



Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9: 6



St Mary's Parish Church

Kirkintilloch

Sept-Oct 2026

PARISHIONER

**SEPTEMBER
& OCTOBER**



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch



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Pastoral Letter ...

Dear Friends,

The summer months in the life of a church are typically quieter, but not in St Mary's! As well as folks being involved in meetings to get our request for review submitted on time to 121, there has been much activity. Ongoing maintenance (have you seen the beautiful new windows in the hall?), a church family picnic (the rain stayed off!), the public meeting about the proposed closure of our building (what a great turnout), the push to get the petition to save St Mary's from closure signed (currently over 4000 signatures), the baptism of baby Lilidh (a very special moment) and did I mention the Big Kirkintilloch Weekend and the way our doors and hearts were open Friday, Saturday and Sunday! It really was a super weekend and showed St Mary's at our best. Not the building, although that was appreciated by many looking for a quiet place to simply be, but the people. You, the many volunteers, who gave of your time to welcome and chat with visitors, make and serve tea, coffee and bacon rolls, demonstrate the sport you were minding (including riding the inflatable hobby horses!), face painting, parachuting teddy bears, helping children make crafts, offering the Gospel for Glasgow booklets (over 200 were distributed), and generally showing what love in action looks like. We connected with hundreds of people over that weekend (we ran out of the 200 score cards we had printed for the Saturday!) and many of you were moved by conversations

you had with families thanking us for providing the activities for free. At one point someone turned to me and said, "You must be very proud?" Yes, I am. Proud to be the minister of such a faithful and fun group of people who are not only willing to make the gospel available but are living it out in their lives. You don't do it for me but well done and thank you. Thank you for all the ways you each have pulled together and served and given of yourselves, especially in recent weeks.

Amidst all the uncertainty of these days, as we head into autumn, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and hold onto the truth we all know – WE are the church – and let's press on, taking the opportunities to be together, growing in faith filled, hopeful, loving service throughout the week as we follow Him. Whether it be worship on a Sunday (11am and catch up online), Craft Group on a Monday (2-4pm) Wednesday Welcome (10am), Soul Sanctuary (Wednesday, 7.30pm), Open Doors every Wednesday (watch out for concerts on the first Wednesday in the month), the Enquirers' group for those exploring membership (I was delighted to be asked about membership - please speak to me if you'd like to explore), Games Day (the first Saturday of every month, 11-1pm); there is plenty going on and YOU are welcome.

So, what are you waiting for ... come along! It would be great to see you.

With love and blessings,

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 22nd November.

Church Office

For the immediate future, the office hours are Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Telephone 0141 775 1166
or e-mail: office@stmarysnursery.uk

Parish Register

Baptism

August 02 Lilidh Adeline Gavin, daughter of Heather and Alex and sister to Abigail.

Special Anniversaries

Ruby Wedding

John and Karen Wallace celebrate 40 years of marriage on 20th September.

Diamond Wedding

Alastair and Dorothy Stewart celebrated 60 years of marriage on 25th August.

Congratulations and best wishes are sent to both couples from all the congregation.

Change of Address

Mrs L Neill, formerly 32 Blackthorn Avenue, now residing in Craig-en Goyne Care Home, Kilsyth.

Church Flowers

The church is decorated each Sunday with flowers. Each arrangement is delivered to someone who is unwell, bereaved or having an over 80 Birthday! To continue this ministry of flowers we depend on donations from members and recently donations have lessened, so we need your help. If you would like to donate to church flowers either on a regular basis or a one-off donation, then please let one of us know. Grateful thanks to all who have donated over the past months.

***Fiona Leishman, Sandra Burns,
Ruth Poynton, Elizabeth Walker
The Flower Committee***

Treasurer's Report

Some recent receipts over the past two or three months (Most of these donors wishing to remain anonymous).

As it is a while since I last reported, my apologies if I have missed mentioning anything.

Donations to Special Projects Fund £1,000 and £300

A donation to Special Projects Fund from Kirky Mile Crunchers, the Running and Walking Group, £370

Donations to The Special Projects Fund from The Craft Group £300

Donations towards Parishioner Production £160

A donation to Church Funds £200

We continue to receive regular donations to The Fabric and Special Projects Funds
St Mary's Church has received a very generous Legacy from The Estate of Joan Douglas.

Donations in relation to some recent Funerals £550

Thank you for all of this.

John M Thomson
Treasurer

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

Nursery Update

It was with great sadness that we learned in early August of Denise Japp's death. Denise was not only a real asset in the nursery/ church office but was a friend to many. Her warm smile and bubbly personality were appreciated by all who met her. She will be much missed by us all.

Staff and children are now settling in to the new session. We have 36, 3 and 4 year olds returning, with that number rising to 45 by the end of the year. We currently have 8, 2 year olds.

As numbers are lower, there has been more opportunity to take groups out. Our two year olds went on the bus to the new park in Bishopbriggs – one wee one came back sound asleep! The reading focus has been on emotions incorporating the colour monster book.



My grateful thanks to the church ladies who volunteered to help out in the nursery office meantime. We hope to hold interviews in September to appoint a new clerical assistant.

Fiona Leishman,
Nursery Convener

Fast prayer

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" Suddenly, she tripped on the pavement, and fell over, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

The 25th Anniversary of 9/11

25 years ago, on 11th September 2001, the terrorist attacks on America took place.

Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, into the Pentagon, and into a field in Pennsylvania (following a passenger revolt – the intended target was Washington DC). 2,973 people were killed.

This year major national institutions in the US will mark the anniversary of that terrible day. In New York, a good number of Christian churches and interfaith groups are planning special services and memorial events. This will include hourly musical offerings at St Paul's Chapel in New York City, in honour of the chapel's role as a refuge for the first responders.

Other events include a digital experience at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and various events by the New York City Fire Department, who lost 343 members that day, as well as the 400 members who have since died from World Trade Center-related illnesses.

There will also be the iconic reading of the names of those who died, and the annual Tribute in Light installation, held at Ground Zero.

In the UK, the 25th anniversary of 9/11 will be remembered by a Memorial Concert held on Friday, 11th September at Southwark Cathedral. A special guest performance by The Outcry Ensemble will present a programme of American and British music reflecting on loss, memory and the human cost of violence.

Hard Times

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small. Psalm 104:25

Do you remember rock? I do not mean the music, but the confectionary sticks sold at seaside resorts. They were pink cylinders about a foot long and an inch wide with a white centre and had the name of the place in letters. They were covered in film and had a small label with a picture of the place on. It is sometimes referred to now as Rock Candy which does not seem right. They were hard as, well, hard as rock and very difficult to break up to eat. Real teeth breakers.

One source says it started at fairgrounds in the 19th Century, when sugar was plentiful and inexpensive. It was not brightly coloured or lettered in those days, but it was of similar shape and size as it is today.

Ben Bullock was an ex-miner from Burnley, who conceived the idea whilst holidaying in Blackpool. He began producing sticks of brightly coloured lettered candy at his Yorkshire-based sweet factory in 1887. He sent his first batch of lettered rock to retailers in Blackpool, where it was well received. Other sources say a Victorian character by the name of Dynamite Dick, who came from either Morecombe or Blackpool.

It takes a lot of skill to make it. It is still available on sale to eat or keep as a souvenir.

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

10th September

17th September

24th September

1st October

8th October

15th October

22nd October

29th October

5th November

Donaldson Street.

Kilsyth Road.

St Columba's Hillhead Church. Including coffee stop in Kirkintilloch.

Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre.

Ellisland Drive.

Lenzie CoOp.

St Columba's Hillhead Church. 1:15 for transport to Broadwood.

Merkland Nature Park.

St Columba's Hillhead Church.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH DOORS OPEN INITIATIVE

As you may be aware, we are now opening the doors of our sanctuary to our community and to visitors every Wednesday, but on the first Wednesday of each month we are providing a concert for your and our community's entertainment.

As the National EDC Doors Open day is to be held on Saturday 5th September this year, we will again open our doors to both you our congregation, and to our community and look forward to welcoming everyone to our sanctuary. Our organist David Burns has very kindly agreed to play the organ on this occasion.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in our sanctuary and we look forward to welcoming everyone who visits us.

John Pears

Scottish Country Dancing

St Mary's Scottish Country Dancing class restarts on **Tuesday 15th September** 7.30pm in the Mid Hall. Beginners will be made most welcome if you fancy giving it a try. Any questions please contact **Margaret Paterson 07857611581**.

Autumn is fast approaching

As we begin September, we think about Harvest and the Lunch which accompanies it, which this year will be after the service on **Sunday 4th October**. Lunch will consist of Baked Potatoes with a choice of fillings followed by Apple Pie and Cream. There will of course also be tea and coffee with great fellowship and a chance to chat with friends.

Tickets go on sale after the service on **Sunday 13th September**, costing £1 to reserve your place plus a donation on the day. We hope to see as many of you at this event as possible as it is usually a very happy way to begin the new church session.

Another date for your diary

Christmas is just over the horizon so here is the date of the Advent Lunch. It will take place after the service on **Sunday 6th December**. More details will follow and we hope to see many of you there enjoying the run up to Christmas.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival takes place on **Sunday 4th October**. Further details will be provided over the coming weeks.

Young Church Craft Fayre

Young Church Craft Fayre is on **Saturday 21st November**. Details in November Parishioner.

Christian Aid Autumn Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th November from 10am to 12.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. More details to follow in November Parishioner.

Guides / Brownies / Rainbows

Guides / Brownies / Rainbows meet on Wednesday evenings in the Church Halls and are looking for extra help. If you are interested, please contact Mhairi on 07503281336

Church of Scotland "GUILD"

In our area of Kirkintilloch, the Guild meets fortnightly in St. David's Memorial Park Church halls and will be starting the new session in September.

I am a member of the Guild there and enjoy both the Fellowship and variety of subjects presented in the Syllabus.

If anyone would like to join me, please get in touch 0141776 3949.

Dorothy Stewart

Fabric

This summer we have had another busy time with a whole list of projects.

The biggest of these was the replacement of the large Windows in the Church Hall, which were removed and replaced within one week thanks to MCK Windows and Doors of Kirkintilloch. To complete this transformation the Curtains were also renewed. New roller blinds were fitted to the Mid and Small halls, and many more smaller jobs were also completed.

My grateful thanks to the small band of willing helpers without whom a lot of the work would not be possible.

David Tinto

Fabric Convenor

Prayer for September 2026

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!

New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.

Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Can't sleep? Could these drinks be keeping you awake?

Sleep experts suggest the following possible suspects:

Alcohol. It interferes with the way your brain shuts down for the night. It can disrupt the deeper, more restorative level of sleep that you need.

Hot chocolate. Here it is the added sugar that is the problem. It gives you an energy boost that you don't need at bedtime!

Tea or coffee in the afternoon. Caffeine stays in your system for at least five hours. That glass of water by your bed. It will probably wake you up in the night. Instead, consider increasing your liquid intake earlier in the day.

But if you really want a drink at bedtime, here are three that might help:

Chamomile tea has an antioxidant called apigenin, which promotes sleepiness.

Warm milk contains tryptophan, an amino acid that helps produce serotonin and melatonin.

And peppermint tea soothes your digestive system.

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.

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



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear"

John 15:16

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?



READ
John 15:1-17

What does Jesus command?

To

one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

John 15:6

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

The tale of the Lost sheep

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.

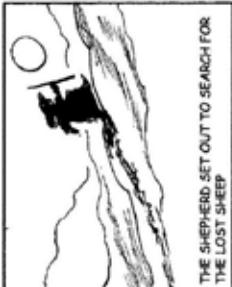
THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY



WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP



THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP



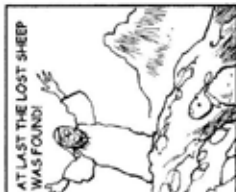
BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING



HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

On what clergy should wear on their feet

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for sending me the photograph of you having your face painted at your parish's 'Fun Day' - although I can't help feeling that to label an event 'fun' is the most effective way of draining it of all amusement whatsoever. Why on earth can't parishes continue with the traditional title of 'Crowning of the Rose Queen and Fete', equally traditionally grimly enjoyed to the accompaniment of thunder and torrential rain.

However, the one thing that caused me the greatest concern in your photo was the fact that you were wearing sandals. Sandals are only to be worn by Franciscan monks (without socks) and holidaymakers on Blackpool promenade (regrettably, generally with socks). I know that you will argue that Jesus wore sandals. This was mainly because reliable pairs of brogues had yet to be invented, but also because He lived in a hot, dry country. We live in a cold, wet one.

The only appropriate colour for footwear for a parish priest is black, and the only appropriate material is leather - although I will concede that can create difficulties. Wet leather shoes and polished marble sanctuary floors are a potentially lethal combination.

I well remember as a curate when old Canon Griffith entered the Sanctuary, having just got drenched coming from the Rectory. His feet moved across the marble floor some miles per hour faster than the rest of his body. Had he landed face down, the congregation may have assumed he was reverently prostrating himself before the altar. But lying in a supine position, staring in a dazed state at the rafters, only conveyed inappropriate indolence, when he should be at work.

However, do not take the alternative of wearing crepe soles. I suspect your present church will be fully carpeted - it seems to go with your sort of theology - and there will be no problem. But crepe soles and any sort of polished stone floor are a truly disastrous mixture. The slightest movement will make it sound as if you are being followed by a swarm of demented frogs.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

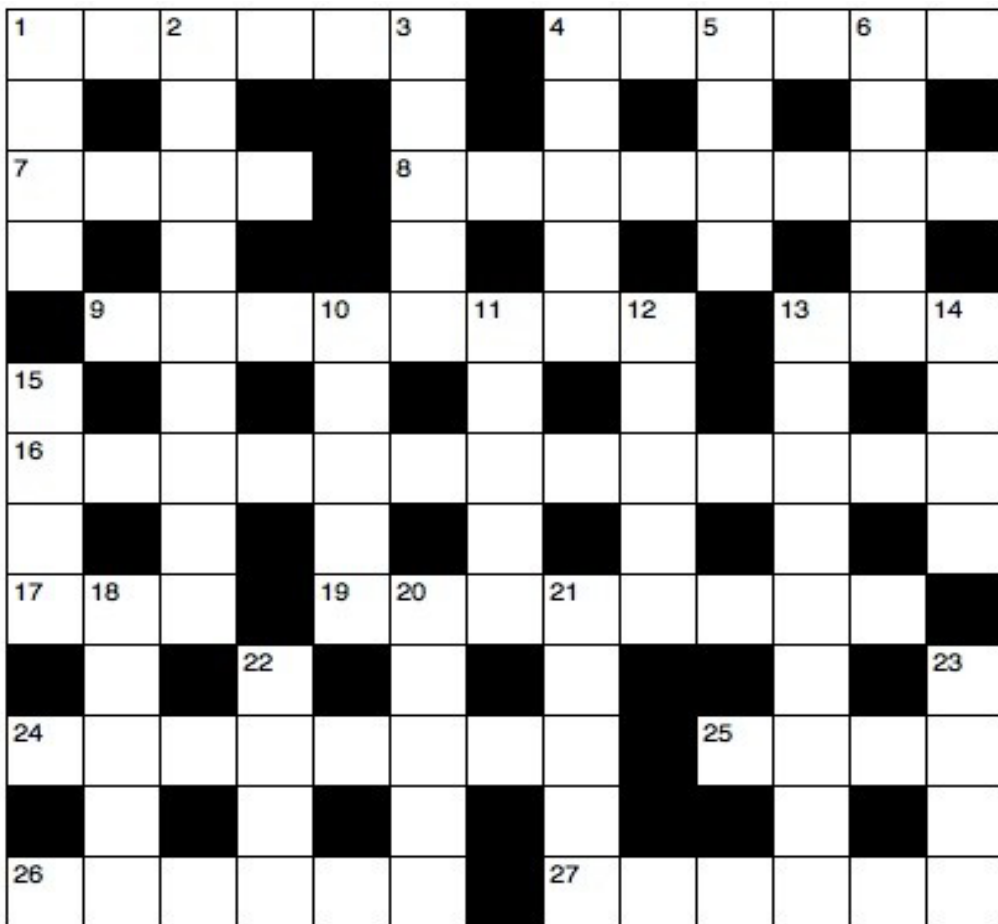
New Royal Mail solar-powered digital post-boxes

Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country. The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size.

The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer. The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail.

As for proof of posting? You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item.

If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter.



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the

king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

18, As Eve, 20, Isaac, 21, Ishvi, 22, Fret, 23, Ebed.

DOWN: 1, Lose, 2, Blame, 3, Radio, 4, Agree, 5, Tend, 6, Music, 10, Sober, 11, Noted, 12, Doric, 13, Available, 14, Test, 15, Apes.

Reproach, 25, Abil, 26, Celtic, 27, Intend.

ACROSS: 1, Labour, 4, Autumn, 7, Stay, 8, Darkness, 9, Reasoned, 13, Act, 16, Presbyterians, 17, Sat, 19, Ridicule, 24,



Designed by St Mary's Parish Church Publications Committee