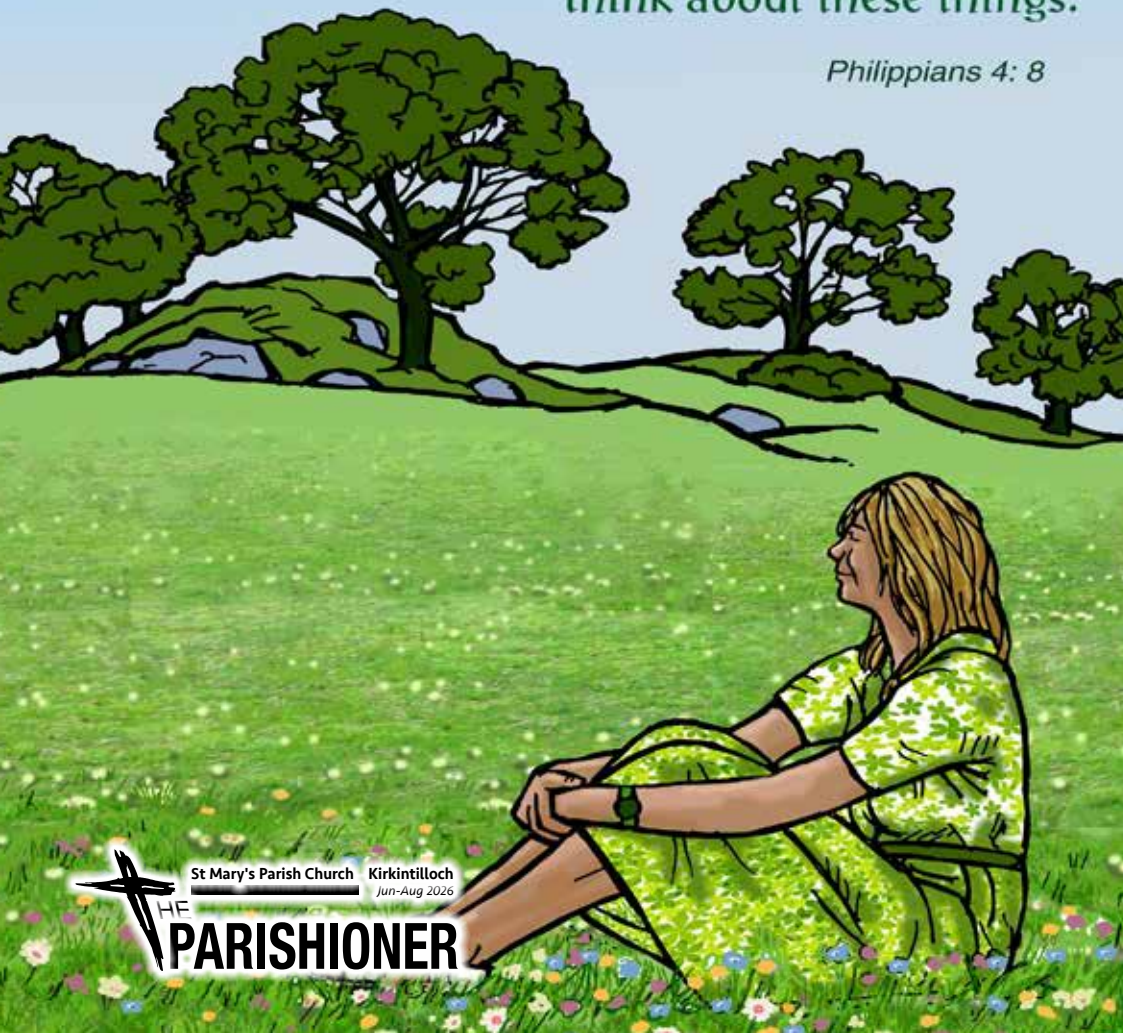


Summer 2026

Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honourable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Philippians 4: 8



St Mary's Parish Church Kirkintilloch
Jun-Aug 2026

THE 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



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Pastoral Letter ...

Dear Friends,

I write to you the Sunday after the scheme of delegation delivered their recommendation regarding the building decisions. It was good to be gathered in worship today and for us to reflect on God's Word and praise Him together. We remembered that no matter the changes and uncertainties that come our way, God is good and His love, faithfulness and mercy are unchanging and unfailing. We affirmed how important it is to stick and stay together through these days, waiting and listening for God's lead; always remembering and meditating on the wise words we find in Proverbs 3.5-6:

Trust in the Lord with all your strength and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

I was so glad that everyone stayed on at the end of the service, allowing us to listen to one another and share where we are at. It was crystal clear to me that we are all on the same page and cannot concur with the recommendation to sell or otherwise dispose of St Mary's sanctuary. Having myself advocated for the retention of both the sanctuary and halls of St Mary's and the retention of the halls at St David's Memorial Park, nothing I have read in the report sways me to believe that I was wrong. The

closing of the doors of St Mary's would, I believe, be detrimental to the mission of the proposed new united congregation and the witness of the Church of Scotland in Kirkintilloch.

To that end, and after much prayer and consideration, I have decided that I am unable to be the minister of Trinity Parish Church. I do not know what the full implications of such a decision will be, but I do not believe that God is calling me to be somewhere else. So, I will stay where I am, among the people who called me to be their minister and we will navigate these days together.

I urge you, amidst all the emotions of these days, keep coming to worship, stay together, lean into God's promises and love, and seek His peace. Praying - praying for all that you and we together need - trusting that God hears us and will guide us. May we have ears to hear where He leads.

Yours in faith and love,

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 27 August. Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful sunny summer.

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

Parish Register

Funerals

February	April	18	John Love Chesney
	May	11	David Morton
		20	Margaret Reid

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

Change of Address

David and Isobel Tinto, formerly 61 Kelvinvale, now residing at Flat 0/3, 4 Lanfine Drive, Kirkintilloch.

Thank you to all our friends at St Mary's for kind wishes and cards on our house move. David and Isobel Tinto.

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***

Christian Aid Week 2026

This year's retrieval collection in the church raised the excellent sum of £1,486.99. Sincere thanks for all the generosity shown.

During Christian Aid Week thousands of churches like ourselves stood together to support our global neighbours. Faith and belief that the world can be a fairer place for all people unites us and puts the unstoppable power of hope into action.

" How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." (1 John 3: 17 -18)

Paul Malcolm

Session Report

As you know, the Scheme of Delegation Committee held a joint meeting of both congregations on Monday 8th June. The purpose of the meeting was to share their report and buildings recommendation for our united congregation.

It was with an extreme sense of shock, sadness, and disappointment that we received the committee's recommendation that St. Mary's sanctuary should be closed and the suite of buildings at St. David's Memorial Park should be retained going forward into a union. In addition to the St. David's Memorial Park buildings being retained, our suite of halls is also to be retained, allowing our Nursery to continue.

Our Kirk Session met on Tuesday the 9th June to reflect on the news we were given the previous evening. Having received the committee's report in writing, we were able consider their findings and recommendation in more detail. A considerable number of errors, omissions and shortcomings were evident, and Session agreed that these issues should be shared with Presbytery when the report is presented on the 16th June. As well as the opportunity to respond to Presbytery when the report is received, there is also an appeals process, whereby, within a period of 14 days, we can ask for a review of any decisions Presbytery have reached.

This is clearly an extremely challenging time for us all. We would simply ask that we all continue to look after each other, and pray for one another, as our discussions with Presbytery continue.

Kind regards
Gordon

Rev. Dr. Ruth Morrison
Minister
0141 737 4896
rmorrison@churchofscotland.org.uk

Gordon Morrison
Session Clerk
07306 205303
morrisgo@sky.com

Nursery Update

It has been a busy term at the Nursery with lots of opportunities for indoor and outdoor learning.

The children nurtured 15 caterpillars and recently saw them blossom into beautiful butterflies.

At the end of May staff attended East Dunbartonshire's Early Years Conference where the guest speaker was Professor Sam Wass, one of the UK's leading experts on brain development in the early years. Professor Wass delivered an engaging and thought-provoking presentation on early childhood brain development, the impact of transitions and distractions and the significance of responsive adult/child interactions. Lots for the staff to think about and develop in their work with our youngsters.

As an end of term treat groups of children have enjoyed a trip to Ghiloni's for an ice cream!



There at twenty seven children moving on to school in August and they have enjoyed induction visits to their new school.

Once again, the pre-schoolers enjoyed a teddy bears picnic in the church when they watched their teddies on the zipwire, did various teddy related crafts and enjoyed a picnic. My thanks to all the volunteers who made this event special for the children.

Rehearsals for the Graduation Ceremony are well under way. We wish all our preschoolers a smooth transition to school and a successful time there meeting new friends and extending their learning.

As the Nursery year comes to a close, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the staff for their hard work and dedication to our Nursery. Their work does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated. Happy Holiday everyone!!

**Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener**

Nominated Charities

Thank you to everyone who put forward names of Charities to be supported by the Church.

A total of 12 Charities were nominated and these have been split into four groups of three to be supported over the next four years. They have been allocated in the order of entry on the nomination sheets to the years listed below. As usual envelopes will be available for each Charity in December and the Watchnight service collection will be shared equally by them.

2026/27	Cancer Research UK Marie Curie British Heart Foundation
2027/28	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity Erskine
2028/29	Young Carers Kirkintilloch EDC Parkinsons Water Aid
2029/30	CHAS Seagull Trust Kirkintilloch Guide Dogs for the Blind

Hugh Biggans

CrossReach's love in action shows the Kirk at its best

With an annual budget of £61 million to deliver cradle-to-the grave social care services provided by 1,700 staff and 300 volunteers, CrossReach is the Church of Scotland at its "very best". That was the message that Dr Mike Cantlay had for the recent General Assembly. He said that the social care provider demonstrated people-centred Christian love in action every day. Dr Cantlay, convener of the Social Care Council and chair of the board of CrossReach, said that: "Our purpose comes from the second commandment – Christ's calling, in which we are instructed 'to love'."

That purpose has inspired the five-year plan launched by CrossReach last year titled 'Love From CrossReach', with its declared aim of demonstrating Christ's love in action through high-quality care and support.

Covering the whole span of life from maternity services to care of the elderly, CrossReach's other activities include mental health support, providing family visitor services at Perth Prison, and helping others recover from addiction at facilities such as Glasgow Abstinence Recovery Service. A survey of over 520 service users found that the four key words and phrases they associated with CrossReach were "safe", "happy", "supported and "listened to".



Dates for your Diary

The Churches Walk and Talk Group

The Walk and Talk group has combined 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 for a walk, then please turn up at any of these 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 my contact details below to introduce yourself. The walks are prompted each week on Thursday morning

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 me a call and I will keep you informed by other means.

The walks on the 25th June, 6th August and 3rd September 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

25th June	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Croy Marina.
2nd July	Lenzie CoOp.
9th July	Hillhead Basin, John Street.
16th July	Donaldson Street. Including coffee stop at The Stables.
23rd July	Ellisland Drive.
30th July	Waterside.
6th August	St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Lennoxtown.
13th August	St Columba's Hillhead Church.
20th August	Merkland Nature Park.
27th August	Waterside.
3rd September	St Columba's Hillhead. 1:15 for transport to Auchinstarry Quarry.
10th September	Donaldson Street.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - OPEN DOORS DAY

Wednesday 1st July

This will be a 'normal' Open Doors Day where tea and coffee will be provided during the day for everyone whilst you view our wonderful building, as will an area where you can simply relax and have a chat over your tea or coffee.

We really appreciate and look forward to your ongoing support for this initiative, and as always, everyone will be made most welcome at our July Open Doors event.

John Pears

Scottish Country Dancing

We invited the neighbouring classes of Lenzie, Chryston and Bishopbriggs along to our final night of the season on 12th May. This was a great success giving dancers the chance to meet up with others from the local area.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hopefully some new faces when we return on Tuesday 15th September.

Margaret Paterson

Social Committee

For the Social committee the year ended on a high with the Strawberry Lunch on **Sunday 7th June**. Everyone left well fed and happy having spent time with good friends. During the year we had our usual Sunday lunches with the Harvest Lunch in October, the Advent lunch at the end of November, a little earlier than usual, and then the pancake lunch in February. The Social Committee would like to thank all those who have helped to make these events so successful. Whether you have helped serve food, washed up and cleared up afterwards or just come along to support us and make the whole experience such a pleasure we are very grateful for all you do.

Next year remains a large unknown, but for the present, I think we can pencil **Sunday 4th October** in our diaries as a possible date for the Harvest Lunch.

Streamlined approach needed to protect Kirk heritage

The Church of Scotland has been invited to take a strategic look at how it cares for churches and other buildings, and to ask whether it needs to take a new approach to the challenge.

The Rev Dr Scott Rennie, convener of the General Trustees, warned that "The Church of Scotland faces challenges common to many denominations across the United Kingdom: ageing buildings, declining volunteer capacity, increasing regulatory requirements, and a more demanding health and safety environment. "Congregations are often asked to manage increasingly complex property responsibilities without sufficient time, expertise, or local capacity.

"The consequence is that the Church is too often forced to commit substantial finite resources to major remedial works that might have been avoided through consistent preventative maintenance. In simple terms, we are too frequently paying later for what could have been addressed earlier."

This raised important questions about whether the current stewardship model — where congregations report to presbyteries and presbyteries report to the General Trustees — was sustainable.

"A system that works only when perfectly followed, but which is seldom followed consistently in practice, is not a system that is serving the Church well," Dr

Rennie added.

"The resulting inconsistency inevitably leads to higher long-term costs and greater risk across the estate."

The General Trustees now plan to consult national and presbytery colleagues on the possibility of developing a simpler and more effective system that would enable early repair, prompt action and the better use of funds.

July is a time for visiting beautiful country churches,
and reflecting that....

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence, it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives.

T Harrison

The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven.

C Evans

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth.

Isaac Newton

Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about.

Billy Graham

Ten crimes against churches a day

On average, ten crimes are committed on church properties every day. And of the nearly 4,000 offences in the past year, most of them were either theft, vandalism or violence, according to police data.

It is a rise from the average of eight crimes a day recorded between 2022 and 2024, and the true figure could be higher, as not all police forces responded to Freedom of Information requests sent by the Countryside Alliance.

Earlier this year, £250,000 worth of historic silverware was stolen from a church in Hertfordshire. Criminals targeted another in Nottinghamshire, by kicking in its stained-glass window. Others targeted gravestones outside a church near Preston, in what police have treated as a hate crime.

Lord,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we have time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place. I

n Jesus' name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Young Church ...

Young Church will meet every Sunday over the summer for fun activities in the hall.
We wish everyone a sunny and happy Summer.

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



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes it's nest on high?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



9 across.

In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27

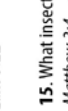


9 down.

What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6



10. What insect would God send to destroy the enemy?
Deut 7:20



11. What animals eat crumbs from under the table?
Matthew 15:27



Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in 1 Samuel, 24.

A short story from the Bible

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.



David didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next King.

Saul was very successful as a fighter and very popular.

Saul became jealous and angry.

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave.

God has given you a chance to kill him!

David crept over and cut a piece of Saul's robe.

Saul didn't notice.

Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.

Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

He is God's chosen King. Having the chance to do something doesn't make it right.

David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.

David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.

One day, Saul and his army were in Ek-Geddi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sleep fold built next to a cave...

Then David felt bad.

God's chosen King. Having the chance to do something doesn't make it right.

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One day, Saul and his army were in Ek-Geddi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sleep fold built next to a cave...

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

On war between parishes

My dear Nephew Darren

My dear Nephew Darren
So, now you have enjoyed your first Summer Fete. Don't say I didn't warn you. It may be small consolation but remember that they only happen once a year - although in your case, you still have another 30 to endure before retirement.

I negotiated our own last week. As usual, the band from our neighbouring parish of St Eusebius played. There has been much bad blood in the past between our two villages. The trouble started on the day that St James the Least of All never told St Eusebius that the Vikings were coming up the river. We may have long since buried the hatchet, but both sides remember where they put it.

Tension between the two communities down the centuries has moved on from occasional slaughter to something a little more refined. Just as I began my opening speech to crown the Rose Queen, the band struck up with the National Anthem. When the hog roast started, they played "smoke gets in your eyes" and when it came to the necessary music for the maypole dancing, they all disappeared into the beer tent.

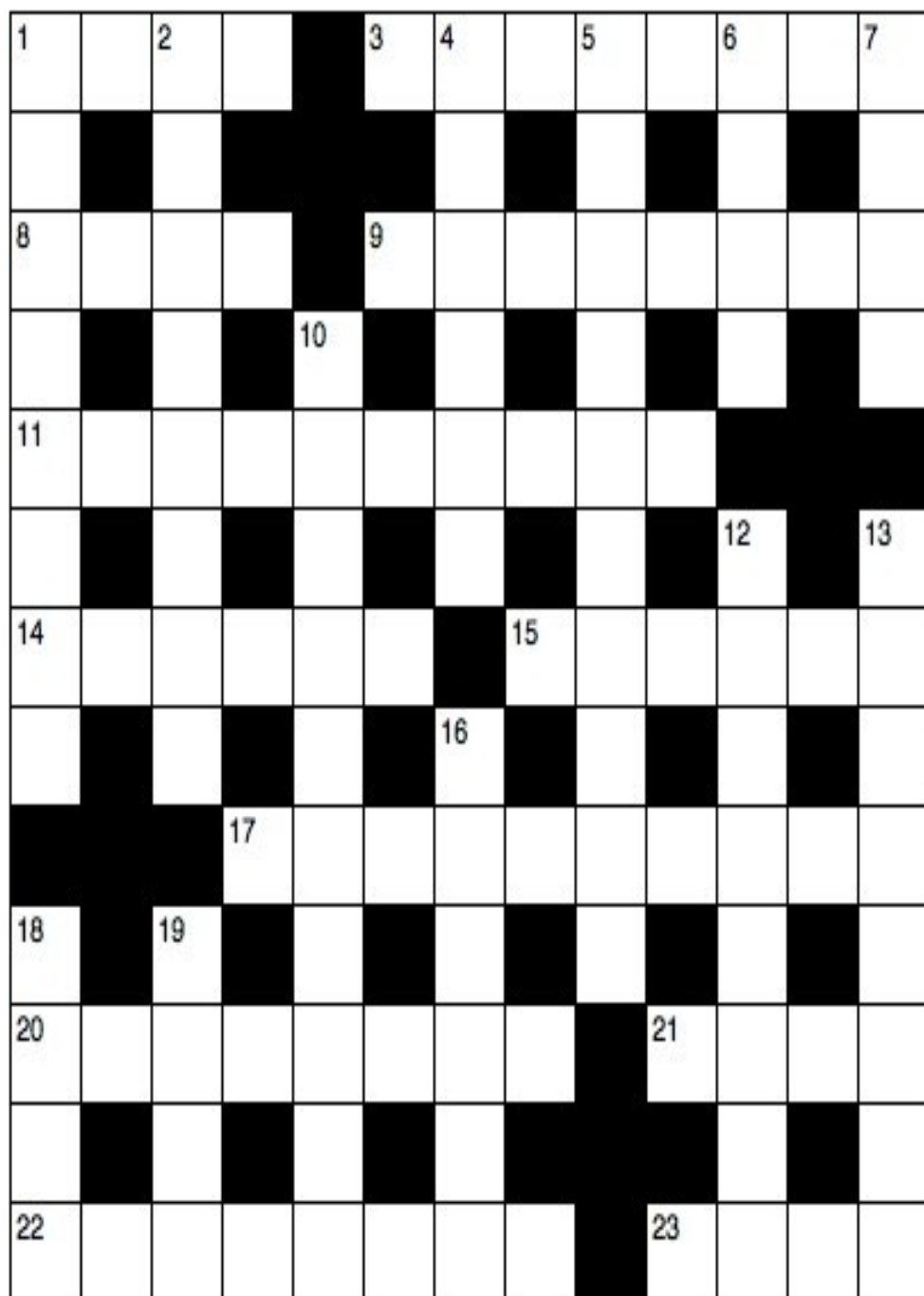
With great Christian charity, we shall bide our time. In

September we have the annual football match between the two churches' Servers. Last year, in addition to winning the match, the St James' boys sent three of their side off with concussion. Naturally, I visited them in hospital.

Miss Prendergast, as always, played Gypsy Rose Lee. If the tall, dark, dear lady tells me one more time that I am about to find romance with a tall dark lady, while she flutters her eyelashes at me, I swear I shall throttle her with a bell rope. Besides, I already have a beautiful dark lady in my life - and my Labrador is devoted to me.

The only real hiccough came when I bought 12 packets of fudge from Mrs Masheder to present to our choirboys. Yet again, she had misread salt for sugar in the recipe. After I presented the packets at Mattins the following day, a formal complaint was rapidly made by a parent to the police that the Rector was attempting to poison their son. But as I explained to the officer, if I had intended to poison anyone, I would have done it far more discreetly - and infinitely more efficiently.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)



For the last time! - Which member of the Junior Choir
put bubble mixture in the organ-blower?!



Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee