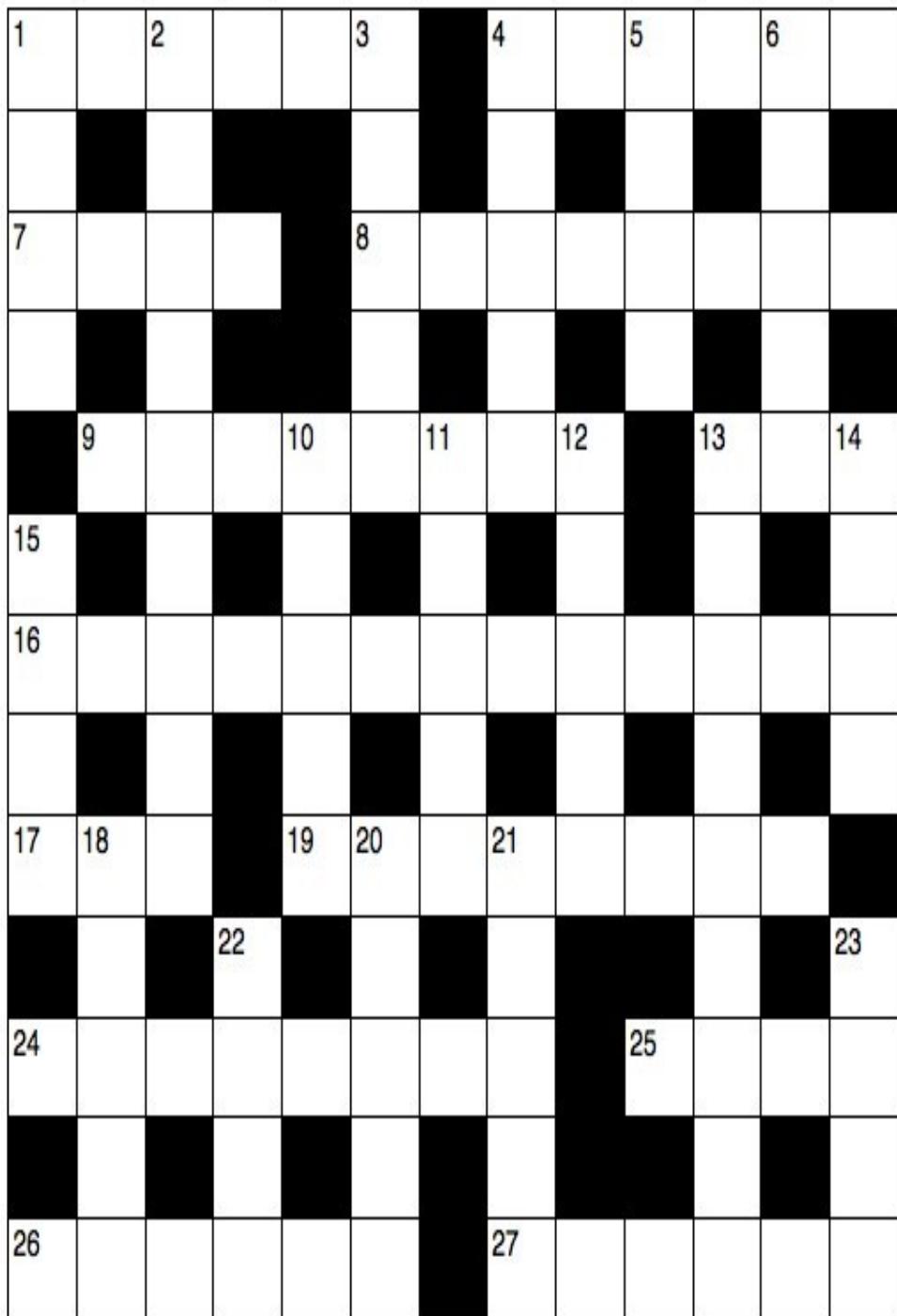
smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

**Your loving uncle, Eustace**



## Across

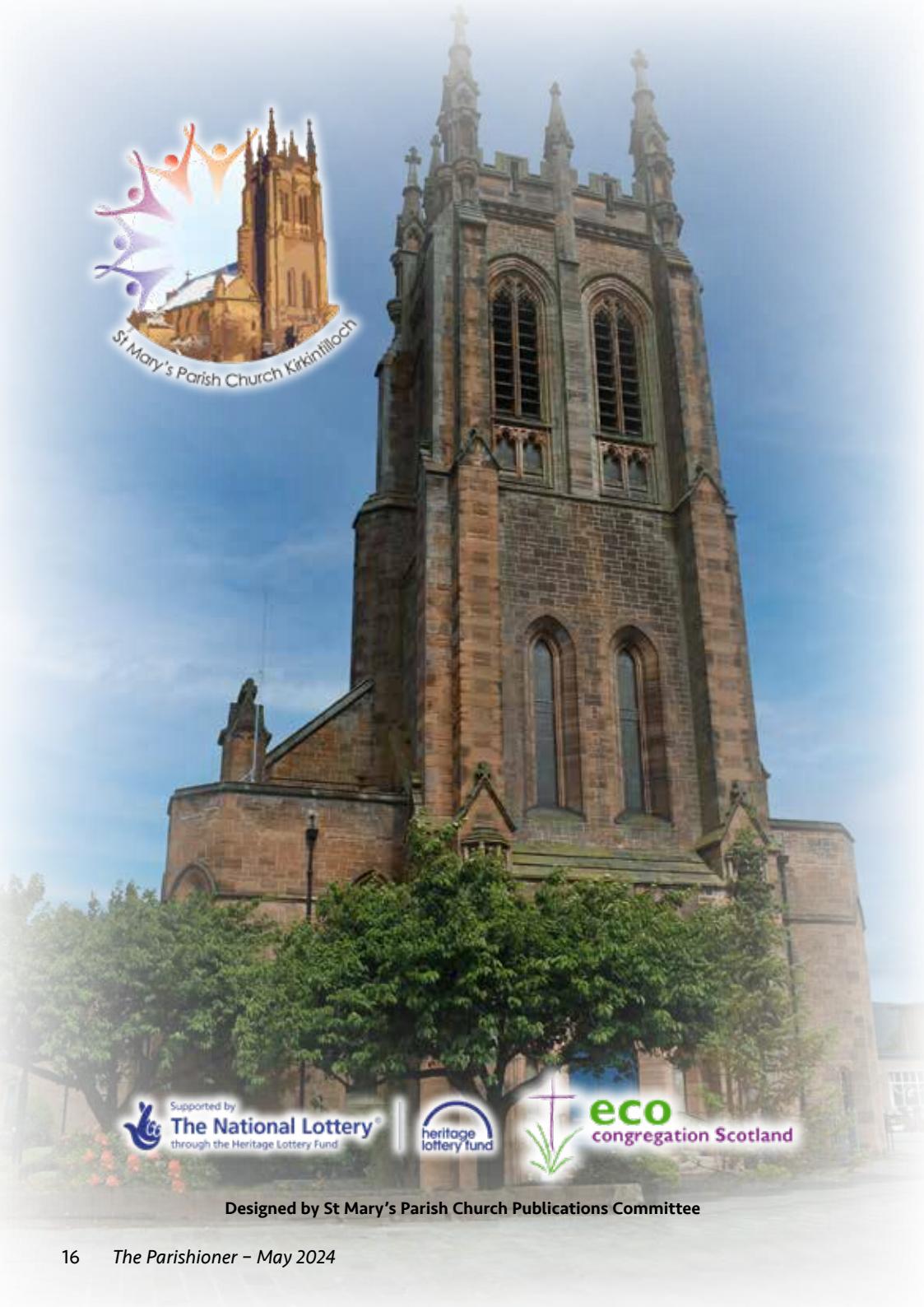
- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone —' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

## Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)

- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Debt; 2, Shaken; 3, Relic; 4, Ache; 5, Swarm; 6, Aged; 7, Astry; 8, Leftened; 9, Overcome; 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking; 17, Par; 19, Ignatius; 24, Treasure; 25, Men; 26, Dine; 27, Gaudy; 28, An end; 22, Fair; 23, Fear; 24, Down; 1, Step; 2, Behaviour; 3, Relic; 4, Ache; 5, Swarm; 6, Elected; 10, Rabbit; 11, Ocean; 12, Exact; 13, Epicurean; 14, Cage.



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