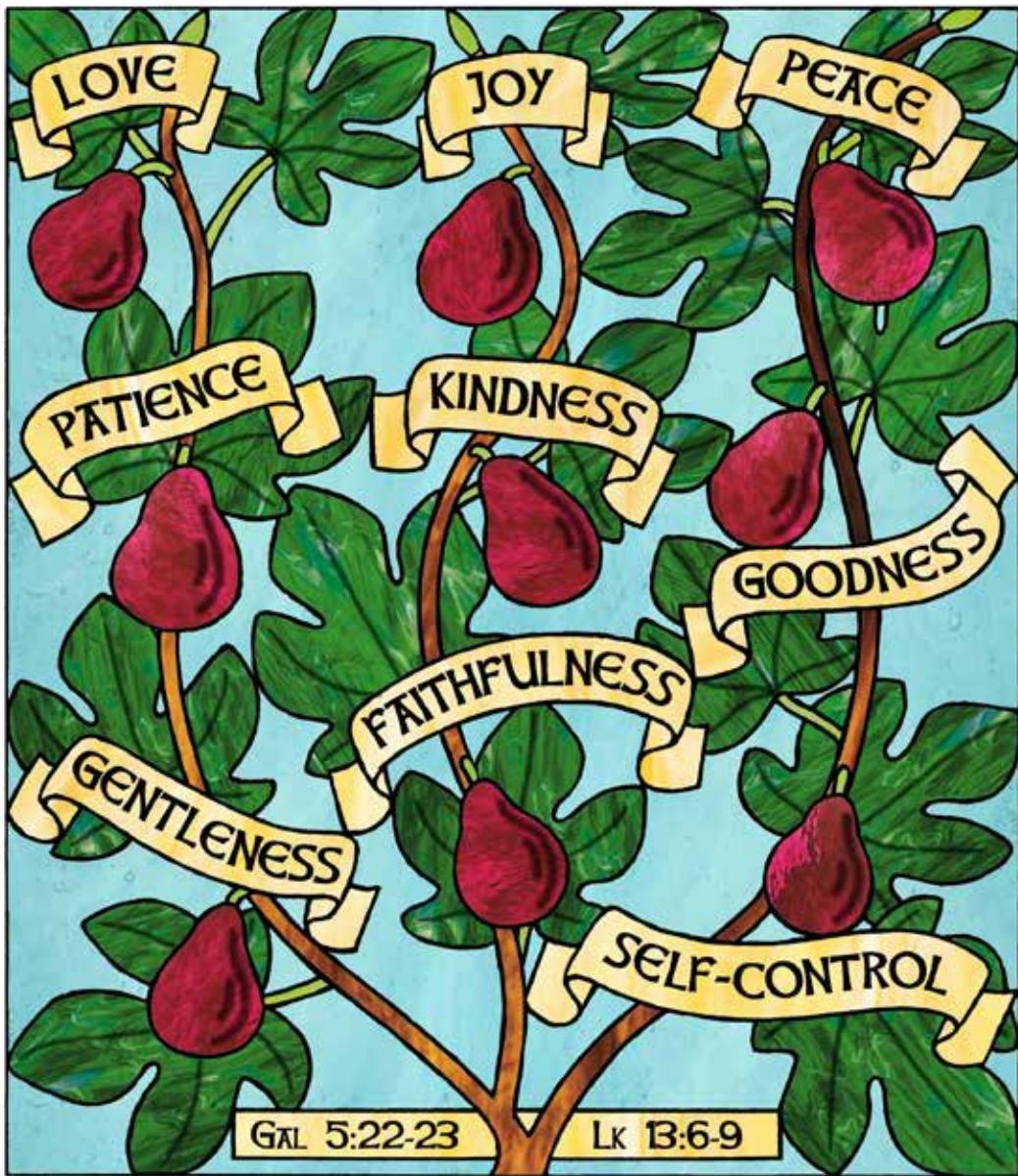


SUMMER 2025



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
SUMMER 2025

PARISHIONER



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

Minister:

Rev Dr Ruth Morrison, MA, BD, PhD

0141 737 4896

Treasurer:
John M. Thomson
0141 239 2611

Church Officer:
Paul Malcolm
0141 578 1520

Editor:
Sandra Burns
0141 776 6322

Secretary:
Denise Japp
0141 775 1166

Church Organist:
David Burns
0141 776 5484

Session Clerk:
Gordon Morrison
0141 578 5887



Church Website:
www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk



Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Registered Charity No. SC007260

Pastoral Letter . . .

Hello Everyone,

Amid packing for a short break away, I remembered that I hadn't sent my letter for The Parishioner and if I was going to make the deadline, well, I better sit down and write! Life can be so very busy. Even getting ready to go away on holiday can feel like hard work. There are clothes to organise, passports to remember, toiletries to pack, holiday fish food to sort! The list goes on and yet, as I move around, I'm reminded of a conversation I had with my daughter on Monday. She had asked if we could go for a walk in the Merkland Nature Reserve after school and so, we did; along with five of her cuddly toys who came in the double buggy, normally reserved for dolls! We stopped at several points along the way to blow dandelion clocks, pick a buttercup, watch a heron take to flight from the bushes, witness a bumble bee visit some flowers and to let Oli the otter and the gang climb some trees as we took in the wonder of our surroundings. As we walked, she said, "you know, this walk reminds me of an audio book I've been listening to called The boy who lived with dragons. In it, his Granddad says, 'there's always time to stop and smell the roses as busy and difficult as life gets'." She never fails to amaze me. Almost 9 and offering such wise words, albeit from someone else. Mind you, sometimes those are the wisest.

Just a few weeks ago now, we marked Good Shepherd Sunday and considered Psalm

23 and John 10. We remembered the promise that Jesus is our Good Shepherd whose voice we should be listening for, the one in whom we can find rest and whose love is such that nothing can ever steal or snatch us from His hands. He is always with us – even in the darkest of valleys. As the sun (hopefully!) continues to shine, summer unfolds and nature flourishes around us, may we take time whether in our homes, gardens, the park, or a nice walk, to stop and smell the roses, breathe deeply, listen to the birds sing and the trees rustle and remember that the Maker of it all made us too. Not for perpetual busyness and doing, but for times of rest and stillness and wonder and slow. For He is our Good Shepherd. The one whom The Message translation says has bedded us down in lush meadows, finds us quiet pools to drink from and, true to His word, lets us catch our breath and sends us on the right direction (Psalm 23.1-2).

So, no matter what this summer holds and however you are feeling in lives twists and turns, changes and uncertainty, may you slow down long enough to know the love of the Good Shepherd for you, be restored in and by His love and then move in the direction he leads you as you listen for His voice. For He is always with you and He will not let you go.

Love and blessings,

Your Minister,

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, 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 e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than Thursday 22 August. Wishing everyone a happy and (continued) sunny summer.

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

Parish Register

Funerals

March 26	Mrs Kay Pollock, 1 Glenconner Way, Kirkintilloch
April 03	Norman McCann 36 Adamslie Drive, Kirkintilloch
16	Mrs Rena Stevenson, Whitefield Lodge Care Home, Lennoxtown
22	Robert Anderson, 29 Kelvinvale, Kirkintilloch
24	Mrs Elizabeth McNeil, 12 Woodhead Avenue, Kirkintilloch
May 12	William Ronald Leitch, Flat 17, 27 Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs

Deaths

April	Donald Ball, 7 Millersneuk Drive, Lenzie
	Mrs Ina Shanks, 8 Crinan Place, Rimbleton, Glenrothes
	(formerly Kirkintilloch)

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those suffering loss at this sad time.

Special Anniversaries

Diamond Wedding

Douglas and Norma McMillan, celebrated 60 years of married life on 8th May.

Golden Wedding

John and Grace Galt, celebrated 50 years of married life on 3rd May.
Ronald and Eleanor McGowan will celebrate 50 years of married life on 7th June.
John and Margaret Pears will celebrate 50 years of married life on 12th July.

Ruby Wedding

Gordon and Margaret Morrison celebrated 40 years of married life on 04th May.
To all of the aforementioned couples, and all those we are unaware of,
congratulations and best wishes are sent from St Mary's congregation.

Thank you

I and my daughters, Judith and Angela, thank Elizabeth Walker for the beautiful floral arrangements, our organist, David Burns and Sally McLellan, along with members of the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir who sang 'Highland Cathedral' at Norman's funeral service, altogether making it so memorable. Thanks also to those who sent sympathy cards and flowers. We have been greatly comforted by all the kindness shown.

June McCann

John Galt thanks the congregation and the Flower Committee for the lovely flowers and cards received on his 2 spells of surgery in The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Also for my 87th birthday and his and Grace's 50th Anniversary.



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

We received our inspection report at the end of April. The inspectors noted that during the inspection the children were enthusiastic, curious and increasingly independent. They found that children have a wide range of play experiences and opportunities to explore the local area. They also stated that staff know children very well and have developed positive relationships with children and families and support children well to make good progress in their health and wellbeing.

Some areas for improvement were identified, including that senior leaders should work with the church, parents, children and partners to review and improve indoor and outdoor learning experiences. Also, that the team need to continue to improve how they plan, assess and monitor progress children make in their learning.

Overall a good report with some good ideas for improvement which staff will now work on. This is a very stressful experience and I'm most grateful to all members for staff for their hard work and dedication to our nursery children and their learning.

The nursery celebrated their 60th birthday last week with a party. Children and staff enjoyed a fun filled afternoon. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in June.

We are holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic for the children who are heading to school in August. This will take place in the church on Wednesday 18th June when the children and their teddies can enjoy fun and games.

As the session comes to an end, I wish to express my thanks to all members of staff who work tirelessly to give our children the best experiences and wish them all a very happy summer holiday!

This year special thanks must go to Aileen Mundy who retires at the end of June. Aileen has worked with us for many years and has been a hardworking, loyal member of staff. Her energy and enthusiasm are a joy to watch! We will all miss her.

We wish Aileen a very happy retirement and hope that it brings her new opportunities and experiences.



Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener



Session Report

Basis of Union

A meeting of the Nominated Basis of Union Group was held on 15th May with facilitation from Claire Herbert, Vice Convener of PMPIC (Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Committee).

The meeting opened with a reflection, music, prayer and an ice breaker. After a short coffee break the group undertook the first activity considering the benefits of the six building resource options previously identified. Following this exercise the group were asked to rank the building options in order of preference.

This preferential vote would help inform the group's report to PMPIC and Kirk Sessions. The indicative outcome was then discussed and a recommendation agreed to report to the respective Kirk Sessions for final consideration.

That recommendation was:

"The Cowgate Sanctuary is named as the primary place of worship while retaining the halls at both Cowgate and Alexandra Street. Our recommendation will therefore result in the sale, let, or otherwise disposal of the sanctuary at Alexandra Street".

The group made an additional recommendation that, in the event that the decision of the respective Kirk Sessions differ and two different outcomes emerge, then the Kirk Sessions are asked to agree to a default position. The default position would be to **CONCUR WITH A SCHEME OF DELEGATION**.

St. Mary's Kirk Session met on Sunday 18th May.

The recommendations of the Basis of Union Group were unanimously approved.

St. David's Memorial Park Kirk Session met on Tuesday 20th May.

The buildings recommendation was rejected and the default position of a scheme of delegation was approved. Both decisions were unanimous.

Session Clerks have sent an Extract Minute of their respective meetings to the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Committee (PMPIC). The next step is for PMPIC to make a report to the June meeting of Presbytery, when it is anticipated that a scheme of delegation will be approved and implemented.

The next meeting of PIMPIC is on the 27th May and following this meeting, we expect to receive further guidance regarding the next steps and the likely timing of the process.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss, or if you would like any additional information, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards
Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk
07306 205303
morrisgo@sky.com

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - OPEN DOORS DAY

A reminder that our next Doors Open Day is on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at which we will have a **Mini Songs of Praise at 12.30**.

We hope that you will have an enjoyable time as we play some of your favourite hymns and you can join in by singing along to the music.

As always, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided throughout the day, along with an opportunity for you to 'chill out', chat with friends or simply enjoy some quiet contemplation in our sanctuary.

We do hope that you will feel able to join us on 4th June and would encourage you to bring your friends too, as everyone will be made most welcome.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,
John Pears

Christian Aid Week 2025

The retiral collections held for Christian Aid Week raised the magnificent sum of £1340.05. Sincere thanks to everyone who has donated so generously. Gift Aid will add a further £206.25 to the final total.

Five members of the congregation also took part in the delivery only collection in Lenzie in partnership with Lenzie Old and Lenzie Union churches. This involved delivering envelopes with information on where to return it, if desired. The amount donated is not yet known at the time of writing. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of Christian Aid. To find out more about Christian Aid's life changing work and how your money is being spent visit their website at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Thank God for farmers!

Open Farm Sunday is this year on 8th June, when Christians are being asked to remember farmers. This prayer contemplates where our food comes from and then celebrates the work of the farmers who produce it. The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) is a charity which supports the rural community and its churches through a programme of community and social projects, resourcing and training.

Cabbages come in polythene bags, devoid of hidden insects and other creepy crawlies. Potatoes are mud free and ready for the oven. Meat is presented in sterile packs whilst milk is pasteurised and semi skimmed in conveniently shaped containers that fit in the fridge. It's all a million miles from where the story began, and the world of those who should tell it. Those who prepare the land, plough it and cultivate it; < sow it and plant it, weed it and spray it, irrigate it and harvest it, and sort and transport the crop that's produced.

Those who calve the cow, stay with it and tend it; feed it and milk it, help with the birth and watch the calf grow. Who tag it and protect it, nurture it and feed it, until it's ready for market as a strong healthy beast. So many hours and so much skill.

Generations of experience, tending the land and caring for stock. >So much effort, so many risks, the weather, disease, the whim of the market all to put food on my plate. Lord, I thank you for those who produce the food that I eat, for their commitment and effort, their knowledge, their skills. And forgive me, I pray, that I take them for granted, forget what they do and ignore what I owe.

May I value their work and all it produces. May I give them the respect and the appreciation they deserve. And may I give You the glory, as Creator Provider, the giver of all that I now thank You for. Amen

Dates for your Diary



Games Event

Our next All Age Games Event will be held on **Saturday 7th June** from 11am – 1pm. Why not come along and enjoy playing a board game, sharing a chat with others and enjoying some lunch?

We plan to hold the Games Events on the second Saturday of the month from September onwards. Put the dates in your diary!

We are introducing a new feature from September - jigsaw corner!

To enable us to introduce this we are looking for some jigsaw boards.

Do you have one that you no longer use? We'd be very grateful for any donations please.



Big Knit In

Our next Knit In will be held in church on **Wednesday 16th July**. We will be knitting outsize flowers and leaves to decorate the front railings. Wool, pins and patterns provided. Lunch also provided!

Our Knit Ins are very popular and a good opportunity for a chat over tea and cake! Hope to see you there – drop in for all of the time or some of the time. Hope to see you there!

Social Committee. Looking back on 2024/5

Another year of busy and successful events for the Social Committee.

Harvest Lunch in October, Evening of entertainment from the New Day Vocal harmony group in November. Next was the Christmas Advent Lunch when the caterers once again provided an excellent meal. In early March we had the usual Pancake lunch which was enjoyed by all.



Finally on the 11th May we had a special VE80 Celebration Lunch for 83 people at which the St Mary's singers entertained us with a community sing song with the wartime classics. See some pictures below.



We would like to thank all those who have helped us during the year in our many activities as well as those who have attended them and been so supportive.



Finally, a date for your diary. The Baked Potato and Apple Pie lunch which is planned for the start of October.

The Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group has combined friendly conversation with gentle walks around Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside since 2022. The pace is suitable for all ages, most fitness levels and all are welcome. There is no membership involved in Walk and Talk and all are welcome for occasional or regular walks. If you would like to join us, then please turn up at any of the locations on these dates and we will be delighted to see you. Unless stated otherwise the walks start at 1:30 on Thursday afternoons, last approximately one hour and the start

points and routes vary, as shown below. The walks on the 26th June, 31st July and 28th August will be outside of the local areas. On these dates the meeting point shall be St Columba's Hillhead Church at 1:15, please note the earlier time, and a car sharing operation will take place. Please be aware 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

5th June	Merkland Nature Park.
12th June	Ellisland Drive.
19th June	Donaldson Street. Including coffee stop at the Stables.
26th June	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Milton of Campsie.
3rd July	Kilsyth Road.
10th July	Lenzie Co-op.
17th July	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre.
24th July	Donaldson Street, Christines Way.
31st July	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Broadwood Loch.
7th August	Hillhead Basin.
14th August	St Columba' Hillhead. Including coffee stop in Kirkintilloch.
21st August	Waterside.
28th August	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Auchinstarry Quarry.
4th September	Merkland Nature Park.

Summer Prayer

Dear Lord,

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us. Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers – Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement.

He encouraged the believers in Antioch to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you.

Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging. So, thank you for those who have encouraged us in the past, and for those who encourage us now. Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a Barnabas to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

When your prayers at times appear to go unanswered,
And the words of your worse doubters seem so true,
When it seems the whole wide world is all against you,
 Just put your faith in God and you'll pull through.
When your life is like a maze with no known exit,
And your future appears to be as black as night,
When it seems that all your efforts end in failure,
 Just put your faith in God, he'll see you right.
For those who put their faith in God have reason,
 For confidence to face each trial and test,
and know better times are just around the corner,
 For faith is the soft pillow that gives rest.

By Colin Hammacott

Fire of Pentecost

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

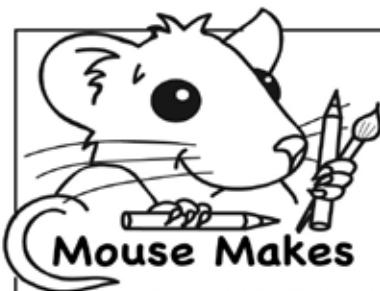
For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

16, Breath, 17, Become, 18, This So, 20, Armies, 21, Expose, 23, Avail,
1, Egypt's, 2, Faour, 3, Edomites, 4, Thorns, 5, Blue, 6, Armlet, 7, On edge, 12, Tea, 14, Adoption, 15, Lot,
DOWN: Map, 25, Commissons, 8, Pro, 10, Marvelled, 11, Strut, 13, Starle, 16, Babysit, 19, Orate, 22, Eucharist, 24,
ACROSS: 6, Grandchildren, 9, Pro, 10, Marvelled, 11, Strut, 13, Starle, 16, Babysit, 19, Orate, 22, Eucharist, 24,
Map, 25, Commissons.

Young Church ...

We meet every Sunday at 11am and welcome children of all ages. They have fun enjoying games, stories, songs and crafts each week.



Mouse Makes

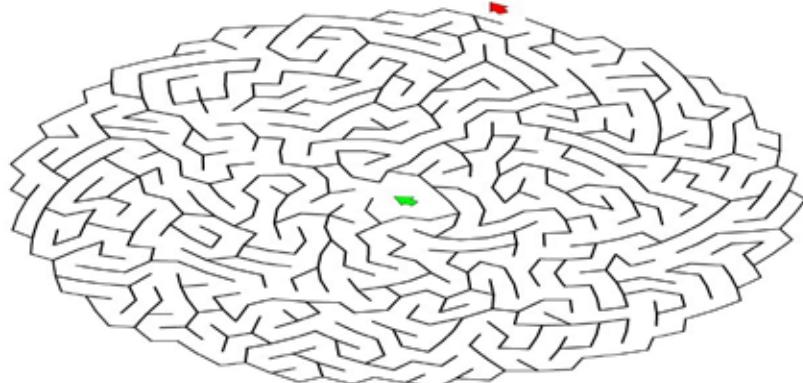
PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
ROME • CRETANS
ARABIANS • GOD

READ
Acts
2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since Passover, and Jews from many countries had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. As the Apostles were gathered together the Holy Spirit came upon them and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language. *How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?*

DID YOU KNOW?
The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

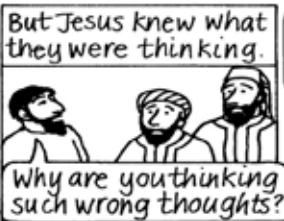
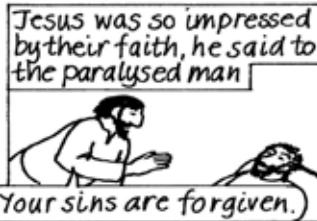
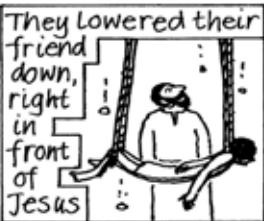
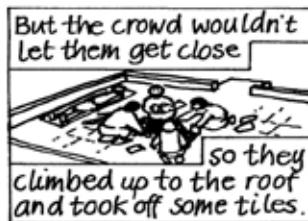
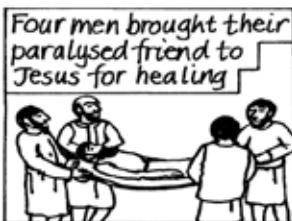


Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, LK 5:17-26

A short story from the Bible

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...



The Rectory

St James the Least of All

On what security cameras in church will tell you

My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served

for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items – and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

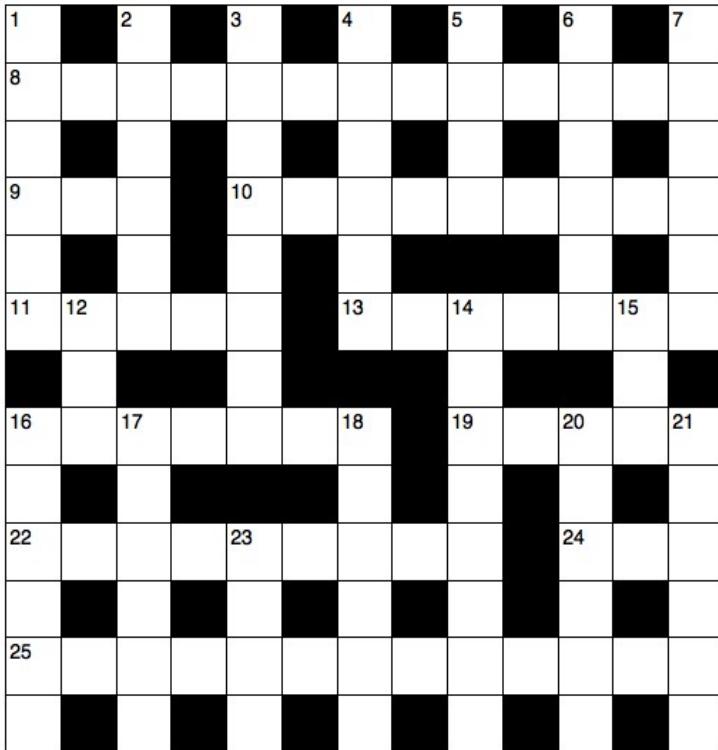
2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the



Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee