

Marksman

June / July, 2023



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

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From the manse



As I write this letter, it is Thursday 18th May. I wonder if the day means anything to you? I suspect, unless it's your birthday, or the birthday or anniversary of someone in your family, it probably passed just like any other Thursday. However, in Germany, where my daughter lives, it is a national holiday. Now, the Germans don't come across as a particularly religious people - more than likely, you might think of Italy and Spain as being religious, but not really Germany. But that day marks the Ascension of Christ into heaven. It's not a big day in our church calendar and certainly not in our society. It doesn't rate in most people's reckoning, but in German it is a national holiday, called *Christi Himmelfahrt* – literally Christ's Heaven Journey. (And if you are interested, the Germans have another national holiday for Pentecost.)

We do note the significance of Christ's ascension every time we say the Creed together, for after we say, "On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures", we add, "He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father". But perhaps we say these words without thinking about them too much.

For Jesus and his Disciples Ascension was an important, noteworthy day. Over the previous 40 days he had made many post-resurrection appearances to his disciples and other followers. He showed them the wounds in his hands and his side; he told them where to fish for a better catch of fish; he cooked fish on the beach for them and spent a lot of time teaching them about the Kingdom of God, re-emphasising things he had spoken about before, but that they hadn't grasped on first telling. And now the big day had come, with no warning or fanfare. The big event that marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Although he won't be physically present with the disciples anymore, Jesus promises that this is not the end, but the

beginning of a new chapter in God's story. And he is with us always. In an amazing way that we can't quite explain, try as we might, the Son of God, went up a mountain with his disciples, and disappeared up into the clouds, and because he did, he is with us always. No longer confined to one time or one place, Jesus is always with us. His breath is in the air that surrounds us, his sweat and tears in every river, sea and rainbow. His voice is in all who cry out in need. And yet his body is in every piece of bread shared with the hungry, his love shown in every well dug, every water pump provided, every toilet that is twinned.

His words of peace, spoken to frightened disciples are for us too. A gift to heal our heartache, a prayer phrase to recite, God's peace within us turns darkness into light. We are called to share Christ's peace. However life is threatened, his peace demands we care and we share it with others.

The response of Jesus' followers was to worship him. *"And they worshiped him (on the mountain top) and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God."* (Luke 24:51-53)

They continued praising God for what he had done. Their lives overflowed with joy and praise – and with obedience. Jesus told them *"Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."* (Luke 24:49). And that's exactly what they did. It is as you focus on him, that you will be moved to joyful worship and your obedience will follow.

Jesus Christ is the focus of our worship, the object of our worship and the source of our joy. He deserves our obedience. If you are finding it hard to worship, lacking joy, or struggling with obedience, fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

As we move into summer may you find joy in the risen, ascended Christ, may your hearts be moved to worship and your minds to obey.

Your friend and minister,

Sonia

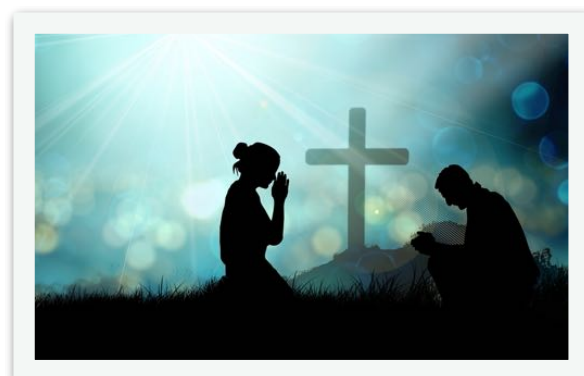
Worship Matters

Sunday 18th June End of Session for Evolution

Sunday 25th June Communion Service

Wednesday morning services have now finished for the summer and will restart in the autumn. Members of the Worship Team are now leading some of the 'Prayers for Others and Ourselves' on a Sunday morning.

Sonia continues as Interim Moderator for Kilmacolm Old and will be there on Sunday 11th June for an Infant Blessing Service. She is on Holiday from 24th July to 7th August.



Funerals

3.5.23 Jean Robertson, Kelburne Court



Illegal Immigration Bill

Many of you will have noted with outrage the proposals outlined in the so called 'Illegal Migration Bill' by the UK Government. If passed, almost all people arriving in the UK to seek safety will be detained, punished and removed without their claim for asylum even being heard. There is little to no evidence to suggest this new plan will be an effective deterrent to people crossing the Channel in small boats. The Home Office's own research shows that measures such as this new Bill do not remove the reasons why people undertake dangerous and difficult journeys to the UK and other places.

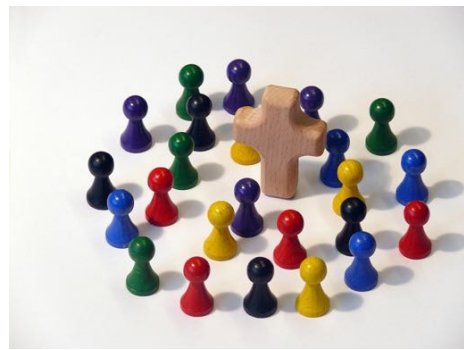
Many church leaders and charities have condemned this Bill for breaking international law and the UNHCR comments: "The legislation, if

passed, would amount to an asylum ban – extinguishing the right to seek refugee protection in the United Kingdom for those who arrive irregularly, no matter how compelling their claim may be."

As people of faith you might want to express your concerns to your MP or join the Joint Public Issues Team and 1500 other church leaders in standing against the legislation.

For more information on the bill <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/what-is-the-illegal-migration-bill/> and <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/church-urges-uk-government-to-reconsider-small-boats-bill>

Session Report



At the session meeting on 16th May tribute was paid to our treasurer, Gordon Forrest, who had sadly died suddenly on 9th May. His funeral will be held in the church on 30th May at 10 am and then at the Hurler Crematorium at 12 noon.

The church café has been completed and grateful thanks are given to Jok Everett, Graeme Wright, Andy Grant and many others who painted, plastered, plumbed and cleaned. We had a successful opening on Thursday 11th May with the Dementia-Friendly Café taking place in the new premises and then a very successful day at the Plant Sale on the 13th. We raised over £2000 for church funds, including over £440 at the baking stall and many thanks are due to Liz Morgan and Sheena Tonner for their efforts, not forgetting the many bakers who contributed goods.

Some of you may have noticed the bike repair station at the Plant Sale and it is hoped that bikes will be available for loan in the not too distant future. However, details about this have still to be finalised.

The Pastoral Care Team is doing a splendid job and apart from the Dementia-Friendly Café will be holding another film day with *Calamity Jane* on 15th June .

Our church worker, Peter, has been very busy and held a most successful Easter Club with 85 children attending over the week. He continues to liaise with Ralston Primary School and was away in Lockerbie with a group of P7 pupils and their teachers for a few days earlier this month.

The Christian Education Group has another booklet for uplift - *Thy Kingdom Come* - following on the success of *Try Praying*. These can be collected from the church and are in the form of a prayer journal. Give these a go - they are worth the effort. Prayer can be very helpful in most situations.

Some minor maintenance needs done in the church vestibule, but more important work needs done to dry-stane walls at the manse. We are awaiting quotes and proper tradespeople to carry this out.....any volunteers??

Finally ... for those who help with door duties each Sunday morning, the complete list of dates is on the notice board outside the vestry with the various teams and their respective dates.

Colin Reid, Session Clerk





Flowers in Church

04.06.23	Mr & Mrs Pollock
11.06.23	Mr & Mrs W Whyte
18.06.23	Mrs A Roberts
25.06.23	Miss I Higgins
02.07.23	Mrs W Keith
09.07.23	Mrs E Macdonald
16.07.23	Mrs A Black
23.07.23	Miss J Chapman
30.07.23	Mrs A McLachlan

Ladies Delivering Flowers

04. 06. 23		
11. 06. 23	Mrs. M Scobie	
18. 06. 23	Mrs D Grant	Mrs. M. Adam
25.06. 23	Mrs K. McLauchlan	
02. 07. 23	Mrs. M Currie	Mrs E Boyd
09. 07. 23	Mrs I Ritchie	
16. 07. 23	Mrs I McBride	
23. 07. 23	Mrs E Macdonald	Mrs W Keith
30.07.23	Mrs C Sinclair	

Sunday Duty Team Rota

DATE	TEAM	LEADER
JUNE		
04/06/2023	2	Mr A. Taylor
11/06/2023	3	Mrs C. Hair
18/06/2023	3	Mrs C. Hair
25/06/2023	4	Mr G. Black
JULY		
02/07/2023	4	Mr G. Black
09/07/2023	5	Mr A. Boyd
16/07/2023	5	Mr A. Boyd
23/07/2023	6	Dr C. Reid
30/07/2023	6	Dr C. Reid



24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

It seems no time since the turn of the year and we are already planning for another end of session Parents' Night.

So much has happened over the last few months that it is difficult to know where to start. One of the significant highlights has been our shared activities with the 22nd Paisley from Sherwood Greenlaw. The boys and staff mixed well and had great fun too.

Th two Junior Sections needed a sit down after they followed an interactive Easter trail around the Church. This worked well thanks to the new Wi-Fi set up in the sanctuary. (Thanks to Peter et al for the enhanced Wi-Fi). The boys were captivated by following the Easter story in a different way.



The weather was really kind when we had our reciprocal visit to Sherwood Greenlaw and the Juniors enjoyed some outdoor games. For all we appreciate new technology there is a lot to be said for traditional games outside, albeit we had to explain to some of the boys how to do a wheelbarrow race.



The Anchors also managed to share some fun activities and games. I still don't understand what was going on, but rest assured that no balloons were injured in the playing of this game.



24th Paisley Boys' Brigade



The two Company Sections and Seniors played Human 'Hungry Hippos' and participated in some challenging quizzes as part of our shared activities. It was really encouraging to see how the boys just naturally mixed with each other and perhaps that is a lesson for some of us older folks going forward.

We are already thinking ahead to what more we can do together next session.

The Anchors and Juniors marked the Coronation with a themed evening involving games and activities with a royal twist...and, of course, some ice cream. They also prepared some planters to sit outside the new café in readiness for the plant sale. This week they hope to plant a couple of trees as part of our wider environmental activities.



Approaching the end of the session, we normally look back and celebrate what the boys have achieved. We will, of course, still do that, but we will also look forward to the next session and some fruit on the trees.

Jack Goodall ((Company Captain)

Do not be afraid - I am with you! I am your god - let nothing terrify you!

Isaiah 41:10

Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

39thA Paisley Brownies

The Brownies have been taking part in a variety of activities on Wednesday evenings. We enjoy working together and having fun. However, before Easter, we decided that it would be good to think of others outside our Pack. As all the Brownies thought they would get more than one Easter egg, they decided to bring an egg to donate to the Renfrewshire Foodbank so that some folk less fortunate than they might receive a little happiness too.

At our final meeting in March, we discussed wind power, made daffodil windmills, coloured a special Easter mug and we were even lucky enough to get a visit from the Easter Bunny, who hid chocolate lollipops for everyone!



When we returned in April, we had a Promise Ceremony. It is very unusual to have this so late in the session, but Lucy joined us recently and was keen to make her Promise. We were delighted her Mum was able to join us for the ceremony.

The Pack decided to have an evening to celebrate the King's Coronation.



The Brownies thought it would be a good idea to invite the Rainbows to join us. There was discussion about what we could do and the adaptations needed to integrate the Rainbows and work safely, as there would be over 50 young people present! Everything worked out well when the event took place on the 10th May. We coloured pictures of the coronation and everyone decorated a crown and made a flag.



All the girls designed a special coronation cake to take home. The Rainbows even taught the Brownies how to play 'The Grand Old Duke of York'!



At the end of the evening, the Brownies all received a commemorative badge. Our thanks go to Miss Wilkie and Mrs Boyd who joined us for the evening and helped the girls with the activities – they even got a badge too!

Over the last few weeks, we have been working on the *Lead Skills Builder*. I am delighted to report we were able to present this badge to 26 of the Brownies. Well done Brownies – our leaders of the future!

39thA Paisley Brownies

Many of the Brownies have also been completing *Interest Badges* at home and every week, we have more badges to present. This has been the 'haul' over the last 2 months!

Take Action Theme – Daisy Mac, Phoebe.

Know Myself Theme – Daisy Mac, Beth, Evie, Breagha, Jessica L

Be Well Theme – Sophie.

Skills for My Future Theme – Daisy Mac.

Zero Waste Badge – Phoebe.

Collecting Badge – Daisy Mac, Beth, Jessica L.

Local History – Evie.

Mindfulness - Sophie.

Anniversary Badge – 1 year - Breagha.

Silver Award – Daisy Mac, Lauren I, Evie.

We have 3 of the Brownies working on the Gold Award and we hope these will be completed by the end of the session.

At the end of the session we will have 10 girls who are leaving Brownies. This is more than usual, but we had an influx of girls after COVID and they are now all 10 (or approaching it)! They were delighted to be invited to join the Guide company for an evening. They seemed to have great fun and hopefully most of them will continue their Guiding adventure!

We still have some fun to look forward to before we finish for the session. From 2nd to 4th June, 11 Brownies and 3 leaders will be heading to PGL Dalguise. This will see the Brownies being challenged in a variety of activities including Zipwire, Trapeze and Archery, to name a few! Wish us luck.

Our last meeting is on 7th June and the parents will all be invited. Each Brownie is about to write (yes WRITE, not word process!) to someone else's parents and address an envelope to hold the invitation! We are looking forward to a busy evening, serving tea and coffee to them all.

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the sudden death of one of our leaders. Grace McGhie (Spectacled Owl) worked with the girls for about 25 years and she will be sorely missed by us all.

It's hard to believe another year of Brownies is drawing to a close and we will soon be planning for next session! 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



Help needed

The 39thA Paisley Brownies are searching for an adult helper to join us in September. There are many tasks that we need help with each week. While PVG and basic Girlguiding 'child protection' training will be needed, it is not necessary to complete leadership training. However, training and support are available to anyone who is interested in becoming a leader. Please let me know if you or anyone you know might be interested or wants to know more of what would be involved.

Christine Hair

39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

We are nearing the end of a busy year, with our final evening and Award Ceremony on 30 May.

As we missed out on seeing the Owls at RenFriends, the Rainbows and Brownies invited *Owl Magic* to come along to our Tuesday night meeting. The girls were thrilled to have six species of Owls introduced, and even more thrilled to have the opportunity to have a photo taken holding one. The Owls were all very well behaved, and we were told that the Owls love to be taken out to see groups – it's their entertainment for the day!



The Brownies also had the opportunity to examine Owl feathers and to see how well they are camouflaged in their natural habitat.



We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III along with the Rainbows and Guides. Our visiting elders, Simone Smith and Margaret Currie joined us for the evening. We played games, decorated cakes, manufactured Coronation Coaches, and dined on plant-based curry. The girls also found 35 words from the letters in CORONATION, which I think is quite an achievement.



Our first "Gold" Brownies will receive their Awards on our final evening. These girls have achieved all six Theme Badges, which include various Interest Badges and Skills Builders, as well as talking to the Pack about their achievements.

39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)



It was so interesting to hear one say that she had enjoyed the *Speaking Out* Badge, and that this had given her confidence to speak out in public.

Another talked about *Mindfulness* and how that had helped her be calm and focussed, and a third talked about the environment and how much she had enjoyed the *Grow Your Own* Badge.

We have a great group of girls at the moment who will receive Bronze and Silver Awards, and I am sure we will have more Gold Awards to come.

Our *Matilda the Musical* Pack Holiday takes place in June, and for the first time we have every Brownie coming for either the whole weekend or as a day visitor. Sonia is also planning to pop out on the Saturday to see us, and to help us eat the Matilda Cake which the Brownies will be helping me to bake.

Before that we should be attending the special GirlGuiding showing of *The Little Mermaid*. The badges are bought, the pop corn is at the ready ; we just need the tickets.

It's been a lovely year to be working with the girls. We have an enthusiastic group and, importantly, great support from their parents. We have 8 Rainbows moving up in September to join us, and 5 girls moving on to Guides, so the numbers will continue to be steady.

We wish everyone a very happy summer.

Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader



On Wednesday 10th of May we celebrated His Majesty's Coronation with a joint celebration with the 39thA Brownies and some future new members. Our elders, Irene Boyd and Eileen Wilkie, joined in the fun and crafts and keeping the Grand Old Duke of York flowing.

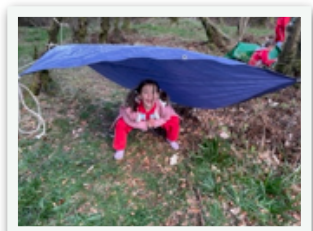


The girls have been busy at home completing interest badges and telling their friends in the unit what they did to merit their badges. We have had Town Planners as part of the *Construction* badge; Litter Picks for *Recycling* and loads of family pets getting spoiled far and wide.



Division Sleepover April 22nd -23rd

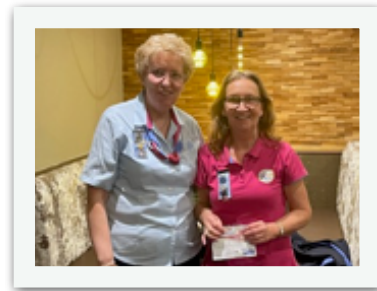
Six girls from the unit took part in their first sleepover run by Girlguiding Paisley at Lapwing Lodge. The girls were given opportunities to build new friendships, learn new skills and have fun in the wilds. They took part in crafts; den building; Campfire with some cubs and made S'mores and lasting memories.



The division and our unit received funding from Girlguiding Scotland from the *Growing Good Guiding* fund. This helped to pay for the hire of Lapwing lodge and to keep the costs down for families.

Recent Guiding Celebrations

Ishbel Hurley, a leader at the 1st East Rainbows, recently received her 10-year award from Sheila Young, our County Commissioner for her commitment to Guiding. She has also recently completed her Adult Leadership award.



Christine Hair of the 39th A Brownies received the County Quaich on Wednesday 25th of January. We were joined on the evening by County President Mar and her successor Sheila. This was a surprise for Christine to be greeted by her Brownies, Leaders, parents, Rainbows and Sonia, the minister at St Mark's.

Christine received the trophy for her work in the Local Community in Ralston and the volunteering she does at international events.



Tilly has been working hard at home and is the 1st Rainbow in the unit to complete 12 Interest Badges for which she received a certificate from Purple leader at 1st East Rainbows and Orange.



What's Next ?

Donna from the 2nd East Rainbows / County First Aid Trainer has been putting the Rainbows through their paces as part of their *First Aid* skill builders.

Ishbel / Orange and Laura/ Blue have both completed their Adult Leader Qualification and are awaiting authorisation from the County.

We have our final night on Wednesday 31st May at 7.00pm. We look forward to sharing everything with the parents and wishing our girls moving to Brownies well.

Our final hurrah is an adventure to the cinema to see the up-and-coming *Little Mermaid* movie at the start of June.

Lesley Barclay



<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

If you would like to volunteer with Girl Guiding, follow these 3 simple steps.

1. **Register your interest** - fill out our form and give your details. We need to know where you are based and how we can contact you.
2. **We'll be in touch** - someone from the Girlguiding team in your area will contact you for a chat, usually within seven days.
3. **Tell us what you want to do** - during this chat let us know about your skills and how much time you have to spare. This will help us to find the right volunteer role for you and start our recruitment check process.

To register your child, it is a 4-step process and here is how it works.

1. **Register your interest** – we'll ask for your contact details and a few key pieces of information about your child.
2. **Choose the best unit for you** – we'll use your details to suggest several local units. Then it's up to you to choose the most convenient one. You can select up to 3 choices.
3. **We'll get in touch** – someone from your chosen unit will contact you. They'll aim to get back to you within 3 weeks. They can explain to you about meetings times, costs, what's planned for the term and if there's a waiting list.
4. **Try guiding out** – if spaces are available, the unit will arrange a trial meeting for your child to attend. This gives you both an idea of what guiding is all about – we're sure you'll love it!



CHOIR



The members of the choir have now commenced their summer break from rehearsals until September. They continue to lead worship every Sunday morning in fine voice.

I would like to thank them all for their hard work and faithful attendance on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. And especially for making me laugh and have fun, even when I play the wrong introit or anthem and have them sprachling to find the correct one before the introduction ends.

Home Baking

Thanks to the generosity of our regular bakers, and the support from the congregation and community, we raised £440 for church funds at the Plant Sale. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

Our next home baking sale will be Sunday 4 June, with meringue orders as usual placed the Sunday beforehand. We'll have a break over the summer months to let your waistlines recover and then resume in September.



VOLUNTEER



Numbers are a concern and we really do need more members, even if you can't commit to every Thursday or every Sunday. We usually rehearse items for a few weeks in advance due to Sonia's and my planning. The ability to read music is not necessary either.

Please do consider if this is a path God wants you to take in the autumn when rehearsals commence. It is certainly the path I want you to take.

**Dawn Hope,
Organist and Choir Leader**

We've had to make a decision to charge for the cost of the boxes used on the day, so this is advance warning that you may wish to bring your own 'Tupperware' box (other brands are available) on the day.

Cardboard boxes will, of course, be available on the day, and the minimal cost will be added to your order. The meringues will continue to be pre-boxed for ease of handling.

We're also open to suggestions for new bakes, so if you have a favourite which we've not featured on our monthly cake stall, please have a chat. We do love a challenge!

Liz Morgan and Sheena Tonner

Prayer Guide



		JUNE, 2023
Thu	1	We thank you anew for the blessing of a new month, and for the constancy of the seasons. Bless us as we go into this new month together.
Fri	2	Pray for the 39A Brownies and leaders as they head off to Dalguise for the weekend. Pray they will have good weather, safe travels and a happy time.
Sat	3	Pray for our local community, for businesses, and for all who live here. Remember the 39thA Brownies today. Pray for Bible Study this morning on Zoom.
Sun	4	As we come to worship this morning, may we be awakened afresh to hear what you have to say to us, and to help us obey. Pray for safe travel home for the 39thA Brownies.
Mon	5	Our streets for prayer are Netherdale Drive, Newtyle Road and Newnham Road.
Tue	6	We pray for our Green Team.
Wed	7	It's the final meeting of the 39thA Brownies tonight. Be with them and remember especially those who are 'leavers'. Continue to remember the family and friends of Grace McGhie. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church. Bible study in church.
Thu	8	Ralston School assemblies today. Dementia-Friendly Café on today. Pray for a happy time.
Fri	9	Pray for those who are struggling with life. May they find the help they need and help us to do our part to help those less fortunate than ourselves. 39th Brownies away for the weekend. Pray for their time together. Pray for the youngsters and the leaders that they have an enjoyable time together.
Sat	10	Sonia hoping to visit the 39th Brownies today. Pray for our country, for politicians and leaders that they may seek God's wisdom.
Sun	11	Pray for Andy Grant today as he leads our worship. Sonia is taking an Infant Blessing Service in Kilmacolm Old. Remember her and the family involved. Safe travel home for the Brownies and leaders.
Mon	12	Our streets this week are Oldhall Road, Ossian Road and Penilee Road. World Day Against Child Labour.
Tue	13	We pray for the Worship Team.
Wed	14	Prayer Group on Zoom and in church.
Thu	15	Dementia-Friendly Film Show – <i>Calamity Jane</i> . Pray for Sonia as she leads a training session on prayer with the Street Pastors.
Fri	16	Stop and give thanks for the world around us, for the beauty of nature and the wonder of creation.
Sat	17	Pray for our world. Help us play our part in caring for this beautiful world you have given us. Bible study on Zoom – last one for this session.

Prayer Guide



		JUNE, 2023
Sun	18	End of session for Evolution this morning. Pray for all the leaders and children as they have a break.
Mon	19	Pray for those in Ralston Avenue, Roffey Park Road and Rosshall Avenue.
Tue	20	We pray for our Pastoral Team. World Refugee Day. Remember Clyde Presbytery as they discuss the Draft Plan tonight. Pray for all discussions and decisions.
Wed	21	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church. Bible study in church – last one for this session.
Thu	22	Today we pray for all who attend our services, online or in person. May they seek to grow in their relationship with you.
Fri	23	We pray for the homeless in our own area, our country and worldwide.
Sat	24	<i>Messy Church</i> on this afternoon. May all who come along enjoy a good time together, and learn more of you.
Sun	25	Communion Sunday. Pray for our fellowship together.
Mon	26	Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road are in our prayers this week.
Tue	27	We pray for our Finance Team. It is Ralston Primary's End of Term service and P7 Leavers' service today. Kirk Session tonight. Pray for all that is discussed and decided to be in God's will for us.
Wed	28	Prayer groups on Zoom and in church. These will be the last ones till the new session.
Thu	29	As the schools are closed for the summer break, be with all the pupils and teachers as they take a rest.
Fri	30	We remember mission workers in the UK and worldwide. Be with them and protect them as they seek to share your word and work alongside others.

I was hungry and you fed me,
thirsty and you gave me a drink ;
I was a stranger and you received
me in your homes.

Matthew 25:35



CHRIST is made the sure foundation, and the precious corner-stone.

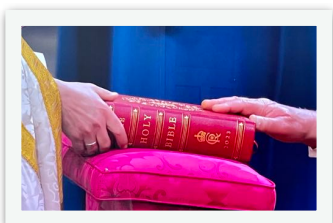
Dearly beloved, we are gathered to offer worship and praise to Almighty God; to celebrate the life of our nations; to pray for Charles, our King; to recognise and to give thanks for his life of service to this Nation, the Realms, and the Commonwealth ; and to witness

with joy his anointing and crowning, his being set apart and consecrated for the service of his people. Let us dedicate ourselves alike, in body, mind, and spirit, to a renewed faith, a joyful hope, and a commitment to serve one another in love.



I here present unto you King Charles, your undoubted King: Wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage and service, are you willing to do the same?

Sir, to keep you ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, receive this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.



Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? ...

The King places his hand on the Bible and says :

The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God.





Celtic Saints - Saint Mungo

Saint Mungo, also known as Saint Kentigern, (mostly in England and Wales), lived from 528 to 13 January 614. He is the patron saint and founder of the City of Glasgow.

According to the *Life of Saint Mungo* written by the monk, Jocelin of Furness, in about 1185, Mungo's mother was Princess Theneva daughter of Loth, the King of the Gododdin, who ruled an area centred on today's East Lothian. After an illicit encounter with her cousin, the young King Owain of North Rheged, now part of Galloway, Princess Theneva fell pregnant. Her unamused father had her tied to a chariot and launched off Traprain Law. It miraculously landed softly, hurting neither Theneva nor her unborn child. The Gododdin, now believing Theneva also to be a witch, then cast her adrift in a coracle without oars on the River Forth. She drifted up-river and came ashore at Culross in Fife, where Kentigern was born.

Kentigern was given the pet name Mungo, meaning something like "dear one", by St Serf, who ran a monastery at Culross and took in both mother and son. St Serf then oversaw Mungo's upbringing. At the age of 25, Mungo began his missionary work on the banks of the River Clyde. Here he was welcomed by people previously converted to Christianity by St Ninian, and here Mungo built his church, close to the confluence of the River Clyde and the Molendinar Burn. Since the 1200s, the site of this early church has formed part of Glasgow Cathedral.

Mungo worked on the banks of the River Clyde for 13 years until the anti-Christian King Morken of Strathclyde drove him out in about AD565. Mungo made his way through Cumbria to Wales, where he spent time with St David, possibly founded a cathedral at



St Asaph, and even found time for a pilgrimage to Rome. But in the 570s King Rhydderch Hael of Strathclyde, having overthrown Morken, invited Mungo to become Archbishop of Strathclyde.

Mungo initially based himself in northern Galloway. In August 584 Mungo is said to have converted the bard Merlin to Christianity near the site of a church he later founded: Stobo Kirk.

Mungo later returned to the River Clyde, where his church became the focus of a large community that became known as Clas-gu or 'dear family'. From these beginnings emerged the modern city of Glasgow. It was at Clas-gu that Mungo was visited by Saint Columba, who at the time was working as a missionary in central Scotland. He is said to have died in his bath on Sunday 13 January, 614. He was buried close by his church, and today his tomb lies in the centre of the Lower Choir of Glasgow Cathedral, probably on the actual site of his grave.

In order to make someone a Saint, it was necessary to prove that the candidate had performed miracles during their lifetime. St Mungo was said to have performed four, referred to in a poem:

*Here is the bird that never flew
Here is the tree that never grew
Here is the bell that never rang
Here is the fish that never swam.*



The Bird commemorates the pet robin owned by St Serf, which was accidentally killed by monks who blamed it on Kentigern. Kentigern took the bird in his hands and prayed over it, restoring it to life again.

The Tree is the symbol of another incident in Kentigern's childhood. Left in charge of the holy fire in St Serf's monastery, he fell asleep and the fire went out. However, he broke off some frozen branches from a hazel tree and miraculously rekindled the fire.

The Bell he brought home from Rome, and may have been given to Kentigern by the Pope. The original bell, which was tolled at funerals, no longer exists and was replaced by the magistrates of Glasgow in 1641. The bell of 1641 is preserved in the People's Palace.

The Fish was a special catch caught in the Clyde. Queen Languoreth of Cadzow was accused of infidelity by her husband, King Riderich, who alleged she had given her wedding ring to her lover when, in reality, the king had himself thrown it into the river. Facing execution, the Queen appealed to St Mungo, who ordered a servant to catch a fish from the river. When the fish was cut open, the ring was found inside, demonstrating the Queen's innocence.

Today the bird, tree, bell and fish form the four elements of the crest of Glasgow City Council. St Mungo is also responsible for the motto of his city, based on his original prayer: "Lord let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of thy word and praising thy name." Since 1699 this has been shortened to "Let Glasgow flourish".

With thanks to Wikipedia and https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usbiography/m/saintmungo.html?utm_content=cmp-true

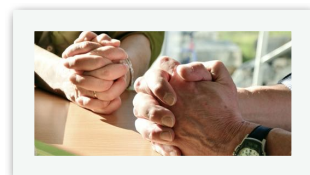


Prayer Guide

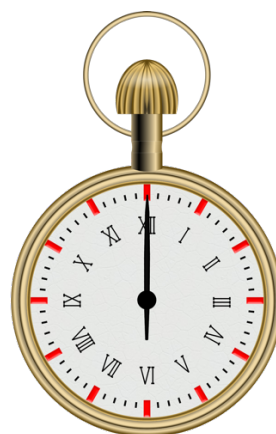


		JULY, 2023
Sat	1	Pray for countries torn by war, violence, aggression and natural disasters.
Sun	2	We ask that you will help us come ready to hear and listen to your word for us today. Be with Sonia as she prepares the message to us and for all who participate.
Mon	3	Please pray for those in Springfield Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, Tylney Road and Woodend Drive.
Tue	4	We pray for the Christian Education Team.
Wed	5	Although there are no groups meeting for prayer, the groups continue to pray for people throughout the summer. If you need prayer please let us know. Irene.pollock03@gmail.com or pollockrjb@icloud.com or speak with Sonia.
Thu	6	As people go on holiday throughout these summer months, help them to be refreshed and enjoy their leisure time.
Fri	7	We remember the leaders of the organisations who are enjoying a break. Be with them as they start to prepare for next session too.
Sat	8	Thank you for the Flower Team who quietly decorate the church faithfully each week. Help them know they are appreciated. Bless the flowers that are given to people each week, and may they bring a blessing to them.
Sun	9	Pray for Sonia today. May we come expecting to meet with you Lord.
Mon	10	Remember all those outwith our district in your prayers this week.
Tue	11	We pray for our Elders.
Wed	12	Be with all who came along during <i>Winter Connections</i> . Help them to remember their time together and draw them closer to you.
Thu	13	Pray for charity organisations like <i>Tearfund</i> , <i>Christian Aid</i> , etc. as they work to help those in great need.
Fri	14	We pray for the young people in our church who meet in different groups. Be with each one of them: little ones, teenagers and those at university or heading there this year. Help them find a close relationship with you and guide them in the years ahead.
Sat	15	We pray for our local community, for the community council and for all that goes on throughout the year to support the community.
Sun	16	Pray for the service this morning and all who will take part. Pray for yourself too, and come ready to worship our God.
Mon	17	It's the turn of Allanton Avenue, Alton Road, Atholl Crescent this week in our prayers.
Tue	18	We pray for the Dementia-Friendly Café team. Thank you for all who attend.
Wed	19	Pray for all the rescue services and the wonderful work they do helping others. Keep them safe.
Thu	20	Dementia-Friendly Café is on again this afternoon. May everyone enjoy their time together.
Fri	21	Today is blank.....ready for you to bring to God those things that are close to you, praise, thanks, concerns. He will hear them all.
Sat	22	We pray for Scripture Union Camps and other Christian youth camps, for the work they do with young people and for the young folk to grow in their relationship with you.

Prayer Guide



		JULY, 2023
Sun	23	Give thanks for the fact that we have the freedom to come together to worship, and pray for the persecuted church throughout the world.
Mon	24	Pray for Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place this week.
Tue	25	We pray for the Property Team.
Wed	26	We pray for the work of the Bible Society.
Thu	27	We remember chaplains and support workers in prisons and for those who are serving time that they may learn of the freedom found in Christ.
Fri	28	Pray for carers, paid or unpaid, and give them strength, stamina and patience as they help others.
Sat	29	We pray for all families throughout the land as they seek to bring up children in safety and peace. May they know your guidance.
Sun	30	International Day of Friendship.
Mon	31	Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road to pray for this week.



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

marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

Contribution deadline for Aug / Sep edition : **12 noon, 20 July, 2023.**