

# Marksman

February / March, 2024



**Hidden in this issue are some chocolate Easter eggs. How many can you find?**

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## From the Manse



Happy February! I've decided it might be a little late to wish you a Happy New year, but I know there will be some of you whom I haven't seen since the year started, so I wish you well.

February is a month that lifts my spirits after the initial gloom of January. By now we are seeing the days start a little earlier, and stretch a little longer in the late afternoon. The bulbs are starting to poke their tips through the soil, and although I haven't seen any snowdrops yet, I'm sure they are not far away and may be out in flower by the time you read this.

February is an exciting month – it contains Valentine's Day, my birthday, a school holiday, and this year, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. With Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday coinciding this year, I hope those of you who are planning on giving up chocolate for Lent don't receive a large box of chocolates on Valentine's Day – or you will have to wait a long five weeks before eating them – unless you go with the old way of the Sundays in Lent being an exemption from the weekly fasting. Pancake Tuesday was a favourite day in our house – with steaming hot pancakes being eaten quicker than I could cook them. – Always eaten with lemon and sugar – in case you are interested!

I read two interesting things recently, firstly that most people have given up on their New Year's resolutions by the second Friday in January, which is known as Quitter's Day (which was January 12<sup>th</sup> this year.) The author of the second article was arguing that January was not a good month to try and do anything new. The depressive turn of emotions after the Christmas and holiday season, the short dark days, the cold or damp, none of these are encouraging for those of us

trying to get up earlier to fit in extra exercise, or take up a new hobby in an evening. This author said we should wait until spring comes, when the days get lighter, and longer and then try to do something constructive with the extra hours of daylight. This seems to me a much better suggestion.

In the church year, we are in the season of Epiphany, which is a time of revelation or realisation. A time when our Sunday Bible readings try to focus us on learning more about God, and Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

On a Sunday morning, we have been looking into Luke's Gospel and the early stories of Jesus' ministry, learning more about him and his call on our lives. On Wednesdays, in the morning we are looking at parts of the first letter to the Corinthians, and in the evenings (and Saturday mornings) at the Bible studies looking at the letter to the Ephesians. Whenever we read or study our Bible, we learn more about God, (as Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit). It is good to be able to do this with other people, but it is important that we read our Bibles every day to see how God wants us to live our lives, and to get God's perspective on the world in which we live. I remember a chorus from my Summer Mission and Sunday School days, "Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow." This was, of course, accompanied by the appropriate actions. I wonder how many of you are now singing this in your head? These old choruses have a lot of wisdom contained in them. If we want to grow as a Christian, (and we should always be trying to grow in our faith), we need to read our Bibles and talk to God about what we read, and about our lives.

This spring would be a good time to get a new Bible reading guide, perhaps choose a book that looks at a specific book of the

Bible, or read one that follows a specific theme, like prayer, or hope or on the life of another Christian. There are lots available through Christian booksellers like Eden, or on Amazon (other book suppliers are available!) 🥚

I'd like to recommend a book for you to read this Lent, which is called ***Lent and Easter for Everyone*** written by the well-known – and easy to read - theologian, Tom Wright. The book offers seven weeks' worth of daily Bible readings and reflections, and enables you to relive Christ's journey - from his temptations in the wilderness to the darkness of the cross and beyond into the glory of Easter. It is readily available online, but I will have 20 discounted copies to give away by the end of January. I can order more, so please just ask if you would like one. If you can't get to church, but would like a copy, please let me or Fiona in the office know, and I'll get one to you.

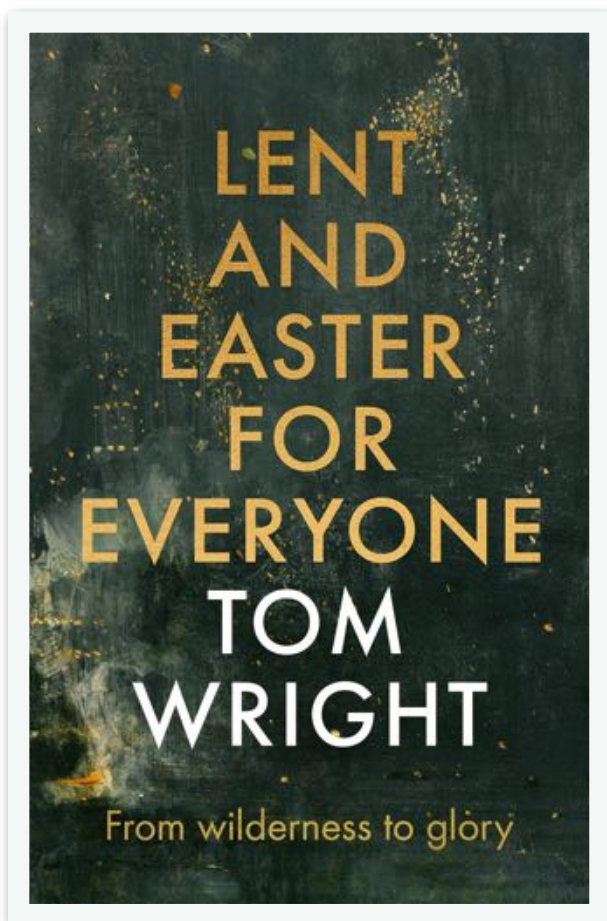
I would also like to suggest if you are interested, we can meet once a fortnight through Lent to discuss what we have read. (Alternate Wednesday evenings, at 7.45pm when there isn't a Bible study.) This way we can pick bits, unpick bits, and talk about them, and learn from each other and from God.

However you spend the lengthening days, I hope you remember "You are never too old to learn", "Every day is a school day", and that in Matthew 11:29, Jesus says, "Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in Spirit, and you will find rest."

May God bless you as we journey into Lent. May you lean on him, and learn from him, as you walk each day in faith.

Your friend and minister,

*Sonia*



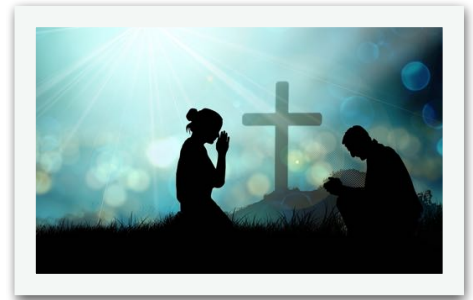
Embark on a transformative Lenten journey with Tom Wright's insightful daily reflections, drawing from his renowned *For Everyone* series, and discover a renewed sense of hope and purpose in your Christian journey.

- For individuals or groups seeking a profound Lenten reflection.
- Enhances Lenten journey with insightful daily readings from Tom Wright.
- Deepens understanding, fosters hope, and fuels spiritual growth.

*By courtesy of [eden.co.uk](http://eden.co.uk).*

## Worship Matters

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Worship Team leading worship (Sonia off for the weekend)
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Presbytery meeting at Dumbarton Riverside church
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Thinking Day/Founder's Day Service
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday
25 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Week services
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday service (with Breakfast and BBQ as usual)



## Funerals

12 <sup>th</sup> January	Daniel (Niel) Sinclair, Allanton Ave.
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Dorothy Steel, Hunterhill Care Home, formerly Balfron Road
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Margaret Johnston, Glasgow Road



## Baptism

Leon Robert Hall, son of Daryl and Kayleigh, of Linburn Road, Penilee on  
26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023



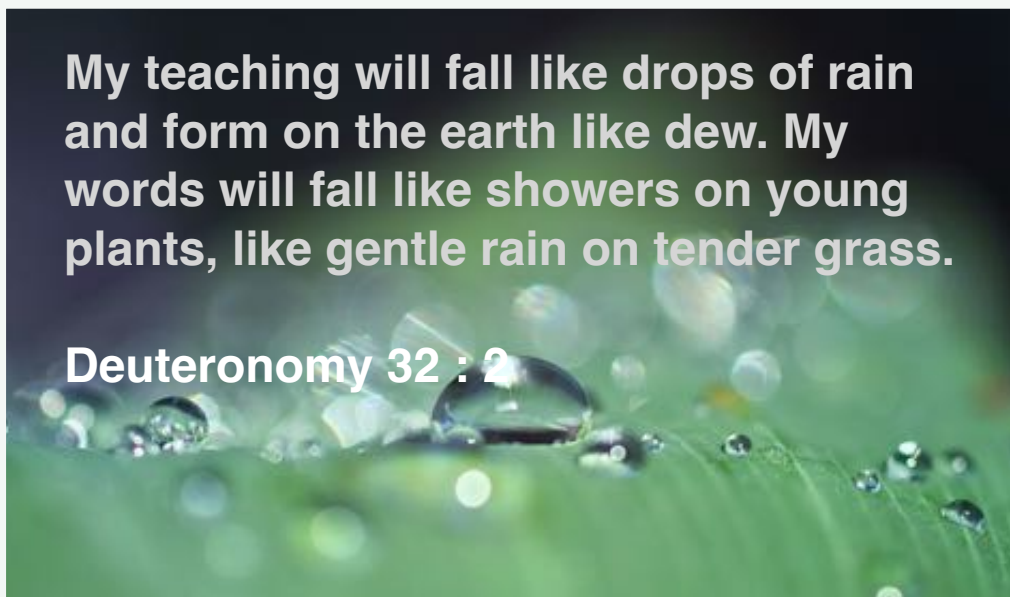
## Daniel (Niel) Sinclair

Thank you to everyone at St Mark's for the flowers, cards and visits following the recent death of my late husband, Niel. We were especially touched by the large numbers of people who attended the funeral service. This was of great comfort to all the family and we appreciate the kindness shown at this sad time.

## Christian, Karen and Craig

**My teaching will fall like drops of rain  
and form on the earth like dew. My  
words will fall like showers on young  
plants, like gentle rain on tender grass.**

**Deuteronomy 32 : 2**



# Session Report

Session sends seasonal greetings and hopes that everyone has a happy and healthy 2024.




Our finances are reasonable currently but, as always, extra funds would be beneficial as we have just recently upgraded the audio facility within the church to allow everyone to hear the services. This was at a cost of £8000. It is hoped that members will appreciate the improved system.

Most members now donate using bank transfer and there is less use of the freewill offering envelopes. Extra funds can be raised if members will Gift Aid their donations. This allows us to claim an extra 25% of the donation at no extra expense to the donor. Please contact the finance team to facilitate this service.

Peter is working hard at his many duties and is soon to embark on the Alpha course which will be held in the church over the next few weeks.

The various church groups are all performing well and the Pastoral Care team keeps regular contact with the housebound and disabled. Our warm spaces and Dementia-Friendly Café are well supported by members who volunteer to assist.

One of our cleaners, Robina, has decided to retire and we are grateful to her for her many years of dedicated service. Her daughter, Gillian, will continue with her cleaning duties and we are grateful for her continued assistance. 

We still await an update from Presbytery regarding proposed working together with Sherwood /Greenlaw in the light of their minister, Rev. John Murning giving notice of his retirement on 14/2/24.

**Colin Reid (Session Clerk)**



## Sunday Duty Team Rota

DATE	TEAM	LEADER	DATE	TEAM	LEADER
<b>FEB</b>			<b>MAR</b>		
04/02/2024	2	Mr A. Taylor	03/03/2024	4	Mr G. Black
11/02/2024	2	Mr A. Taylor	10/03/2024	4	Mr G. Black
18/02/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair	17/03/2024	5	Mr A. Boyd
25/02/2024	3	Mrs C. Hair	24/03/2024	5	Mr A. Boyd
			31/03/2024	6	Dr C. Reid

## Peter's News



**TRASH** is doing really well and we continue to have 14 young people who are there most weeks.

In December we spent some time looking at the importance of the Christmas story as well as doing some Christmas decorating in the church.

Over the next few months we will continue to look at the questions the young people came up with as well as looking at some of the stories they highlighted as being the most important.



**The Junction Youth Café** is a space for young people from P6 to S3 to come together and have fun with their friends. We have consoles, pool, table tennis, table top games, big games and some crafts for the young people.

After running a trial of The Junction between October and December, we will continue to run it fortnightly on a Thursday night. The young people indicated that they would like it to be on weekly, but we cannot staff that at the moment.



**Messy Church** is on the last Saturday of every month from 2pm to 3.30pm. Messy church has been busy in the last few months with more than 35 people coming along on a couple of occasions. In 2023 we had 69 different people coming along to the 10 Messy church events with a total attendance of 199 (excluding the team running it).



## Alpha

The Alpha Course at St Mark's started mid-January. Alpha looks to create space for people to come and watch a film clip on a theme for the week and then have a discussion on the theme. It explores the basics of the Christian faith through these videos and discussions.

Each session is separate so, if people have missed the first ones, they can still come along to future ones. We meet in the church café on a Monday night at 7.30pm.

## Ralston Primary School

The school was down at the church for their Christmas services. We had musicians, choirs, Christmas songs as well as talking about the Christmas story.

Sonia and I will be at the P6 Burns lunch which we are looking forward to. I am back in the school weekly to assist some of the senior pupils with their maths work.

## Holiday Club

The holiday club will be on the first week of the school holidays (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April). It is for anyone in P1 to P7 and will be on from 10am to 12noon. We hope to repeat the success of last year's holiday club where we had 84 children along during the week.

God bless,

**Peter**



# Church Sound System



In December West Audio and Design came and installed a new sound system in the church.

Earlier in the year we had three people come out and give us advice and quotes about the sound system. All of them said that the speakers were in the wrong places, the amplifier was outdated and the microphones were using frequencies that we are not allowed to use anymore.

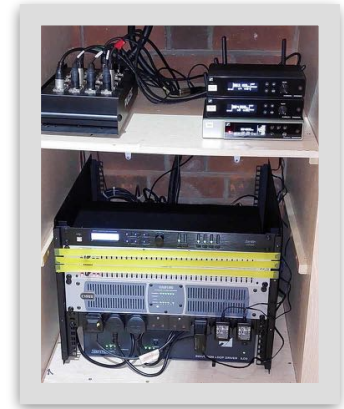
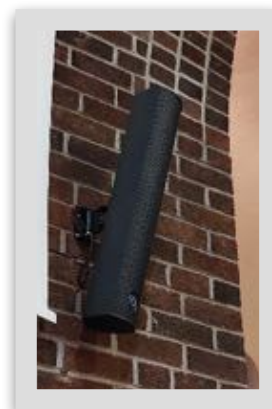
The old speakers were removed and new speakers have been installed in positions where the sound is coming from the direction of the front of the church. 🍌

The amplifier, that sends the audio signal to the speakers, has also been upgraded so there is now more control of the volume of each speaker and time delay to the speakers.

There are two new tie-clip radio microphones and one hand-held radio microphone. There will also be new microphones for the lectern and pulpit coming in the next couple of weeks.

The Loop System in the church is also now linked directly to the sound desk. If you use a hearing aid in the church and want to connect to the loop system, you need to set your hearing aid to "T" setting. This should provide much clearer sound quality to your hearing aid.

The new sound system will make the sound quality in the church much better. Please let Peter know if you have any issues hearing anything in the service, particularly those with hearing aids.



## Dementia-Friendly Drop-In Café

St Mark's Church (2-4pm)

### Future Dates

Thursday 22 February

Thursday 21 March



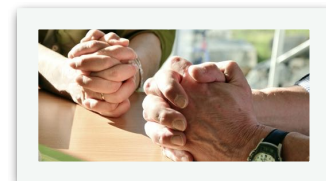
# Prayer Guide




FEBRUARY, 2024		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1</b>	We pray for the Green Team and the work they do keeping our church grounds tidy, recycling and reusing items, and for sustainability.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2</b>	We remember the young lads who attend Anchor Boys, Boys' Brigade and Company Section and their leaders. May the boys come to put their trust in you.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3</b>	Pray for our Community Council and the decisions they make for the good of the area.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4</b>	We pray for Andy Grant as he leads worship this morning. Remember to pray for Evolution and Trash as they meet weekly.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>5</b>	Pray for all who attend the Guild today. Our streets for prayer are Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place. Alpha Group meets this evening.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>6</b>	39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies meet this evening, and we remember all the girls who attend. Be with them as they learn and develop new skills and learn about the Lunar New Year.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>7</b>	Word for Wednesday on this morning. Winter Connections this afternoon. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening. Brownies meet tonight too. Be with the 39 <sup>th</sup> A company.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>8</b>	Pray for Sonia and Peter as they take School assemblies today and tomorrow. We give thanks that they are able to keep up the connection with the school and ask for your blessing on pupils and staff. The Junction meets again this evening on a fortnightly basis.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9</b>	The second school Assembly today. Be with all who take part. We pray for the Senior boys as they balance BB activities with school studies.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10</b>	Keep the Worship Team in our prayers this coming week.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11</b>	We pray for Rev. John Murning as he retires this month. Bless him in this new phase of his life and be with him and his family. Give thanks for his service to you. Pray for Sonia as she leads our worship this morning, and for all who participate. Help us come prepared to hear your voice.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>12</b>	Guild meeting today. Pray for the Alpha Group which meets tonight. Pray this week for those living in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>13</b>	Tonight is the Presbytery meeting at Dumbarton Riverside Church. Be with Simone and Sonia as they attend. 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies celebrate Valentines Day tonight.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>14</b>	Pray for Word on Wednesday this morning. Remember all who attend Winter Connections this afternoon. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening, followed by Bible Study in church at 7:45pm.



# Prayer Guide



		FEBRUARY, 2024
Thu	15	We remember Dawn and the Choir as they meet regularly each Thursday and learn music to help us worship.
Fri	16	The Pastoral Team are in our prayers as we give thanks for the work they do supporting people in St Mark's.
Sat	17	We pray for the Women's Refuge and the Food Banks that provide help and support to people. Remember the 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies and Leaders as they head off to Greenock for a fun day celebrating Thinking Day.
Sun	18	As we meet this morning, may our minds be focussed on you and what you have to say to us today. Thinking Day Service this morning in St Mark's. Pray for all the organisations who will attend.
Mon	19	The Guild meets this afternoon. Remember all who come along from St Mark's and from Sherwood Greenlaw. We remember the Alpha Group tonight. Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent come under our prayer spotlight this week.
Tue	20	We pray for the Finance Team this week. World Day of Social Justice. We pray that your justice would be seen in areas around our world where there is so much injustice. Thinking Day for 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies.
Wed	21	Pray for the morning service, Winter Connections and the Prayer groups this evening.
Thu	22	All Girlguiding Members will be celebrating Thinking Day today. Remember the Dementia-Friendly Café which meets this afternoon, and all who find fellowship by coming along. The Junction meets tonight. Pray for the young folk who attend.
Fri	23	Pray for the new resources being used by the BB Faith Journey across the UK.
Sat	24	Messy Church meets this afternoon. We continue to pray for the work done through this project, and for all families who come along.
Sun	25	This morning is our Communion Service. We pray for Sonia as she leads this and for us to come ready to give thanks for your sacrifice for us through your Son.
Mon	26	Pray for the ongoing Alpha group sessions tonight. Keep those in Drummond drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road in your prayers this coming week.
Tue	27	We remember the Emergency Services who come to the aid of people in a range of circumstances.
Wed	28	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections this afternoon.  Prayer groups on Zoom and in church this evening, followed by Bible Study in church at 7:45. 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies new starts are hoping to make their Brownie Promise this evening. Be with them.
Thu	29	Pray for the Christian Education team this coming week.

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

2024 has kicked off with three new Brownies coming into the Unit. We're also delighted to welcome Lucy Croft, who is coming along to join us as a Leader.

This term, we will be doing *Stage 2 Reflect Skills Builder*, and we are going to look at *My Rights Interest Badge*.



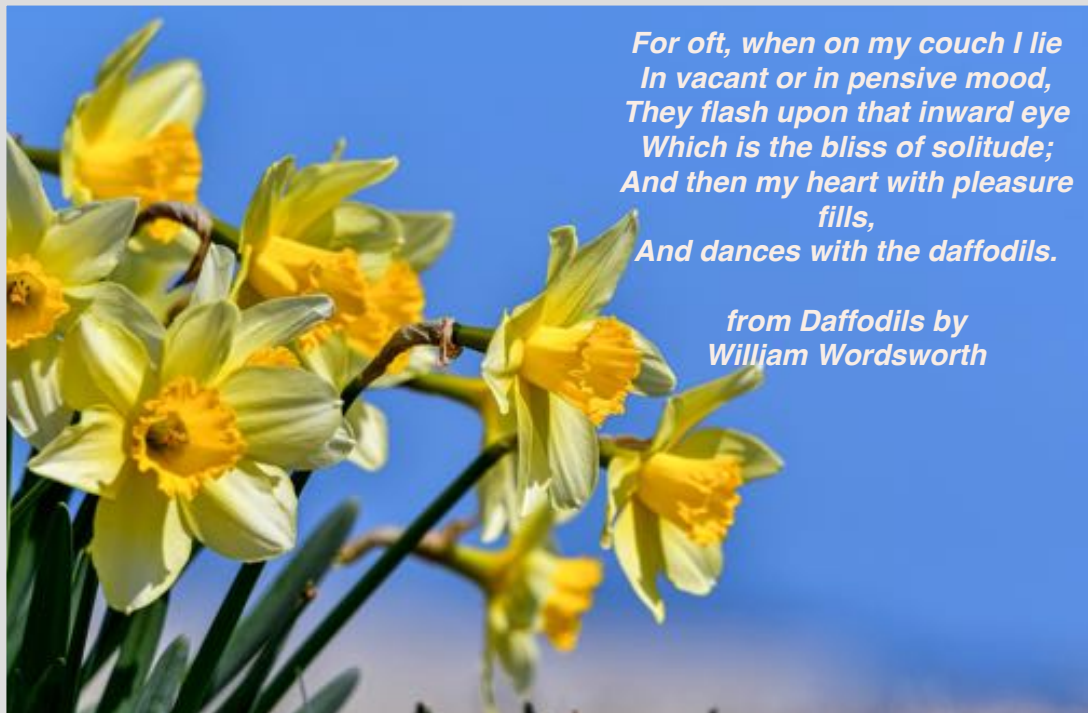
*The Reflect Skills Builder* gives us lots of scope to think about things which we celebrate, and how we celebrate. There is so much which happens in the early part of the year: Burns Day ; Lunar New Year ; Valentine's Day ; Thinking Day ; St Patrick's Day ; Mother's Day ; Pancake Day and, of course, Easter.

We'll be exploring some of the traditions behind these celebrations, sampling some eats (shortbread and Fortune Cookies already purchased!), and making crafts appropriately. There will also be time for activities and games (but never enough time!).

We will be looking at Parts 1 and 2 of *My Rights* with the Brownies over the next couple of weeks. It's an interesting badge that involves thinking about what our rights and beliefs are, and who helps us to realise these, for example, parents and teachers, and looking wider into policing and government.

After the Easter Holiday, we are going to be looking at another *Skills Builder*, and turn our attention to the *Jobs Interest Badge*. As part of that, the Brownies need to interview people about their jobs, and find out what skills they need. We've already reached out to a pilot and a doctor, as well as parents, and we'll then set up a 'Jobs Fayre' - which could be total mayhem.

**Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader**



*For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure  
fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.*

*from Daffodils by  
William Wordsworth*

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

The Brownies and Leaders had a busy end to 2023. Our final meeting in December involved a trip to the pantomime in Paisley. It was great fun and the Brownies were absorbed by the whole experience.

It was made even more exciting as one of our Young Leaders, Emily, was performing. One of the Brownies, Daisy, got the opportunity to 'tread the boards' as she was invited to help out *Arty Fartypants* by telling him what had happened to *Betty Bouquet* and *Bonnie*.

Most of the Brownies also joined the cast on stage for a song and dance before the end of the show.



The Brownies were involved, along with all other Girlguiding members from St Mark's, in the *Treemendous* event. We spent an evening making Christmas tree decorations and were delighted with the final appearance of the tree.

Many thanks to the organisers of the event and to Sheena for decorating the tree on our behalf.

At home, the Brownies continued to care for the bulbs they planted in September. It had been hoped they could be given out as Christmas gifts but the bulbs were a 'bit slow' to develop.

However, the Brownies were able to bring them to the first meeting on our return in January and we decorated a bag for the pot as well as a bag to transport.



The bulbs were then ready to be distributed and, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January, we were able to give them to members of the congregation. I am sure they will be appreciated.

When our meetings resumed in January, we welcomed 2 new starts: Maria and Marley. We hope they will quickly settle and enjoy getting to know the Brownies and Leaders. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the Promise and Law with them while starting to work on the *Express Myself* Skill Builders.

We are now looking forward to a busy term ahead. As well as weekly activities, we are taking part in a County day out on 17<sup>th</sup> February, in Greenock. This is part of the *Thinking Day* celebrations and we have 13 Brownies and 4 leaders taking part. We also have a sleepover to look forward to – overnight in the Science Centre in March.

Before Christmas, the Pack had been working on Skill Builders in the *Take Action* theme and at the end of November, we were able to present 9 *Influence* badges and 18 *Make Change* badges.

There have been other badges completed and awarded. Well done Brownies!

## Interest Badges

Collectors – Keavagh

Zero Waste – Evie

## Take Action theme

Evie

## Anniversary Badges

4 years – Freya

3 years – Charlotte C

2 years – Maria

1 year - Marley

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

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

**Christine Hair**

**Brown Owl**

## Exciting News – The Cafe@ St Mark's



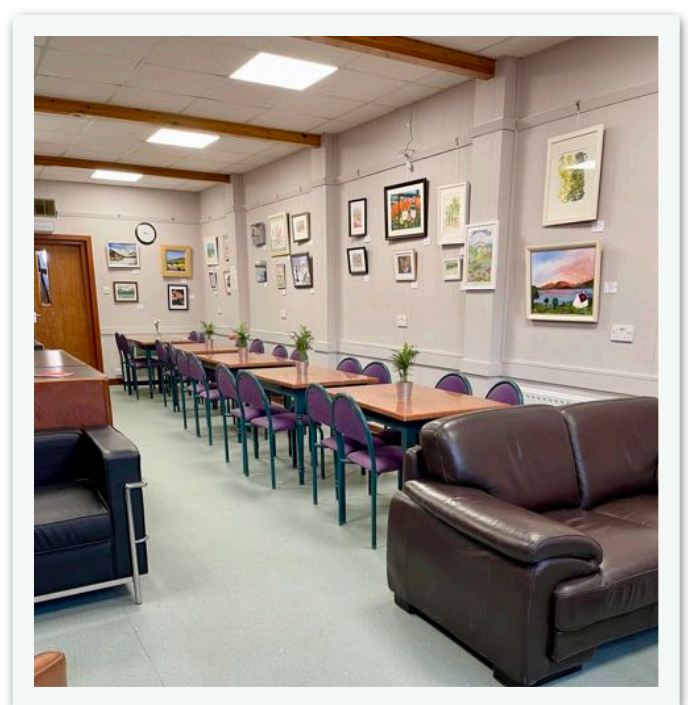
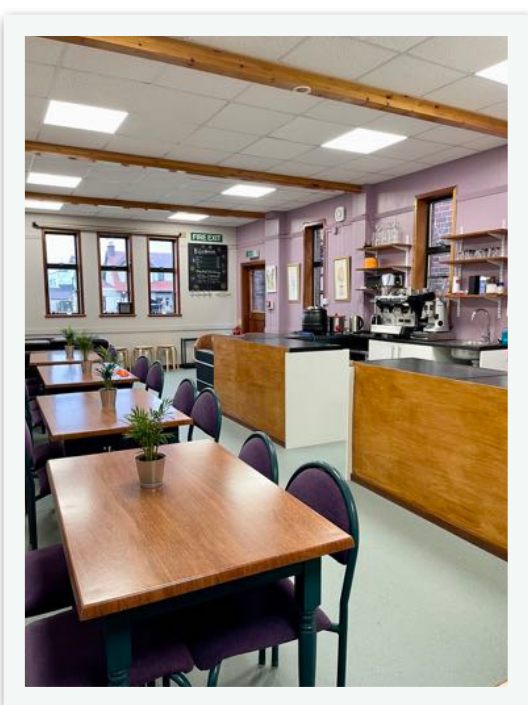
After over four years of talk, planning, finance raising and finally, action, our new Church Café is now nearing completion. Over the last few months, we have been able to use the old Session House, now converted into a bright, airy, modern café for the Dementia-Friendly Café, the Winter Connections Community Lunch, and most recently for our Alpha meetings.

We have employed a part-time Café Manager, initially on a six-month contract, who will take responsibility for organising our volunteers, managing catering and supplies, dealing with official bodies such as Environmental Health etc., etc.

We hope (and pray!), that the final steps of organisation will be completed over the next few weeks and the Café will launch in February, open to the congregation and the wider community a few days a week. We look forward to welcoming you and your friends in for tea, coffee and cake, or maybe a warming bowl of soup.


Thank you to everyone one who has been involved in getting the project this far, especially Jok and Mari Everett, Julie and Graeme Wright, Andy Grant, Peter, Gordon McLintock (and Doig and Smith) and Sandy. Also to Jen, Lorna and the young folk from TRASH who did most of the decorating and the others who have pitched in to help as and when – especially before the first Dementia-Friendly Café in November which was our first proper use of the Café space. Thanks to Ralston Art Club for providing the lovely pictures on the walls - which are available for people to purchase (with part of the proceeds returning to the church).

Details of opening days/times will be publicised and we hope to see you in for a lovely Barista coffee and cake soon.





## Flowers in Church

04/02/24	Miss I. Higgins
11/02/24	Mrs D. MacKay
18/02/24	Mrs J. McGugan
25/02/24 	Boys' Brigade (Junior Dept.)
03/03/24	
10/03/24	Mrs J. Mackenzie
17/03/24	Mr P. MacKay & Family
24/03/24	Mrs A. McLeod
31/03/24	Dr Colin Reid

## Ladies Delivering Flowers

04/02/24	Mrs C. Sinclair	
11/02/24	Mrs J. Dempster	
18/02/24	Mrs & Mr R. Pollock	
25/02/24	Mrs M. Robin	
03/03/24	Mrs D. Grant	Mrs M. Adam
10/03/24	Mrs C. Love	
17/03/24	Mrs S. Tonner	
24/03/24	Mrs I Pollock	
31/03/24	Mrs J. Dempster	



*The snowdrop, Winter's timid child,  
Awakes to life, bedew'd with tears;  
And flings around its fragrance mild,  
And where no rival flow'rets bloom,  
Amid the bare and chilling gloom,  
A beauteous gem appears!*

*Mary Darby Robinson*

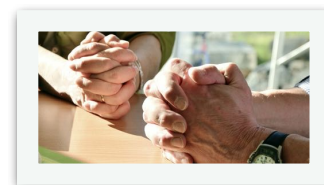
# Prayer Guide



MARCH, 2024		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1</b>	Thank you for the lengthening days as we move into March, and start to leave the darker days behind us. We give thanks for the constancy of the seasons.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2</b>	We pray for all who work to support those less fortunate than ourselves, for charity organisations, for carers, and ask that you will show your love and compassion through them.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	Today is World Wildlife Day. We give thanks for your creation and pray for all who work to save endangered species.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>4</b>	We pray for all attending the Alpha Group sessions over the past couple of months. Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road, Glasgow Road and Golf Drive are the streets for prayer.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5</b>	We remember all the Elders this week. Pray they will know God's guidance as they carry out their duties. Kirk Session tonight. Pray for all discussions and decisions taken to be led by God's spirit. 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies celebrate Mother's Day.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>6</b>	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections. Prayer group on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>7</b>	As The Junction meets tonight, we remember all involved. Bless this work and help the youngsters build good relationships.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>8</b>	Today is International Women's Day. 24 Brownies and 4 leaders of the 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies are heading off to the Science Centre for a sleepover! Be with them all tonight.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9</b>	Pray for the businesses in our area, for those looking for work, and for the wider community
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	We pray for the worship in St Mark's this morning and remember those in Sherwood Greenlaw also, as they are in a time of change.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>11</b>	The Alpha Group meets again this evening. Pray for all who come along. Prayers for those living in Hawkhead Road, Killearn Drive and Kinpurnie Road this week.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>12</b>	Pray for the 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies as they meet this evening, to have fun and fellowship together. Remember their leaders too.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>13</b>	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections. Pray for all who come along and for the preparation of food and activities. Prayer groups on Zoom and in church followed by Bible Study at 7:45pm.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>14</b>	Choir members and Dawn are in our prayers this week.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>15</b>	We remember the Anchor Boys, Junior and Senior Sections of the BB and all the leaders.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	Thank you for our world. Help us to appreciate the beauties of creation around us, and to count the many blessings you give us.



# Prayer Guide



		MARCH, 2024
Sun	17	As we gather for worship, may we be aware of the presence of God with us here today. Bless Sonia as she brings the word to us. Pray for all on the Media Team.
Mon	18	This is the last of the Alpha Group sessions tonight. We ask that you bless all who helped and all who attended. Lanfine Road, Marchbank Gardens and Netherdale Drive are streets for prayer this week.
Tue	19	We remember the Dementia-Friendly Café events and pray for all who prepare for these, and those who attend. New 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies make their promise.
Wed	20	Word for Wednesday this morning. Winter Connections meets this afternoon. Prayer groups on Zoom and in Church followed by Bible Study. This may be changed but has been slotted in due to Holy Week services coming up next week.
Thu	21	The Dementia-Friendly Café meets again this afternoon. We remember all who help make this event happen. International Day for the elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Junction is on this evening.
Fri	22	Pray for the young boys who attend Anchor Boys and for their leaders.
Sat	23	It's time again for Messy Church. May everyone who attends have an enjoyable time.
Sun	24	This morning is Palm Sunday, and we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We ask you will be with Sonia and the Worship Team as they lead us through Holy Week to Easter Sunday.
Mon	25	Remember those who live in Newtyle Road, Newnham Road and Oldhall Road this week in your prayers. Holy Week service tonight led by our worship team.
Tue	26	The second of our Holy Week services led by our worship team. Easter activities for 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies tonight looking at traditions, food and drink, and making lots of crafty things.
Wed	27	We pray for our worship team as they lead us in our Holy Week service tonight.
Thu	28	Sonia will lead us in our Holy Week Communion Service tonight as we remember the events leading up to the Crucifixion.
Fri	29	Good Friday service this evening.
Sat	30	Prepare our hearts as we move from the reflection on your death to the excitement of Easter morning.
Sun	31	Easter morning and we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. There will be an early service at 8:00a.m.(to be confirmed) and possible Breakfast afterwards, and our normal service at 11:00. A BBQ is planned after the service, but still to be confirmed. Holiday Club is proposed to start tomorrow, 1 April. More details will follow.



## Choir

Rehearsals resumed on Thursday 11th January at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and join in. Singing is so good for your health in addition to praising and worshipping God.

## Toilet Twinning

The recent collection was £320. If anyone who donated can Gift Aid, then please fill in the form beside Dawn after the service. To date the congregation has donated almost £2000 and twinned 31 toilets which is many certificates to find homes for in and around the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Fridges

These can now be twinned too and if anyone is interested in donating to this cause, then please see **Dawn** after the service.



### *The Tulip*

*She slept beneath a tree  
Remembered but by me.  
I touched her cradle mute;  
She recognized the foot,  
Put on her carmine suit, —  
And see!*

*Emily Dickinson*





# Our Tears Can Soothe

'Jesus wept' (John 11.35)


Our tears can soothe  
They can rain down upon us these blows  
Or strike with solitary destruction  
Earthquakes to our settled existence  
They are without feeling  
We too are without feeling, just numb  
Our tears can soothe these moments  
Can enter the grief-darkened scene  
A flickering glimmer of comfort  
A gentle gesture of solace

When we cry our own tears  
On that sleepless pillow  
We comfort ourselves with tears,  
Our own tears

Tears are shared  
They are the gentle tools of the heart  
They are the unspoken words of the soul  
The wound is still sore  
The loss must be regained  
The feelings destroyed must be repaired  
But tears will soothe

There will be a time close to eternity, a place near our Maker  
When for our tears their tasks will be done  
Our tears soothing us for the last time in time  
Then God our Maker will wipe away all tears from our eyes  
And count them as He gathers them from our soul

**Rev. T. Cant**



... The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the  
tears from all faces; he will remove his  
people's disgrace from all the earth. The  
Lord has spoken.

**Isaiah 24:8**

## Easter Wings

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,  
Though foolishly he lost the same,  
Decaying more and more,  
Till he became  
Most poore:  
With thee  
O let me rise  
As larks, harmoniously,  
And sing this day thy victories:  
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne  
And still with sicknesses and shame.  
Thou didst so punish sinne,  
That I became  
Most thinne.  
With thee  
Let me combine,  
And feel thy victorie:  
For, if I imp my wing on thine,  
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

George Herbert (1593-1633)



*And the sunbeams gave them welcome,  
As did the morning air -  
And scattered o'er their simple robes  
Rich tints of beauty rare.*

*from The Crocuses by Frances E. W. Harper*



**Have you spotted all 12 Easter eggs? Speak to Stuart if you're stumped.**



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

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

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