

Marksman

August / September, 2024



St Mark's Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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From the Manse

Over the Sundays in the early part of the summer we have been thinking about journeys, and specifically journeys in faith. We've looked at parts of the stories of Moses – his birth and placement in the basket in the bulrushes, his encounter with the burning bush, and his going with Aaron to ask the Pharaoh to 'let my people go'. We've spent some time with Paul on his final journey, and with Jesus as he told the story of the Prodigal son, (and the rest of his family), and as he encountered the Samaritan woman by the well and the Canaanite mother (of the girl possessed by demons).

We've considered family relationships in different ways, with the Global day of Parents, and in the relationship of the lost son and his father, (and his elder brother) and through the care and persistence of mothers like Moses' mother, and the Canaanite mother. We have also been blessed to baptise and bless children whose parents wished to bring them to God's house, and we have said farewell to friends who have departed the earth, and gone home to their heavenly Father.

We've heard God say, "I am who I am" and Jesus tell of God's love and show God's love for all, both those who were part of God's chosen people but also for those outside the faith, but still loved by God. He offers us the same living water that he offered the Samaritan women, and as we shared communion together, we remembered that he offered up his body and blood, which was shed for us.

Running through all these stories has been the themes of travelling and hospitality and family and love. Themes that are continued through the life of our church family as we worship and learn and grow together. As you read this magazine you will hear of us offering hospitality in Glasgow City Mission, in our own Ralston Community Café, and in the welcome we offer to the young people who attend our groups and organisations.

As Christians we share God's love with those we encounter through simple acts of care and love as we travel along our own faith journeys. We support and encourage each other along the way by sharing the news of how God is working in our lives, being there for each other, and coming together to worship God each Sunday, by visiting those who are sick, or housebound, and by praying for each other.



As you read this, I will be travelling on or just returned from my summer holiday. Mylo (my dog) and I will be in our element as we meander up the west coast of Scotland, and across into the middle of the country too. We will walk miles along lochs and beautiful coastlines, and rest in peaceful, green, open spaces and it will be a journey of faith, for I know God will be with me wherever we go. The Bible tells me and in my heart I know that "The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need, he lets me rest in fields of green grass, and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water (*and sea water too*). He gives me new strength as he has promised." (Psalm 23: 1-3 Good News Translation).

And as I walk, and drive and rest "I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from the mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven and earth and mountains.... God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always." (Psalm 121:1-2, 7-8, The Message).

And as I rest, I will "praise the Lord, because he guides me, He is near and nothing can shake me." (Psalm 16:7-8, GNT)

May you know God's presence with you this summer, may you rest in his peace, walk in his strength, and abide in his love, knowing that he guards you, and guides you as you journey in faith, until the day he will call you home.

And I'll be back home on the 29th July, ready to face whatever lies ahead, knowing my life, and yours rest in God's everlasting arms.

Have a peaceful and blessed summer,

Your friend and minister,

Sonia

Worship Matters

Sunday 4th August
Sunday 11th August

Baptismal Service
Andy Grant leading worship
(Sonia in Kilmacolm for baptism)

Sunday 18th August
Sunday 8th September
Sunday 22nd September
Sunday 6th October

New session for Evolution
Eileen Wilkie leading worship
Harvest Thanksgiving
Youth Dedication Service



Funerals

19.6.24 Alison McIntyre, Bathgo Avenue
10.7.24 Barrie Macgregor, Oldhall Rd



Baptism and Blessings

Alfie Stuart John Mackenzie, son of Stuart Mackenzie and Elisa Elder, of Penilee Rd, was baptised on Sunday 26th May.

A service of Thanksgiving and Blessing was held for Rio and Ren McQuilter, sons of Ross McQuilter and Bailey Lyle, of Parklands Oval, Crookston on Sunday 14th July.



Alfie Stuart John Mackenzie



Rio and Ren McQuilter

Session Report



The last session meeting was held on 25 June, 2024 and many items were discussed. Our finances are fairly healthy, but we could do with some extra income to allow us to continue with the outreach services of church worker Peter and help our cleaner as she is now a lone worker.

Some work needs to be done on the manse to bring its EPC rating up to level C by summer of 2025 (Currently at D)

A successful film afternoon was held when *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* was screened. But do they?

It is hoped to have an afternoon *Strawberry Tea* in the near future as a joint venture with Sherwood Greenlaw to assist our joint working.

Andy Grant gave an interesting update on his attendance at the General Assembly and would recommend it to members.

The grass is currently being cut by a volunteer - except for the upper part on Corrie Drive which is a BB wild garden - and Simone Smith and Isobel Higgins are attending to the flower beds, for which help we are very grateful. Simone has also agreed to continue as our Presbytery Elder.

The café is going well and we have a new oven which can bake 6 large sponges at a time! We are grateful to all the volunteers who assist Meena, but it would be beneficial if other members could offer help from time to time. Please form an orderly queue.

We hope to have our broadband updated which will improve communications.

Hope you all have a pleasant, hopefully more sunny, summer.

Colin Reid (Session Clerk)

Sunday Duty Team Rota



DATE	TEAM	LEADER	DATE	TEAM	LEADER
AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
04/08/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair	01/09/2024	5	Mr A. Boyd
11/08/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair	08/09/2024	5	Mr A. Boyd
18/08/2024	4	Mr G. Black	15/09/2024	6	Dr C. Reid
25/08/2024	4	Mr G. Black	22/09/2024	6	Dr C. Reid
			29/09/2024	1	Mr J. Goodall

Iona Abbey Trip May 2025

A resident group of staff and volunteers share a year-round common life, and maintain daily services of worship in Iona Abbey.

They welcome guests to share all aspects of their life, including meals and work tasks, and to explore issues of common concern, including trade justice, the environment, peace-making, inclusion and diversity, and interfaith dialogue.

Guests who visit the community stay in the newly refurbished living quarters of Iona Abbey adjacent to the twelfth century Abbey Church in which there is daily worship. Built of stone and slate, these buildings have been made fit for purpose for the twenty-first century. A recent renovation, including a lift and accessible bedrooms, extensive insulation and full refurbishment of all bedrooms and bathrooms means that our living space is accessible to all and comfortable all year round. Corridors and staircases link the shared bedrooms with the washrooms, the Refectory (where we all eat together), the Abbey Cloisters and the Abbey Church itself. The Chapter House, the Common Room, large and small meeting rooms, and the Ritchie Library are all available to our guests.

True to its beginnings and the rebuilding of life in community, time staying at Iona Abbey includes time spent sharing in the practical tasks of communal living, including helping with cooking, cleaning and hosting. Most rooms are shared, (in small dormitories of up to four people) and bathroom facilities are also shared. The newly renovated living quarters mean that there are accessible bedrooms and bathrooms for those who require this. Guests are invited to join in the daily services of worship in the Abbey Church.

In the programme, guests engage in conversation and action focussed on justice and peace, embedded in the concerns of the Iona Community. They explore faith, take part in creative activities, and discover community over meals and chores.

There is time and space to relax outdoors, explore the beautiful island with its white sandy beaches and profusion of wildlife, take time apart to reflect, read, walk or write – or simply

to be quiet in the peace of the church or the landscape.

Every week, 'The Pilgrimage' visits key Iona landmarks, pausing for moments of reflection. Boat trips to Staffa are also very popular. You can browse books of poetry, history, prayers and issues of concern, and purchase postcards and gifts in the the Iona Community Shop.

The trip would mean travelling up to Mull on the Saturday, taking the pedestrian ferry to Iona, (no cars on the island for non-residents) and staying at the Abbey from Saturday afternoon until Friday morning. All meals are provided (set meals with little or no choice, although various dietary requirements are catered for,) and there is access to tea and coffee at other times. The cost for this current year is £762 for the week (six nights), and there is a 50% reduction for those who are students in full-time education and people whose only income is from state benefits or a state pension and people paid beneath the real living wage.

I am keen to see if there are people interested in making a small group booking (of 8-15 people) so please speak to me about this and ask any further questions. Likely dates are the weeks beginning 17th or 24th May 2025.

Sonia





General Assembly Report 2024

The Church of Scotland

First of all, I was delighted to represent St Mark's at this year's assembly.

I was invited as a first-time commissioner to a gathering in the Assembly Halls on the Friday evening to instruct us on the procedures and protocols that were required to be followed in assembly and exactly how the Assembly business would be conducted.

On the Saturday when the Assembly was constituted, the outgoing Moderator presented Rev. Dr Shaw Patterson as Moderator for 2024.

The Duke of Edinburgh attended as King Charles' representative and other dignitaries who were in attendance included the first minister and Edinburgh's Lord Provost,

When we got down to the business in hand, I was grateful that I had attended the Friday evening information briefing. There were reports, motions counter-motions and, of course, voting. Those of us in the hall voted using a Bluetooth device which doubled as proof of attendance to the sessions. The technology was overseen by a former member of St Mark's: Neil McLennan.

Sunday saw some of us attending a special assembly service at St Giles' Cathedral which was very well attended as there was standing room only. There were representatives from around the world and our Armed Forces were in attendance.

Monday's session began with a Communion Service. It was impressive to see all the commissioners being served Communion by a group who had just learned they were to serve the hall in under 20 minutes.

It was a revelation to realise just what the C of S is actively involved in. Its

responsibilities include *Social Care, Crossreach, Iona Community, Housing & Loan Fund*, to name just a few.

When voting for or against the reports put before you, you would be forgiven for initially thinking that there are better informed people there and online who perhaps have a greater understanding of the topic being debated. So why is my tuppence worth needed? I will tell you why – it is because as you hear the reports and debate around them taking place, you then understand more of the subject, therefore you now have an opinion based on what you have heard. And an informed vote is a valid vote.

The same can be said for actually standing up and taking part in the debate itself. I, myself, was not inclined to stand up and actually say anything until a report and debate was put before Assembly by the Safeguarding Committee, which by the way, is now headed by Sonia.

As a result of my input, I was invited to have lunch with the Moderator in his private rooms. Unfortunately, I had to stand Sonia up as we had previously decided to have lunch together!

As a first-time attendee I was invited to the Palace of Holyroodhouse along with many others to the *Beating the Retreat Ceremony*. We were treated to a selection of canapés and champagne which was topped up numerous times through the evening. I even had a conversation with the Duchess of Edinburgh's private secretary, Pippa.

As it was absolutely pouring with rain, the *Beating the Retreat* was moved to the gallery where the reception was being held.

General Assembly Report 2024 (Cont'd)

Final day on Thursday the closing pieces of business took place in the morning and after lunch there were presentations and closing speeches, most notably by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Then it was all over for the 2024 Assembly.

I enjoyed my time at this year's Assembly. There were many items brought forward for discussion including assisted dying, the position of transgender people within the Church and a plea from a delegate from the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem, to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The trustees were urged to deliver a break-even Budget by 2027. There was also a call to raise awareness about the crisis in social care with presbyteries and congregations and also to lobby local and national politicians on this.

There is a full assembly report on the *Life & Work* website (see link below) if you wish to read the full account of the Assembly's work or if there is anything you want to ask me about my experience at the Assembly, please, just ask.

Andy Grant

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/features/general-assembly-2024-reports>

[https://
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/publications](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/publications)



Prayer Guide



		AUGUST, 2024
Thu	1	We pray for the Dementia Friendly Café and all the work that is done to support those suffering from Dementia and those caring for them.
Fri	2	We pray for all those who are starting holidays this coming week, for safe travel and happy times.
Sat	3	Pray for the Super Strawberry Saturday event today that all goes well and there is good opportunity to work with those from Sherwood Greenlaw and our community.
Sun	4	Pray for Sonia as she leads us this morning in worship.
Mon	5	Our streets for prayer this week are for Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent. Pray God will bless the people living there.
Tue	6	We remember all the young folk whose results are due today. Be with them as they receive them and help them as they find out and as they plan ahead.
Wed	7	Take time to stop and pray today even though there the Prayer groups aren't meeting tonight on Zoom and in church.
Thu	8	The Property Team are in our prayers today and we give thanks for all the work they carry out in St Mark's church and manse.
Fri	9	We pray for community, local and national councils that all who serve will aim to do the best for everyone.
Sat	10	Pray for the Media Team and all the work they do bringing our services to us online.
Sun	11	Pray for Andy Grant as he takes the service this morning and for Sonia as she ministers in Kilmacolm at a Baptismal Service.
Mon	12	Remember in your prayers this week those in Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place. Today is International Youth Day. Pray for the youth in our church and for those in the community, for the work done to build relationships with them through various organisations.
Tue	13	We pray for all those who are unwell in our fellowship and ask that God would bring them healing and peace as they deal with ill health.
Wed	14	We pray for all who work in service jobs, those who are often overlooked. Help us remember to thank them when we have the opportunity.
Thu	15	Our Presbytery Elder is remembered today as she carries out her duties attending meetings and reporting back to Session.
Fri	16	Pray for the young people who return to school today. Be with them as they begin their year ahead.
Sat	17	Pray for local businesses in and around Paisley.

Prayer Guide



		AUGUST, 2024
Sun	18	Bring us ready and excited for worshipping you this day, grateful we have the freedom to do so.
Mon	19	Take time to pray for people in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road during the week.
Tue	20	We pray for leaders of our organisations that they are enjoying their break and that they will feel refreshed before the start of the new session.
Wed	21	Prayer groups start tonight on Zoom and in church at 7:00 p.m. and all are welcome.
Thu	22	This is the International Day commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.
Fri	23	We ask that you deepen our love for you, Lord.
Sat	24	We remember all those who live alone, through choice or circumstance, and ask you to be with them. For many folks the weekend is a hard time, so bring them your peace.
Sun	25	Bless our service this morning and be with other churches in our community as they meet together.
Mon	26	At the start of this week bring all those in Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent to God in prayer.
Tue	27	Pray today for refugees, those displaced and for asylum seekers.
Wed	28	Pray for the leadership planning meeting for 39thA Brownies this evening as they plan for the coming session. Prayer groups tonight on Zoom and in church.
Thu	29	We pray especially for Sonia today, apart from our weekly prayers each Sunday. Be with her in all she undertakes, both here in St Mark's and in other duties she has. Be with her family and guard and protect them all. Bless her in her studies as she prepares to bring your word each week, and as we move forward into autumn and winter.
Fri	30	We pray for Street Pastors in our locality and ask you are with them as they support people who need help.
Sat	31	Give thanks for the month gone by, and for the many blessings you enjoy.



Church Volunteer Week at Glasgow City Mission

During the third week of May, St Mark's sent a team of 10 volunteers to Glasgow City Mission to help at their evening meal. Each night two of us went along, and were warmly welcomed by their staff and regular volunteers. Each evening between 60 and 100 people attended for a two course meal, usually a pasta dish, or rice and chilli etc, followed by freshly baked cake or dessert.

The attendees were a mixture of Scots and foreign nationals, many of whom were being put up in hostel/hotel accommodation since they were homeless or asylum seekers.

Our volunteers had the opportunity to help serve the food, eat with the attendees, chat to them, and then clear up afterwards. Some folk were quite talkative, and readily shared their story, others spoke a little in broken English, whilst some did not want to engage at all, simply to eat and go.

This was an enjoyable and fulfilling opportunity to meet and interact with people less fortunate than ourselves, and to offer them love and care in the name of Jesus.

I'd hope we can do this again next year to help support this vital service and maybe you can join us.

Sonia



Field of Dreams - Ralston Community Café

Have faith: build it and people will come.

Recently, I was invited by the Ralston Community Café Steering Group to visit the café and was very impressed by what I saw and what has been achieved to date.

After having enjoyed a conversation with Sonia and the Group – over a bowl of soup, and a piece of freshly-made cake by Meena - as I drove back to Wemyss Bay, thinking of what was said during our chat, the following thought kept coming to mind :

Have faith: build it and people will come.

Those who have watched the film *Field of Dreams* starring Kevin Costner, will recognise those words spoken by James Earl Jones: spoken at a critical time in the building of a baseball field.

Have faith: build it and people will come.

How appropriate those words are as regards those who had the vision and who helped build Ralston Community Café, especially during this critical time for the Church of Scotland, for be in no doubt, it is probably only those churches which are Mission minded; have a vision; are pulling together; proactive and reaching out into their community in innovative ways which will be around in a few years' time.

St Mark's, thankfully, I see falling into that category, as the Café is a positive way of integrating more with the wider community; and that was evident during my time spent there, and the range of people using the premises.



Currently, [under Meena's management] and the small 'willing' team of volunteers it's amazing what is being achieved – and not only that – to hear of those outwith St Mark's, their appreciation of what you have done, are doing, and will continue to try to do for the community. I have no doubt, in time, and with increasing support, more will be achieved, and maybe you could help with that and give a few hours of your time per week or month.

Here's a closing thought [for all in churches throughout Scotland] –

Where there is no vision: the people perish [Proverbs]

Thankfully, within St Mark's there are people with vision: and the commitment to see that vision fulfilled. And they need everyone's encouragement and support.

God Bless.

Ian Bell
[former Interim Moderator & Locum]

And come, they did ...

On Valentine's Day, 2024 Ralston Community Café was born. It was truly a labour of love for the family of St Mark's and particularly for its manager, Meena Patel. Her genial demeanour and tremendous enthusiasm have endeared her to all who visit the café and we are greatly indebted to Meena for the outstanding success that the café has become.

"I just came in at the end when the hard work had all been done and just had to organise things like environmental health issues, the layout and decide physically how it was going to run," she said very modestly.

There is no doubt that a great deal of work had been put in by the Steering Group and many other volunteers in the years leading up to the opening and it was their hard work and determined dedication to Ian Bell's initial vision that were needed to turn the former Kirk Session room into the bright, inviting space that would become the café. However, it also needed the additional driving force that is Meena to turn a wonderful idea into an exciting new business venture for St Mark's and its outreach within the community.

Meena came to us with a substantial background in catering, having qualified as a pastry chef. She also managed a café in the Lake District and had a thriving specialty cake business. Ralston Community Café offered a new challenge for Meena and she set about the task with cheerfulness and hard graft.

"It felt like the right project because it's local, my children just go to the school up the road and it sort of fitted with me."

A willing band of volunteers from within our church family was then recruited and trained and the café opened its doors to welcome the residents of Ralston and beyond.



The menu was kept simple at first, mainly because of the limitations of the space and its ventilation. Two soups (memories of Julie Walters flash incongruously into my mind), myriad cakes and traybakes, children's food plates, and tea and coffee in abundance were the offers of the day.

Word soon spread and people began to flock to sample these delights, to meet up with others, make new friends or just to feel safe and included in a welcoming environment.



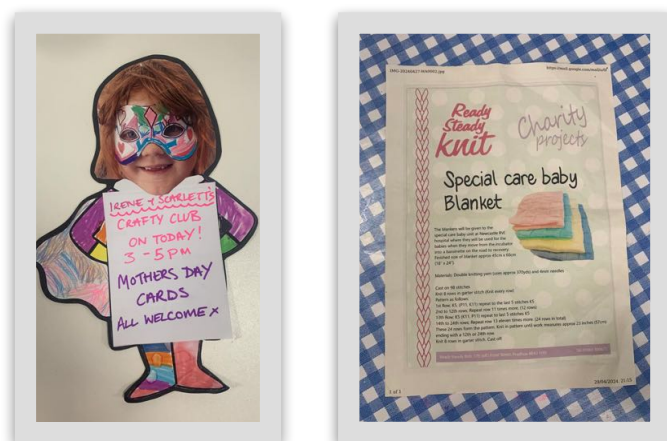
... for coffee, cake, crafts and company

There is so much more on the menu than food and drink. The café quickly fulfilled the initial vision and became a true community space where adults can relax and children can enjoy craftwork and even hand in their schoolbags at the end of a session for recycling.



The café walls are an art gallery, beautifully adorned with many paintings provided in a successful partnership with Ralston Art Club. Many are sold and both parties benefit financially from the enterprise.

Meena then extended the menu to include other savoury items and hopes to extend opening hours to include Saturdays. This latter proposal will need a much bigger pool of volunteers so please, if you can spare some time, consider carefully whether you can give some of your time to helping develop this wonderful project and responding to God's call to our church family. Volunteers of many types are required, so even if you feel serving in the café is not for you, speak to Meena for there are many other jobs needing to be done behind the scene.



Application has been made to Fareshare, an organisation that aims to relieve food poverty and reduce waste by redistributing surplus food provided by the food industry and, if our application is successful, there will be a host of new tasks.

The future is bright for our café, but it will be even brighter if **YOU** will help.



Please volunteer and contribute to the café's continuing success



Ralston Community Café



Great quality of food

Cakes and scones fab

Open more

Great for the community

Great to have gluten-free options

Lovely soup and cakes

Friendly, community feel

Great surroundings with all the art from local artists

Good service

Delicious quiche

Maybe add sandwiches to the menu?

Friendly, relaxed atmosphere

Excellent price, great value

39thA Paisley Brownies

Well, the end of last session did not all go as we had hoped!

It all started off well when 18 Brownies and 4 Leaders headed off to PGL Dalguise for a weekend of fun and adventure. The weather was kind and we did not require waterproofs all weekend. The Brownies and Leaders looked great in their matching hoodies and were challenged to take part in many activities.



These included Giant Swing, Archery, Zip Wire, Challenge Course, Aeroball, Sensory Trail and, of course, a fun campfire.



Unfortunately, the weekend did not end well. There was a nasty 'bug' going around locally and 10 Brownies and 3 Leaders succumbed to it. Luckily, this was not while we were away, but we did have to cancel our planned last meeting of the year when we were going to celebrate all the achievements from the year.

We plan to invite back the 7 girls who are moving on from Brownies in the new session so we can have a 'scaled down' version of the leaving party!

In the lead-up to the end of session, there was lots of badgework activity. When we finally have our celebration evening, the following badges will be awarded :

Take Action Theme – Breagha, Charlotte C, Esme, Freya, Maisie

Know Myself Theme – Charlotte L, Esme

Skills for My Future Theme – Daisy, Lauren

Express Myself Theme – Carla, Emily H, Katie Macd

Have Adventures - Lauren

Zero Waste Badge – Charlotte C, Maisie

Collecting Badge – Charlotte L, Esme, Nina

Aviation – Lauren

Jobs – Daisy

Languages – Emily H, Lauren

Charities – Charlotte L, Esme

Baking – Emily H

Painting – Francesca, Nina

Local History – Nina

My Rights – Nina

Performing - Francesca

Anniversary Badge – 1 year – Isla

The Leadership team has started working on our plans for next session when we will welcome 9 new members as they transfer from Rainbows. Another busy session is on the horizon!

If you know of anyone [young person or adult] who would like to join Girlguiding, a warm welcome awaits them!! [girlguiding.org.uk]

Christine Hair

Brown Owl

Prayer Guide



		SEPTEMBER, 2024
Sun	1	We remember Sonia this morning as she brings God's word to us, and we pray for all who are involved in the service today.
Mon	2	Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road come under our prayers this coming week.
Tue	3	We pray for those who have addiction issues of any kind and ask that they would be able to overcome these and get the help they need.
Wed	4	First night of the 39 th A Brownies and 9 new starts this year. May they have a great evening. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church tonight.
Thu	5	Our Church Worker, Peter, comes under our prayers today. We ask that he is blessed in the work he carries out, that he is given strength and enthusiasm for all the activities he is involved with and that you would bless the young people he comes in contact with, helping them find you early in their lives.
Fri	6	We pray for the governments of our country, for those around the world too that decisions made would be in alignment with your will and people can live peaceful lives.
Sat	7	Fortnightly Bible Studies recommence on Zoom this morning at 10:15 for 10:30 start.
Sun	8	As we come to worship today, prepare our hearts to be ready to hear what you have to say to us.
Mon	9	It is the turn of Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road for our weekly prayers.
Tue	10	Give thanks for families and friends. So often we take these for granted. Help us really to appreciate those you have put in our lives.
Wed	11	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church tonight, followed by fortnightly Bible Study at 7:45 in church.
Thu	12	Our organisations will be starting up, or just started, and our prayers are for the leaders and helpers as they begin a new session of work. We also pray all who attend these various activities that they will see God's love shown in many ways.
Fri	13	Pray for the many families who have loved ones missing. Be with all who search to find them and bring them peace.
Sat	14	We remember the many areas of our world where there is conflict, war, famine or other natural disasters. Guard those who are trying to support and help those in dire need. We pray for peace.

Prayer Guide



		SEPTEMBER, 2024
Sun	15	Pray for our time of worship together that we may be aware of God's presence with us and with Sonia as she leads us this morning.
Mon	16	Pray for the following streets this week – Golf Drive, Hawkhead Road and Killearn Drive.
Tue	17	World Patient Safety Day. Pray for all medical staff as they carry out their duties and for places throughout the world where medical care is poor and hard to access.
Wed	18	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	19	We pray for the Guild members and the work they do, for the people who meet together weekly, for the speakers that come along and for a real sense of fellowship together.
Fri	20	We pray for all who help in the Café and for those who come in that they may receive a warm welcome.
Sat	21	Bible Study on Zoom this morning.
Sun	22	Pray for our service this morning, for the minister, for the congregation both in church and those watching online.
Mon	23	Kinburnie Road, Lanfine Road and Marchbank Gardens come under our prayers this week.
Tue	24	We pray for those who are homeless and those who are living in poverty. Prompt us to act to help those less fortunate than ourselves.
Wed	25	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church, followed by Bible Study.
Thu	26	Pray for the Administration work carried out in St Mark's. Much of this is done behind the scenes, but we give thanks for skills and talents given to help things run smoothly.
Fri	27	We remember those who are off for the holiday weekend and ask that they enjoy their time.
Sat	28	Give thanks for times of leisure and relaxation. Take time to stop and enjoy the world around you.
Sun	29	Remember all living in Springfield Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, Tylney Road and Woodend Drive this coming week.
Mon	30	The streets for prayer this coming week are Netherdale Drive, Newtyle Road and Newnham Road.



Prayers and Blessings in the Celtic Tradition

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.
And may the blessing of the earth be on you,
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day;
and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.
May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under
it quickly; up and off and on its way to God.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.



Through the dark hours of this night
protect and surround us,
Father, Son and Spirit, Three.
Forgive the ill that we have done.
Forgive the pride that we have shown.
Forgive the words that have caused harm
that we might sleep peaceably,
and rise refreshed to do your will.
Through the dark hours of this night
protect and surround us,
Father, Son and Spirit, Three.

If there is righteousness in the heart,
If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.
If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.
So let it be.

I saw a stranger today.
I put food for him
in the eating-place
And drink
in the drinking-place
And music
in the listening-place
In the Holy name of the Trinity
He blessed myself
and my family.

And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often
Goes Christ
in the stranger's guise.
O, oft and oft and oft,
Goes Christ
in the stranger's guise.

Celtic Rune of Hospitality



Flowers in Church

04.08.24	Mrs M. Currie
11.08.24	Mrs N. MacGregor
18.08.24	Mrs J. Bradley
25.08.24	Mrs A. Fisher
01.09.24	Mrs K. Sheils
08.09.24	Mrs J. Forson
15.09.24	Mrs D. Grant
22.09.24	BB Coy Section
29.09.24	Mrs S. Smith



Ladies Delivering Flowers

04.08.24	Mrs J. Dempster	
11.08.24	Mrs I. Pollock	
18.08.24	Mrs M. Robin	
25.08.24	Mrs D. Grant	Mrs M. Adam
01.09.24	Miss I. Higgins	
08.09.24	Mrs S. Tonner	
15.09.24	Mrs K. McLauchlan	
22.09.24		
29.09.24	Mrs J. Dempster	

Dementia-Friendly Drop-In Café

St Mark's Church (2-4pm)

Future Dates

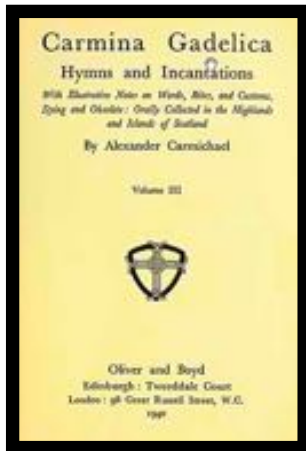
Thursday 22 August

Thursday 19 September

Thursday 24 October



Celtic Prayers



Carmina Gadelica is the most complete anthology of Celtic oral tradition ever assembled.

During his travels as an excise man, Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912) spent hours with people in their huts in front of peat fires listening as they 'intoned in a low, recitative manner' these poems and prayers.

It is a large collection of hymns, prayers, charms, poetry and rituals of the people in the Highlands of Scotland and surrounding Islands from the 19th century.

The language of some of these seems not only strange but alien to modern Christians, but the importance of a document such as this is that it provides context for understanding the conversion of a pagan people to christianity, because this is a record of an oral tradition handed down through generations.

Within the collection, there are some beautiful poems and prayers, including those below.

Thanksgiving

Thanks to thee, O God, that I have risen to-day,
To the rising of this life itself;
May it be to Thine own glory, O God of every gift,
And to the glory of my soul likewise.

O great God, aid Thou my soul
With the aiding of Thine own mercy ;
Even as I clothe my body with wool,
Cover Thou my soul with the shadow of Thy wing.

Help me to avoid every sin,
And the source of every sin to forsake ;
And as the mist scatters on the crest of the hills,
May each ill haze clear from my soul, O God.

Encompassing

The compassing of God and his right hand
Be upon my form and upon my frame ;
The compassing of the High King and the grace of the Trinity
Be upon me abiding eternally,
Be upon me abiding eternally.

May the compassing of the Three shield me in my means,
The compassing of the Three shield me this day,
The compassing of the Three shield me this night
From hate, from harm, from act, from ill,
From hate, from harm, from act, from ill.

God's Aid

God to enfold me,
God to surround me,
God in my speaking,
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,
God in my waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.

God in my life,
God in my lips,
God in my soul,
God in my heart.

God in my sufficing,
God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul,
God in mine eternity.



Thanks to John Birch
<https://www.faithandworship.com>

Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid. *John 14:27*



Turn away from evil and do good; strive for peace with all your heart.

Psalms 34 : 12

Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!

Matthew 5:9

So then, we must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help strengthen one another.

Romans 14:19

And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4 : 7

Where in Scotland ? (Answers)

- A Blackhouses, Gearrannan, Lewis
- B Italian Chapel, Lamb Holm, Orkney
- C Crail
- D The Storr, Skye
- E Eilean Donan
- F Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland
- G Tantallon Castle and Bass Rock, North Berwick
- H Lochranza Castle, Arran
- I Tobermory, Mull
- J Glenfinnan Viaduct
- K Iona Abbey
- L Portree, Skye
- M Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin
- N Melrose Abbey
- O St Abbs, Coldingham



A



B



C



D



E



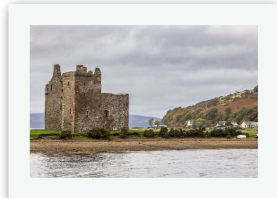
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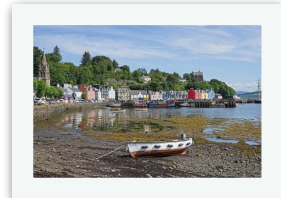
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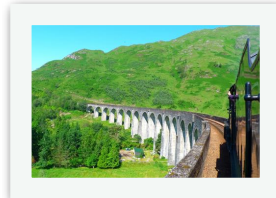
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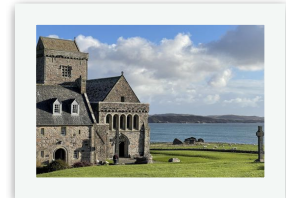
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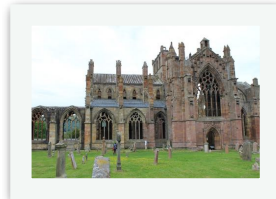
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N



O



**Poster found in a church in France
(translated)**

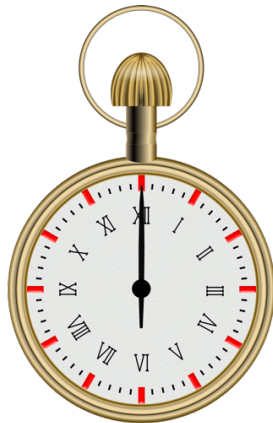
**When you enter this church it may
be possible that you hear 'the call of
God'.**

**However, it is unlikely that He will
call you on your mobile.**

**Thank you for turning off your
phones.**

**If you want to talk to God, enter,
choose a quiet place and talk to
Him.**

**If you want to see Him, send Him a
text while driving.**



Please send articles for the *Marksman* to the editor at :

marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

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