

# Marksman

February / March, 2025



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

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Scottish Charity SC011210



## From the Manse



During a busy and exciting Advent, we thought about the Love of God coming to earth in the incarnation of Jesus, and we thought about the implications of this for our lives, particularly in the way we show God's love to others. We put this into practice as we gave gifts for the mothers and children supported by Women's Aid Renfrewshire, toiletries for the refugees at the Watermill, and gave financially to the Christian Aid Christmas appeal, and to the Renfrewshire Foodbank at the Christmas Services. Thank you to everyone who contributed to any or all of these appeals.

We celebrated the birth of Jesus with much fun at the Nativity, featuring a few children and several adults who were brave enough to join in, and even agreed to be dressed up. We participated in an interactive telling of the Christmas Story on Christmas Eve, and even heard the same story retold totally differently using many crisp packets on Christmas morning – sadly they were only in photographic form, I didn't want to spend the whole of December searching out the nearly 30 packets of crisps required.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, we worshipped at Sherwood Greenlaw in a joint service thinking about new beginnings, both for the New Year, and thinking ahead to being a new church when the two churches unite. The following week Rev. Tom Cant led us in a joint service of worship in St Mark's, and spoke about the changing face of the church, and helpfully about the ebb and flow of life in the church and attendance at church.

Over the next few months expect to hear about more joint services, and joint social events for the two congregations to get to know each other, as we work towards the goal of uniting as the joint congregation of Paisley East. There is no set timeline yet, although I hope within the next month or two we will have a clearer idea of key dates in the process. Representative groups of elders from the two congregations have already met and will meet again after both Kirk Sessions have met

independently in January. We will endeavour to keep you informed as we work through the process. There are big decisions to be made, and a formal vote will need to be made by all members on the decision to unite.

As we move forward, we do so in uncertain times, there are no guarantees about the future of the church, about the financial situation, about the number of members, old and new, attending churches. What is certain is that we don't do it all in our own strength ; we don't even do it as a combined force of the people of St Mark's and Sherwood Greenlaw, we do it as disciples of Jesus. Throughout the last two millennia the way ahead has often been challenging for those who follow Jesus. He does not guarantee that the way will be easy, in fact in the Bible Jesus often says the very opposite, but he does promise to be with us, and to be the way, the truth and the life.

As we move forward, we do so keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, and on the mission he calls us to be part of : his work here in the world. We recognise that he calls us, he equips us, and he walks along side us. He will not forsake us, and will always, as the old hymn says, be our friend. We face the uncertainty of the future in the strength of Jesus, the baby in the manger, who became the greatest leader the world has ever known, the one whose word is the bestselling book around the world, year by year, and always has been. We can confidently put our trust in him, place our hand in his, knowing that he will guide us, and bless us and work through us as we walk with him into 2025.

May you know his blessings in your life in 2025,

Your friend and minister,

*Sonia*

# Worship Matters



December 2024 was a busy advent with lots of activity around Worship services.

There was a good attendance at all of the Christmas services, with a particularly good attendance at the Watchnight service from local residents, many of whom admitted to attending other churches, but finding St Mark's convenient for Watchnight.

We held joint services with Sherwood Greenlaw on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December where Sonia preached at Sherwood Greenlaw Church, and were delighted to welcome many of the SG folk to worship with us on 5<sup>th</sup> January when the service was taken by Rev. Tom Cant.

Look out for details of more joint services in the coming year.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**      Thinking Day/Founder's Day service for Girl Guiding and Scouting Organisations

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**      Communion Service

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**      Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

## Funerals

28.11.24      Neil McInnes, Atholl Cres.

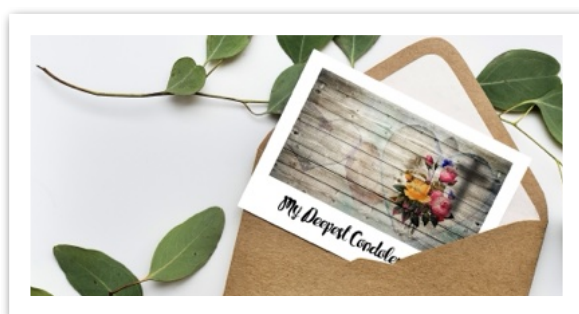
16.12.24      Douglas Keith, Bathgo Avenue.

16.12.24      Sheila Stiratt, Roffey Park Road.

18.12.24      Ian Aitchison, Duchray Drive.

9.1.25      Loretta Hannah, Glasgow Road.

13.1.25      Margaret Forrest, Weaver's Court, Hamilton,  
formerly Accord PI, Hawkhead Village.



### Douglas Keith

Winnie and family would like to thank everyone for the very many cards, flowers, kind words and support following the passing of Douglas.

Church was a large part of Douglas's life and the family was overwhelmed by the turnout at both services.

Winnie would also like to give special thanks to Sonia for her help and fitting tribute to Douglas.





## Session Report



As most of you will be aware there has been a lot of restructuring in the Church of Scotland and our local presbytery has instituted a local plan. With a dwindling number of ordained ministers and falling congregation numbers, it has been decided that ourselves and Sherwood/Greenlaw church will form a union.

No definite date has been set for this to happen, but it is likely to be within the next couple of years. With this in mind, a small group from each congregation has met to discuss the way forward.

Nothing has been decided as matters have to be agreed by the individual kirk sessions but there is a general feeling of a willingness to have joint working with eventual progression to a union.

Our Christmas season was a successful time in the church with our *Treemendous* event and joint services with Sherwood and ourselves.

It was good to see both places well attended and a lot of folk getting together to worship.

As always I am extremely grateful to all the members who work behind the scenes to keep the church going: serving in the café; helping with the various organisations; preparing food; teaching in Evolution; helping with creche; providing transport; doing door duty and helping at ROAR. Thank you all.

This is simply for information and we will keep the members well acquainted with developments.

**Colin Reid**

**Session Clerk**



## Sunday Duty Team Rota

DATE	TEAM	LEADER	DATE	TEAM	LEADER
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			<b>MARCH</b>		
02/02/2025	4	Mr G. Black	02/03/2025	6	Dr C. Reid
09/02/2025	4	Mr G. Black	09/03/2025	6	Dr C. Reid
16/02/2025	5	Mr A. Boyd	16/03/2025	1	Mr J. Goodall
23/02/2025	5	Mr A. Boyd	23/03/2025	1	Mr J. Goodall
			30/03/2025	2	Mr A. Taylor





## Flowers in Church

02.02.25	Ms I. Higgins
09.02.25	Mrs D. Mackay
16.02.25	Carolyn Mackay
23.02.25	B.B. Junior Dept
02.03.25	
09.03.25	Mrs J. Mackenzie
16.03.25	Mr P. Mackay & Family
23.03.25	Mrs A. McLeod
30.03.25	Dr C. Reid



## Ladies Delivering Flowers

02.02.25		
09.02.25	Mrs J. Dempster	
16.02.25	Mr & Mrs R. Pollock	
23.02.25	Mrs M. Robin	
02.03.25	Mrs D. Grant	Mrs M. Adam
09.03.25	Mrs C. Love	
16.03.25	Mrs S. Tonner	
23.03.25	Mrs I. Pollock	
30.03.25	Mrs J. Dempster	



Many thanks to all who have contributed to Renfrewshire Foodbank. In addition to all the food and supplies that have been donated, a further £633.50 was raised via our collection cans.

Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

**Simone Smith**

# Pastoral Care Team



## What do we do?

The role of St. Mark's Pastoral Care Team is to give support to our minister, Rev. Dr Sonia Blakesley, in caring for the pastoral needs of our congregation. We do this in several ways:

### Visits

Members of the congregation volunteer to visit the housebound and those in hospital / care homes. June Chapman co-ordinates this much appreciated service.

### Flowers

Each Sunday the flowers that have been in our chancel go out to members of the congregation who are going through difficult times or celebrating a special occasion. The flowers are accompanied by a card (hand-made by Sheena Tonner), suitable for the occasion. The flower team consists of Isobel Higgins, Kate McLaughlin and June Chapman.

### Car Run

Myra McKellar is responsible for organising the car run. Volunteer drivers bring to church those people who are still mobile but find walking any distance a problem.

### Hospitality

Twice a year an afternoon tea is organised for those in the congregation who are over eighty, housebound or in care homes. The teas provide an opportunity to meet up with old friends, chat, share in worship and enjoy a sing-along.

### The Haven

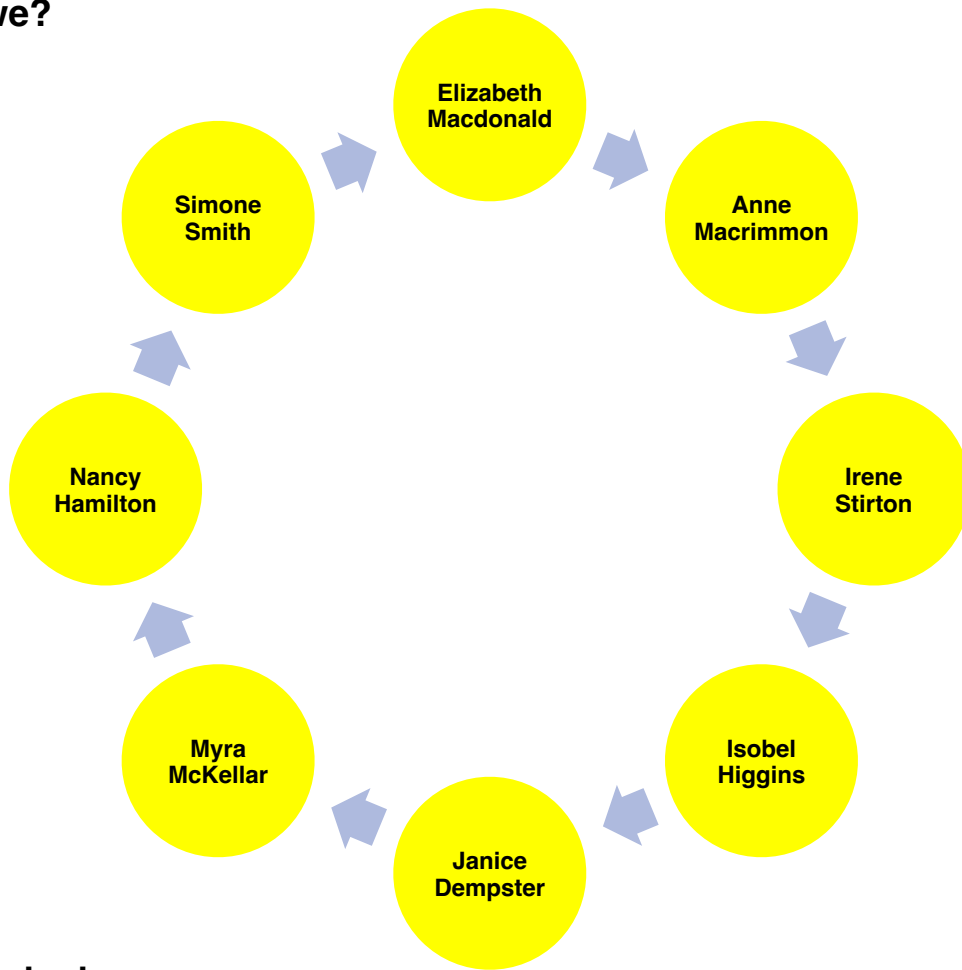
This is our dementia-friendly café which meets on the third Thursday of every month. It is open to anyone in our congregation and community who suffers from dementia, along with their carers. It is held in our Church Café from 2pm to 4pm, where all enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. The Haven is run by Eileen Wilkie and Elizabeth Macdonald, with the help of volunteers from the congregation.

### Christmas Gifts

Each Christmas, gifts and cards go out to members who are over eighty, housebound or in care homes. This vital part of pastoral care is organised by Alison Christie.

# Pastoral Care Team

## Who are we?



## How to contact us

We are always open to expanding the role of the Pastoral Care Team so, if you see a need that is not currently being covered and falls under this remit, please let us know. Equally, if you have any need of these services or you know someone in the congregation who would benefit from them or if you feel you could help in any way, please contact anyone on the Pastoral Care Team.

***So keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock which the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he made his own through the blood of his son.***

***Acts 20 : 28***



# Prayer Guide



		<b>FEBRUARY, 2025</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1</b>	Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	Pray for the Service this morning, for the word that God wants us to hear, and ask how we apply that to our daily lives. Pray for those in TRASH as they meet tonight.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	Our streets for prayer are Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4</b>	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies looking at the traditions of Guiding.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church, followed by Bible Study.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>6</b>	Remember those who work on the Flower Team, preparing beautiful displays, and for those who receive the flowers.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7</b>	Remember the BB leaders and youngsters who attend each week.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8</b>	Pray for those who find the winter months difficult to deal with and we ask that they find hope in the days beginning to lengthen a little.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	Pray for Sonia as she leads our worship this morning and for all who will take part. Pray for those in church and those watching online.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10</b>	Our streets for prayer are Springfield Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, Tylney Road and Woodend Drive.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>11</b>	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies prepare for Thinking Day.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>12</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>13</b>	We remember the Green Team and the work they do. Pray for the Junction on tonight.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	Pray for all those who are currently in hospital, waiting results or recovering from illness. Bring your healing.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>	Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning.



Many thanks for the lovely card and flowers we received following the birth of our granddaughter. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

**Irene and John Stirton**

# Prayer Guide



		<b>FEBRUARY, 2025</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>	Prepare our hearts as we worship together this morning. Bless our time together. TRASH meets this evening. We pray for leaders and youngsters as they come together to share and learn more about Jesus.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>17</b>	Our streets for prayer are those who live outside the district.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>18</b>	For all those in residential and nursing care homes we pray your blessing on them. May they know kindness and warmth in the care they receive.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>19</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church, followed by Bible Study.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>20</b>	We pray for all on the Worship Team as they support Sonia. International Day of Women and Girls in Science The Haven Café is on today.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	Pray for local businesses and for our Community Café.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22</b>	WAGGS Thinking Day at Greenock. Messy Church this afternoon.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>	Our worship service this morning led by Sonia. Be with her and all who support her this morning. Thinking Day / Founder's Day Service.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	Our streets for prayer are Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>25</b>	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies complete their Past, Present and Future Challenge.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>27</b>	We pray for the Pastoral Team and the work they do caring for others. The Junction is on this evening.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>28</b>	We pray especially for the congregation of Sherwood Greenlaw and for the way ahead.



# EVOLUTION ♥

Thanks to all of you who took part in our Nativity Service whether it was the readers, those who 'volunteered' to be part of the nativity as well as the congregation for participating in such an enthusiastic manner. It really wouldn't have worked without you!

A number of you also gave a list of your favourite carols and the not so favourite ones. We included the top five in the service and there were 30 different carols mentioned. It was quite interesting to see that those which were loved were also in the least favourite section! Although we couldn't please all of you I hope that sometime over the festive period your favourite was sung at one of the services.

## The Favourites

1. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
2. O Come All Ye Faithful
3. Silent Night
4. In the Bleak Midwinter
5. O Holy Night
6. Once in Royal David's City
7. Away in a Manger
8. O Little Town of Bethlehem
9. The First Nowell
10. Child in the Manger
11. Joy to the World
12. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

## The Least Favourites

1. Away in a Manger
2. In the Bleak Midwinter
3. The First Nowell
4. I Saw Three Ships
5. It Was on a Starry Night

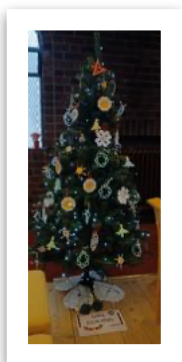




## 39<sup>th</sup>A Paisley Brownies

The Brownies and Leaders had a busy end to 2024!

The Brownies were involved, along with all other Girlguiding members from St Mark's, in the *Treemendous* event. We spent an evening making Christmas tree decorations were delighted with the appearance of the tree. Thanks to the organisers of the event and to everyone who voted for our tree to allow us to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Brownies also made a 'hot chocolate reindeer' although I am sure as many marshmallows were eaten as went into the bags!



The Brownies demonstrate the Brownie Law by 'thinking of others'. During November, the Brownies and Rainbows collected chocolate to donate to Renfrewshire Food Bank for Christmas. We were delighted to be able to hand in a total of 11kg of assorted chocolate treats.



Our final meeting in December, involved a trip to the pantomime in Paisley. It was great fun and the Brownies were absorbed by the whole experience. They even got the opportunity to join the cast onstage for a song and dance!



When our meetings resumed in January, we welcomed 2 new starts: Charlotte [the 5<sup>th</sup> one in the Pack!] and Imogen. We hope they will quickly settle and enjoy getting to know the Brownies and Leaders. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the Promise and Law with them while continuing to work on the *Have Adventures* Skill Builders..

Many of the Brownies enjoy working on Interest Badges at home and they often share what they have been doing with the rest of the Pack. Recently the following badges were completed during the holidays. Well done Brownies!

### Interest badges

<i>Performing</i>	-	Carla.
<i>Collecting</i>	-	Eve.
<i>Baking</i>	-	Breagha.
<i>Jobs</i>	-	Tilly.
<i>Inventing</i>	-	Katie

### Theme Badges

<i>Skills for my future</i>	-	Katie.
<i>Express Myself</i>	-	Breagha ; Charlotte L ; Nina ; Tilly

If you have any new neighbours with girls in the family, please encourage them to come along and enjoy the fun and friendship that Girlguiding offers. Local Girlguiding is desperate for adult volunteers and a very warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join in the fun. Interest should be registered at :

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)

**Christine Hair**

**Brown Owl**

## 39<sup>th</sup> Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

We've been very busy since our return to Brownies in September. We completed our Cookie Challenge and had time to fit in a Gonk Challenge leading up to Christmas.

I created a Cookie Cook Book for the girls, and we've had great fun receiving photos in from home where the girls, their mums and grans, have spent time making cookies of all sorts.

For those who don't have that home support, we prepared cookie doughs and, using the large oven in our kitchen, we made shortbread, custard creams, stamped cookies and afternoon tea biscuits. The week after, we decorated shaped biscuits on different themes with icings, fondants, jams and sprinkles, and the girls took away their masterpieces (some even making it home before being consumed).



We learned about *Girl Scout Cookies* in America, their history and how the cookies are sold to raise funds for good causes. So we brought in cookies and biscuits to be shared with the Foodbank.



We made Cookie Monsters for Hallowe'en, with cookie eyes and poppy cookies for Remembrance Day.



At the end of our endeavours, the girls were all awarded with the *Cookie Challenge Badge* and the *Baking Interest Badge*.

Faith, Emilia and Peaches also made their Brownie Promise, and we were joined by Myra McKellar, Karin Grant, our Visiting Elders, and Sonia, who helped to present the badges.

Some Leaders and Brownies took part in *Paisley Hallowe'en*, where we were particularly impressed with this Brown Owl!





## 39<sup>th</sup> Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

Our next Challenge was *A Gonk is not Just for Christmas*. Every week we were joined by a number of Gonks, which multiplied as we got nearer to Christmas.



Firstly, we learned that Gonks originate from Scandinavia, so we had to find out where that was. Then we learned of the habits of Gonks, which can be kind to families over the winter months if they are welcomed in – or can play tricks on the family, if not. Our Gonk crafts included cookies (what else!), bag charms, Gonk macramé and tree decorations.



We also made some decorations for the *Treemendous* Christmas tree entry.

We had a good attendance at the PACE pantomime, where Gianna ended on stage helping re-tell the plot, and most joined in with the final scene (and I caught a sweetie). We also enjoyed our visit to *Moana 2* at the ODEON.



At the end of the year we said congratulations and goodbye to Connie, who received her Gold Award, having achieved all six themes, and wished her well as she moves on to Guides.

Turning to this year, we are focussing on *Past, Present and Future of GirlGuiding*, so another challenge to keep us interested, and weave in Skills Builders, UMAs and Interest Badges along the way.

**Sheena Tonner**

**Brownie Leader**

Instead we were like  
young children  
among you.

*1 Thessalonians 2:7*

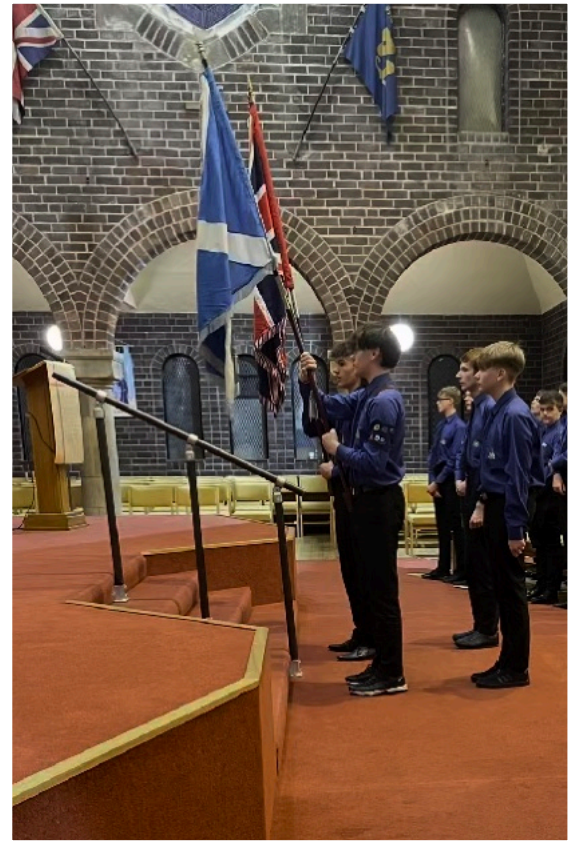




## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

It is hard to believe we are already halfway through the session. A great deal has happened in the first half of the session and there is much still to be achieved in the coming months.

We were honoured to host the Civic Reception at St Mark's for the last Queen's Badges to be awarded for a while. It will become a King's Badge for the foreseeable future. The event was held in Paisley Abbey previously but Paisley & District were delighted with the welcome and support from St Mark's and how well the event was received. Our Colour Party was excellent in front of a congregation of BB friends and families. It was great to see our own Sean Taylor among the recipients.



Like most of our recent Queen's Men, Sean started off in the Anchors. Our current crop of Anchor boys show the potential to achieve similar success in their BB careers. They are an enthusiastic group and very regular in their attendance which makes planning activities much easier.

It may look like they are preparing food in the photograph but this was actually a harvest related activity. They had fun at Sherwood Greenlaw with the Anchors of the 22nd Paisley. We will have a reciprocal visit at St Mark's in the coming weeks. Similarly, the 22nd Paisley's Junior and Company Sections came to St Mark's on one Friday and we had another successful evening with the boys mixing together very naturally. Sharing between the two companies is something we continue to build on in the future.

## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade



We are always looking for new and different ways to share the Christian Faith with the boys. In the photograph below you can see Sandy using cups and buckets of water to explain how we can share love and positivity in order to help bear one another's burdens.



The Juniors also enjoyed a *Holy Squiggles* challenge. This involved deciphering a Bible verse based on dingbat style picture clues. Some of us found it tricky even when we had the answers.

The Company Section and Seniors had more physical challenges on an Adventure Day in Fife. It may look like they are messing about with some guttering but the serious faces show how determined they were to succeed in a tricky teamwork test. They enjoyed this one so much we have had to acquire some lengths of gutter so they could perfect it back at St Mark's.



We rounded off 2024 with a fairly traditional Christmas party. Whilst the boys enjoyed some party food they watched a slightly different rendering of the nativity story. To give you a flavour, the donkey was a trolley, the shepherds were dressed as cowboys and the wise men arrived on BMX bikes. This held the attention but didn't take away from the central Christmas message that God sent his Son.



That felt appropriate as we look forward to *advancing Christ's Kingdom* in 2025.

**Jack Goodall - Company Captain**



# Prayer Guide



		<b>MARCH, 2025</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1</b>	Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	May Sonia's preparation for today's Communion Service bring us a challenge and help us follow you more closely. TRASH is on this evening.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	Our streets for prayer are Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place. World Wildlife Day.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4</b>	Pray for emergency services who support our community – police, fire service, coastguard and those who work to fix gas and electricity in difficult weather situations.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church, followed by Bible Study.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>6</b>	Pray for the Finance Team as they work with integrity to deal with the money side of things in St Mark's.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7</b>	We remember those who are living in Womens' Refuges and pray that they will find the safety and help they need to recover from their trauma.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8</b>	Thank you for days to relax and refresh us. Help us to be grateful if we are able to do so and to remember those who need to work over weekends.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	Our prayers are for Sonia as she leads us once again in our worship and that we will be receptive to your word for us.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10</b>	Our streets for prayer are Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road. Prayers for the Guild today as they meet together.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>11</b>	We pray for the young people who are at college or university that you would be with them in their studies.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>12</b>	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>13</b>	Remember the Christian Education Team as they help to encourage us in our discipleship. The Junction is on this evening.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	We pray for all who are carers that they have the strength and patience to look after those unable to look after themselves. Pray for ROAR and the work they do for older folks in our community.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>	Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning.



# Prayer Guide



		MARCH, 2025
Sun	16	As we gather together today may our worship be acceptable to you, Lord.
Mon	17	Our streets for prayer are Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent.
Tue	18	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies presentation of badges.
Wed	19	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church, followed by Bible Study.
Thu	20	Pray for our Elders, that they may continue to grow in their faith and support Sonia in her ministry. The Haven Café is on today.
Fri	21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
Sat	22	World Water Day.
Sun	23	We pray for all who are involved in our service this morning here and for those in Sherwood Greenlaw.
Mon	24	Our streets for prayer are Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.
Tue	25	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies do Mother's Day Crafts this evening.
Wed	26	Mid-week Service at 11:00am. Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church. Remember 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies as they meet this evening.
Thu	27	Pray for Dawn and the Choir as they help lead worship each week. The Junction is on this evening.
Fri	28	Remember all who are involved in keeping the church building in good order, warm and clean, and for the administration work too.
Sat	29	Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning. Messy Church this afternoon.
Sun	30	Pray for Sonia this morning as she leads worship.
Mon	31	Our streets for prayer are Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road.



# The Haven

## Drop-In Café

(for anyone living with dementia, including their families and friends)  
in

**Ralston Community Café**

**2 - 4 p.m.**



**Future Dates**

**Thursday 20 February**

**Thursday 20 March**



*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

*2 Corinthians 1 : 3-4*

## Film Club

**Thursday 6 February**

**1.45 - 4 p.m.**

***The Jungle Book***



# Can You Name Each European Capital City?

1



2



3



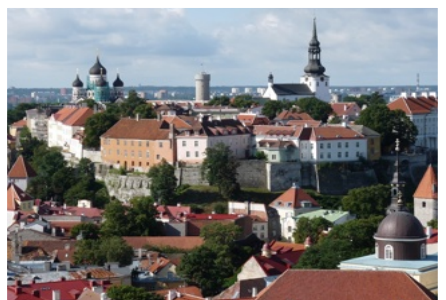
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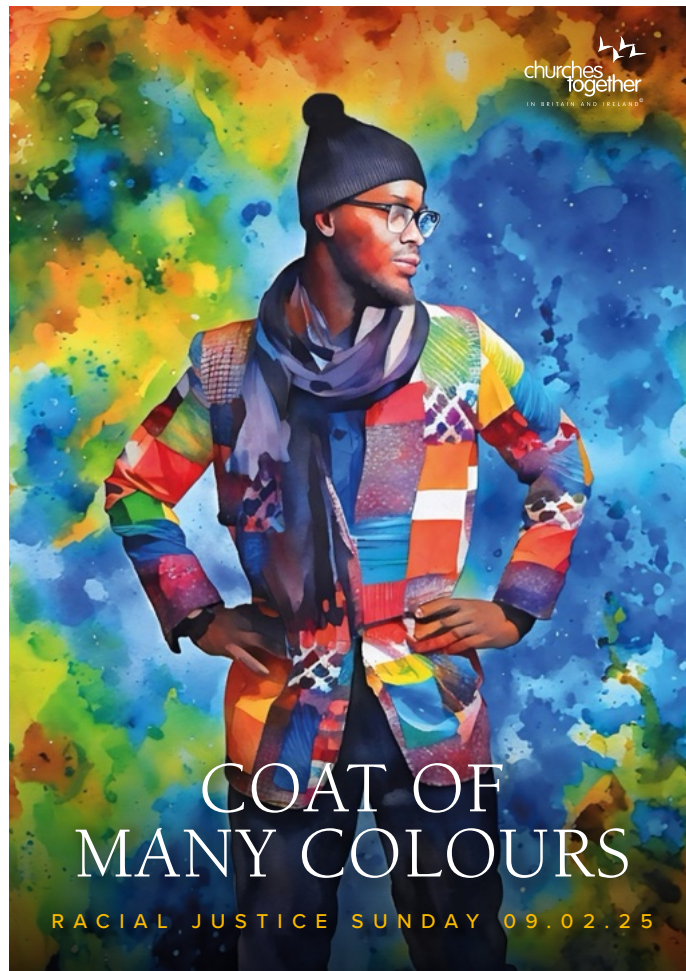


14



Answers will be in Apr/May edition.





## A Gathering Prayer

This prayer is based on the *Coat of Many Colours* imagery from our theme this year.

God of all people,  
You are the one who brought us into being,  
Knitting and weaving us together and forming us before we were even born.  
You know us, each and every one –  
Your dear children, blessed to be bearers of Your image and likeness.  
God of all nations,  
You stitch and sew this intricate image of You –  
Like a garment of many colours, stitched, sewn and hemmed;  
Each tone and hue painted with the tender care of You, the Artist,  
Our Maker and Creator – clothing us all in Your love and mercy.  
May Your dream for all Your dear children come true;  
May Your hope for all the earth to be renewed and reconciled be made real;  
May Your Kingdom come on this earth in this time, and be established for ever.  
We call on You, O God,  
That on this Racial Justice Sunday  
You would bring together our hopes and fears,  
Our prayers and our praise,  
And unite them, as we draw closer in communion with You and each other,  
For Your glory.

Amen



## **A Prayer for Others**

God of the garden,  
Where life began and rich diversity  
sprang from Your imagination,  
Stir within us a desire to be creative, as  
You are creative,  
In our inclusion of one and all in our  
communities.  
You are the Dancer,  
The Weaver,  
The Life Giver;  
Teach us to dance,  
To gracefully move to where You would  
call us to meet You  
And to be Your hands and feet.  
Teach us to weave our stories together,  
Entwined in an inseparable love for You  
and for one another  
As we worship You with one voice.  
Teach us to bring life wherever we go  
And to receive life wherever we meet You  
in a beloved other.  
May we work together  
For the flourishing of all people, in all  
places, at all times.

**Amen**

## **A Prayer Based on Micah 6**

God, You have told us what is good.  
You have made clear what You require of us.  
We pray that You remind us of our shared  
responsibility  
To work with You to build a better world for  
all.  
As we seek to do what is just,  
Help us to recognise injustice,  
To notice those who are oppressed or  
alienated.  
As we sow love throughout this world,  
In Your mercy, guide us to the ones who feel  
unloved.  
May we bring Your light and love  
Into places where fear and hatred have cast  
their shadow.  
May we walk in humility and solidarity with  
all around us.  
Help us not to trespass or misstep  
On the journey towards equality and justice  
for all.

**Amen**

## **A Prayer for the Reading of Scripture**

God of yesterday, today and all days, as we hear Your word,  
Create in us a new heart – big enough to love regardless of difference;  
Create in us a new mind – open enough to understand the severity of the  
issue of racism.  
Give us ears to hear Your voice in different languages and accents,  
Give us eyes to see Your beauty displayed in the diversity and difference in  
all of creation.  
May Your word fuel us, empower us and enlighten us in the work of justice  
and peace,  
Now and for evermore as Your Kingdom is made real for all.  
Teach us, we pray.

**Amen**

With thanks to *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*. For further resources visit :

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/racial-justice-sunday-9-february-2025/>

# Treemendous Christmas Event 2024

December 7<sup>th</sup> saw us host our annual *Treemendous* Christmas Event. It was great to see our Church family and local community come together to enjoy the festive Christmas trees decorated by 14 different church and community groups.

*Friends of Barshaw, Kingdom Ambassador Church, Ralston Art Club, Paisley Nazerene, Ralston Out of School Care, Ralston Parent Council, Messy Church, The Guild, St Mark's Guiding, St Mark's Pastoral Care, ROAR, St Mark's Boys' Brigade, St Mark's Youth Groups and The Ralston Community Café* all produced beautiful decorations for their trees.

A huge well done goes to The Ralston Community Cafe who were the runaway winners with their beautiful tree filled with fantastic edible decorations.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, contributed to the Church Baking and Craft stall and bought a cuppa and a cake which helped us to raise over £1000 for church funds.

Keep an eye on our social pages to find out what is coming up next at St Mark's!

**Jennifer Morgan**





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

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