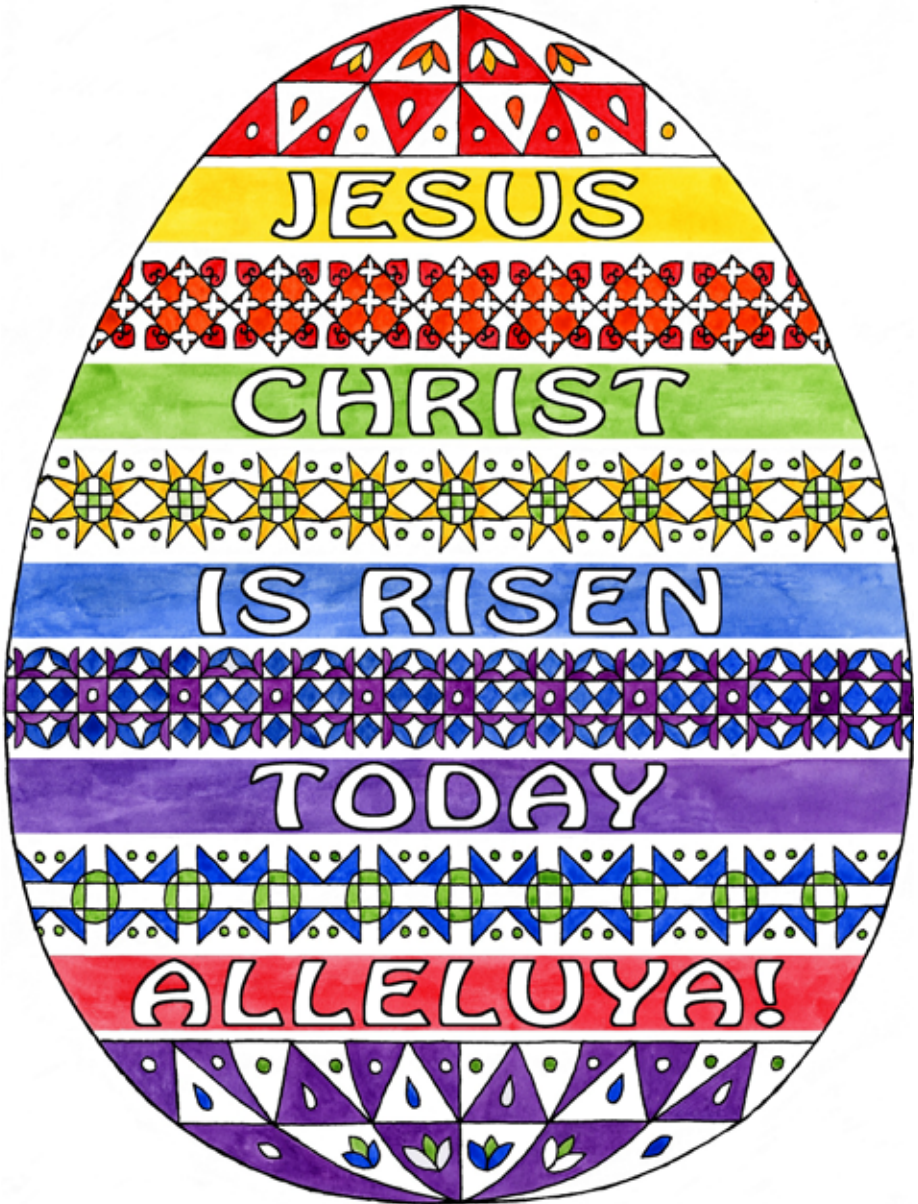


April - May 2026





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



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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



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
Summer 2025

HE PARISHIONER

Copy for the Summer Parishioner (which includes June, July and August) should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than Thursday 28 May.

5th April – EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD, or Friday 3rd April 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'.

So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs?

On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



Parish Register

Funerals

February	05	Alexander Howie, Cumbernauld
	09	Mrs Ann MacKay, 5 Barrhill Court, Kirkintilloch
	13	Miss Elizabeth Cousin, 28 Eildon Road, Kirkintilloch
	23	Matthew Malcolm (Snr), Moss Road, Waterside
	27	Gordon Sinclair, 85 Boghead Road, Lenzie

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

Matt and Paul Malcolm thank everyone in the congregation for kind words of sympathy, cards, support and church flowers received following the passing of their dad on 2nd February.

The family of Elizabeth Cousin thank all who attended the church and crematorium for her funeral. The love and support given to Elizabeth throughout the years, and in particular over the last few months, are much appreciated.

Grateful thanks to the Rev Adam Dillon, Sherbrooke Mossspark Church for conducting the funeral service.

Church Office

The secretary, Mrs Denise Japp is available in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 8.00 a.m. – 1.00 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



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***

The following are small excerpts from letters received by The Treasurer.

Many thanks for your recent donation of £125. This is very kind of you, and very much appreciated. Your donation will be put to use to continue our provision to our guests.

Lorna Morrow

Manager

St Rollow Community Outreach Project

On behalf of the staff and Trustees of East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid, I would like to say how grateful we are for the very kind donation of £50 from the congregation of St Mary's Parish Church.

Gail Cook

Office Coordinator

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the congregation of St Mary's Parish Church for the kind donation of £125. We truly appreciate your support, which makes a difference to both our organisation and the individuals we serve.

June Macleod

Manager

LHM

Every day of your life matters, from the first to the last. That is why I want to thank you for the kind and generous donation of £943.24 raised throughout Christmas 2025 of your church.

Rebecca Macdonald

Fundraising Assistant

Marie Curie

On behalf of everyone at Erskine, I would like to thank you for your generous support donating £523.24. You are helping us ensure the sacrifices made by veterans are never forgotten.

Emma Joseph

Community Fundraiser

Treasurer's Report

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

Donation to Special Projects Fund £100

Donation to Church from St Mary's Badminton Club £700

Donation towards Parishioner Production £20

Donations to General Account £19.52, £19.52, and £50.

We continue to receive regular donations to The Fabric and Special Projects Funds.

St Mary's Church has received a generous legacy from The Estate of The Late Mrs Nan Marshall.

Donations in relation to some recent Funerals £400

From our Open Doors Day in February, we received donations totaling £101.20. Thank you for all of this.

Giving to Grow and Presbytery requirements for 2026:

Having received details of our obligations for this year, we require to send £74,397 to The Church of Scotland in the year 2026. This will be sent over 10 monthly instalments, February to November inclusive. We also require to send £4,291 to The Presbytery of Glasgow, this being our allocated contribution towards the operating costs of the Presbytery of which we are part of. This will be sent in 3 instalments, March, June and September.

John M Thomson
Treasurer

Nursery Update



Our pre school children have started their transition to school with a visit to a local primary school. This is always a very exciting time for our little ones.

We welcomed Parents/Carers into nursery over 2 days to celebrate someone special in the children's lives for Mother's Day. We invited them in to join us for 'Cake and Crafts' where children and their adult created a special keepsake. Children then ordered from a selection of cakes and enjoyed them with their adult. This was very successful with 39 Parent/Carers attending.

We had a recent visit from the police with 2 officers bringing their van and some of their resources. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and had an opportunity to ask the officers questions. We plan to continue this partnership.

As the Easter break approaches I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all staff and children a very Happy Easter.

Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener

Helpers Required

We require several new people to steward at funerals in the church. As long as there is a good number of volunteers then once every 2 or 3 months is all that is required and only if you are available on the day in question. Anyone who is interested please speak to Paul Malcolm or contact him on 07542516108.

Session Report

Rev Richard Baxter

You may be aware of this already, but I wanted to share the very sad news that Rev Richard Baxter passed away recently.

Richard convened the Scheme of Delegation committee tasked with making a buildings recommendation for our Basis of Union with St David's Memorial Park. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all of Richard's family and friends as well as his congregation at Kelvin West Parish Church.

Following this sad news, the Presbytery Clerk has arranged for Rev William Wilson to pick up the role of convener. William is the Minister at Burnside Blairbeth Church. There will inevitably be a delay in reaching a buildings recommendation for Kirkintilloch as William catches up with the committee and reviews the work that has been completed to date. He may also want to visit both Churches, as part of his task. However, I hope that we will see some progress with our Basis of Union very soon.

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
Telephone: 07306 205303
email: morrisgo@sky.com

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us. In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S

The bells of St Mary's have been ringing out over Kirkintilloch almost every Sunday for over 100 years, but if this is to continue then we desperately need some more volunteers. There are only 2 of us at the moment and if we cannot always manage then the bells do not get rung. We need others to join us and no previous experience is necessary as full training will be provided. You do not have to be particularly musical as it is very much a 'learn on the job' activity. There is no need to commit to every Sunday, as if we get enough help, a rota would be possible to fit in with your other commitments. If you are interested, it would be possible to organise a 'taster' to see what it is like before making a commitment. Please contact Jen Biggans – 0141 578 0586 - if you are interested in learning more or coming to a taster.



Dates for your Diary

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. Walk and Talk use a WhatsApp group to link many of our walkers both past and current. If you would like to know what the group are doing, then please use Trevor's contact details below to introduce yourself. The walks are prompted each week on Thursday

mornings and a summary of the walk is usually produced on Thursday evenings. There is also the usual group chat and banter, as all are encouraged to keep in touch. If you don't like using WhatsApp then please give Trevor a call and he'll keep you informed by other means. The walks on the 9th April and the 21st May 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
07939 677523
trevor_patterson@outlook.com

26th March	Lenzie CoOp
2nd April	Hillhead Basin, John Street
9th April	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Broadwood Lochs
16th April	St Columba's Hillhead Church
23rd April	Ellisland Drive
30th April	Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre. Including coffee stop in Kirkintilloch
7th May	Merkland Nature Park
14th May	Waterside
21st May	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Auchinstarry Quarry
28th May	Kilsyth Road
4th June	Donaldson Street

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - OPEN DOORS DAY

Wednesday 8th APRIL 2026 and Wednesday 22nd APRIL 2026

This April we are having two Open Doors Days: our Easter Trail on Wednesday 8th and on Wednesday 22nd we will again welcome the Telemann Woodwind Quartet, who have so ably and enjoyably entertained us previously.

Our first Doors Open Day will be 8th April at which we will have an Easter Treasure Trail throughout the day. This will be open to all our young families and young people from our community. Quite apart from having a fun experience and providing a great time-filler for those grandparents who are child minding on a Wednesday, those young people, who successfully complete the Treasure Trail, will also receive a prize.

Tea and coffee will be provided during the day for everyone, including adults accompanying young people, as will an area where you can simply relax and have a chat over your tea or coffee.

Our Second and 'special' Open Doors Day will be on Wednesday 22nd where we will again welcome the wonderful Telemann Woodwind Quartet whose concert will start in the sanctuary at 12.30p.m. Teas and coffee will be available throughout the day.

We really appreciate and look forward to your ongoing support for these concerts, as without that support we would not be able to attract the entertainment that we do.

As always, everyone will be made most welcome.

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May 2026

For one focused week, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. In St Mary's we will have a retail collection on 2 Sundays in May.

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

In 2024/25 your gifts enabled Christian Aid to fund 463 projects in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. 4.1 million people were reached directly, 57% of whom were woman and girls, with a further 12.4 million people being reached indirectly.

The annual Christian Aid service will be held on **Sunday 19th April** 2026 in Hillhead Hall (formerly Hillhead Parish Church). More details later.

Paul Malcolm

Annual Strawberry Lunch

Our annual Strawberry Lunch will take place after the service on **Sunday 7th June**. This will be a celebration of summer with two courses both featuring strawberries. Tickets are £1 to reserve your place, allowing us to cater for everyone and will go on sale after the service on **Sunday 17th May**.



International Day for Street Children - 12th April

If you have children, you would find it unbearable to think of them abandoned and alone on the streets of a big city, struggling each day to simply survive. Which is why the International Day for Street Children is held each year, to raise awareness about the millions of children worldwide who must rely on the streets for survival. Major international Christian charities that reach out to street children include:

Street Child - <https://street-child.org/churches-for-street-child/>

Stand By Me - <https://www.standby.me/go/christian-charity>

Compassion UK - <https://web.compassionuk.org/about-us/who-we-are-old/>

Samaritan's Purse - <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/childrens-ministries/>

Show and Tell

A schoolteacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion. The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin, I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary, I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up and said, "My name is Tommy, I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole."

Young Church ...

Young Church continue to meet in the Halls every Sunday. We welcome young people of all ages and abilities. As there are more younger children coming along to enjoy our fun with Jesus, we have set up a group for P5 and over who have called themselves Bible Tribe.

Our Young Church Group, the Bible Tribe (Primary 5 up), have been looking at creating their logo, while learning about the Easter Story and Jesus teachings leading up to Easter. Younger Children follow the same stories sharing videos, games and crafts. We will follow Jesus' journey through Easter and up to Pentecost in line with the wider congregation. All Children are welcome to join us any time. We have great fun every week learning about Jesus and his special love for each and everyone of us. We wish everyone a very Happy Easter. Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Louise Dunn

ST MARY'S

YOUNG CHURCH

MEET EVERY SUNDAY

10:45 TO 12:15

We have lots of fun learning more about Jesus using games, crafts, stories, videos and baking.

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ANY TIME



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

E A S T E R W I T N E S S - I W A S T H E R E
 I c a r r i e d J e s u s
 i n t o J e r u s a l e m
 R e a d M a t t h e w 2 1 : 1 - 1 1

I h a n d e d J e s u s o v e r
 t o b e c r u c i f i e d
 R e a d M a t t h e w 2 7 : 1 1 - 2 6

I n a i l e d J e s u s
 t o t h e c r o s s
 R e a d M a r k 1 5 : 1 6 - 3 2

I l a i d h i s b o d y
 i n m y t o m b
 R e a d M a r k 1 5 : 4 2 - 4 7

I g u a r d e d
 t h e t o m b
 R e a d M a t t h e w 2 7 : 6 2 - 6 6

W e s a w t h e
 e m p t y t o m b
 R e a d M a t t h e w 2 8 : 1 - 1 0

J e s u s i s a l i v e !
 H e a t e a m e a l w i t h m e !
 R e a d L u k e 2 4 : 1 3 - 3 5

Bible Bite

I t c a n b e r e a d i n t h e B i b l e i n
 L u k e 2 2 : 2 4, J o h n 1 3 : 3 - 1 7

I ' m m o s t i m p o r t a n t b e c a u s e
 I ' v e k n o w n h i m t h e l o n g e s t
 B u t I ' m g i v e n u p t h e m o s t
 t o f o l l o w h i m !
 I ' m t h e o l d e s t !

T h e d i s c i p l e s d i d n ' t h a v e
 a s e r v a n t, a n d n o n e o f
 t h e m w a n t e d t o d o t h e
 f e e t w a s h i n g ...

P e t e r c o u l d n ' t b e l i e v e
 w h a t h e w a s s e e i n g !
 A r e y o u r e a l l y g o i n g
 t o w a s h m y f e e t ?

O n c e J e s u s h a d w a s h e d
 a l l t h e i r f e e t, h e p u t h i s
 r o b e b a c k o n a n d s a t d o w n.
 I f y o u ' v e h a d a
 b a t h, t h e n y o u
 o n l y n e e d y o u r
 f e e t w a s h i n g !

A short story from the Bible

J e s u s a n d h i s d i s c i p l e s w e r e c e l e b r a t i n g
 t h e P a s s o v e r w i t h t h e s p e c i a l m e a l.
 T h e d i s c i p l e s w e r e b i k e r i n g a g a i n.

T h e r e w a s a
 r e a s o n w h y
 n o - o n e w a n t e d
 t o b e t h e l e a s t
 i m p o r t a n t - t h e
 r o a d s w e r e m u d
 a n d e v e r y o n e ' s f e e t
 g o t v e r y d i r t y.

J e s u s t o o k o f f h i s o u t e r r o b e a n d t i e d a
 t o w e l a r o u n d h i s w a i s t.
 H e f i l l e d a l a r g e b o w l w i t h
 w a t e r a n d s t a r t e d w a s h i n g t h e d i s c i p l e s ' f e e t.

Y o u w i l l u n d e r s t a n d l a t e r
 w h y I a m d o i n g t h i s.
 I c a n ' t e v e r l e t y o u
 s e r v e m e l i k e t h i s !
 I f y o u d o n ' t l e t m e, y o u
 w i l l n o l o n g e r b e m y
 d i s c i p l e
 T h e n w a s h a l l o f m e !

D o y o u
 u n d e r s t a n d
 w h y, y o u r
 f e a s t e r, a n d
 t h i s ? I a m s e t t i n g
 y o u t h e e x a m p l e o f h o w
 y o u a r e t o s e r v e e a c h o t h e r.
 D o i t, a n d G o d w i l l b l e s s y o u.

The Rectory

St James the Least

On the perils of small study groups

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are about to run an Alpha course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius. I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of 'the body' over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry – hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends.

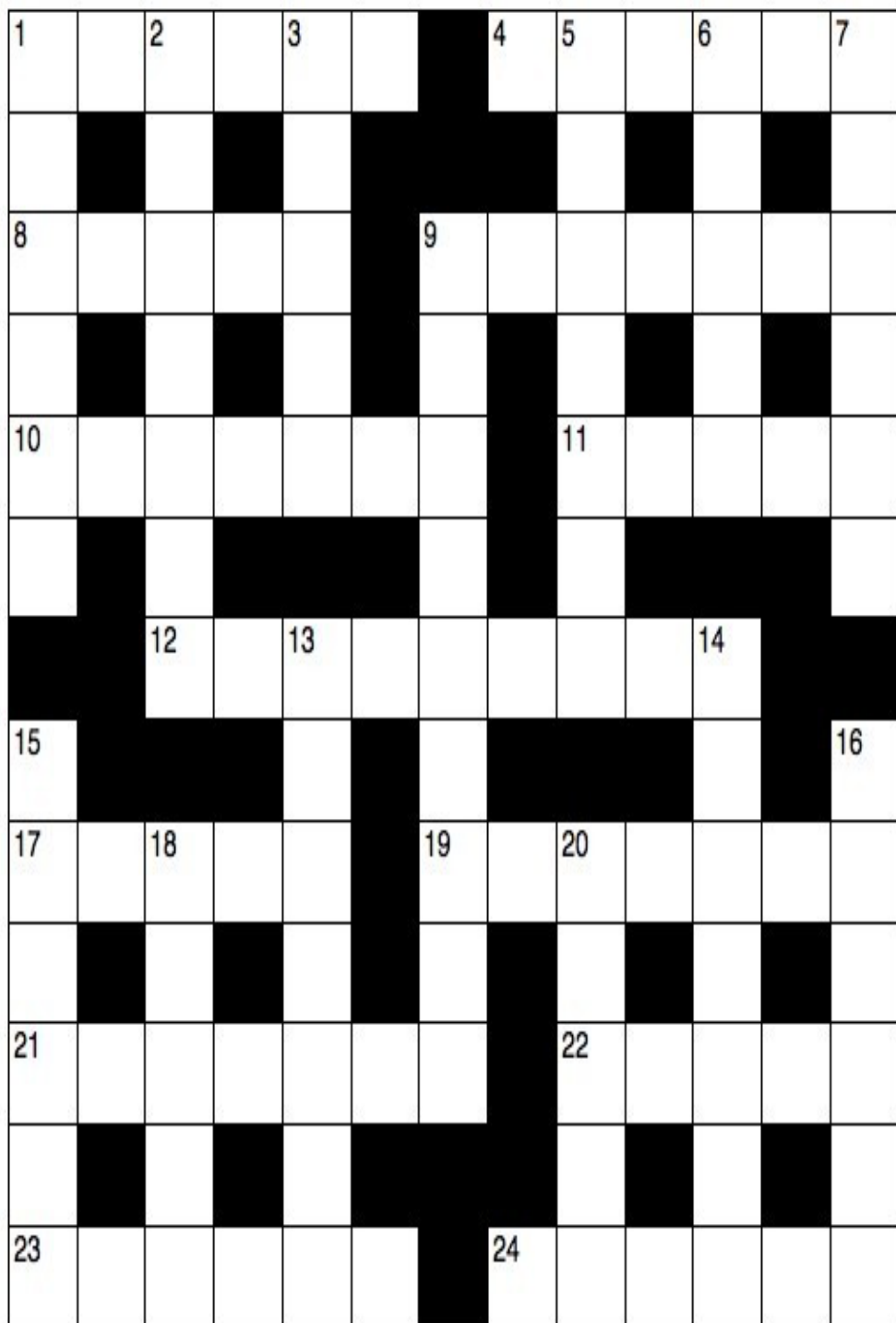
We tend not to go in for those sorts of things, here at St James the Least of All, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madeira cakes. Once we have removed from the table, those who manage to stay awake will start to fackle the chosen topic. However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting

matters, such as why Colonel Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir anymore, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently, she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.

These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the 'white stone' in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services, is of pivotal importance.

At 2.30pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour's slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish. I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered – invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Wheels

A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the minister told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the minister assured him that his prayers had been heard. The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

The following little poem is good advice for us all:

Happiness

Take Love and Loyalty, mix thoroughly with Faith
Blend it with Tenderness, Forgiveness and Understanding
Add Friendship, which will then hopefully bring Laughter and Sunshine.



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