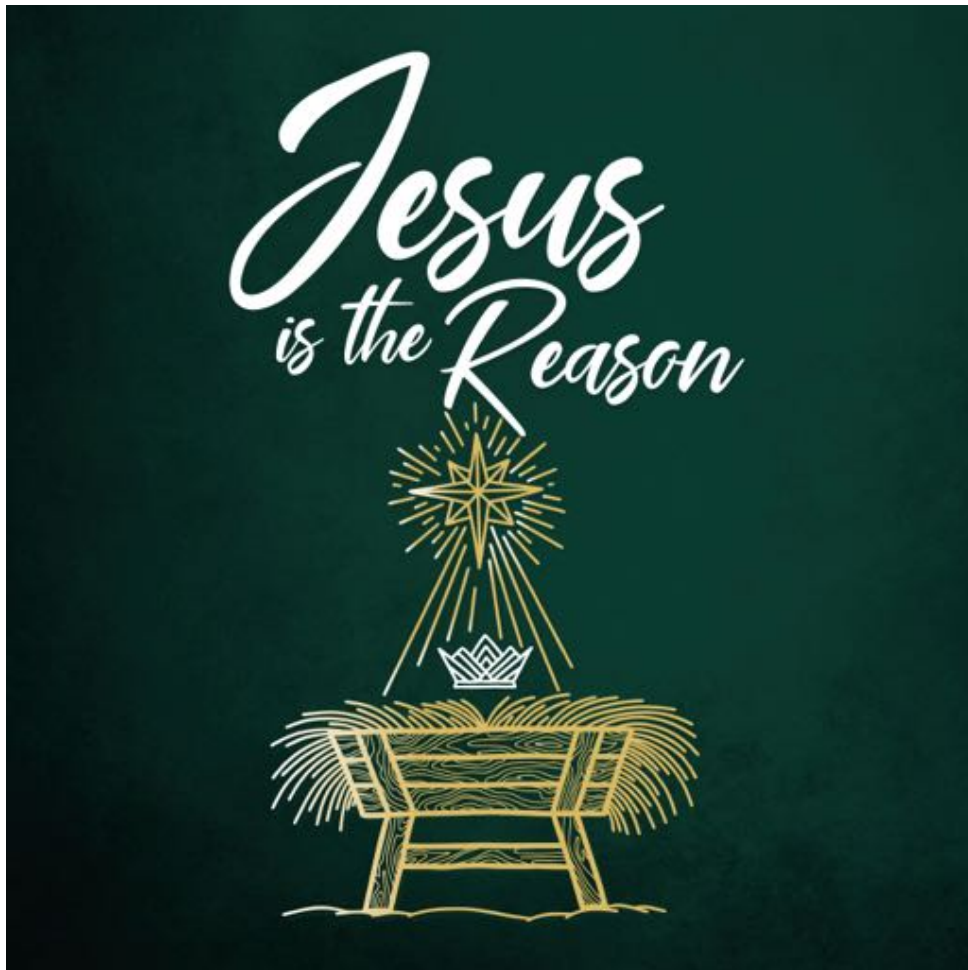


# Marksman

December, 2022 / January, 2023



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## From the Manse



It is only a few weeks since the clocks went back and yet already Mylo and I are again having to get dressed for a walk in the dark in the mornings. Generally, I'm well hidden in a black jacket, although with a head torch on my hat, whilst Mylo is resplendent in a fluorescent and reflective orange harness, with a bright red LED collar around his neck. Instead of getting annoyed about the creeping darkness in the late afternoon, or the pitch-black mornings, I'm wrapping up, facing them head on and enjoying the rare treat of a glorious sunrise on our way home.

When the trees lose their leaves and it looks like they are readying themselves to sleep through winter, remember that they are only letting go of all that no longer gives them life, and moving their energy deep into the fertile earth, to tend their roots, and converse with the primordial, relishing the treasure that lies far below what we can see, their hidden treasure found only in the dark. Remember that deep in the earth the spring bulbs are resting, waiting for the warmth of spring after the chill of winter; that life is there, dormant, but there nonetheless.

As the days shorten, and the darkness increases, we too settle down, often with a book or a good film. We set down our roots, and let our spent leaves go. We nestle into the darkness, maybe under a throw or two, like the creatures of the earth that we are and we wait. When we sit and rest and relax, we let go of the stress and strains of life, and we wait in this dark season of the soul.

When waiting in near darkness, remember that the light will come, that every year around Christmas, the days start to get longer – and we are truly blessed when we remember Jesus, the light of the world,

who came into the world to save us. As our Church Christmas card reminds us this year – “Jesus is the reason.” Without the baby Jesus, there would be nothing to celebrate, no parties, no presents, no trees, no turkey.

As we celebrate amidst the bright lights and cheer of Christmas, remember that some still sit in darkness, that, for some, Christmas is a sad time, a time full of memories of those whom we have loved and lost, of empty seats around the table, of children grown up and gone, living in different parts of the country, or even across the world.

Remember that many are far from home, not through choice. Many have had to flee their homes because of war or conflict, fire, flooding or other natural disaster. Remember that this Christmas many will go hungry, or be cold, or lonely.

And give thanks for all you have, all you hold dear, and give thanks to God for the precious gift of his Son Jesus, who came to earth as a vulnerable baby, grew up in a loving caring family, and went on to teach us about God's kingdom here on earth.

Remember, Jesus is the reason and enjoy your Christmastide.

I hope you all have a happy Christmas and enjoy a peaceful New Year, and I hope you can join us at one of the Christmas services,

Your friend and minister,

*Sonia*



## Worship Matters

### Sunday 4th December

11am Communion service  
3pm 'Let us remember' service

### Sunday 11th December

11am Gift Service

(When we give our gifts for the women and children supported by Women's Aid. Please bring them unwrapped, but in a Christmas gift bag.)

### Sunday 18th December

11am Nativity Service

### Saturday 24th December

6.45pm Carol singing  
7pm Christmas Eve service  
11.15pm Carol singing  
11.30pm Watchnight Service

(Offerings at the Christmas Eve services will go to the Renfrewshire Foodbank.)

### Sunday 25th December

11am Christmas Day Service

### Sunday 1st January

11am New Year's Day Service

### Sunday 15th January

'Bring and Share' lunch after morning service.



## ***Let us Remember* - Bereavement Service**

### **4th December 3pm**

This service is open to everyone, but is designed especially to help those who have been bereaved in the last few years face Christmas. We recognise that after the death of a loved one, Christmas can be difficult, that the empty chair at the table, the absence of one who has held the family traditions together, the accumulation of so many happy memories can take the shine off the Christmas season. So, we will gather together to remember, to look back, and to look forward, and to find new hope for the future.

Tea and coffee will be available after the service.

## Funerals

10 <sup>th</sup> October	Elizabeth MacRae, Erskine Hospital Care Home (formerly Roffey Park Road)
14 <sup>th</sup> October	David McKinney, Strathmore Avenue
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Nancy Lauder, Westerland Care Home, Stirling (formerly belonging to Martyrs Church)
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Jim Cook, Roffrey Park Road
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Elinor Young, Westerfield Care Home, (formerly of Buchlyvie Road)
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Robert (Bob) Beattie, Glasgow Road,



## Winter Connections every Wednesday afternoon 1-3pm

Come along to the small hall on a Wednesday afternoon for a light lunch, (soup and bread) or just for a cup of tea and coffee, with home baking or biscuits.

Join the chatter, and meet old and new friends in a warm and welcoming space. Bring a crossword or your knitting, learn to make Christmas cards, or do nothing at all.

Speak to Sonia to find out more, or to volunteer.



## Christmas Cards

We are looking for more volunteers to deliver the Church Christmas card and Ralston Community newsletter to homes in the parish. The list of roads concerned is displayed in the church Glasgow Road vestibule. If you are able to assist, please put your name beside the road(s) to which you can deliver the cards.

Thank you.



## We are Waiting

We are waiting  
For Brussels sprouts to cook,  
for the decorations to come out,  
for the tree to go up,  
for the sales in the shops,  
We are waiting.

We are waiting  
For the light to gather,  
for the time to pause,  
for the universe to hold its breath,  
for the stars to slide,  
We are waiting.

We are waiting  
For the holidays to come,  
for the concerts to hear,  
for the parties to attend,  
for the children to write their Santa lists,  
We are waiting.

We are waiting  
For the baby to quicken,  
for the travellers to arrive,  
for the angels to clear their throats  
for the shepherds to hear the singing,  
We are waiting.

We are waiting,  
For the prophets to be fulfilled,  
for the promise to be believed,  
for the Word to be spoken,

for Incarnation,  
We are waiting.

(*Spill the Beans in Winter*, by Ruth Burgess)



Detail from *The Census at Bethlehem*  
by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.



## Prayer Guide

DECEMBER, 2022		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1</b>	This is World AIDS Day. We remember all those affected by this.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2</b>	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Pray for all those caught up in modern day slavery.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3</b>	We pray for all aid agencies who work tirelessly to help support and enable people to rebuild their lives.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4</b>	Communion Service today. Pray that we come with gratitude for the sacrifice you made. "Let us remember" service at 3:00 as we think of those we have lost.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>5</b>	Our streets for prayer this week are Ralston Avenue, Roffey Park Road and Rosshall Avenue. Pray for the Guild meetings.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>6</b>	Pray for our Green Team as they work to help us recycle, reduce, reuse.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>7</b>	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections this afternoon. Pray for all who attend. Zoom Prayer Group and Church Group meet at 7:00pm. Pray for the 39thA Brownies fun outing to the Pantomime that they have a safe and happy time.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>8</b>	Dementia-Friendly Café on this afternoon.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9</b>	Today we remember all the young lads who attend Anchor Boys, Junior section and Company Section of the BB. Help them to learn more about you and be with their leaders as they work with them.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10</b>	Zoom Bible Study is on this morning.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11</b>	Today is our Gift Service for women and children supported by Women's Aid. Help us be generous to those struggling.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>12</b>	We pray for the following streets – Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road. Remember those who live there.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>13</b>	Pray for our Pastoral Team and the work they do throughout the year.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>14</b>	Last Word for Wednesday till new year. The Pastoral Christmas Afternoon Tea takes place today at 2:00pm. Pray for all who help out, organise, attend this that they will have a lovely time of fellowship together. Tonight the Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in church. This is followed by the Bible Study in church at about 7:45pm.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>15</b>	Pray for those who work in emergency services, e.g. Coastguards, those restoring power lines etc., and be with them as they cope with difficult situations and circumstances.

## Prayer Guide



DECEMBER, 2022		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>16</b>	We ask you, Prince of Peace, to bring peace to those struggling with issues of mental health.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>17</b>	We pray for those who will struggle to provide food and heating for their families, and for whom the added pressures of Christmas gifts etc. cause them anxiety. Help them to find the real meaning of Christmas and to come to know your love for them.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18</b>	It is our Nativity Service this morning as we focus on the birth of our Saviour. International Migrants Day – a current political topic.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>19</b>	Bring before God the people who live in Springfield Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, Tylney Road and Woodend Drive.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>20</b>	Pray for the Worship Team and all they are involved with.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>21</b>	Winter Connections this afternoon – still to be decided. The Prayer Groups tonight on Zoom and in church(to be confirmed).
<b>Thu</b>	<b>22</b>	Pray for all the local businesses in our district.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>23</b>	We pray for our teachers and for the pupils in our local schools.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>24</b>	We host our: Christmas Eve Carol Service tonight 7:00pm(carol singing from 6:45pm) and Watchnight service at 11:30pm (carol singing from 11:15pm)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25</b>	We remember the gift of your Son, born into our world to bring us your salvation. May we celebrate this wonderful gift today. Service at 11:00am.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>26</b>	We remember all those who live outside our district this week.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>27</b>	May we remember all those involved in looking after the finances of the church, and give thanks for the work they do.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>28</b>	Winter Connections still to be decided. Be with families as many will get together over this festive time. Help them enjoy quality time together. Be with those who find this time of year difficult and help us to reach out to those who may be lonely or alone.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>29</b>	We pray for all those who are unwell, in hospital or care homes. May they know your presence with them as the year draws to a close.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>30</b>	We pray for the young folk in our church and community during this time of holiday from school. Keep them safe and well and ready for the new term.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>31</b>	As we look back over the year, give thanks for all that has happened to show us your love, care and protection. We pray for those who have been unwell, those in homes, those who have lost loved ones and ask that you will bring healing and comfort as we move ahead into a new year.

## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

It may not surprise you to hear that 92% of BB Companies in Scotland are affiliated to Church of Scotland congregations with only 8% linked to other denominations. This means that the major restructuring underway within the Church of Scotland will have a huge impact on most companies, including our own. I recently joined an online meeting involving companies from all over Scotland to discuss this impact and what the BB locally and nationally could do about it. It was really encouraging to hear that the overwhelming view was positive and that we should see this change as an opportunity perhaps to do things differently within the Brigade.

Opportunity has been something of a theme so far this session as all sections of the Company have relished the chance to meet face to face with no masks and very limited restrictions on activities.

The Seniors have certainly appreciated it with six of them (Lewis Martin, Jack Young, Euan Houston, Nathan George, Reece Fisher, and Harry Carswell) receiving their Queen's Badges in person at a Civic Reception in September, whilst others are working to complete their award later this session. This represents a wonderful achievement at any time but, given the restrictions of the pandemic it is quite remarkable what they have accomplished over the last few years.

It was also fitting that many of them were at last able to enjoy a day out with go-karting, laser quest and curry. Mr Houston had been promising this for two years and he certainly delivered.





## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade



Judging by the photos, go-karting must give you a really good appetite.

The Anchors and Juniors have also been making the most of their opportunities with all sorts of activities from crafts to planting bulbs and making seed bombs. We even had a talk on Rail Safety by a BB friend from ScotRail. The Juniors, and especially the staff, then enjoyed the opportunity to play with some model trains .... any excuse.



In addition to all the fun and games, we have also enjoyed some quieter moments and it was a real privilege to discuss Remembrance with the Juniors over a couple of weeks in November. The way the boys engage in this type of topic is rewarding to see. The Anchors had a more creative approach to Remembrance as you can see on their Notice Board.

The Boys' Brigade is about providing opportunities for young people and that was emphasised at the online meeting I mentioned earlier. It is good to be reminded of that and as we all look to an uncertain future in 2023 for us all to look for opportunity rather than just see the challenges ahead.



**Jack Goodall - Company Captain**



## Ladies' Lunch and Fashion Show

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, we again had a lovely social event - the Ladies' Lunch and Fashion Show at Ralston Bowling Club. There were over 80 ladies, both members and friends, who came along and enjoyed a fun afternoon.

The buffet lunch was extensive and beautifully presented. The feedback received was very positive and our thanks go to Peck Catering for excellent service.



As always, Liz and Sheena organised a selection of sweet "titbits" to accompany the tea and coffee served after the lunch. The contribution of several gentlemen of the congregation to what appeared to be a "ladies only" event, was very much appreciated. Although they made and served tea and coffee and washed all the dishes, they drew the line at modelling some outfits!!!



Before the fashion show, Kirsty Duncan entertained us with a couple of songs from musicals. Then the ladies saw lots of different outfits in the fashion show. After this, the clothes were available to try on and buy. Judging by the number of shopping bags going out the door, many people found clothes to suit them.

Grateful thanks are sent to all who contributed to this successful event – those who donated prizes; helped with set up on Friday ; served drinks ; provided traybakes for the tables ; made teas, came along on the day and brought friends with them and cleared up after the event. A big thank you has to go to Ralston Bowling Club who gave us the use of the premises to host this event. As a result, the church funds have been swollen by around £1200.



**The Social Committee**

## Session Report

Session met on 15<sup>th</sup> November and several items were discussed. The Dementia-Friendly Café was going well and we had also established a warm spaces facility where people could meet, have some soup and baking and a cuppa. It is early days for this but, along with several other groups, for example the Salvation Army, we hope to help provide places throughout the town where people can gather together for socialising, fellowship and keeping warm.

There will be a bereavement service held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of December and our annual gift service will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

All of the trustees took part in Safeguarding Training on 21<sup>st</sup> November. This is a vitally important part of our work as it applies to children and vulnerable groups and, as the church hosts several of these in different guises, it is essential that everyone is aware of the types of abuse which may go on and the process for how we deal with it. We must all be vigilant and report any suspicions.

The plans for the church café are going ahead and we are extremely grateful to Jok Everett, Andy Grant, Graeme Wright and Peter Blair for all the preparatory work they have undertaken laying down pipes, plumbing and wiring to enable things to progress when we get final planning approval.



Lastly, as you are aware, Clyde presbytery have decreed that we should amalgamate with Sherwood Greenlaw. Plans for this are at a very early stage and nothing definite has been agreed. We continue to work together as Christian churches to facilitate shared interests and groups and had a recent pulpit exchange when John Murning preached at St. Mark's and Sonia spoke at Sherwood. We await further input from presbytery, but expect not much to happen for some considerable time.

**Colin Reid - Session Clerk**



## The Guild

The new session has begun with good attendances each week. So far, we have had some interesting speakers and were entertained by flower arranging and a harpist. Our afternoon tea on 14<sup>th</sup> November was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Guild meets in the church hall on Monday at 2pm - all are welcome!



**The Annunciation, Walkway to The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Portiuncula, Umbria**

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

We have continued with the Make Changes Skillsbuilder, in which we have also looked at Charities, Zero Waste and Speaking Out interest badges. We had 10 Brownies complete the Pencil Express challenge from GirlGuiding Scotland and, interestingly, most of those who completed it would like to be teachers!

Sonia came along to visit us to tell us about Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal, and we had a great effort from the girls with enough contents to complete 7 shoe boxes. That spurred the girls on to think more about charities they support, and three of the Brownies are well on their way to receiving the Charities Badge.



We had a fabulous evening making Monsters – from marshmallows (all sizes), chocolate (melted and as buttons), and various sweet elements. It is not surprising that chocolate received the most votes for our favourite sandwich filling!

Our new Brownies renewed their Promise just before Remembrance Day, so we made their ceremony special by creating poppy lanterns and poppy stained glass windows. Many thanks to Margaret Currie and Simone Smith who popped in to visit us that night, and stepped in to help with scissors skills.

Beth Lawrie, our Young Leader, also renewed her Promise – which was lovely to see as Beth had been one of our own Brownies. She came back to do the

Duke of Edinburgh Award and is now undertaking her training to be a future leader.



The girls also received Anniversary Badges, which mark their time in Guiding. Some of our younger girls received 1 year, others 2 years, and our older ones are now on 3 and 4 years.

The Brownies took part in UK Parliament Week this year, which fell in nicely with our theme for Making Changes. We invited Catherine Gooding from Ralston Community Council to come and talk with us about the Community Council, and how the Brownies and their families can become more involved in the Ralston Community. As we had previously created voting paddles, we used these to help Catherine understand what the Brownies felt about libraries, parks and personal safety in the local area. We were all surprised that they felt there was a lack of libraries, but glad to know that they all felt safe in the locale.



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

As we have looked so much at the environment over the past weeks, we are going to do a “Take Action for Nature” challenge, which will help us think about feeding the birds over the winter months. It is also nice to get a badge which celebrates being a champion.



We are having a joint evening with the Tuesday Rainbows for St Andrew’s Night, when we are all going to make Scottie Dog mobiles (not the phone variety!), and celebrate with shortbread and Irn Bru.

## Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

Filling a shoebox might seem in one way to be an easy task as the size of the box is limiting, but in another proved to be quite a difficult and fairly costly task. It required visiting a variety of outlets to fulfil the requirements and those essential elements tended to be available in multiple packs or, in the case of scarves, often not at all.

Nevertheless, thanks to your extreme generosity and the help of the Brownies and Anchor Boys, 61 shoeboxes- all wrapped in Christmas paper -and a very large box of extra items were checked and delivered to the depot in Hillington in time for onward travel to Eastern Europe. There we hope that this Christmas your kindness and thoughtfulness will bring warmth and delight in the true Christmas spirit.

Our “Gold Brownies” are taking up the challenge to create our Unit’s efforts for the ‘Treemendous Christmas Tree’ to be displayed on 10 December in the Sanctuary. On 11 December, we are off to see Matilda the Musical with the Tuesday Rainbows – a special GirlGuiding showing of the film at the Odeon Cinema.

Our final evening of the year will be a Christmas Party, at which, we hope to be joined by the parents and have a Christmas sing-along.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone in St Mark’s a very Happy Christmas, and to thank everyone for their support, and prayers, throughout the year.

**Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader**



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



Every Wednesday continues to be a whirlwind of activity and fun. Our 7 “new starts” completed finding out what it means to be a Brownie and decided they wanted to make their Promise. We were delighted to join with Rainbows for a Promise ceremony in the Church sanctuary and it was great to welcome parents to join us. Well done to Anna, Breagha, Carla, Felicity, Georgina, Katie Mc and Niamh. It was lovely to have one of our adult volunteers make her Promise at this event. Well done and welcome to Barn Owl!!

We are now working on the Camp Skill Builder as part of the Have Adventures theme. This involves a range of activities including selecting what to pack, how to pitch a tent, getting dressed in the dark and fire safety. Due to weather constraints, we decided to build “campfires” indoors. These sweet versions were well received by the Brownies!!

The Brownies were out in numbers to attend the Dedication Service in October. It was great to have 12 of the Brownies there to give support to Charlotte who did a great job carrying the Pack flag and Daisy Mas who read with clarity and confidence. Well done, Brownies.



At the end of October, we welcomed our visiting Elders, Eileen Wilkie and Irene Boyd, to our “Super Heroes” fun night. They helped with games and even decorating “Super Hero” cakes!! Thank you from us all!!

One of our Brownies has now reached the age to leave Brownies. We hope Juliette can continue her Guiding journey and send her off with our good wishes.

Many of the Brownies have received badges over the last couple of months. Well done to them all!!

*Be Well Theme Award* – Evie, Beth, Jessica L

*Express Myself Theme Award* – Jessica L, Charlotte, Lauren | *Take Action Theme Award* - Ruyi

*Baking Interest Badge* – Evie, Jessica L, Charlotte, Georgia, Niamh

*Zero Waste Badge* – Ruyi

*Performing Badge* – Lauren I

*Languages* – Daisy Mac

*Anniversary Badges* –

4 years - Lauren I, Ruyi

3 years – Beth, Daisy Mas, Emily,

Freya, Jessica M, Joanna, Phoebe

2 years – Evie, Felicity, Jessica L

1 year – Carla, Daisy Mac, Felicity, Jenny, Sophie

*Silver Award* –Charlotte



It is not just the achievements of the Brownies that we celebrate. We were delighted to present Emily with a *Saltire Award* to celebrate over 100 hours of volunteering with both the Brownies and other aspects of Youth Work at St Mark’s. Thank you and well done, Emily.



Looking ahead, we are planning to have a St Andrew’s themed night, a visit to the pantomime and taking part in St Mark’s ‘Treemendous’ Christmas event. The Pack wishes everyone a very merry Christmas when it comes!!

**Christine Hair**

**Brown Owl**

## Peter's News

### Trash



TRASH continues to meet every week and is going well with a few new young people coming along. Most evenings we will have some games at the start of the night before starting a bible study. We start our bible study as one big group where we discuss the theme or story and are able to learn from each other. We then break into two groups and have more age appropriate discussions. We continue to study the book of Romans and have a list of questions from the young people to look at in the New Year.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November some of the young people of Trash organised the Tearfund Big Quiz. They baked for the event, hosted different rounds and marked and tallied the scores. Congratulations to the winning team, and my thanks to the forty-two people who came along. We raised £300 that will go to Tearfund as they work to help those in poverty.



### School

The work with Ralston Primary school continues and we have been back in doing other assemblies with the school. In October the assembly was looking at

Fairtrade (as October is Fairtrade month).

We started by having a game that was unfair, then looking at what Fairtrade is and some Fairtrade products, before looking at what Jesus said about treating people fairly.

In November our assembly was a few days after the world population reached 8 billion so we were looking at our uniqueness in a big world. We look forward to welcoming the school to St Mark's for their two Christmas services at the end of term.

In the New Year I will be going back in to the school to do some maths support with some of the older classes.

### Messy Church



I am very grateful to everyone who has been helping at our Messy Church this year. We have been able to run this whole year and have a significant number of people attend at least one session through the year.

This year we have been working through some of the major stories and characters of the Old Testament. In each session we have a number of different activities that people can pick and choose what they do. In the New Year we will be looking at the life of Jesus and focus on some of the stories he taught.

Thank you all for your continued support,

### Peter





## Prayer Guide

JANUARY, 2023		
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1</b>	We thank you for this new year and for the promise that you will be with us. We pray for our service this morning and for Sonia as she leads us. Service at 11:00am.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2</b>	A new year and a new round for praying for our district. This week it is back to Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent. May God bless the folk living there this year.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3</b>	Pray for the Christian Education that happens in St Mark's.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4</b>	Winter Connections – still to be decided. We pray for the many missionaries who serve throughout the world. For those translating the Bible into different languages, and for those who will receive your word for the first time in their own language, we pray that you would bless this work.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5</b>	Pray for persecuted Christians throughout our world. There are many suffering for their faith. Help us do our part in upholding them before you.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>6</b>	We pray for governments throughout the world, for world leaders and those in authority. We ask that they would seek your wisdom as they lead and that you would guide them.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7</b>	For leisure days we give you thanks. Some people work at weekends and have days off during the week, but we are grateful for time away from the stresses of work.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8</b>	Pray for Sonia as she leads our worship today. We ask that you would bless us and help us to listen for what you have to say to each one of us, and to act on that.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>9</b>	Give thanks for all those who live in Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfroon Road and Barshaw Place. May they know God's presence with them this week.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>10</b>	We pray for all our Elders and for their contribution. Pray they would seek to know God's plan in their lives.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>11</b>	Word for Wednesday starts again this morning. Winter Connections this afternoon. Prayer Groups on Zoom and in church tonight at 7:00pm. The 39th A Brownies return for the new term and 5 Rainbows will be transferring to Brownies, and one girl new to guiding.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>12</b>	Today is the Dementia-Friendly Café. Pray for those who come along to have a good time of friendship and fellowship.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>13</b>	Thank you for our beautiful world and we ask that you would help us do our part in looking after what you have entrusted to us.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>14</b>	Our Zoom Bible Study begins again this morning.



## Prayer Guide



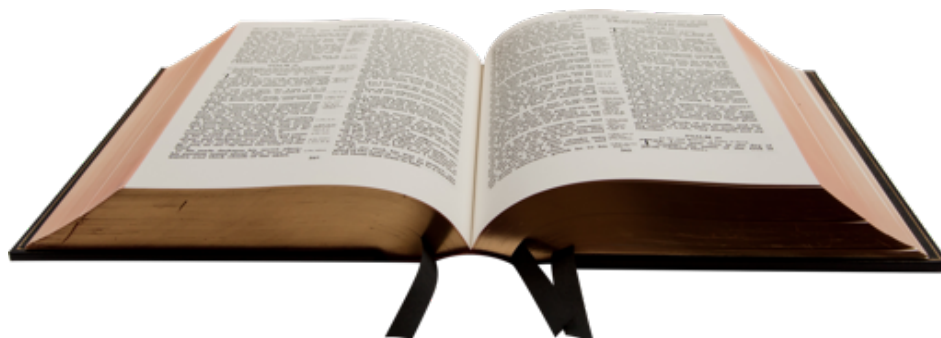
JANUARY, 2023		
<b>Sun</b>	<b>15</b>	A "Bring and share Lunch" after the morning service is planned.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16</b>	It is the turn of those living in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road to be in our prayers for the coming week.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>17</b>	Pray for Dawn and the choir members as they meet each Thursday and share in worship on Sundays.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>18</b>	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections this afternoon. Prayer Groups meet tonight on Zoom and in the church at 7:00pm, followed by the in church Bible Study.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>19</b>	Pray for each other today. Think of people you know well and bring them before God with thanks for them.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>20</b>	We pray for all who keep our church functioning practically – property group, cleaners, administration, gardening group – and we thank you for their work, much done behind the scenes. Thank you for their service.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>21</b>	There are some folk who are still suffering from long Covid. We ask that there would be relief from this, as well as the medical understanding of what is causing the problems. Some are unable to work due to their health, and we pray they would be helped financially.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>22</b>	We pray today that as Sonia leads us in worship we would come ready to hear what you have to say to us.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>23</b>	We remember those who live in Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>24</b>	We thank you for the Property Team and for all the work that goes on behind the scenes. Help them know they are appreciated.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>25</b>	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections on this afternoon. Prayer Groups tonight on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>26</b>	We pray for Sonia and Peter as they take the School Assemblies today.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>27</b>	We pray for the Presbytery plans for Sherwood Greenlaw and St Mark's and for joint working over this coming year.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>28</b>	Pray for Messy Church this afternoon that there may be a good number of families who come along and enjoy time together. Zoom Bible Study meets this morning at about 10:15/10:30.

# Prayer Guide

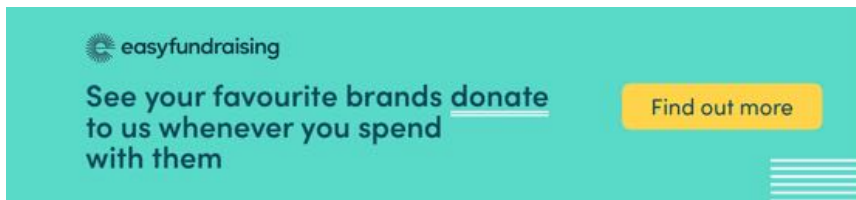


		JANUARY, 2023
Sun	29	We gather this morning to worship and bring our praise to you. Help us have the desire to learn more of you.
Mon	30	The streets for prayer this week are Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.
Tue	31	We give thanks for Sonia and the work she is involved with here at St Mark's, her Interim Moderator work and her other commitments to Street Pastors, Safeguarding Committee and Food bank. Give her strength and stamina as she ministers here.

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and blessings for 2023.  
Best wishes from the Prayer and Bible Study Groups.



## Fundraising for free



Can you help raise some more funds for St Mark's?

As Christmas approaches, thoughts turn to buying gifts. Do you shop online? If you do, please consider registering with **easyfundraising.org.uk**. This is a free-to-use service which will help raise funds for our church.

More than 7000 retailers, including Marks and Spencer, Ebay, and John Lewis will make a donation when you shop with them using this service.

If you wish to help, then just register with the above website and select St Mark's Oldhall as your chosen charity. Then, when you make a purchase, although there is **no additional charge** to you, a small percentage donation will be made by the company to Church funds.

If you register using the link below, an **extra £10** can be achieved :

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=128647&invite=2LRSMN&referral-campaign=s2s>



Amazon Smile is a similar scheme. Please consider registering with this too.

If you need further advice, please ask any member of the Finance Committee.

**Please also remember that this gift to the church is not just for Christmas as the service is available all year.**



### Flowers in Church

04.12.22	Mrs Liz Morgan
11.12.22	Mr & Mrs G Black
18.12.22	Mrs K McLauchlan
25.12.22	Mrs Reba McNeil
01.01.23	
08.01.23	Mrs N Dryburgh
15.01.23	Mr & Mrs Tonner
22.01.23	Mrs E Macdonald
29.01.23	Mrs I Ritchie

### Ladies delivering Flowers

04.12.22	Mrs A Black
11.12.22	Mrs K McLauchlan
18.12.22	Mrs M Scobie
25.12.22	Mrs M Robin
01.01.23	Mrs K McLauchlan
08.01.23	Mrs M Currie and Mrs E Boyd
15.01.23	Mrs I Ritchie
22.01.23	
29.01.23	Mrs E Macdonald & Mrs W Keith

The Flower Group would like to thank everyone who provides flowers for the Chancel every week, and all the people who deliver to the congregation who are unwell, bereaved, who are celebrating, or who need to know we are thinking of them.

Anyone who would like to join us in presenting the flowers on a Sunday please contact Isobel Higgins or Kate McLauchlan.

Thank you for your time and contributions.



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

[marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk](mailto:marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk)

Contribution deadline for Feb/Mar edition : **12 noon, 19 January, 2023.**