

# Marksman

January, 2022



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## From the Manse

As I sit down to write this letter in the middle of December, my head is buzzing with carols and ideas and prayers for the Christmas services, **but** this letter is for the January edition of the Marksman, (although some of you may receive it before Christmas), so I found the mishmash of ideas in my head resonated with a prayer written by a colleague of mine from Helensburgh.

“Another year draws to a close, Creator God.  
The minutes tick away in lives lived and in hopes spoken.  
How good it is to know that your words are eternal.  
Another year beckons us on, God,  
Calls us towards it in a jumble of anticipation and fear.  
How good it is to know that your presence is a reality.  
Again we come, God,  
To this place of sanctuary to make sense of our past and our future.  
How good it is to know that your promises are everlasting.  
For you have come among us as only you could,  
Announcing your colourful intentions  
From a dull and hostile stable;  
Promising the world to the poor and ignorant;  
Asking for trouble with your talk of peace  
Inviting the world to start over.

It is our time to start over, God.  
Not just with new calendars and well-intentioned resolutions.  
It is time to start over with you.  
The Bethlehem babe is only a week old,  
Yet already the bright wrappings and trappings of Christmas  
Have started to fade.  
Angel voices are a distant echo,  
Shepherds back in their fields,  
Wise men have set off on new adventures  
And we are relieved that it's all over for another year.

Forgive our haste to leave that dirty stable  
For somewhere more comfortable;  
Forgive our reluctance to kneel down in the dirt  
And look the Christ child in the face a little longer.  
Forgive our need to move on with the busyness of life  
Instead of lingering a while with him.  
Forgive our inability to forgive ourselves  
As he reaches out his arms in acceptance.

Forgive us our past, God,  
Renew our present  
And affirm our future,  
Touched by your grace.

It is our time to start over, God,  
And we commit ourselves to that now.  
Make your home in the soiled stables of our hearts,  
Speak your truth into the ordinariness of our lives,  
And fulfil your promise in your coming among us  
Again and again and again,

So that all may start again with you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.”

Rev Tina Kemp (in Spill the Beans)

As we wait for the old year to close, and the new year to begin; as we say farewell to all that happened in 2021 and look ahead to what will come in 2022; as we say goodbye to all we can leave behind, and welcome to all we travel towards, may we remember that God's promise to us is for life in abundance.

Travelling with God is never dull, but instead filled with surprises.

So as we move on into 2022, we should not mourn the past, nor dread the future, but rather open ourselves to the possibilities of compassion, of kindness, of gentleness and of patience. We open ourselves to the possibility of God bringing 'life in all its fullness' through the working of his Holy Spirit in our lives.

And hand in hand with God, we can now step forward into a brave new future, starting again, in a new year, a new opportunity.

We do not know what lies ahead of us this year, but we do know that we can 'do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Whatever we face, God is with us, and we do not face life alone, but with God by our side, and a community of brothers and sisters alongside us too.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, and a peaceful and spirit-filled New Year. (No, not whisky - if that was where your mind headed!)

Your friend and minister,

*Sonia*



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, while we gave our gifts of toys and presents to share with those supported by Renfrewshire Women's Aid – gifts that were gratefully received and truly appreciated - and when we gave our financial donations to the work of Christian Aid - which is needed just as much - the Pastoral Care Team, ably assisted by Alison Christie, was preparing goodie bags with gifts and a few food treats, ready to go out to our most senior members.

Within a few days I have received so many cards and letters of thanks that I felt it only right to record those here. So, to Alison, Elizabeth and all the pastoral Care Team, and to those elves who delivered the parcels – on behalf of the recipients can I say a great big THANK YOU. The parcels were greatly appreciated, the gifts practical and useful – really well thought through - and the food enjoyed, or saved for Christmas.

Thank you to all concerned.

Sonia

## Worship Matters

### Christmas and New Year Services 2021/22

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.45 pm	Carol Singing in church
	7.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	11.15pm	Carol Singing in church
	11.30pm	Watch-night Service
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	11am	Boxing Day - Sunday service
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	11am	New Year's Sunday service

Wednesday services will begin again on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Life and Work Magazine

***Life and Work*** is the award winning magazine of the Church of Scotland. It was first published in 1879 and is the editorially independent monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland. Every month, the 52-page full colour magazine is packed with features, news and opinion on Christian life within Scotland and further afield.

In 2022 each issue of *Life and Work* will host a series of features offering updates from the Faith Action Programme. Readers will hear directly from those who have been charged by the General Assembly to help implement and support this new movement of reformation for the Church. The purpose of the double page articles will be to try and ensure that those who are involved in being and doing Faith Action where it matters most at congregational level feel involved and supported by the Trustee Forums and staff of both the National Office and Presbyteries. With members of congregations eager to stay informed, we recognise each of the monthly features will be a valuable resource.

Free copies of the December magazine are available in the Church for you to take away and look at.

You can subscribe at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe> and choose from a print or digital edition of the Church of Scotland magazine.

The subscription service offers you the convenience of having *Life and Work* magazine delivered direct to your door or any digital device; you can also arrange a gift subscription.

12 issues per year at £1.75 per issue

CHRISTMAS OFFER 2021 (Expires 31.12.21) - £14.99 for digital subscription.

To stop renewal, cancel any time during your introductory period (1 Year).

Or in Paper form 3 Month Trial Offer £6 for three issues (including standard delivery within the UK). 12 Month Subscription UK by post £36.00.

## Funerals

24<sup>th</sup> November Carole Arran, Bathgo Avenue  
20<sup>th</sup> December Andrew Ramsay, Hillside Care Home – prev. Tylney Road  
21<sup>st</sup> December Annie (Nan) Kemp, Kinpurnie Road

We also heard of the deaths of Jack McDermott, of Rowan St, and Moira Bett, of Abbey Place.

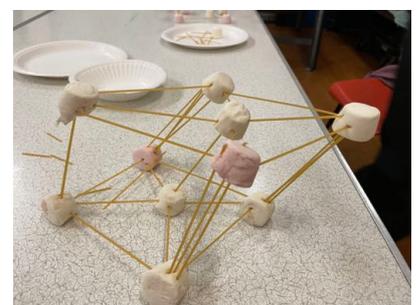
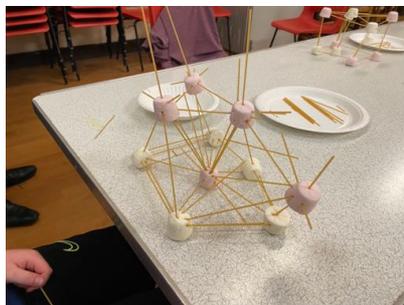
## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

It may seem more precious as we grow older, but it was good to see the Anchors learning about time and thinking about how to use it wisely. I am glad to say they have certainly used it well in recent months. They have crammed in games with the parachute, gone on safari and worked on various craft activities, including making a clock from a paper plate as you can see.



There will be more fun a challenges ahead as we go into the New Year. Along with the Juniors, the Anchors look forward to the “Lego Night” on 21st January. This had to be postponed in 2020 so excitement has been heightened for boys and staff alike.....especially the Company Captain.

The Juniors have been getting in some building practice themselves creating weird and wonderful structures with spaghetti and marshmallows. Fortunately not many of them like marshmallows.





Not to be outdone, the Company Section worked on their own crafts. They built very successful catapult structures. Don't be concerned. They only fire ping pong balls. Some of them have also been finishing Airfix Spitfires which they started before the pandemic.

The Seniors had to get creative in a different way. This year's Battalion Christian Faith competition required the boys to reimagine the Nativity in a 3 minute video. (Thanks to Evolution for the the use of their costumes even if the fit was a bit neat). One group told the story from the perspective of the animals in the stable which was "different ". The other retold the the story of Advent as a news report with vox pop interviews with the main characters including a wise man who had terrible trouble with customs trying to explain the gold he had not declared. I am glad to say despite the laughs along the way they rounded it off with a newsreader reminding viewers to focus on the true gift of Christmas: the birth of God's son. Hopefully we will be able to add the videos to our Facebook page after the judging.



Jack Goodall (Company Captain)

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

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of the first term of being back to indoor meetings and what a busy time we have had!!

At the end of October, we had a fun night with the theme of the Olympics. The girls were split into age groups and competed in running, jumping and throwing events. Throughout the evening, we were helped by our visiting elders, Mrs Boyd and Miss Wilkie and Dr Blakesley. When all the points were added up, we awarded medals in each age group.



*Junior winners*



*Intermediate winners*



*Senior winners*



Throughout November, the Brownies were working on the Take Action theme and they have now all completed the Influence Skill Builder.

Meiyee also worked on the Charities Interest Badge. She worked towards this while on holiday and presented her findings to the Kids Club in Corfu!! On her return, she also shared her findings with the rest of the Pack. Well done Meiyee –such dedication!!

Another 2 of the girls have completed the Bronze Award and we were delighted to present these to Annarosa and Grier. They also received their 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badge.

The Brownies enjoyed thinking about COP26 in November. Several of the girls drew images as part of an activity from Girlguiding. We also designed leaves for an Autumn theme and our helpers Nicola and Emily made a window display which can be seen from Corrie Drive. I am sure you will agree it looks great.



On our final meeting in December, the Pack had another fun night. The Brownies had chosen some favourite games to play and had great fun making “Christmas bauble” biscuits! On this evening, the Brownies all brought along a “Christmas treat” to be given to those less fortunate than themselves.



The volunteers at the Food Bank were delighted to receive lots of goodies!



The final adventure for the year was a visit to the Odeon cinema to see “Encanto”. It was a lovely morning, shared with many others members of Girlguiding at the special viewing.

Christine Hair,  
Brown Owl

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

The Brownies learned so much about Paisley when Davie Roy of Paisley Historical Society came along to talk to us and show us some slides from olden days. We learned about Robert Tannahill, the witches, the history of Paisley pattern, about the Weavers, and about St Mirin. David packed so much into 20 minutes, but we did have a debate about where marmalade was first created!

We continued with our Skills Builder, and did all the activities related to that, as well as various Unit Meeting Activities (UMAs). That gave us a varied programme over the past few weeks, which we interspersed with St Andrew’s Night, Christmas Crafting, and a night planning what the Brownies would like to do next year. This year we did Penguin Calendars, Bethlehem globe cards, Crackers and Wrap around for gifts.



Claire is organising a Pack Holiday at South Newton for April, and the girls are looking forward to that. We’d like to welcome the Rainbows to visit for the day, to give them an idea of what their bigger Brownie sisters get up to.



We invited our Brownie parents to join us on the front step of St Mark’s as our new Brownies made their Promise. Also re-newing her Promise that night was Cheryl, our Adult Leader, who joined us early in 2021. The girls were then presented with their Certificates, Interest Badges and Anniversary Badges. Special call out to Alexa who has been working on extra Interest Badges and achieved *Charities* and *Mindfulness*.

We enjoyed the new Disney film, *Encanto*, when we went to the special GirlGuiding screening. The Odeon staff were well organised, spacing us apart from other units, and ensuring that the girls had a great time. The Brownies also received a special badge as a memento.



Also during the term, Lauren Jack was presented with her Queen's Award. Unfortunately, Lauren has not been able to join us since we returned in September. We look forward to seeing her award.

We are joining Sonia and the Rainbows in the Sanctuary for our last evening of the year (Covid rules permitting), when we are going to welcome three Rainbows who will receive their Pot of Gold, and move up to join the Brownie Unit in January.



We wish the congregation of St Mark's a very Happy (and safe) Christmas.

Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader

## East District Paisley

As district commissioner for East District I, along with County representatives, have been busy behind the scenes presenting leaders in St Mark's with length of Service awards .

The first 2 we presented were to a mother and daughter team at the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Rainbows on a Tuesday evening.

Sheila Young, County Commissioner, presented Donna Skalls with her 30 years award, and I presented Fiona Mackie with her 5 year award.



Gillian Clements, Assistant District Commissioner, visited with me the 39<sup>th</sup> Paisley Guide Unit to present Karen Shields, Guider, with her 30 Years' Service Award.

Congratulations to all the leaders from East District and Renfrewshire County for all their dedication and commitment to Girl Guiding through the years and challenging times.

Lesley S Barclay District Commissioner

## 1st East Rainbow Unit

We have had a busy last few month at the Rainbows.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October the 1<sup>st</sup> East Rainbows and 39<sup>th</sup> A Brownies had a special visit from Shelia Young, County Commissioner and Rae Mar, County President of Girl Guiding to present the Renfrewshire County Quaich. As a Rainbow during lockdown, Daisy organised a Scavenger Hunt in Barshaw Park.

The fees to enter the hunt were donated to Blue Cross animal welfare charity. We were also joined by Daisy's parents, Heather and Paul and younger sibling, Charlie.



In November we took part in Parliament Week and the Rainbows learned how Parliament vote in the chamber from Paul Masterton who had previously been a Member of Parliament. The girls will be getting their badge soon. Since starting back in September, we have been joined by 9 new member and the girls all invited their parents to come to the church and witness them making their promise and joining the unit.



Laura (in pink) also made her promise as part of her training. Laura is training to be an adult leader. She enjoys Rainbows and guiding so much as she used to be one of my Rainbows. I think I have slightly scared her with the comment she's taking over from me so I can retire....

At the start of December, we had a visit from Brown Owl from 39<sup>th</sup> A Brownies to accept the girls who are moving up after December to Brownies. Beth and Freya are joining 39<sup>th</sup> A Brownies and Jessie is following her sister to the 9<sup>th</sup> Paisley Brownie Unit.





On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of December almost all the Rainbows and some of the parents went to see *Encanto* at a special screening organised by Girl Guiding UK.

We also held a Christmas Party on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December and were lucky enough to have a visit from Santa Claus.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November all parents took delivery of the Rainbows Active Advent packs. These are packs with a craft activity for everyday in Advent. Every day until Christmas Day, the girls receive an envelope with a different Christmas themed craft.

Some girls prefer doing this to their homework.

Have a look at our Twitter account @1stEastRainbowz to see what the girls have been doing so far.



Thank you to all the parents for their lovely gifts that you gave us all at the Christmas party and we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year. We will see the Rainbows who are returning in January on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.

Purple, Red, Orange, Blue and Pink



## Bible Studies

Hello everyone,

We are reaching the end of the year and the end of the current series of Bible Studies, and I have had a chat with Sonia to review how these have gone since summer.

We are both agreed that having an option of Zoom and face-to-face in the Manse for both Prayer groups and Bible study groups has worked well. It has allowed people to choose which is best for them, as well as affording the opportunity to swap to either, if required.

Our numbers have remained steady, and so we shall continue with this format for the coming session in 2022.

The current studies on Mission and Creation Care run by Sonia will finish at the start of the year. The dates for these are Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January on Zoom (Sonia for this date and then Irene and Nancy for the new series) and then Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January in the manse (with Sonia)

The new series of studies will commence and run as below:

Zoom meetings Saturdays 10.15/10:30a.m.	Manse meetings Wednesdays 7:45p.m.
15 <sup>th</sup> January (last in current series)	19 <sup>th</sup> January (last in current series)
5 <sup>th</sup> February (new series)	9 <sup>th</sup> February (new series)
19 <sup>th</sup> February	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
5 <sup>th</sup> March	9 <sup>th</sup> March
19 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	6 <sup>th</sup> April
16 <sup>th</sup> April	20 <sup>th</sup> April
30 <sup>th</sup> April	4 <sup>th</sup> May
14 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> May
28 <sup>th</sup> May	1 June
11 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> June

I am hoping to order Life builder books on the Psalms this time round. I trust you will be happy with that.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to get in touch.

Please indicate by replying to me that you wish to take part so that I can order the correct number of books. There are always some people who take a book to study at home, so if you are aware of any one that might like one, please let me know that too.

Many thanks again for your encouragement and faithful attendance and contribution over the past year.

Irene

## Prayer Group



I have started this month's diary from the 9<sup>th</sup> as I had included the first week of January in the November/December Marksman.

9 January 2022	10 January	11 January	12 January	13 January	14 January	15 January
<p>Pray for Sonia as she leads us in worship this morning.</p>	<p>Let's pray for those living in Dunchurch Road, Gartartan Road and Gartmore Road this coming week.</p> <p>Pray for our Guild members as they meet.</p>	<p>Pray for the 39th Brownies who recommence tonight and for those moving up from Rainbows to Brownies.</p>	<p>Prayer groups recommence on Zoom and in the manse at 7:00pm. 39A Brownies return tonight. Pray for new members, for the leadership team and a successful term.</p>	<p>Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are homeless, those who are refugees and those who are on the margins of society. Help us become more aware and more willing to help as you direct us.</p>	<p>Pray for the BB organisation, boys and leaders at the start of the new session.</p>	<p>Last in the series with Sonia on Creation and environment bible study on Zoom at 10:15am.</p>
16 January	17 January	18 January	19 January	20 January	21 January	22 January
<p>As we begin a new week, give thanks for all that God has done for you over the last seven days.</p>	<p>We remember the people living in Glasgow Road, Golf Drive and Hawkhead Road in our weekly prayers.</p>	<p>We give thanks for all who help keep St Mark's running – administration, property, music, finance, pastoral, worship, social, flower and garden teams.</p>	<p>Prayer groups on Zoom and in the manse at 7:00pm. Last in series of Bible study on Creation in the manse 7:45pm.</p>	<p>We pray for all the emergency services who work tirelessly to help and rescue people in need. Protect them as they go about their work.</p>	<p>We pray for all the youth work carried out here. Be with all the leaders as they seek to bring God's message to our young people. Give thanks for all the youngsters who come along faithfully.</p>	<p>At the end of the week help us to enjoy relaxation and rest. Be with those who are unable to get out and about, and help us continue to find ways to connect with them.</p>

<p><b>23 January</b></p> <p>Our service this morning is led by Sonia and we ask that you guide and direct her as she brings your message to us. Bless her and her family. It's two years since she was inducted!</p>	<p><b>24 January</b></p> <p>Killearn Drive, Kinpurnie Road and Lanfine Road are the focus for our prayers this week. Pray for all who live there.</p>	<p><b>25 January</b></p> <p>As people celebrate Burns Day, give thanks for the gift of creativity through poetry, music and art.</p>	<p><b>26 January</b></p> <p>Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in the manse at 7:00pm.</p>	<p><b>27 January</b></p> <p>Today is the International Day of Commemoration in the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.</p>	<p><b>28 January</b></p> <p>We remember the local businesses around our community and pray for them.</p>	<p><b>29 January</b></p> <p>Pray for mission workers throughout the world, for their protection and for the people they live and work alongside.</p>
<p><b>30 January</b></p> <p>Help us to come to worship this morning prepared to hear what you have to say to us, and ready to put that into action in the coming days.</p>	<p><b>31 January</b></p> <p>We bring to you the people who live in Marchbank Gardens, Netherdale Drive and Newtyle Road over the next seven days.</p>					

## CHURCH FLOWERS

As we are now moving towards a more familiar Church service than we had during lockdown, we are planning to reintroduce the custom of having flowers in the chancel every week.



Flowers can be provided in memory of a loved one, in celebration of an anniversary or birthday, or as part of your contribution to the work of our Church but they do not need to be expensive formal arrangements. After the service the flowers are distributed, as a gift from the Church, to people in our congregation who are unwell, or bereaved, or who are celebrating, or who need to know we are thinking of them.

Many of you were previously involved in the flower rota and it would be good to know whether or not you are still able to participate. Also as there are several vacant weeks, any new names would be welcome.

You can either make a donation of any amount towards the cost of the flowers, or you can provide and arrange the flowers yourself or help by distributing the flowers after the Sunday service.

Thank you for all your help.

Contact : Kate McLauchlan Tel No. 01505671428

### FLOWERS IN CHURCH 2022

DATE	DONOR
09.01.22	Mrs N. Dryburgh
16.01.22	Mr & Mrs Tonner
23.01.22	Mrs A. Munro Mrs E. Macdonald
30.1.22	Mrs Isobel Ritchie
06.02.22	
13.02.22	Mrs D. MacKay
20.02.22	Mrs Jean McGugan
27.2.22	Boys' Brigade Junior Dept.
06.03.22	Mrs W. Browning
13.03.22	Mrs J. Mackenzie
20.03.22	Mr P. MacKay & family
27.03.22	Mrs A. McLeod

### LADIES DELIVERING FLOWERS 2022

DATE	DRIVER	PARTNER
09.01.22	Mrs M. Currie	Elizabeth Boyd
16.01.22	Mrs I. Ritchie	
23.01.22		
30.01. 22	Mrs E. Macdonald	Mrs W. Keith
06. 02. 22	Mrs C. Sinclair	
13. 02. 22	Mrs J. Dempster	
20. 02. 22	Mr & Mrs R. Pollock	
27.02. 22	Mrs M. Robin	
06. 03. 22	Mrs D. Grant	Mrs. M. Adam
13. 03. 22	Mrs C. Love	
20. 03. 22	Mrs Sheena Tonner	
27. 03. 22	Mrs Irene Pollock	

If you wish to make a donation, please make a cheque payable to Church of St Mark's.

# VOLUNTEER



## Church Crèche

We are hoping to get the creche up and running again in the New Year and are looking for new volunteers to join the rota. Crèche enables those with young children to be able to continue to take part in worship. Volunteers are 'on duty' one Sunday every couple of months.

Please can you let me or the Church office know if you are able to help.

Mari Everett  
07971 029217





**Deadline for Feb/ Mar edition : 20 January, 2022**

**Please send contributions to : [stuartchristie@sky.com](mailto:stuartchristie@sky.com)**