

MARKSMAN

August & September 2019



St Marks Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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Scottish Charity SC011210

August 18, was the month Robbie retired, and thankfully Presbytery gave us permission in June 19 to proceed with the vacancy and refurbishment of the manse at a cost of circa £50,000.

Firstly let me say this, [and no doubt the Finance Committee will also say] I was very impressed *by the response and generosity* of this congregation to the Manse Appeal and how soon the necessary funds were raised – which has enabled us to instruct GMack to begin refurbishing the Manse. In fact, by the time you get this issue of the Marksman, the major works should have been completed, leaving only the décor, which can be done once a new incumbent is on the horizon. [hopefully before too long].

VACANCY: with 12 of our number [Mari Everett (Convenor); Graham Black (Vice Convenor); Amy Blair; Stuart Christie; Alasdair Forrest; Andy Grant; Nancy Hamilton; Grace Kerr; Elizabeth Macdonald; Myra McKellar; Jen Morgan; Isobel Ritchie; Susan Weston and Simone Smith serving as Clerk] –

Now having been elected to the Nominating Committee on Sunday 7th July, **and commissioned to step out of this boat – to go in faith, and search the land for a new incumbent for St Marks** – I must say *how impressed I am* with the enthusiasm of your Nominating Committee and how they've began the search, for it will be no easy task.



And it made me ask myself, [as I did the congregation during the sermon on Sunday 14th July/ the week following their election] - are we asking or expecting too much of them?

Hopefully not, for they go not in their own strength, but empowered by the Spirit, to find not just a minister, but the right minister for St Marks – the minister God has in mind for this charge.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” [Acts 1:8](#).



So let's remember to pray regularly for the Nominating Committee [that God's empowering Spirit be upon them] as they go about the search on your behalf.

Yours in Christ

Ian W Bell (Locum)

Peter's News

The summer term at Ralston Primary is a really busy time and I was able to attend a few of the things that were going on. I went along with the P5s and helped as they picked litter and planted some seeds at Barshaw Park. I got to go with one of the P6s to the Lavern Water to explore the river life. I attended a Strawberry Tea at the school; hosted by the Head Teacher as a thanks to those who give their time for the school community.

The Church again hosted the summer end of term services. I took the end of term service for the P1-3s where we were looking at the parable of the wise and foolish builders. I also supported the P7s as they prepared for their leavers service.

At the end of June there was a church picnic at Pollok Park. Everyone had a great time in the lovely sunshine that we had that day. The young people that came enjoyed playing games in the sun and even built a den in the woods.



The Junction @st marks



This is a youth café that we ran during the last full week of the school holidays. It was on Monday to Friday from 7.30pm to 9pm for P6 to S3. We put on a lot of different things for the young people to do during the night including:

pool, table tennis, table football, games consoles, some crafts, giant jenga, music, tuck shop and other games. At the time of writing we have just had one night and we had 26 young people turn up.



Once the Junction is finished I will start to get organised and plan for the upcoming session for the schools work, for Trash, Friends and Heroes, and everything else that I am involved with.

I look forward to the all the different clubs and groups starting back after the school holidays.

God bless Peter

A note from the nominating committee

Since our formation at the start of July we have been busy with regular meetings; researching potential candidates; and visiting churches to hear different ministers preach. We feel we have started with great momentum, and are all excited about what lies ahead for St Marks. Over the coming weeks and months, we may not be around as much on a Sunday, as we continue in our search. We ask for your patience at this time as we may not be as available for all the other duties or rotas we would normally be committed to.

We are encouraged by the support of the congregation and feel honoured that you've trusted us with the responsibility of seeking God's will in finding a new minister for St Marks. We know many of you have been praying for us and this is truly appreciated. If you wish to support the committee through prayer please find some particular prayer points below:

- For a continued sense of momentum and enthusiasm within the committee
- For Mari, in her role as committee convenor - that she feels energised and supported in her role
- That we allow God to speak to us and guide us to whoever he has planned for St Marks
- For unity within the committee; and where disagreement, humility.
- That God begins to prepare the heart of whoever he has called to us
- For safety on the roads as we travel to different churches to hear/meet with ministers (and prayers that we don't get lost en route!!)
- For guidance and wisdom in our search and approach
- That we don't feel disheartened if things don't happen as quickly or as readily as we would like - may we trust in God and His perfect timing and will.

*"In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he will direct thy paths."
(Proverbs 3: 6)*

Many thanks!
The Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee: Mari Everett (Convenor), Graham Black (Vice Convenor), Amy Blair, Stuart Christie, Alasdair Forrest, Andy Grant, Nancy Hamilton, Grace Kerr, Elizabeth Macdonald, Myra McKellar, Jen Morgan, Isobel Ritchie, Susan Weston

Thank You

A big thank you to all members who contributed to the recent appeal for funding for the manse repairs. The wonderful sum of £20,301 was donated. The Church can also claim gift aid of £4,427. Work has already commenced.

Thanks again.

Finance Committee

Bible Studies Group

We had a good time last session studying James and look forward to our new studies starting up in September. We are going to look at Heroes of the faith. Again, all are welcome.

At the moment we run a group for women and one for men. These meet in the Session Room and the small Upper Room alternate Saturday mornings, from 10:15 for 10:30 – 11:30. There is a cup of tea at the start and a chance to chat prior to the start. Books of the studies are available for each individual, which means that if you can't manage to all the sessions you still have the studies to look at.

Last session some people couldn't make the Saturday mornings, but were keen to buy the study books to have at home (about £5)

Now you know the options it would be great to see you there, or if you really can't make it, please join with us by doing the studies at home. Should you only be able to come from time to time, please feel free to do so.

Dates are Saturday 7, 21 September
5, 19 October
2, 16, 30 November

Looking forward to sharing with you

Irene and Bob on behalf of the groups

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group is open to everyone. You are most welcome to come along on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 7:30. During the summer period we are still aiming to meet each week. Should this change it will be intimated on a Sunday in the Order of Service.

Let us use this time to meet and pray for our church, the Nominating Committee and the minister God has in mind for us.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5 v 16

Church Website

The church website has a new look to it after a redesign over the summer. Hopefully it is easier to navigate and be more functional and up to date. It should also work just as well on a phone, tablet or computer. The website address is www.stmarksoldhall.org.uk or just search "St Mark's Oldhall" and you should find it.



24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

It seems no time since we ended our 80th session as a Company at the May Church parade and we are already looking forward to new opportunities and challenges this session. We are off to a great start with no less than 6 young men being presented with their Queen's Badge Certificates at a civic reception in Paisley Abbey. Congratulations to Adam Trelfa, Thomas Everett, Andrew McLintock, Russell Murray, Dillon Hutchison and Josh Millan. Their achievement recognises 12-13 years of service and commitment by them. I am sure they were not thinking about their Queen's Badge when they each enrolled in the Anchor Boys all those years ago. We look forward to this year's new Anchors going on the same journey. It is one of the real privileges of working with young folk to see them develop and to play even a small part in helping them achieve their potential.

At the service back in May I mentioned the BB's slogan: Faith in Young People. This certainly captures our approach within the 24th Paisley. We aim not only to share the Christian faith with the youngsters but to also show that we have faith and trust in them. They tend to rise to the challenge more often than not. On behalf of all the BB staff I'd like to thank you, the wider church family, for your continued support and prayers as we go forward into an exciting time for our Company and St Mark's.

39thA Paisley Brownies – July 2019

As ever, the Pack had a very busy end to the session which left the Leaders ready for a rest!!!! The last event of the year was a Pack Holiday in June when 10 of the girls and 4 Leaders went for a weekend to Dalguise House. It was a really enjoyable and the Brownies had fun in the outdoors even though it was rather wet and muddy! The activities included a giant swing, zip wire, sensory course, and archery to name just a few. The accommodation was comfortable and the food was plentiful – who could ask for more!! The Brownies will be delighted to know that we have already made a booking to return next year!!!

Our final meeting for the session was on the 5th June and we welcomed parents, carers and guests for the evening. The girls had spent some time in the weeks leading up to this event, writing invitations and making paper owls to decorate the tables. After serving tea and coffee, the Brownies all took part in telling our visitors about the activities they had been involved in this session and lots of photographs were shared

in a presentation to the parents. It was great that our Division Commissioner, Mrs Millie MacKinnon was able to help in presentation of badges to the Brownies. The Brownies finished the evening by singing some of our favourite songs and a vote of thanks was given by Rev Ian Bell.

There were lots of badges presented on the evening. This included

- Grow Your Own and Friend to Animals for Hannah B
- Feel Good Skill Builder for

Hannah B	Julia	Katie	Grace C
Lily	Jessica S	Millie S	
- First Aid Skill Builder for

Devon	Charlotte	Georgia	Meiyee
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- Express Myself Theme Award for

Hannah B	Charlotte	Devon	Georgia
Grace C	Jessica S	Millie S	
- Nights Away

5 night Award –	Grace C	Maisie	Innes
2 night Award –	Lily	Georgia	Jessica S
1 night Award –	Georgia	Jessica S	

A special Award was given to Grace C. Throughout the session, she has never missed a meeting or Parade and even put Brownies before other commitments.

On this evening, the Pack bade farewell to 8 of the Brownies as they are now of age to go to Guides. The Pack presented a gift to Grace C. Lily, Heather, Sophie, Jessica O, Alex, Jessica S and Isla and wished them every success in the future.

Our Guide helper, Nicola, continues to give great service to the Pack. Each week, she helps the Guiders in planning and carrying out the programme. As a result of this, we were delighted to present Nicola with a Saltire Award certificate, celebrating 50 hours of service. Well done and thank you from the Guiders and Brownies!

Plans are underway for the return those who attended the Pack this year and welcome many new members from the Rainbow. Roll on Wednesday 4th September!!!

Christine Hair
(Brown Owl)

1st East Rainbow Unit

We finished off the term with a teddy bears picnic, the girls brought along their furry friends who joined in our fun and games. The girls' parents joined us for the last 15 mins to celebrate their daughters' achievements for the past year.

We said goodbye to Daisy, Darcy, Ellie, Helena, Jessica, Julia and Samantha who are now all moving on to the next part of their guiding journey and we would like to wish them well.

The leaders at rainbows would also like to thank all the girls and parents for their lovely gifts that we received on parent's night they were all a lovely surprise.

Last year we chose to start the new Rainbow programme and over the year the girls completed a variety of interest badges from recycler, fruit and veg, helper, animal lover to family tree. They did numerous skill builders – karate, tennis, rainbow survey, time travelling rainbows, cheer challenge, mend a friend and splat, bang zoom to name a few, we also completed and took part in over 60 hours of unit meetings, 2 Church parades and a visit to see Mary Poppins 2.

I wonder what 2019/2020 will bring for our Rainbows.

If you have a daughter who is between the ages of 5-7 and you would be interested in them joining the rainbows please register them at girlguiding online. I have a few places remaining for this year.

www.girlguiding.org.uk

We will enrol on Wednesday 28th August and restart 4th September, look out for enrolment packs in August.

Regards
Purple



Tuesday Singers

It is July, currently chucking it down outside, and I am thinking CHRISTMAS!

It is almost time for the TUESDAY SINGERS starting up again, and once again the invitation to join us is offered.

We meet each Tuesday from about 7:15 – 9:15 approximately, and enjoy our time together learning new contemporary Christian songs for Christmas. Our concert, called THE BIG SING, is the culmination of our hard work, and proceeds from ticket donations are split between Church Funds and a charity chosen by the group.

Dates are as follows

TUESDAYS

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19, 26

December 3, 10

DRESS REHEARSAL

December Friday 13

BIG SING CONCERT

December Saturday 14 at 7:30

We are always keen for new folk to join us, and would especially love to see more men there and some more altos.

Please don't worry if you think you'd like to come but couldn't make all the rehearsals. You will be welcome to come to as many as you can make.

Looking forward to seeing the queue to get in!!

Irene Pollock.

Thank you

I would like to record my appreciation for the beautiful flowers presented to me recently. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time leading the worship, and count it a privilege to have been able to serve in this way.

Thanks, too, to the choir for all their hard work, support and enthusiasm. To the youngsters and the instrumentalists, a big thanks also.

Irene

Church Bowling Competition

It has been confirmed that this year's church outdoor bowling fellowship afternoon will be on Sunday 15th September at Ralston Bowling club 1.30 for 2pm start. If you would like to play please put your name on the sheet outside of the large hall.

If you have any questions or require further information please let me know on 07525245884. Thank you for your continued support. Martin Park

Bake Sale

On the first Sunday of each month we will be holding a bake sale in the side vestibule in aid of church funds.

If you would like to put your name down on the rota to contribute then please speak to Liz Morgan, Sheena Tonner or Christine Hair.

Church Register

Deaths

30.5.19	Murray McDonald, Woodend Drive
09.06.19	Mrs Janet Carruth, Erskine Care Home
16.06.19	Mrs Margaret Smith, Burnfield Care Home

New Members

02.08.19	Mr David Potts, Auchmannoch Avenue
02.08.19	Mrs Tracy Potts, Auchmannoch Avenue

Office Bearers' duties during August & September

Team 1 – 4th & 11th August

Alasdair Campbell, Gordon McLintock, Karen Sheils, Don Grant, Lesley Campbell, Greta Whyte, Margaret Gauldie

Team 2 – 18th & 25th August

Alan Taylor, Craig Camlin, Bob Tonner, Sheena Tonner, Ron Weston, Ian Brackenridge

Team 3 – 1st & 8th September

Donald Macdonald, Richard Rutherford, Jack Goodall, Gary Allan, Simone Smith, Christine Hair, Gavin Hair

Team 4 – 15th & 22nd September

Graham Black, Gordon Forrest, Mari Everett, Ann Black, Eileen Wilkie, Rena Brown, Margaret Currie

Team 5 – 29th September & 6th October

Alastair Boyd, Irene Boyd, Douglas Keith, Ken Dunsmore, Dorothy McKay, Jennifer Morgan

Creche Rota for June & July

August

4 th	Lisa Murphy	Tracy Potts
11 th	Isobel Higgins	Sara Wilson
18 th	Ann Fisher	Cara Gentle
25 th	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair

September

1 st	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
8 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell
15 th		
22 nd	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar
29 th	Lisa Murphy	Tracy Potts

Flowers in the Church August & September

August

4th Mrs Grace Kerr, Thornly Park Avenue
11th Mrs Nan Macgregor, Oldhall Road
18th Mrs Jean Bradley, Kelburne Court
25th Mrs Ann Fisher, Buchlyvie Road

September

Kate McLauchlan

1st Mrs Karen Sheils, Dryburn Avenue
8th Mrs Kate McLauchlan, 11 Old School Square
15th Mrs Doris Grant, Tylney Road
22nd BB Company Section
29th Mr David Bowman, Abbeyfield House

People delivering flowers during August & September

August

4 th	Mrs J Dempster	Mrs L MacRae
11 th	Mrs I Pollock	
18 th	Mrs M Robin	
25 th	Mrs D Grant	Mrs M Adams

September

1 st	Miss I Higgins	
8 th	Mrs S Tonner	
15 th	Mr & Mrs G Kerr	
22 nd	Mr & Mrs I Kinloch	
29 th	Mrs J Dempster	Mrs L MacRae

Office Hours

Tue, Wed & Fri 11:15am – 2:45pm