# Marksman

# October / November, 2024



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#### From the Manse

Whether we like it or not, autumn seems to have arrived early this year. The long summer evenings have gone, the sunny days which encouraged us to have lunch in the garden, (admittedly fewer this year – even in August) are over. As a result, I have already put my garden furniture back into the garage, where it will stay until the warming sunshine of the late spring will tempt me to spend time sitting out in the garden again.

Autumn is a season of warm colours, of russet coloured trees, of the purple autumn crocus, of hectic activity by the squirrels in Barshaw Park. It's a season where the darkening evenings make me feel like curling up with a book under a cosy blanket, when the reality is there are more evening meetings to attend, and my diary gets busier after a bit of a lull over the summer.

However, this has in some ways been a busy summer. With the changes across Clyde Presbytery, we have held a number of services of linkage or union, and the inductions of a couple of new ministers, and during these services, Rev. Robbie Hamilton, our Presbytery Clerk, who came into post not quite a year ago, has constantly been looking for the connections he has with many people across the Presbytery.

I've found a few of my own. I attended the induction of Rev. Lyndsay Brennan into St Luke's Church in Milngavie. Lyndsay trained as a minister in the cohort a year ahead of me, and spent the early years of her ministry in Dundonald in Ayrshire, and has returned home to Milngavie. It was a pleasure to welcome her into the Presbytery, but while there I encountered another familiar face, one of my Street Pastor colleagues was a member of that congregation. It was a "I know that face, but where do I know you from?" moment. She looked familiar, but I couldn't place her



without the dark blue uniform.

One of the Kilmacolm funerals I took over the summer was for the husband of a lady who held a senior position in Girl Guiding across the region, and I had first met her at a meeting of our own 39th Paisley Brownies here in St Mark's. At the service to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Wynd Centre, I was speaking to the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, Peter McCarthy, whom I vaguely recognised from 'somewhere' - he knew my face too, and in conversation we discovered he was a member at Kilmacolm Old, where I have been serving as Interim Moderator. (My time there draws to an end; on 29th October the two Kilmacolm churches will unite, and have a new Interim Moderator.) Even more tenuous a connection, the plasterer who recently came to do some work at the manse, is the brother of the minister at Whiteinch, whom I know because she was the year below me in minister training.

Relationships are important, and these distant connections that re-emerge are a reminder of the importance of always treating other people well, because you never know when you will encounter them again. At Harvest Thanksgiving we were thinking about how we are blessed when we help others, (from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9), the week before from Colossians to love one another because God first loved us, to forgive one another because he has forgiven us, to have patience with each other because God has infinite patience with us. That love and peace bind everything in unity.

As we move forward into the autumn, I am expecting that we will begin talks with Sherwood Greenlaw and Presbytery about what the formation of Paisley East Church of Scotland (the already agreed name for the united charge of St Mark's and Sherwood Greenlaw) will look like, and how

it will happen, and when. As we do, we will build on the pre-existing relationships that are being strengthened, on the ground work already begun, of coming together for the services in Holy Week, of the Super Strawberry Saturday and the Harvest Pancake and Coffee Morning, and we keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus, whose work we do, and in whose name we do all things.

Paul writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach one another in all wisdom;

and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:16-17

I pray this will be our attitude as we move forward,

Your friend and minister,

Sonía

### **Worship Matters**

6th October Youth Dedication Service

20th October Communion

**3rd November** Annual Giving Day

**10**<sup>th</sup> **November** Remembrance

17<sup>th</sup> November Safeguarding Sunday

#### **Funerals**

20.8.24 Greta Whyte of Dunchurch Rd.

# **Annual Bereavement Service**

Sunday 1st December, 4pm.

Where we come together to remember those whom we have loved and lost.

## **Baptism**

Nathaniel Gordon Phillips, son of Emma and Joshua Phillips, of Nutbourne, W Sussex, grandson of John and Elaine Ritchie, Lanfine Road.











## **Session Report**





At our last session meeting we were apprised of all the activities that are going on in the church. The uniformed organisations are all starting their autumn sessions and other groups are also returning to their schedules- Choir, Prayer Group and Guild.

We continue to host our 2 sister churches on Sunday afternoons as well as *Little Kickers* and *ROAR*. Peter is continuing his work with the young people and hopes to carry on the success of *The Junction*. We continue to host *Messy Church* and are grateful to all those who help with this venture.

Our café is doing well and it is great that the patronage has continued and good sales persist. We are grateful to the volunteers who help Meena with the functioning of the enterprise, but it would be good if others would consider offering to assist even a few shifts a month. with Sherwood Greenlaw. Our own Strawberry Tea last month and this weekend a Pancake Coffee Morning with many of 'oor ain folk' helping to serve the patrons and provide baked goods for sale. We look forward to further joint ventures.

We have had 2 excellent joint ventures

We will shortly be holding a *Giving Day* when we hope that members will donate generously to allow us to continue to keep the services of Peter to assist in our church activities.

Communion service will be Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Colin Reid (Session Clerk)**



# **Sunday Duty Team Rota**

DATE	TEAM	LEADER	DATE	TEAM	LEADER
OCTOBER			NOVEMBER		
06/10/2024	1	Mr J. Goodall	03/11/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair
13/10/2024	2	Mr A. Taylor	10/11/2024	4	Mr G. Black
20/10/2024	2	Mr A. Taylor	17/11/2024	4	Mr G. Black
27/10/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair	24/11/2024	5	Mr A. Boyd

### Saint Hildegard of Bingen

Saint Hildegard of Bingen also the Sibyl of the Rhine, was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages, and was one of the best-known composers of sacred music.

Hildegard was born around 1098, into a family of the free lower nobility. Sickly from birth, Hildegard is traditionally thought to be their youngest and tenth child. At the age of around 14 she entered the convent at Disibodenberg, and in 1136, at the age of 38, Hildegard's sisters elected her as Mother Superior. She founded two other monasteries in 1150 and in 1165. Hildegard wrote theological, botanical, and medicinal works, as well as letters, poems, hymns, and liturgy for use in worship. There are more surviving chants by Hildegard than by any other composer from the entire Middle Ages, and she is one of the few known composers to have written both the music and the words.

She has been recognised by the Roman Catholic Church as a saint for centuries, and on 7 October 2012, Pope Benedict XVI named her a Doctor of the Church, in recognition of "her holiness of life and the originality of her teaching."

In her *Vita*, Hildegard states that from a very young age she experienced visions. From early childhood, long before she undertook her monastic vows, Hildegard's spiritual awareness was grounded in what she called the *umbra viventis lucis*, the reflection of the living Light. Her letter to Guibert of Gembloux, which she wrote at the age of 77,



describes her experience of this light:

"From my early childhood, before my bones, nerves, and veins were fully strengthened, I have always seen this vision in my soul, even to the present time when I am more than seventy years old. In this vision, my soul, as God would have it, rises up high into the vault of heaven and into the changing sky and spreads itself out among different peoples, although they are far away from me in distant lands and places. And because I see them this way in my soul, I observe them in accord with the shifting of clouds and other created things. I do not hear them with my outward ears, nor do I perceive them by the thoughts of my own heart or by any combination of my five senses, but in my soul alone, while my outward eyes are open. So, I have never fallen prey to ecstasy in the visions, but I see them wide awake, day and night. And I am constantly fettered by sickness, and often in the grip of pain so intense that it threatens to kill me, but God has sustained me until now. The light which I see thus is not spatial, but it is far, far brighter than a cloud which carries the sun. I can measure neither height, nor length, nor breadth in it: and I call it "the reflection of the living Light." And as the sun, the moon, and the stars appear in water, so writings, sermons, virtues, and certain human actions take form for me and gleam."

#### Sonia

(With thanks to Wikipedia)



### 39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)



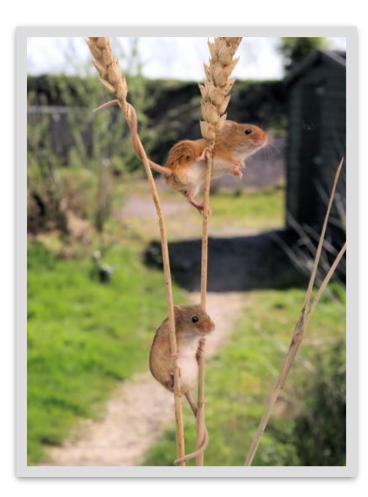
We welcomed the girls back from their summer break, and we've been joined by three Rainbows moving up to join us.

In the meantime though, we've lost our Unit Helper, Lucy, and our two Young Leaders, Beth and Paige. We thank all of these ladies for their help and wish them well in their future ventures.

We've been joined by Donna Skalley, former Rainbow Leader, who is steadily getting back on her road to recovery. We look forward to Donna's help and participation.

We've started off a *Cookie Challenge* Badge, alongside our Skills Builders, and are introducing the *Baking Interest* Badge.

We've started off a *Cookie Challenge* Badge, alongside our Skills Builders, and introducing the *Baking Interest* Badge.





We plan lots of games and activities based on a Cookies theme, and we'll plan to make different types of cookies, and do some cookie decorating too.

Our new Brownies will also be working on their Pre-Promise activities, and we'll hope for them to make their Brownie Promise towards the end of October.

The Brownies and their families have been invited to the Rededication Service on 6th October and, looking to the end of the year, we've got the Pantomime booked already. There is also a Girl Guide cinema visit to look forward to at ODEON cinema.

Lots to keep us busy.

#### **Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader**



## 39th A Paisley Brownies

The Brownies are getting back into the swing of things on a Wednesday evening. As we welcomed 12 new starts, the hall is 'jumping' with 34 Brownies with lots of energy! We have been spending the first few weeks in several 'getting to know you' activities and looking at the Brownie Promise and Law. Next month, we plan to begin working on *Camp* and *Explore Skill Builders* as part of *Have Adventures* theme.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to our *Presentation and Promise* night in October. During this event, we will be issuing lots of badges and certificates that should have been presented at our cancelled final meeting last session. We hope our 'new starts' will make their Promise that night too.

At the moment, we have 3 Brownies who are working through the final stages of their *Gold Award* and we hope these will be awarded in October. Evie and Freya are planning activities to lead and Beth presented the pack with an amazing art piece that shows the Sixes in the Pack.

October will also see many of the Brownies heading to *RenFest*. This is a fun day that Renfrewshire Girlguiding has organised in Park Mains High School. There will be lots of activities and the chance to meet with Brownies across the County. That same weekend, we hope some of the Brownies will be present at the Dedication Service in St Mark's.

The Leadership team is delighted that our Young Leaders, Emily and Nicola, have committed to begin their training to become Adult Leaders and our Guide helper, Georgina, has moved to being a Young Leader. We cannot wait to see them in their new uniforms!

At the end of every meeting, there seems to be more badges to be given to the Brownies.







The first few weeks back have been no different.

Tilly completed *Girlguiding Scotland Summer Challenge* and received the *Out and About* badge. We have also issued several Anniversary badges.

#### **Anniversary Badge**

1 year : Leah and Jess

2 year : Alexa-Rae, Anna C, Beth B,

Charlotte Max, Emily. Georgia

and Phoebe

4 year : Anna McD, Charlotte L

Plans are in hand to keep us busy till Christmas and this includes a trip to the Pantomime.

If you know of anyone (young person or adult) who would like to join Girlguiding, a warm welcome awaits them!

(www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Christine Hair Brown Owl





		OCTOBER, 2024
Tue	1	Give thanks for older people in our fellowship as we remember International Day of Older Persons.  Service of Linkage for Howwood and Kilbarchan churches. Pray for Sonia who is preaching that she may bring God's message to the congregations.
Wed	2	Prayer meeting groups meet on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	3	Give thanks for the creativity of our Flower Team, the beautiful displays, and the encouragement people who receive the floral arrangements get from them.
Fri	4	Pray for the Anchor Boys and BB company who meet this evening.
Sat	5	Bible Study group meets on Zoom this morning. This is World Habitat Day. Give thanks for the beauty and diversity of habitats around our world and pray for those working to protect them. Pray for the Brownies and Leaders of 39thA Paisley Brownies as they attend RenFest fun day.
Sun	6	We have our Youth Dedication service this morning. Pray for Sonia as she leads this and for all the young people and families who come along.
Mon	7	The streets for prayer this week are Oldhall Road, Ossian Avenue and Penilee Road.
Tue	8	Our Kirk Session meets this evening.
Wed	9	Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church tonight, followed by Bible Study group in church.  39thA Paisley Brownies celebrate 13 new Brownies making Promise and presentation of badges from last session.
Thu	10	Dementia-Friendly Café Film Afternoon. Give thanks for the Green Team who work hard to keep our outside areas looking good, as well as encourage recycling, reusing, and reducing waste. This is also World Mental Health Day. We pray for all those struggling with mental health issues. The Junction begins again tonight. Pray for this work and all the young folk who come along. Remember all who help run it too.
Fri	11	Pray for local businesses in our community.
Sat	12	Remember the Street Pastors who are out and about at the weekend as they show the love of Jesus in practical ways.
Sun	13	We ask that you make us excited to come to worship this morning, ready to hear what you have to say to us. Be with Peter as he leads us and with all who participate in the service. Sonia leading Communion at Kilmacolm Old Kirk.
Mon	14	We pray for all those living in Ralston Avenue, Roffey Park Road, and Rosshall Avenue this coming week.
Tue	15	Stop and give thanks for the many blessings in your life.
Wed	16	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening.



		OCTOBER, 2024
Thu	17	Pray for all in our Worship Team and for the work they do to support Sonia.
Fri	18	We pray for the many people who find themselves homeless. Be with them and with those who work to help them find a place to stay.
Sat	19	Bible Study group meets this morning on Zoom.
Sun	20	This is our Communion Service and we ask that you are with us as we celebrate and remember your sacrifice on our behalf. Help us come in awe, reverence, and thanksgiving.
Mon	21	Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road are our streets for prayer this week. We pray for all in the Guild as they meet weekly. Bless their time together.
Tue	22	Thanks for Stuart, our Marksman Editor, for the work he does putting the magazine together.
Wed	23	We have our prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening, followed by Bible Study group in church.
Thu	24	We pray for the Pastoral Team and all they do to support people in our fellowship through visitation and events.  Dementia-Friendly Café this afternoon. Pray everyone has an enjoyable time.  The Junction is on tonight.
Fri	25	We remember all who are housebound, in care homes or residential homes. May they know God's presence with them.
Sat	26	Sonia goes to Iona Abbey on retreat. May she have a blessed time.
Sun	27	We pray for the service this morning and bless our time together and for those who lead us in worship today.
Mon	28	Pray for those who live in Springfield Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, Tylney Road and Woodend Drive throughout the coming week.
Tue	29	Pray for the two congregations of Kilmacolm in their service of Union tonight and as they come together as Kilmacolm Parish Church.
Wed	30	Pray for the Café, for Meena and all who volunteer and for those who come along. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening. 39thA Paisley Brownies have fun night to celebrate the Olympic Games.
Thu	31	Give thanks for the skills and knowledge of our Finance Team who work together to use our finances wisely.





#### **Social Committee**



The Super Strawberry Saturday was a great success and allowed us to link with our friends at Sherwood Greenlaw in a joint venture. We had 5 members of Sherwood volunteer to help on the day alongside our usual band of helpers and a few boys from the BB. More also helped by contributing to the baking stall, buying tickets and coming along on the day.

The strawberry tarts and scones went down a storm. Special thanks to Sheena Tonner and Liz Morgan who made the scones and McHargs for the strawberry tarts. With everyone's hard work we were able to raise £627 to go to the Glasgow City Mission. Thank you to all who helped out and came along on the day.



We also had a lovely time at the *Ralston Community Games* on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August when volunteers from the church ran the tea room and provided a baking stall. A big thank you to all our generous bakers who once again provided a vast array of goodies for the people of Ralston to enjoy. With everyone's efforts we raised £480 for Church funds.

We also offered our service to help out at the *Harvest Coffee and Pancakes* event at Sherwood Greenlaw on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, with donations for the baking stall and volunteers helping to serve tea and coffee.

Thanks for your continued support of the social and fundraising committee with all that we do.

Keep your eyes open for future events.

#### Jen Morgan











We would like to thank our many friends at St Mark's for the beautiful flowers and cards we received on our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

## **Margaret and Graham Currie**











## Flowers in Church

# **Ladies Delivering Flowers**

06.10.24	Guides
13.10.24	Mrs C. Sinclair
20.10.24	Mrs P. Strachan
27.10.24	Mrs McCulloch Love
03.11.24	Guild
10.11.24	Mr C. Reid
17.11.24	Mrs J. Forson
24.11.24	

06.10.24		
13.10.24	Miss J. Chapman	
20.10.24	Mrs J. Dunsmore	
27.10.24		
03.11.24	Mrs K. McLauchlan	
10.11.24	Mrs I. McBride	
17.11.24	Mrs K. McLauchlan	
24.11.24	Mrs D. Grant	Mrs M. Adams



# The Guild

The Guild will be starting on Monday 7 October at 2.00pm and each Monday thereafter.

We look forward to seeing you then. If you haven't been before, come along and join us as you will be assured of a warm welcome and a varied programme.

# Irene Stirton Secretary

# **Dementia-Friendly Drop-In Café**

St Mark's Church (2-4pm)

## **Future Dates**

**Thursday 24 October** 

**Thursday 21 November** 





Film Club

**Thursday 10 October** 

1.45 - 4 p.m.

Mamma Mia







		NOVEMBER, 2024
Fri	1	Sonia leads a two-day annual conference for Safeguarding trainers and coordinators in Stirling (today and Saturday).
Sat	2	Bible Study group meets this morning on Zoom.
Sun	3	We have our Annual Giving Day. Give thanks for all who give of their time for this vital work. Again, lead us to be generous with what you have given us.
Mon	4	For all who live without our district we pray for them and their families.
Tue	5	Give thanks for the 39th Brownies as they meet each week.
Wed	6	We have our prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening, followed by Bible Study Group in church.
Thu	7	We pray for the Christian Education Team as they encourage us to pray and study your Word.
Fri	8	We remember those who are bereaved, recently or not, and ask that your comfort would continue to uphold and strengthen them.
Sat	9	Give thanks for leisure time and times when we can relax from the busyness of life.
Sun	10	Remembrance Sunday as we gather to remember those who gave their lives for others.
Mon	11	Our prayers are for those living in Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent this week.
Tue	12	Presbytery meet tonight. Be with them as they discuss and make decisions. Be with our Presbytery Elder too.
Wed	13	Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church tonight. 39thA Brownies meet tonight, and we pray for them and their leaders.
Thu	14	We remember each of the Elders in our church and pray for them. Fill them with your Spirit and an enthusiasm to know more of You.
Fri	15	We pray for the congregation of Sherwood Greenlaw and for further joint working over the next while.
Sat	16	Bible study group meets on Zoom this morning.





		NOVEMBER, 2024
Sun	17	Safeguarding Sunday. Every year, thousands of churches across the country unite to mark Safeguarding Sunday. It's a chance to listen and to talk together about how we can create places that are safer for everyone.
Mon	18	Remember the people who live in Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place.
Tue	19	World Toilet Day. Remember you can twin your toilet through Tearfund. Speak to Dawn who is still coordinating this.
Wed	20	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening, followed by Bible Study in church.
Thu	21	Pray for Dawn and the choir as they practise weekly and lead the worship each Sunday. Thank you for the gift of music.
Fri	22	Pray for each of the different organisations who use our building throughout the week.
Sat	23	We pray for Ralston Community Council and the work they do on behalf of those living in this area.
Sun	24	May we come to worship today ready to hear your message for us, and to leave ready to put that into action. Be with Sonia as she leads us.
Mon	25	It's the turn of Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road this week for our prayers.
Tue	26	Kirk Session meets this evening at 7:30pm. Pray that God will direct our discussions and decisions made this evening.  A special Presbytery meeting open to presbyters and congregations to discuss the issue of Assisted Dying.
Wed	27	Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	28	Thank you for the ministry of Messy Church, for the leaders and helpers who support this venture, and for the families who come along. We pray that many will come to know you.
Fri	29	We pray for our Mission Partner, Rev. Muriel Pearson in Tiberias.
Sat	30	Bible Study meets this morning on Zoom.





#### The Wild Swans at Coole

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me Since I first made my count; I saw, before I had well finished, All suddenly mount And scatter wheeling in great broken rings Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures, And now my heart is sore. All's changed since I, hearing at twilight, The first time on this shore, The bell-beat of their wings above my head, Trod with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

W. B Yeats

# Age shall not weary them . . .







#### The Soldiers' Cairn

Gie me a hill wi' the heather on't,
An' a reid sun drappin' doon,
Or the mists o' the mornin' risin' saft
Wi' the reek owre a wee grey toon.
Gie me a howe by the lang Glen road,
For it's there 'mang the whin and fern
(D'ye mind on't, Will? Are ye hearin', Dod?)
That we're biggin' the Soldiers' Cairn.

Far awa' is the Flanders land
Wi' fremmit France atween,
But mony a howe o' them baith the day
Has a hap o' the Gordon green.
It's them we kent that's lyin' there,
An' it's nae wi' stane or airn
But wi' brakin' herts, an' mem'ries sair,
That we're biggin' the Soldiers' Cairn.

Doon, laich doon the Dullan sings—
An' I ken o' an aul' sauch tree,
Where a wee loon's wahnie's hingin' yet
That's dead in Picardy;
An' ilka win' fae the Conval's broo
Bends aye the buss o' ern,
Where aince he futtled a name that noo
I'll read on the Soldiers' Cairn.

Oh! build it fine and build it fair,
Till it leaps to the moorland sky —
More, more than death is symbolled there,
Than tears or triumphs by.
There's the Dream Divine of a starward way
Our laggard feet would learn—
It's a new earth's corner-stone we'd lay
As we fashion the Soldiers' Cairn.

Lads in your plaidies lyin' still
In lands we'll never see,
This lanely cairn on a hameland hill
Is a' that oor love can dee;
An' fine an' braw we'll mak' it a',
But oh, my Bairn, my Bairn,
It's a cradle's croon that'll aye blaw doon
To me fae the Soldiers' Cairn.

Mary Symon

1863-1938

# How well do you know Paisley?

The answers to the following cryptic clues are mostly areas of Paisley, but some refer to specific landmarks.

Answers in the next edition of the Marksman.



1.	Scots valley and small stream.	
2.	No light in the lobby.	
3.	Scots wall and sandbank.	
4.	Famous racehorse's weight?	
5.	Except Irish playwright bring car to rest.	
6.	Almost tumble team.	
7.	Pale low-lying meadow by river.	
8.	Lake on farmland.	
9.	Pursuer on the mound.	
10.	Swindled shape reportedly?	
11.	Sanctuary at hand.	
12.	Trade little island.	
13.	Below copse.	
14.	Cleric's small farm.	
15.	Solitary conclusion.	

With thanks to Old Paisley Society.



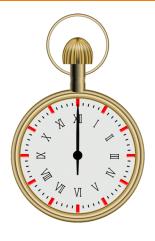














Please send articles for the Marksman to the editor at:

marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

Contribution deadline for Dec / Jan edition: 12 noon, 14 November, 2024.