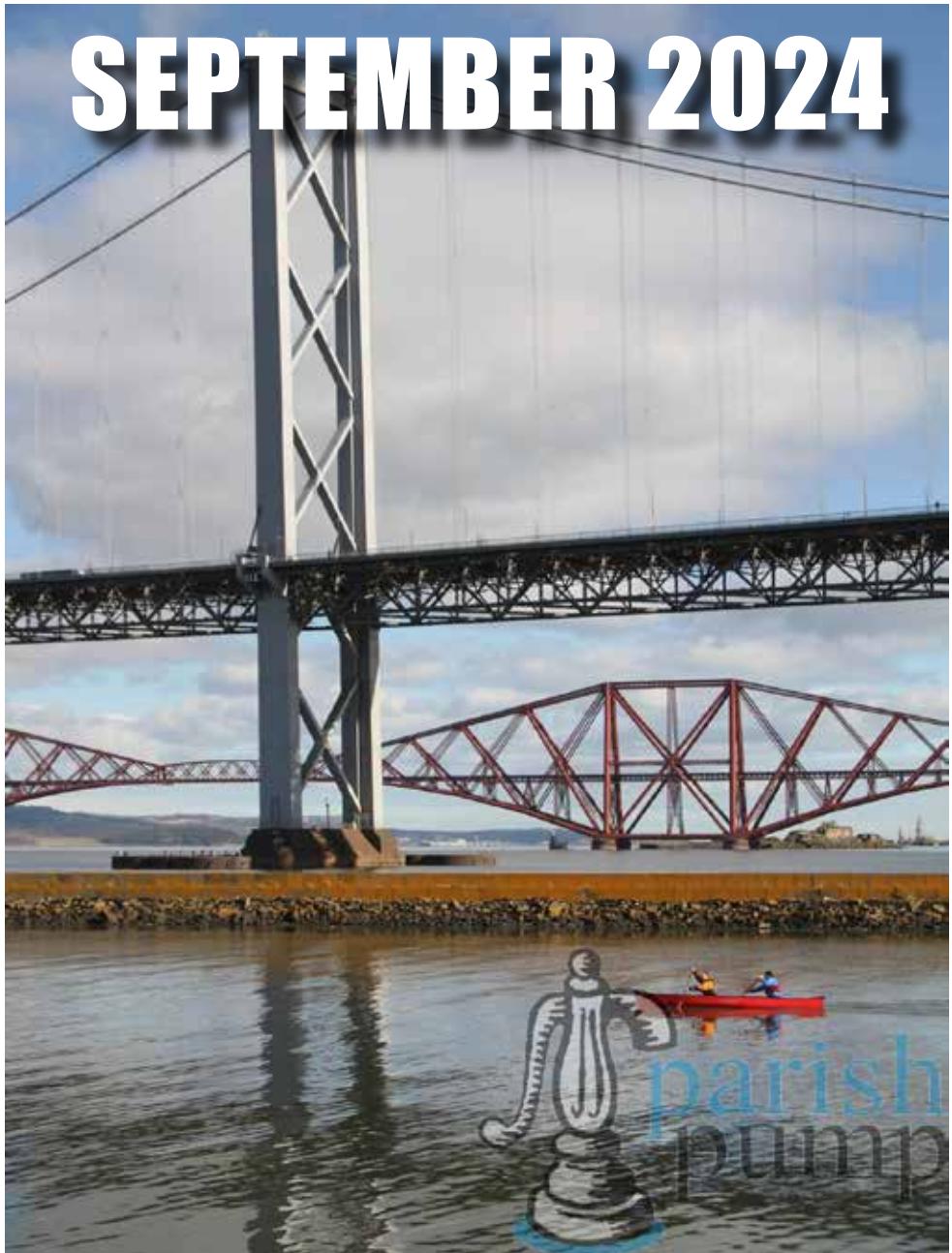


SEPTEMBER 2024



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
September 2024

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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Church Website:
www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk



Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch



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Pastoral Letter ...

Hello everyone!

As I type this letter, some towels are blowing away outside on the manse washing line, in the hope that they will dry before the next downpour! What a summer it has been! Yet, the sight of those towels and the power of that wind, well, I cannot help but think about the Holy Spirit and, in particular, the words that I am meditating on at the moment:

*'Are your ears awake?
Listen.*

Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.'

These words are found in Revelation and, for the next 7 weeks, that is what we are going to be looking at. We are stepping away from the lectionary and taking a closer look at the letters, the messages, given to the seven churches found in Revelation, chapters 2-3.

For many, Revelation is a book that they stay well away from, and, for others, it holds much curiosity. However, believing that all scripture is God breathed, I am excited about digging deeper with you, and exploring more of these 'wind words.' Not just so we can learn more about the early church and the things that delighted Jesus, but that we might see where they struggled and then hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask, how are we doing? What is going well? Where are we faithful? And where and what might need some work? All that we might see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day.

And the great news is, you don't have to wait until a Sunday. Why not read for yourself each letter to the seven churches in preparation and, maybe even jot down any questions or thoughts that come to mind and send them to me. I really would love to hear them – not just to inform my sermon preparation, but so that our time together can be a real conversation, as we seek to listen to and for God's Word.

25th August – The Message to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2.1-7)

1st September – The Message to the church in Smyrna (Revelation 2. 8-11)

8th September – The Message to the church in Pergamum (Revelation 2.12-17)

15th September – the Message to the church in Thyatira (Revelation 2.18-29)

22nd September – The Message to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3. 1-6)

29th September – The Message to the church in Philadelphia (Revelation 3.7-13)

6th October – The Message to the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3.14-22)

I have no doubt that the Spirit is still speaking to the church today. May we sit up and listen, as it blows through our land.

With love and blessings for our continued growing together in Jesus,



Copy for the **October** Parishioner should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Thursday 26 September**.

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.

Parish Register

Baptism

August 18 Abigail Kenna Gavin, daughter of Heather and Alex

Funerals

June 20 Lynne Kilpatrick, Braehead Street, Kirkintilloch

July 01 Allan Henderson, Braes O' Yetts Farm, Waterside Road, Kirkintilloch
04 William Reid, 12 Douglas Avenue, Lenzie
11 Mrs Etta Beveridge, Whitefield Lodge, Lennoxtown

26 Mrs Christine Miller, Lillyburn Care Home, Milton of Campsie

August 06 Marion Devine

14 Paul Gallacher, Park Street, Waterside

28 George Day, 26 Burns Road, Kirkintilloch

Deaths

August 11 Mrs Irene Mitchell, 10 Blair Drive, Milton of Campsie
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families at this sad time.

Ruby Anniversary

David and Nancy Burns celebrated 40 years of married life on 14 July 2024. Congratulations and best wishes are sent from all the congregation. David has been our Church Organist since May 1978.

Birthday

Mrs Anne Scott celebrated her 100th birthday on 2nd August and along with other happy gatherings, she had a lovely celebration at Caulders Garden Centre with her friends from Wednesday Welcome, which she attended every week as well as Church on a Sunday. She had been celebrating so much that her presence was missed in Church for the next couple of weeks! Sadly, after a wonderful life, Anne passed away very peacefully at home in her favourite chair on 22 August.

Thank you

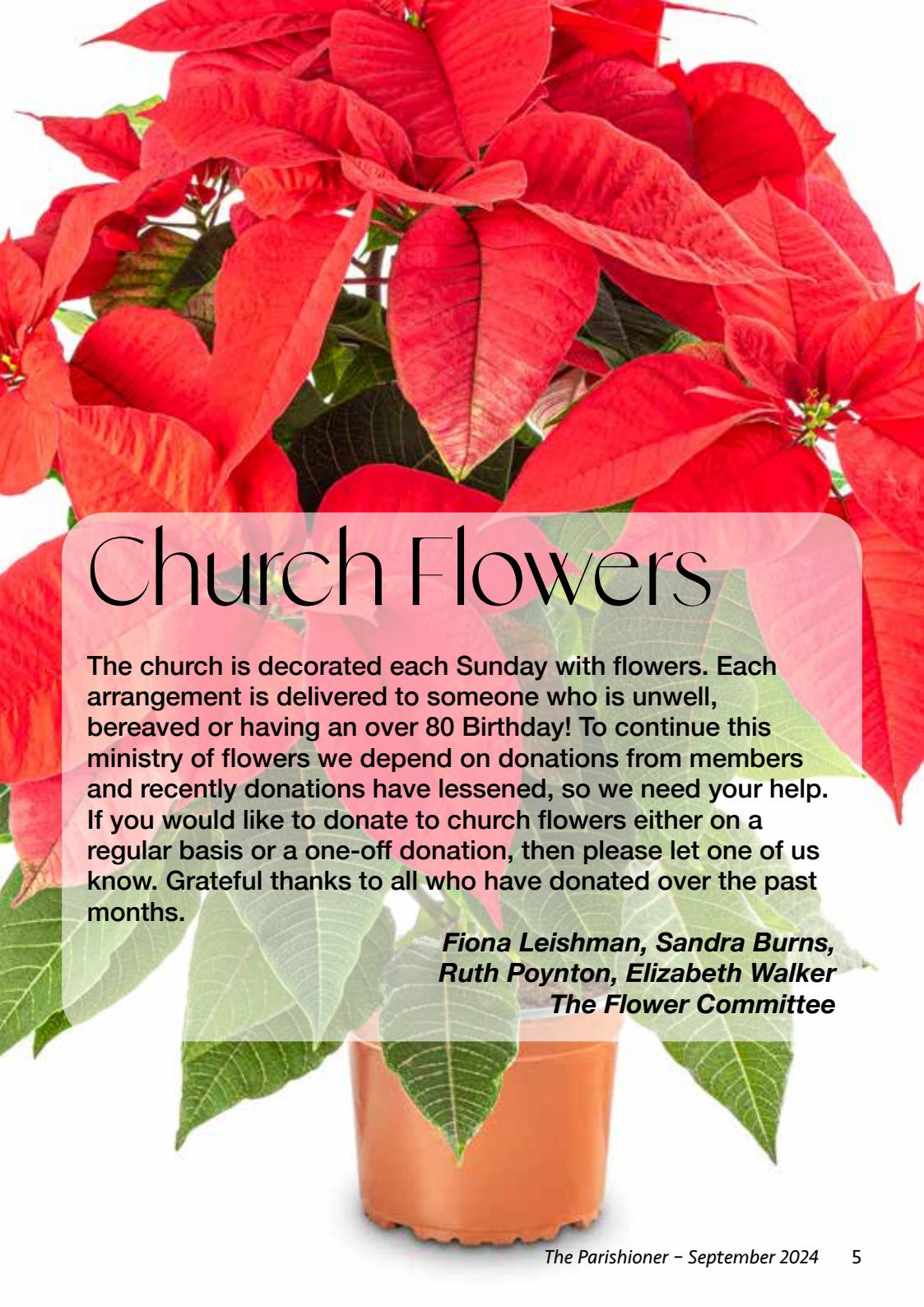
We express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring of support through the recent loss of Willie. Knowing that we were in so many peoples' thoughts and prayers, which were expressed through the receipt of cards and flowers has helped the family through these tough times. The African proverb says 'It takes a village to raise a child' but in this case the village came through to support our family in so many different ways and for that we are extremely grateful.

Janice, Eleanor and Hazel

Thank you to all who sent cards, flowers and gifts after my recent spell in hospital and my recovery when I got home. All very gratefully received.

Elizabeth Cousin

A big thank you to all our Church Family from Elaine and Louise following the death of our lovely Mum, Edith Dunn. Your flowers, prayers, cards and messages were humbly and gratefully received and provided much comfort to us and our families. God Bless you all.



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

Nursery reopened after the summer break when we welcomed 38 children. Numbers are healthy this year with new children joining each month until we reach 60 children by next summer.

We also welcomed Katrina Mulgrew to our staff on a temporary contract and trust she will enjoy her new post. We hope that everyone will have a good year and enjoy learning lots of new things.

Staff are focusing on children's well-being and ensuring they settle back in after the summer. They are working on their friendship code song which promotes the children's charter and encourages children to be kind, have gentle hands, tidy up and look after their toys etc.

Outdoor learning continues to be a focus as children spend time outdoors each day. Children are also enjoying the opportunity to get out in the local community.

We learned at the end of term that our tender application was successful, and we are delighted to have secured funding for the next 5 years.

**Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener**



Session Report

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful period over the summer months, even if the weather has not been very "summer" like.

At the time of writing this report, September is fast approaching, which is when lots of activity starts for the new Session (including our Session Meetings).

However, as always, folks have also been busy over the past few weeks. A couple of things in particular to note:

The Fabric Team always take the opportunity over the summer, when the nursery are on holiday, to carry out maintenance activities in the hall and the sanctuary. This year is no different and my thanks go to David Tinto and his team of willing volunteers. In particular, a lot of "clearing out" has been completed – it is surprising how much "stuff" we manage to accumulate from one year to the next. So as the nursery starts back for the new term, the halls are looking much tidier.

In August, we also held our community Day at St Mary's – a day full of fun activities for all the family. My thanks to Fiona Leishman and Sally McLellan, along with a fantastic band of helpers for making the day a great success for all the folks who came along. Well done! And I am sure it will be many of the same folks organising our participation in the Canal Festival at the beginning of September – always a busy day!

Finally, in July we shared an update on the Vision developed by our Basis of Union Nominated Group. At the time of going to print, the group were getting together again to continue their conversations. We will of course share further updates when we have more to report, but for completeness, I have included the July update in this month's magazine. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch 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

The Churches Walking and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group met throughout the summer using the locations defined in the last issue. There were three walks outside of the Kirkintilloch area and two walks which included coffee stops. The remaining 8 walks were all in or around Kirkintilloch and Lenzie. All of the walks were approximately 3 miles long and circular where possible. Numbers were good with seven being the lowest number attending and fourteen being the highest. There are currently nineteen members on the WhatsApp group.

The Walk and Talk Group will continue to meet throughout September at the locations shown below. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on

Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start points and routes vary. If you would like to join us then please get in touch or simply turn up at one of the locations shown below.

The walks on the 12th September and the 3rd October will be outside of the local areas. On these occasions the meeting point shall be St Columba's Hillhead 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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 29th August | Lenzie Co-op. |
| 5th September | St Columba's Hillhead Church |
| 12th September | St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Broadwood Loch |
| 19th September | Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre |
| 26th September | Waterside, beside the footbridge over the Luggie |
| 3rd October | St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Milton of Campsie |

Dates for your Diary



SEASON OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS AND BAKED POTATOES!

You might have missed it among all the rain but the season which calls itself Summer is passing. Autumn is here! The leaves are turning, the apples are falling and the wind is blowing! It is not all bad, there is lots to look forward to. The first is Harvest Lunch being held on **Sunday 13th October** after the service. Tickets cost £1 to reserve a place and go on sale on **Sunday 22nd September**. There will be the usual Baked Potatoes with a variety of fillings followed by Apple Pie.

Once Autumn moves on there is also Christmas on the horizon, beginning with the Advent lunch on **Sunday 8th December** after the service so make a note of the date.

As for the new year, while much is being planned, nothing is set in stone yet. Keep an eye on the Parishioner for news.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - OPEN DOORS DAYS SEPTEMBER 2024

Our next Open Doors event will be on **Wednesday 4th September 2024** and at 12.30 you are all invited to join us again at an organ recital given by our Organist Mr David Burns. Those of you who have attended his previous organ recitals will know how enjoyable they are and how varied the music is.

We do hope that you will feel able to join us on this day 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.

Saturday 7th September 2024 National Open Doors Day in Scotland and, as always, we will be participating in this initiative by opening our church to both visitors and members of our community. The church will be open from 10.00 until about 16.00 and tea / coffee and biscuits will be available.

You are all invited to come and, as always, everyone will be made most welcome.

John Pears

St Mary's Scottish Country Dance Class

Classes will restart in St Mary's church hall on **Tuesday 17th 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.



Kirkintilloch: Trinity Parish Church

St David's Memorial Park & St Mary's Proposed Basis of Union Update July 2024

Background

It was back in October 2022, in response to the Presbytery Mission Plan Act, that our Kirk Sessions first agreed to explore the opportunity of a Union between our two congregations. Conversations throughout this time, within the Nominated Group, within our Kirk Sessions and within both congregations, have been incredibly positive, with a real sense of excitement for our shared future together.

However, it has taken a long time to reach the stage we are at now. The main blocker to completing the Basis of Union is an agreement on the way we use our existing buildings.

The initial view of the group was that we should retain all our buildings, at least for an initial period, with a united Kirk Session making any changes at a future date. But direction from Presbytery and the national Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPIG), has made this approach difficult:

- It is necessary to designate one of the two sanctuaries as the Principal Place of Worship;
- It would be necessary to provide a financial plan to support the retention of two sanctuaries (it is exceedingly difficult to demonstrate this financial justification); and
- The general approach adopted by the General Trustees is for a reduction in the number of buildings. Again, due to the close proximity of our two sanctuaries, it would be difficult to retain them both.

Having been unable to agree the designation of a Principal Place of Worship, with differing views regarding the way we use our buildings for Worship, Mission & Outreach, the Nominated Group continued their (sometimes difficult) conversations. When they considered having a single place of worship and thinking about a well-equipped space, in the right place, a new radical vision for Kirkintilloch: Trinity Parish Church emerged. This vision, proposed by the Nominated Group, is outlined below.

The Vision - A “Lighthouse” in the heart of our community.

Our two congregations unite, initially retaining both sets of buildings.

We would develop our vision for a “Lighthouse” in the Cowgate sanctuary. This would represent a radical transformation (internally) of the existing building.

The objective would be to provide accommodation for worship, mission and outreach. In particular:

- A flexible, more intimate worship space i.e.

Not fixed seating

Variable size (or spaces) to suit different services and functions.

- Separate meeting spaces.

Decisions pertaining to the alterations to the Cowgate sanctuary would be the responsibility of the new united Kirk Session. Potential changes could include (but would not be limited to):

- Full kitchen facilities

- Toilets

- Café

- Development of balcony area / mezzanine area

Initially, when plans are being developed, both sanctuaries would be available for services. When the Cowgate sanctuary is closed, to undergo the transformation, the Alexandra Street sanctuary would be used for worship. When the transformation of the Cowgate sanctuary is complete (target date December 2027), Trinity would relocate to Cowgate.

Outreach and Missional activities, currently accommodated in Alexandra Street, would be accommodated in the “Lighthouse” and or the existing Cowgate suite of halls. Once Trinity is solely located in the Cowgate, the premises in Alexandra Street would be available for sale / disposal.

The “Lighthouse” would create a living presence in the centre of our community. It would be “new” for a new Church, completely different to what both congregations have experienced in the past.

A new beginning for Trinity Parish Church.

Current Position

This vision has been shared with both Kirk Sessions.

At their meeting on the first of May, SMPC Kirk Session unanimously approved the vision.

At present, SDMP have not agreed to the vision.

They unanimously agreed in principle to the union of our two congregations and unanimously agreed that the Rev. Dr. Ruth Morrison should be the Minister of the new congregation.

However, they also expressed, from a stewardship perspective, a real concern at the potentially high costs involved in the transformation of the Cowgate sanctuary. Considering this concern, they believe a decision on the principal place of worship should be deferred until an indication of cost is available, so that a comparison can be made to the existing suite of buildings in Alexandra Street.

The proposal now is to work with the Buildings Officer at Glasgow Presbytery, to develop high level plans and costs for our vision of a “Lighthouse”.

This will inform further discussions to discern a way forward for the union of our two congregations.

Conclusion

We would like to thank you for your patience, as we work towards an agreed Basis of Union. This has not been an easy road and it has taken a significant period of time to reach this point. Please do not hesitate to contact the Session Clerk, or any member of the Nominated Group, if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

We also give thanks to everyone on the Nominated Basis of Union Group, for all the work they have done and continue to do. Keep them in your prayers as they continue to work together, building a new future for Trinity Parish Church.

Fabric Report

Another busy summer ticking off a lot of items on my job list.

Clearing Moss from flat roofs and cleaning gutters around halls.
Replacing broken roof light glazing at kitchen corridor in halls. Also scraping and painting the inside areas of all rooflights.
Painting walls in kitchen.
Painting ceiling in Mid hall.
Clearing all old cables from roof of Halls.
Repairing outside light wiring for halls and installing new light.
Wiring in Church Office improved.
All gully pots around Church and halls cleaned out.
Rectified a lighting problem with stage and old boiler house wiring.
Emergency lighting in halls had to be replaced as old system was not fit for purpose.
Another clear out of basement. (Where does all the stuff come from !!!!!!)

Once again my thanks to the willing helpers who gave up their time and talents during the summer without whom all this work could not be done.

David Tinto
Fabric Convenor

WHEN THEY ARE GONE, THEY ARE GONE!

As time is passing, we move ever closer, if very, very slowly, towards the time when the well-loved name St Mary's Parish Church will no longer be used. The time has now come to clear out those things which are still named St. Mary's. For this reason, we have put together all the memorabilia items we have bearing this name. We have created our own 'Goody Bags' containing a variety of items such as pens, pencils, fridge magnets etc. inside our own tote bags. They will go on sale on Sunday 8th September costing £5 and every Sunday thereafter. The number of these items is very limited and will not be available again once we sell all of them.

Don't miss this chance to own part of St. Mary's history!

Once they are gone, they are gone!

Hopefully, given time, we will be able to embrace the new name of Kirkintilloch Trinity Parish Church and can look forward to creating new memories and new memorabilia.

Christian Aid News

The final total for the Christian Aid week collection held in the church was £957.19. Sincere thanks to everyone who made a contribution. Six members of the congregation once again took part in the Lenzie envelope collection and the total raised this year was £1,839.65. Thanks again to those who gave their time delivering the envelopes. To the year ending 31/3/24 for every £1 given Christian Aid receives, 86p was spent on life changing work: Community development, humanitarian response, campaigning, education and advocacy.

14p was spent on making this work: raising funds, raising awareness and attracting new supporters.

Right now, Christian Aid's partners in Gaza are doing extraordinary work delivering lifesaving help to people who are struggling to find shelter, food, water and relative safety from the bombing and shooting.

Paul Malcolm

The Parishioner – September 2024

VOLUNTEER



VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED – Sound Desk / Beadle Duties

We are looking for help to provide support to our Church Officer, Paul Malcolm. This would primarily be on an occasional basis, to provide cover for periods of leave. Main duties would be to act as Beadle for Church Services and assist with the operation of the sound desk. Full training will be provided.

If you are able to assist with some, or all, of these requirements, or if you would like more information, please speak to either Paul, or myself.

Gordon Morrison
07306 205303

Prayer for September 2024

Lord, here we are in September – a beautiful month at the end of the summer, but before the autumn has taken hold. A month of excitement and new starts for many, a month when courage is needed for our children and young people.

And Lord we pray for courage, compassion and integrity for our new Prime Minister and our new government. We pray for justice and peace in our country and in the world. Help us Lord, to know that you are Lord of September; you are Lord and giver of every new month, every new day, every new minute. Help us to put our trust in you for our adventures and for our mundane everyday routines.

You are our generous, loving Father and promise that you will never leave us or forsake us when we trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Ninian, Bishop of Galloway – Apostle of the Picts (Scotland)

Ninian was a Celt who was born about 360, in southern Scotland. He was remarkable for two things: he was almost certainly the first man in Scotland to live in a little white stone house, and also the first to preach the gospel to the Scots. Just as remarkable: becoming the apostle to the Picts was intimately connected to him even having a white-washed stone house, instead of the usual wooden hovel.

For Ninian had not always stayed in Scotland, but had travelled to Rome to study, and then on to Gaul, where he had spent time with St Martin of Tours. Martin's monastery was called Loco Teiac (little white house), and it seems that when Ninian returned to Scotland to preach the gospel, he wanted something similar. And so it was that Ninian built his little white house, called Ad Candidam Casam, and began sharing the Gospel with the Picts who lived in Whithorn and Galloway. This was the region north of the old Roman wall – where Roman rule had never been established.

Ninian seems to have been very effective, for it is said that, like Patrick (a generation later) and Columba (a century and a half later), he helped form the character of Celtic Christianity. And throughout southern Scotland, there are still many churches who bear his name.

Education Sunday

Education Sunday takes place on 8th September, as our children return to school after the summer break. It's good opportunity to ask what God thinks of children and how we can reflect this in our schools, churches and families.

Children are valuable to God:

'Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' (Matthew 19:13-14).

Jesus' action shows the importance of children to God. In many cultures around the world, children are often abused, exploited or disregarded. God is committed to caring and protecting them and calls us to do the same.

Children need nurture and guidance:

'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.' (Proverbs 22:6 ESV). Gardeners will often attach plants to a pole or trellis to guide their growth. Children also need solid structure to keep their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth on track. We can support them in their growth and development, and we can be a godly example to them.

Children need discipline:

'Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.' (Proverbs 29:17). This is not easy and requires the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Discipline is a sign of love, reflecting how God deals with us (Hebrews 12:7). In this way, they'll become adults who fulfil all that the Creator wants them to become.

As Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me' (Mark 9:37).

NHS warns of dangers of energy drinks

The NHS is worried because eating disorders have risen by 52 per cent since the pandemic.

And it suspects that part of the problem, for young girls and women, is their increasing use of energy drinks to suppress hunger and provide energy without calories.

A huge range of these highly caffeinated drinks are now available, and they are seen to be fuelling record cases of anorexia and other eating disorders.

Claire Murdoch, the NHS mental health director, said it was "concerning that young women could be abusing energy drinks for weight loss". She says: "We urge everyone not to replace their meals with energy drinks."

One former young patient admitted that: "consuming fizzy energy drinks gave me a false sense of fullness and the energy I needed to go about my day, hiding the fact that I was actually exhausted, malnourished and seriously unwell".

Red Bull, Monster and Irn Bru are among the most popular energy drinks on sale. But there are now hundreds of products, and energy drinks account for about one in three of all soft drinks sold in shops. Sainsbury's has 114 energy drink products available, while Asda has 86 and Tesco has 76.

Church Foodbank

Continuing thanks to those who contribute to the above. Last year 7000 three-day emergency food supplies were sent to people in crisis by East Dunbartonshire Foodbank. Thank you for helping to make this happen.

Paul Malcolm



Young Church ...

Young Church welcome children and young people of all ages. We meet in the Church at 11am then go to the halls for age related fun and games. Whether a regular or occasional visitor you can be assured of a warm welcome.

The Craft Fair will be on Saturday the 9th of November. We are looking for donations for tombola, Christmas hamper raffle and people to help on the evening of 8th to set up, and Saturday for Crafty Kitchen, and clearing up. Your help is always much appreciated. If you know any crafters who would like to participate, table spaces are available and can be booked via email @ stallinthehall@live.co.uk.

Our Young Church Leader, Fiona Green will be doing the 21 mile Edinburgh Kilt walk on 15th September in aid of Carers Link East Dunbartonshire. Please see this link for more details and support her on this mighty challenge as you are able.

<https://urldefense.com/v3/>

https://www.justgiving.com/page/fiona-green-1721147149204?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page

Mouse Makes

"God ... has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. He provides you with plenty of _____. He fills your hearts with joy." *Acts 14:16-17 NIV*

"Honour the Lord with your wealth and the first part of your harvest." *Proverbs 3:9 ERV*

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples _____ you, O God! May all the peoples praise you! The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us." *Psalm 67:5-6 NIV*

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God. He gives us autumn and spring _____ at the right time. He makes sure that we have the harvest at just the right time." *Jeremiah 5:24 ERV*

WORD SEARCH

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| O | A | G | A | T | H | E | R | A | I | N | S |
| S | V | O | G | M | A | U | T | U | M | N | P |
| O | G | D | O | P | R | O | D | U | C | E | R |
| I | H | J | O | Y | V | S | H | A | R | E | I |
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Answers:
HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

Illustration: © 2014 www.biblefunforkids.com

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

A short story from the Bible

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom. A vineyard owner went to the marketplace at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.



The Rectory

St James the Least *On the impossibility of keeping silence in church*

My dear Nephew Darren

I am surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church. I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably placed to obscure the altar.

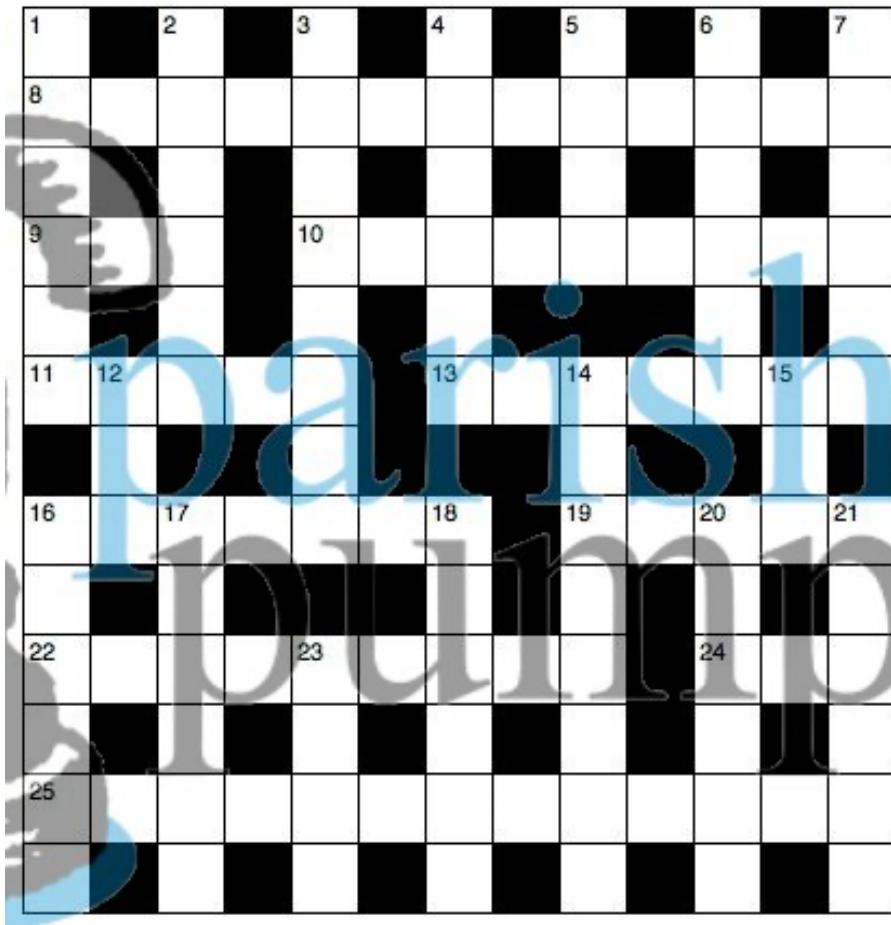
In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few. Should the hymn run to two pages, then the turnover always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started, so that the congregation is faced with the snap decision of either trying to sing two lines at double time, or just to join in late, making a nonsense of the words.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from Hymns Ancient and More Ancient to the more recent version: Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we

continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped ‘thines’ or ‘wouldsts’. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who couldn’t read music wanted more hymns sung in unison. When a rumour started that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village. Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: doing something which made no change whatsoever. Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace. Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century. Harmony reigns once again.

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...

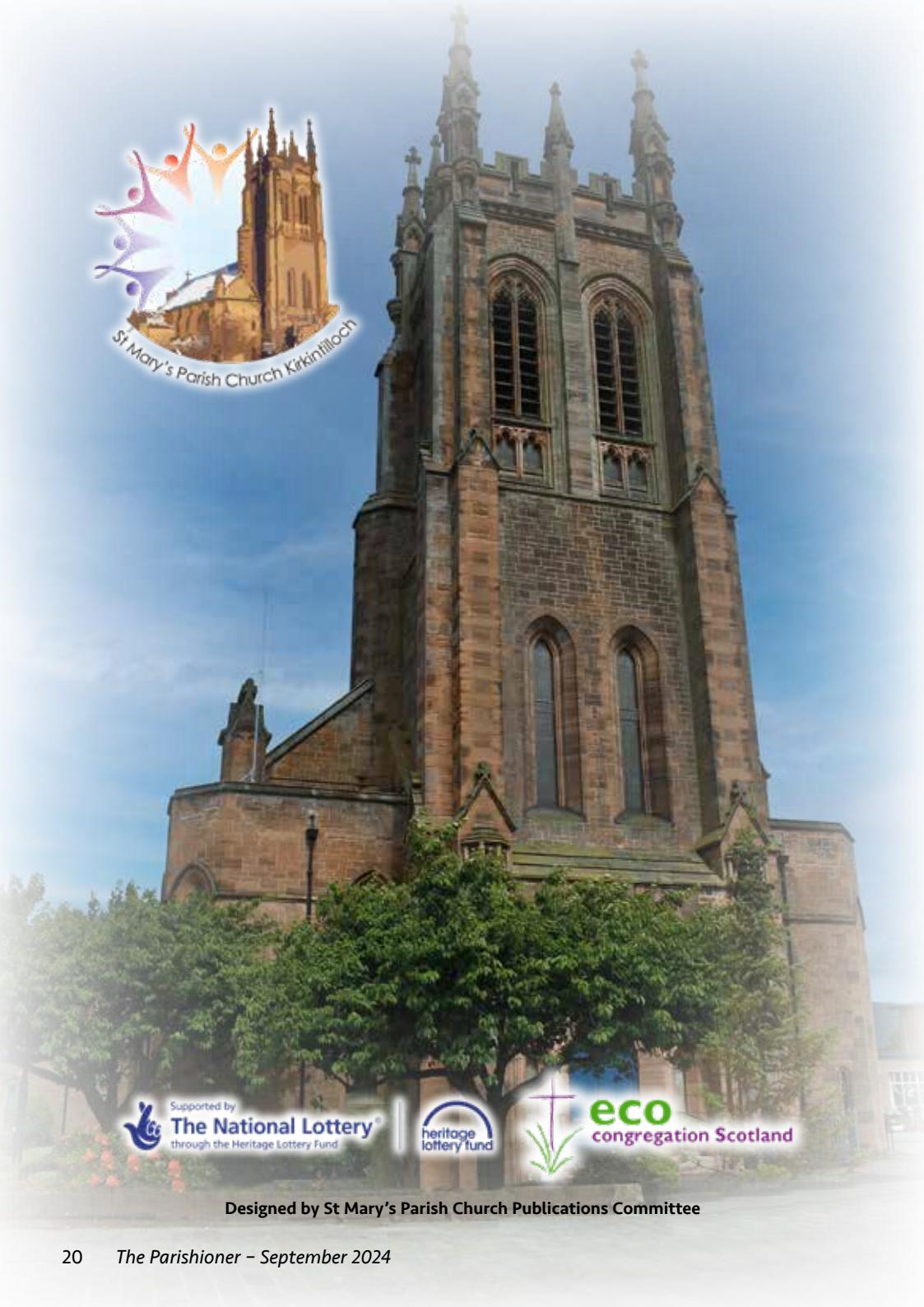
experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative 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)

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.

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ACROSS: 8, *Kirath Jearim*, 9, *Tee*, 10, *III at ease*, 11, *Hated*, 13, *Millets*, 16, *Starred*, 19, *Micah*, 22, *Leviticus*, 24, *Eli*.
 DOWN: 1, *Sketch*, 2, *Present*, 3, *Samizdat*, 4, *Shalom*, 5, *Wet*, 6, *Breast*, 7, *Members*, 12, *Art*, 14, *Limassol*, 15, *UNA*, 16, *Salone*, 17, *Adverb*, 18, *Decade*, 20, *Clever*, 21, *Height*, 23, *Tea*.



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