

MARKSMAN

December 2018 & January 2019



St Marks Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

334 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3DL

Office Telephone – 0141 882 2755

Email: office@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

www.stmarksoldhall.org.uk

Scottish Charity SC011210



I've been holding back writing this article until after the recent Presbytery meeting, as though the Convenors of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and PPRC positively moved and strongly supported St Mark's being given permission to proceed during their joint report debate – because of other factors, *particularly* the number of vacancies in Paisley (and as I write, I've just been informed the minister of Stow Brae is leaving) it was moved from the floor of Presbytery, "Fresh Thinking" is required regarding the Presbytery Plan - when a vote was taken, St Mark's narrowly missed out (32-28) on being given permission to proceed at this moment.

We are still awaiting information and instruction as to where we go from here, and it is 'hoped' we might hear back and be given the permission we require to proceed by end of March 2019, if not before, as Presbytery VPC and PPRC committees are strongly in favour of us proceeding.

In the meantime, the Parish Profile is being prepared and other matters (such as the Manse which will likely require substantial refurbishment) are in the process of being attended to, so we can hit the ground running once we receive the necessary permission.

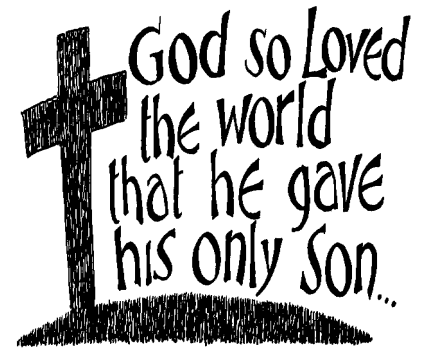
As I had hoped when you received this edition of the Marksman, a Nominating Committee would have been chosen on 2nd December and early next year, (if not before) the search would begin for a new minister, (for the right person for this charge) which will be no easy task given the shortage of ministers, and so many shortly due to retire. However, as I've said before and will keep saying – it's now even more important we not only all play our part; keep pulling together and supporting each other in the interim, in order that may help to attract a new incumbent for St Mark's. Also, don't forget to keep praying about, as I'm sure, despite the challenges that lie before us - God has the right person in mind for the next stage of the life of St Mark's Oldhall Church.



Well, with Christmas only a few weeks away, it makes me ask - how many this year again will celebrate this great event in human history, not really knowing or appreciating, what it is all about. Or be able to look beyond the wooden trees: the wooden crib, to another wooden structure - to the wooden cross, and understand the why of it, and what that has to do with Christmas?

As without Christmas, there would be no Easter, and empty tomb pointing to His glorious Resurrection: or the hope we have through Christ risen, triumphant over sin and death.

So it is very important we remember that, and remind others what Christmas is really about – for it's about God in Christ, lovingly coming to save fallen mankind – as our Christian celebration has very much been taken over by worldly standards.



Yes, we see the decorations, the tinsel, and all the bright coloured lights, the present buying, the parties, and I could go on and on. But I have no problem with all this as I enjoy looking at Christmas lights and decorations and family get-togethers.

But the sadness for me is, that is ALL many in the world are seeing at Christmas. They are not seeing Christ. Christ is not in the centre of their celebrations. And when all the tinsel, family get-togethers and parties are over, what is left, if Christ is not in their hearts in their celebrating?

A few years ago, I travelled to Munich in Bavaria, to visit my son about a fortnight before Christmas: and anyone who has visited Munich at that time of year, will be aware they observe Christmas in a more traditional manner. Well, it was while I was in the Marianplatz, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and looking round the Christkindlmarkt, my wife and I observed a lovely scene – of school children (around 5-6 years old) walking hand in hand around the Marianplatz singing "*Away in a manger*" and other Christmas carols. It was lovely to be there, and be reminded about what Christmas is really about. That is why I love the following words, which Christians (*especially in this secular age*) must make known:



JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

I look forward to sharing in the Christmas Services with you: to celebrating Christmas, and praising God, for the best present ever given to mankind, Jesus Christ, His Son.

God's Blessing this Christmas to you, and all whom you Love.
Ian Bell.

Life & Work

If you have not already paid for next year's Life & Work please pass your money to Julie in the office or your Distributor as soon as possible.

Peter's News

Time is once again flying along and Christmas is not far away. There has been a lot going on over the past couple of months with Friends and Heroes starting, schools work, Trash and lots of other things keeping me busy.



Friends and Heroes is a club for primary school aged young people. We are trying to create a place for young people to come and have fun while learning about the bible. It has been running once a month since September so we have only had a couple of nights. We had 12 young people along at the October, 6 from St Marks and 6 unconnected to St Marks. The plan in the New Year is to run this fortnightly as the young people are keen for that and we have enough helpers to cover this. I am really pleased with how this group has started and look forward to it developing over the next few months.

Over the past few weeks TRASH have been looking at the "Authentic Jesus" and discussing the reliability of the gospels. Before we look at the Christmas story we will think about Jesus as Man and Jesus as God. We have also been trying to add a bit of life and colour to the Stage room where we do our bible studies. TRASH have created coloured canvases with scripture verses on them and all the young people of the church were involved in creating the hand print picture.

The young people were excited to host the Tearfund "Big Quiz Night". They put a lot of work into organising the event and were grateful for so many people coming out to support it. They raised £224.52 for the valuable work of Tearfund. I would like to thank those who came along and participated, and I would also like to thank the young people for organising the event and all they did on the night.



The school work is still going along well. The Monday LiTE group is still going strong and growing. We have a good number of the P6s coming along to play some games and learn stories from the Bible. We have been going through the stories of some Old Testament characters. In the New Year we will be looking at the teaching of Jesus. I am also going in every month to take the two assemblies, one for the P1-3s and one for the P4-7s. In these I have been looking at the key values which underpin the Curriculum for Excellence: wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity.

In the next couple of weeks, the P6s will be down at the church for ADVENTure and look at the purpose of advent and the story and reason for Christmas. It is a chance for them to explore the real Christmas story.

We are still having regular family nights where there are games, some crafty things and a chance to eat together. The last one that we had was arranged a bit last minute but we still had a good turn out and a fun evening. These nights are called "family nights" but they are not just for people with young families, they really are for the whole church "family". They are for the youngest to the oldest and it is a chance to come together and socialise and spend time with each other. So please do feel free to come along. The next one is on Saturday 1st December from 5pm to 7pm and will have some Christmas crafts and activities.

Thank you for your support of the work I do in the church. Please continue to pray for the young people of the church, those in Evolution and at Trash. Please do also pray for the work in the schools and for Friends and Heroes.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.
God bless.

Peter

Big Sing Christmas Concert

Saturday 15th December at 7:30pm. Tickets costing £5 are available from the Church office or the Tuesday singers. Proceeds are for Church funds and Tearfund. We look forward to seeing you.

From the Clerk's Minute-book

Please get in touch with Ian Brackenridge or any Board member if you have any comments or questions on any aspect of the work of St Mark's Congregational Board, we'd be delighted to hear from you.



Summary of the September Meeting

Gavin Hair's nomination to serve on the Congregational Board was approved and we welcome Gavin as a member.

Finance

Gordon Forrest, the church Treasurer, reported on St Mark's Accounts to end September 2018.

Income

Compared with January to September 2017, offering income had decreased by £4643.

Other major sources of income include Gift Aid Tax Recovery and Use of Premises.

A donation had mitigated the reduction in Total Income for the period, however, compared with Total Income to September 2017, a reduction of £4386 was noted.

Expenditure

Replacement fencing at the Manse, trimming of trees at the church and the replacement Office printer were major recent expenses.

Although expenditure to end September, at £90,258, was slightly less than in 2017, Gordon cautioned that manse refurbishment costs would result in an inevitable increase in expenditure next year.

Balance

Although an over-spend of £2500 had accrued, Gordon was cautiously optimistic that a neutral cash flow in 2018 would be achieved.

Property

Church manse

Bob Tonner reported that he had visited the manse to gauge what work is required at the manse. Among a list of items requiring attention or further investigation, the kitchen and downstairs toilet require

refurbishment, the central heating boiler is unreliable and upstairs bedroom windows do not open fully. A professional property inspection will be arranged in order that a prioritised costing can be made.

Church

The door entry system is unreliable and a repair is being assessed. The washbasins in the ladies toilets opposite the small hall are prone to leaking and have resulted in flooding of the floor. Quotations for replacements will be obtained and the work will be arranged.

2nd East Rainbows (Tuesday Evening)

The Rainbows have kickstarted the new session where 'There's something for #Every Girl'!

With a newly revamped GirlGuiding programme introducing 6 themes with unit meeting activities and skill builders, it is shaping up to be an exciting time to be involved in Guiding.

At the moment, we are near completion of our Animal Lover badge, which is part of the theme 'Know Myself', as well as working on our Rainbow promise.

Before the end of the year, we will be attending Pace Panto along with the Tuesday night Brownies, and have our Christmas party.

We have spaces available for girls aged 5 to 7 years old and would be made most welcome in our unit. Please contact myself or through GirlGuiding Join Us online.

Donna Skalley
Rainbow Guider

39th Paisley Brownies

The Brownies have now started on the new Brownie Programme. We presented them with their new Badge Books when the three Brownies made their Promise just before the October holiday. We started the Skills Builders called "Reflect", which is fundamentally about the Brownies learning to know themselves. They do this by undertaking five different activities, which broadens their scope for why we do things, who we are, and about our community.

For example, one activity explores what makes them unique, and they have to design a flag with all the different components to represent themselves. Forfar Bridies took pride of place on mine, representing where I grew up, and owls and crafts got a look in too.

We also looked at what occasions we celebrate, and in what manner they are celebrated. The girls were then asked to plan that event the way that they would like. Some insights into family life; one Brownie would like to put the Angel on top of the Christmas tree instead of dad doing it, while another wanted to spend Christmas Day in her own house, and not someone else's.

We also took the opportunity to speak to the Brownies about Remembrance Day, and how we commemorate that. The girls all made poppies, which we then pulled together into our Brownie Trefoil for the display in the church vestibule. It was wonderful to be part of the community effort for the centenary.

Three Brownies have completed the new Collecting badge. We had a wonderful collection of One Pound coins, complete with the history of when notes went out of currency, a collection of triathlon medals, and a collection of chestnuts.

Seven Brownies took part in the Santa parade through Paisley in November, wrapped up warmly for the weather, but having a great time waving to everyone

A few evenings of crafting our way to Christmas, and then we're off to the pantomime with the Tuesday Rainbows to see Jack and the Beanstalk at Paisley Arts Centre. We'll finish the session with a Christmas party. The Sixers did an amazing job of organising party games for Halloween – I think I'll just sit back and let them do Christmas too!

Wishing all the congregation at St Marks a very Happy Christmas, and best wishes for 2019.

Sheena Tonner
Brownie Leader

1st East Rainbows – Wednesday Night

We have been busy getting to grips with the new Guiding programme. The girls have been learning about first aid and different ways to communicate and are only a few weeks away from completing their first Skill Builder badge.

Some of the girls attended a Rainbow Sleepover at South Newton on the 27th of October where they had a fun night/day learning about Aliens and meeting girls and leaders from other units.

We have been involved in a couple of community events, this month we are collecting dry foods for the Renfrewshire Food Bank along with the Wednesday Brownies. We also made poppies which we attached to the chairs in St Marks as part of the 100 year celebration for Armistice.

5 rainbows made their promise and joined girl guiding in October Liliana, Sydney, Lucy, Ruyi and Lauren. Well done girls. 5 girls got their 1st night camping badge – Daisy, Helena, Julia, Jessica and Ellie, poor Zoe was unwell. Daisy, Darcy, Julia, Helena, Samantha and Sarah have received their 1st Anniversary Badge from Girl Guiding UK for being party of guiding for 1 year.

By the time this is printed and sent out Purple will have received her long service award of 30 years and her Going Away with licence for last year's 30th Mermaid Challenge Sleepover.

We are looking forward to the 5th of December when we hope to have a visit from Santa Clause at the Rainbows Christmas Party.

If you have a daughter who is 5 or over and interested in joining guiding please go online and register your interest at girlguiding.uk.

Purple.



39thA Paisley Brownies – November / December 2018

The Pack continues with a busy programme as we try to “get our heads round” the new programme but we are happy that each meeting is full of friendship and hard work!!! A few weeks ago, we were delighted to have welcomed another girl who is new to Guiding and wanted to join in the fun!!



At the beginning of October, we were delighted to be joined by the parents and carers of 5 girls. Our visiting elder, Mrs Grant was able to come along too and see the girls become Brownies. These girls had been working hard for several weeks, finding out what is involved in being a Brownie. They all made their Promise and now can now wear their badges with pride. They are

Olivia Boyd
Stella Hone

Julia Burns
Meiyee McMillan

Jessica Devlin

On the same evening, we were able to give the girls the new Anniversary Badges which celebrate the time they have been members of Girguiding. We were also delighted to receive a Saltire award for Nicola Wright who has been helping out at the Pack and completed 10 hours of volunteering. Well done and thank you Nicola!

The Pack has been involved in producing poppies to add the Armistice display in the Church. It gave us the opportunity to share the meaning of the poppies.



The Brownies are now all working on the theme of “Express Myself” and are investigating the skill areas called Innovate and Communicate. This involved an interesting activity when the girls were involved in “Edible Architecture” – using fruit and vegetables as construction media!! They even ate their building afterwards!!!

Some of the Brownies have started to work on Interest Badges linked to this theme. One Brownie, Hannah Ballentyne, has finished the clauses needed to complete the Baking Badge and so we were delighted to present her with the first badge, from the new programme, gained in the Pack. Brilliant!!!!



On 31st October, we had a fun night for any girls who wished to attend. Despite only having 6 girls coming along, we all had a great time. There were four different crafts completed and lots of games being played. The favourite was eating donuts, covered in chocolate spread, without using our hands – sticky, messy and fun!!!!

The Brownies and Rainbows are trying to demonstrate the part of the promise which relates to “service to the community”. We are collecting donations for the Renfrewshire Food Bank and are looking forward to welcoming the Manager to a meeting to receive our gifts.

Our final meeting of the year will be devoted to Christmas crafts. Then, in December, we are heading to see a performance of “Jack and the Beanstalk” at Paisley Arts Centre. I will tell you about that soon - oh yes I will!!!!!!

Christine Hair
(Brown Owl)

39th Paisley Guides

We have had a busy session so far trying out our New programme, the girls have completed their Stage 3 Express Myself and have started in Stage 3 Innovate, alongside this they have done some of the Unit Meeting Activities.

In October they went swimming to The Lagoon, celebrated Halloween with a party, helped to make Poppies for the Church display. We were also given a presentation by one of our older Guides, Abbey Kerr, about her visit to the Battlefields with Paisley Grammar.

Most of the unit went away for the weekend to the Hobbit Houses at Lapwing Lodge on 23-25 November. A great weekend glamping as well earning Stage 3 & 4 of Have Adventure Skills Builder which is the camping section.

We look forward to joining with girls from 55th Paisley Guides who meet in Ferguslie to go to the Panto at Paisley Arts Centre on Tuesday 18th December.

Finally, we are currently preparing to celebrate the 39th Paisley Company anniversary which is 80 years since it was registered on 15th December 1938. Some of you may remember the Guide Captain who opened the unit, Miss Ellis Reid. I was fortunate to know her through guiding and the local community. We are planning an Afternoon Tea where we would like to invite past and present members of the Company to come along and share their memories as well as having a look at all of the photographs I have collected over the past thirty odd years. More information will be given at a later date.

Karen Sheils, Leader in Charge

Creche

The creche at St Mark's allows young families to continue to attend church. Being a creche volunteer is great fun and a fantastic way to get to know people. A few of our volunteers have had to stand down and we would like to thank them for their years of service. Maintaining a healthy pool means that each volunteer is on duty for less than half a dozen Sundays a year. Please let me or the church office know if you are able to help in 2018. Many thanks. Mari Everett 0141 569 3721.

Prebytery Prayertime

Eternal loving God, you are always with us, even when we feel like losers. You give us strength to cope even when we are down low and you empower us to rise up, to start again. You, and only you, can build us back up and inspire us to hope; make us smile and laugh again. And your good will to us will always blast through our stubborn resistance and our petty pessimism. Bless us as we share that news with those we meet. Amen.

from Douglas Scott, Presbytery Prayer Coordinator

National Day of Prayer – 3 November 2018

Prayer Breakfast

Thank you to all who came along on the 3rd November to join together in prayer, sharing with many other churches throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. We met to pray for our church, our community and our world and it was a most encouraging morning.

We were reminded in our prayers of the privilege we have to worship in freedom, and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, covered a range of topics that people were led to share.

An opportunity to meet for a short while and share fellowship over cup of tea, but more importantly to share in our corporate worship for our church and nation.

Feedback from the morning was positive, and agreement that it would be good to do this again.

“A time of peace and reflection after a busy week”

“I believe in the power of prayer”.

“I want to belong to a praying church”

“It was a nice time to come together and pray”

“We were all encouraged by the time together”

“It was just what I needed”

“It was very uplifting”

“I felt the comfort of a bigger group and hope it encourages others to join together in corporate prayer”

Challenges were

“Not ready to pray out loud yet”

“Just speaking out is a challenge but we were reminded that there is not right or wrong way”

Do keep a look out in the What's On each week to see when our next Prayer Breakfast will be, and think about joining us then.

Remember that we also meet on Wednesdays from 7:00pm for about half an hour. Everyone is very welcome to come along then. Please don't worry about coming and not praying out loud. It is not a competition and God listens to our prayers, audible or not! And remember, you can always write down a prayer before you come and read it out.

Armistice Centenary



It was thought it would be appropriate that the Church family make a special effort to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice. The poppy has been associated with Remembrance Day since 1921 and it was suggested that all organisations and members of the Church community could be asked to contribute some poppies to form a display in the Church.

As a result of this suggestion, poppies have been produced in all sorts of media – cardboard [including eggboxes], playdoh, lego, wool, foam, assorted types of paper (including cake cases and coffee filters) and even the bottoms of plastic bottles!!!



The response was tremendous and all organisations contributed as well as members who are not involved in any organisation! The display was put together by some of the leaders from several of the youth organisations. It has been very well received by members of the congregation as well as many of the parents who enter the building each week with their youngsters.

It has been a unifying effort from the Church community and shows what can be achieved when we work together. Everyone deserves to be truly proud of a fitting tribute to those who gave so much for our country.

Many thanks to all who contributed.



World Mission Council

At a family gathering recently, Bob and I reflected on the internationality of our family group. Sister-in-law who is half Jamaican, son-in-law whose grandfather was Dutch, Scottish and English relatives, our granddaughter who is mixed race (Scottish and Zimbabwean) and other nieces and nephews who have a Dutch father! And that's without going back in time to see where we all originated from.

The title of the WMC magazine is Being International family, and has articles about Scottish/Czech friendships, an Interfaith conference and a study tour to Israel and Palestine.

A very interesting read on how one parent decided to take her children on a Czech/Scottish camp as she wanted to keep them engaged with the church. It was such a great time that they went back the following year. Read about it in the magazine.



There are articles on David and Mary Sinclair, Mission partners in the Ecumenical and International Relations Department of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB for short!) based in Prague. They were welcomed as so called 'ex-pats', but the story is different for the 'immigrants' in the Czech Republic. They are working with the church to try to live out this quote from Deuteronomy 10:19, which says 'You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt'



David Sinclair works as a Mission Partner in the Ecumenical and International Relations Department of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB), based in Prague, where he lives with his wife, Mary.

Further articles look at Croatia and what it means to live in a world of religions, The India Peace Centre which works in a context of caste and religion-based discrimination, Building Interfaith harmony in Pakistan and interfaith dynamics in Jamaica. These will keep you busy reading and finding out more of the work done and the challenges in these countries.

There is an advert for a study tour to Israel and Palestine in March 2019. Information on this is at the back of the magazine.

An advertisement for a study tour to Israel and Palestine. The top part features a photograph of a cityscape with a prominent golden dome. Text on the advertisement includes: 'The Church of Scotland World Mission Council', 'BEHIND THE WALL - STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE', 'Led by The Very Rev Andrew McLellan with Maureen Jack, on behalf of the World Mission Council', '25-31 March 2019'. Below the photo, it states: 'Staying five nights each in St Andrew's Guesthouse in Jerusalem and in the Lutheran Guesthouse in Bethlehem, the tour will primarily be of interest to those who have visited before. The cost is £1500 per person in a double room (single supplement £200) and covers flights from Edinburgh, half board accommodation, on ground transportation, gratuities and insurance (for travellers 80 years and under). Places are limited; the closing date for applications is 30 November 2018.' Contact information: 'For more information: World Mission Council, Church of Scotland, 131 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN. Tel: 0131 225 5722. Email: wimoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk'. A large white oval with the text 'BOOK NOW!' is in the bottom right corner. At the very bottom, it says 'Scottish Charity Number: SC017353'.

As always, please feel free to take a magazine home to read, and return it when you're finished.

I am going to clear away the backlog of magazines on the stand, so if you'd like to take any of the older editions before I do, please help yourself.

Thanks, Irene Pollock

The Guild

December

3rd Carol service at Stow Brae Kirk

10th Leverndale party

January

7th Fraud awareness

14th Film show

21st A musical afternoon

28th The Gideons



Myra McKellar and I went along to the Guild as the visiting elders and were very warmly welcomed by the ladies there.

A lady from the Salvation Army was recounting her life in various parts of the country while serving in the Army. She had the ladies enjoying a laugh or two with some of her stories, although some held a poignant story behind them.

The second part of her talk was musical, when she played her tambourine - a very special 'light up' one with flashing lights! Inviting a few ladies to join in Margaret, Isobel and Myra couldn't resist! I couldn't miss the opportunity to photograph them and here's the proof!

After a final hymn and prayer we were invited to join in a cuppa, and some delicious baking.

Thank you for your welcome, and be assured that we will remember the Guild in our prayers in the months ahead. Irene and Myra

Office Bearers' duties during December & January

Team 2 – 2nd & 9th December

Alan Taylor, Craig Camlin, Bob Tonner, Sheena Tonner, Eileen Wilkie, Ian Brackenridge

Team 3 – 16th & 23rd December

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

Team 4 – 30th December & 6th January

Graham Black, Gordon Forrest, Mari Everett, Ann Black, Ron Weston, Rena Brown, Margaret Currie

Team 5 – 13th & 20th January

Alastair Boyd, Irene Boyd, Douglas Keith, Ken Dunsmore, Jim Jenkins, Dorothy McKay, Jenifer Morgan

Team 6 – 27th January & 3rd February

Colin Reid, Stuart Burns, Joe Reid, Phyllis McLean, Karin Grant, Andy Grant

Creche Rota for December & January

December

2 nd	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair
9 th	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
16 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell
23 rd	Nativity service	
30 th	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar

January

6 th	Ann Fisher	Cara Gentle
13 th	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair
20 th	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
27 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell

Flowers in the Church December & January

December Flower Committee

2nd Mrs Liz Morgan, 70 Ralston Avenue
9th Mr & Mrs Graham Black, 54 Roffey Park Road
16th Mrs Nana Poustie, 13 Tylney Road
23rd Mrs Reba McNeil, 71 Auchmannoch Avenue
30th

January Flower Committee

6th Mrs Nanette Dryburgh, 82 Dunchurch Road
13th
20th
27th Mrs Anne Munro, 24 Penilee Road &
Mrs Elizabeth Macdonald, 344 Glasgow Road

People delivering flowers during December & January

December

2nd Mrs A Black
9th Mrs K McLauchlan
16th Mrs M Scobie Mrs C Smith
23rd Mrs M Robin
30th Mrs K McLauchlan

January

6th Mrs M Currie Mrs E Boyd
13th Mrs I Ritchie
20th
27th

Church Register

Deaths

24/10/18 Mrs Evelyn Wilson, Duchray Drive