

MARKSMAN

March 2019



St Marks Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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I requested this edition of the Marksman be held back until, certain meetings had taken place, in order that members can be informed of matters the Kirk Session, had been instructed and requested, to address regarding the Vacancy here.

A lot of rumours have been circulating, so here is an update as what has been happening.



Firstly, you will have heard, on 10 February, we had the vote to alter our Constitution to a Unitary Constitution. (A minute of the result of the vote has been sent to the Principal Clerk's office; and we now await a letter of concurrence).

The thinking behind moving to a Unitary Constitution (in combining Board and Session) is **that might enable us to focus, address, better manage this church**, given the number of challenges facing us – especially the General Assembly's instruction in regard to -

The Questionnaire (*printed in centre pages*); Presbytery's request for "**fresh thinking**", and the Vacancy here, particularly with regard to the Presbytery Planning Review Committee's correspondence - "*At the November meeting Presbytery declined to give St Mark's Oldhall permission to call*" – **"might a linkage or union between them and Sherwood Greenlaw be an option?"**

Regarding the latter matter, the Kirk Session (in initially meeting to discuss the PPRC question), asked me as Interim Moderator to make contact the Minister of Sherwood Greenlaw *to ascertain his thinking on the matter*, as if he was not in favour of discussing the matter, then there would be little point in St Mark's office bearers having the meeting on 17th Feb.

I did so, and reported back - the Minister *declined the offer to discuss* PPRC proposal, or matters further, as he was not of a mind (at this point) to take on another church at present; is happy where he is, /and isn't looking to translate to another charge: that things seem to be going well at Sherwood, and 500 houses are about to be built in their parish.

However, though discussions with Sherwood Greenlaw currently are a non starter, we were advised to have our meeting on the afternoon of Sunday 17 February, which we did, fulfilling firstly the Assembly Council instruction and request of Presbytery Mission & Discipleship, regarding completing the Questionnaire *and concept of* "Fresh Expressions" and "thinking outside the box".

These things (highlighted in the Questionnaire) were already on our agenda, however, without doubt, having a thorough discussion helped focus our minds even more, as to what we are currently doing - both within the church/ and out with in schools and community because of benefitting from having a church worker, who is greatly valued for his essential input into the life of St Marks. Trash/ Friends & Heroes/Evolution/ Spring Holiday Club, along with schools and community involvement.

Simply, our Church Worker's input is not only *essential now*, but in things we have identified via discussing the Questionnaire that we could be realistically doing, and are in the process of progressing and prayerfully implementing with his help (Summer Club/ Summer Mission/ Messy Church and maybe more in the near future) **and the involvement of others willing to help with outreach, will be essential.**



Might you be able to help in some way? (Keep watching, **help wanted/vacancies** below, as to where you think you could help) As given the thinking behind the Questionnaire **and Planning Guidelines** there can be no denying those churches which are proactive, thinking outside the box, and reaching out beyond the wood and stone in practical ways, and in Christ's name meeting people where they are – are not only the churches who are likely to be given permission to call; attract a new minister from the decreasing pool available, but be still 'in business' in a few years.



All in all then – given the challenges facing us – we need all on our church roll, to pull together – to support new ventures which arise out of 'fresh thinking' – that we can do by the giving of our time, our talents and money; **as without these things being positively resourced and supported** – and unless something radically changes, the future will be bleak.

Well, I think we can avoid that being the case – in fact I think the future could be exciting here, **if** we get behind our Church Worker Peter (whom we hope if further funding become available) will continue his sterling and much appreciated work and input into the life of St Mark's, the Primary School and this community.

And the same applies when a new incumbent is in place; as neither Peter nor your future incumbent can do what's needed on their own. The alternative (in doing little to address the challenges facing us) is to let St Mark's fade away.

Yes, in time, I think a linking or union with Sherwood Greenlaw (because of the declining numbers of ministers available) might be inevitable.



That was discussed and understood at the meeting on the 17th; that, while preferring to have the right to call for their own Minister now, having a union or linking with Sherwood Greenlaw, with two places of worship, and having a shared minister, with possibly a part-time Associate Minister, and full time Church Worker might prove to be the sensible way forward. **We are not at that stage YET.**

And in the light of what is currently taking place in St Mark's; what is about to take place regarding outreach, *notwithstanding* Presbytery's decision of 11 Nov. 18 and request for fresh thinking: or PPRC

suggestion in the aforementioned email, and subsequent email regarding the PPRC meeting of 30 March, and that it could be quite some considerable time before meaningful and constructive discussions could ever take place between St Marks and Sherwood Greenlaw, and given matters we are progressing and implementing, the consensus of the office bearers was – **that St Marks request permission be given to proceed with the vacancy.**

A report and request to that effect has been sent to Presbytery, and though the following communication has since been received from Presbytery (*Following on from the email the PPRC recently sent you we are organising an afternoon to discuss the possibilities and hopefully discern some form of routemap for the Presbytery Plan in the wider Paisley area. This will be on Saturday 30th March 2019 at 12.30pm in the Cornerstone, Bishopton. We are asking for 3 delegates from each congregation, including 3 each from both congregations of Martyr's Sandyford, to attend*) which we will attend, **we are still of the firm opinion**, because matters cannot be progressed with regard to PPRC request, and because of natural justice **to ask permission of Presbytery to proceed with filling the vacancy here.**



So what are the priorities facing us?

Firstly, to secure funding to finance a full time Church Worker, as without Peter, much of the new things and what is currently being planned, will cease.

Secondly, all of what we currently do, hope to do or expand upon **comes at a cost** – as resources both financial and practical will be required. (Note what Treasurer has to say regarding a drop in our finances). We can't ask people to do for us, if they don't have the funding; resources and facilities to work with.



Thirdly, and I'm thankful for someone pointing out at the meeting on 17th "all of this needs to be undergirded and supported by both private and corporate prayer".



Fourthly, and explanations will be expanded upon in due course with regard to the likes of, **“Messy Church”**: **“Church Club** (covering holidays): **Summer Club: Fund Raising: Community Events: Multimedia: Church Website and possibly recording and transmitting services via website – is**

WHERE can I BE INVOLVED and HELP through giving some of my time, talents and resources?



Recall what is said in Scripture - “the wall was soon built to half it’s height, because the people were of a mind to (do their bit, and) work together” . (Neh. 4)

Prayerfully you will give some serious thought to these matters.



Yours in Christ

Ian Bell

FURTHER UPDATE

Though the Minister of Sherwood Greenlaw (as is his right/ and for reasons mentioned in the above article) is not currently prepared to enter into a linkage where he might end up covering 2 very busy and perhaps diverse congregations, he has corresponded with us saying – “Our Session probably like St Marks had many reservations about such an action. However, we are open to what God might want to do, and feel that having a conversation about the current situation is not a bad thing to do, because things are going to have to change whether ministers or congregations like it or not. It also might help to quash some of the rumours that we could then issue a joint statement regarding our joint position. So, in the spirit of unity I suggest we perhaps get a few folks together from Both Kirk Sessions to explore the topic, which means we have done as Presbytery asked of us, and have some kind of agreed position to put to Presbytery”.

As Interim Moderator, I have subsequently spoken to John, informing him of what I have written in the Marksman: of the Report the Kirk Session have already drawn up and sending to Presbytery (a copy also to be sent to Sherwood Greenlaw)- and suggested following the special PPRC meeting organised for Paisley Churches on the afternoon of 30 March, that (in terms of his email) a small groups of office bearers from St Marks and Sherwood Greenlaw might wish to discuss the matter further.

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 you.



from

Summary of the January Meeting

Church Worker Report

Our church worker, Peter Blair reported on his work at St Mark's and in the local community. Peter continues to build relationships with the staff, pupils and parents at Ralston school; he has established a lunchtime group with around 10 P6 pupils attending. Pupils from other classes are expected to join the group over the next few weeks. Peter also leads the school assemblies on a monthly basis.

The school Christmas Services were a success, offering a positive Church experience for pupils and parents. The Advent Workshop, held in December was both a fun and a learning experience.

Peter was invited to the school P6 Burns Lunch and he plans to accompany the staff and pupils on a school trip after Easter. At St Mark's the TRASH group is thriving and the members are developing their understanding of the Christian faith. The TRASH quiz night was well attended and £300 was raised for Tear Fund. Some members of TRASH helped at the Christmas Eve service by playing their instruments.

The Friends and Heroes group attracts between 8 and 14 young people, with around half of those having no previous church connection. The Family nights have included craft activities, games and movie nights, helping to build stronger ties among the St Mark's membership.

Church Worker Funding

Ian Bell suggested that the profile of St Mark's had to grow to enliven our mission role in the local community; he suggested many initiatives that St Mark's could embark on, including encouraging local youth involvement, establishing a church club and Messy Church, all of which would rely on Peter working on a full time basis.

The Finance Convener, Sandy Fergusson, reported on how the funding of a Church Worker could be realised by applying for a Church of

Scotland 'Go For It' grant. If successful, the grant would provide 50% of the estimated £28K total annual cost for two years. Combined with an application for a Presbytery 'Discretionary Allowance' of up to £7500, which would be deducted from the Ministry and Mission payment to the Church of Scotland, Peter would be employed full time.

In the meantime, a donation has been received which will increase Peter's paid hours per week to twenty until July.

Following a vote by the Congregational Board, a unanimous decision was made to proceed with the funding approach described by Sandy.

Finance

Income

The Finance Committee Convener, Sandy Fergusson, expressed disappointment that offering income had reduced by 7.4%.

Ian Bell considered that an increase of 10% to 15% in offering income would be required to sustain and develop the work of St Mark's.

Expenditure

Sandy reported that expenditure had remained static despite the purchase of a new office printer and increased heat and light costs; alternative suppliers of gas and electricity will be assessed to determine whether a cheaper supplier can be found.

Assets

Sandy advised that the total funds held by St Mark's amounted to £70761.

Property

Church heating

Ian Bell expressed his concern that the church heating system was failing to adequately heat the church for Sunday worship and that immediate action would be necessary.

(Post-meeting note – the gas inlets in the boiler were found to be partially blocked and full operation of the church heating system has since been restored).

Vestibule Window Replacement

Bob Tonner, the Property Convener, reported that a window above the Corrie Drive doorway had spontaneously shattered and had been temporarily boarded-up, pending replacement of the double-glazed unit, at a cost of £471.

Manse

The manse property inspection has been completed and the report submitted to Presbytery. The manse will continue to be maintained on a wind and watertight basis, pending Presbytery approval to renovate the manse.

Ladies Toilets

A budget has been set for the replacement of the washbasins and water heater in the Ladies Toilets; the work will be arranged in due course.

Church

The door entry system is unreliable and a repair is being investigated.

Church Fire Extinguishers

Donald MacDonald reported that a new type of foam-generating fire extinguisher is available which is 1/3 lighter in weight and more effective than the pressurised water type installed in the church. The cost of supporting the two types of extinguisher is similar and Donald will invite quotations from potential suppliers for further consideration.

Thy Kingdom Come Global Prayer Initiative

This will run from Ascension Day to Pentecost (30 May to 9 June).

Here I include a quote from the Moderators letter.

In anticipation of this event, can I ask you to consider signing up to "Pledge2Pray" as an individual and as a church in order that together we will see God's Kingdom Come.

If anyone is interested in finding out more please speak to me or go online at

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/#Pledge2PrayCounter>

Irene Pollock

Peter's News

With Christmas just behind us and Easter quickly approaching on the horizon it is going to be another busy time over the next few months.

TRASH (The Real Answers Start Here) have been busy over the past few weeks as we concluded our study on the Authentic Jesus and have started a program for 2019. The young people have created a list of questions about Christianity, faith the bible that they would like us to look at over the next couple of months. We are also starting to plan our weekend away for later in the New Year. The young people of Trash are a real asset to the church and are keen to do more in the life of our church.



Friends and Heroes (the children's club for P1 to P7) has started really well and we continue to grow in the number of young people coming along. It has been so successful that the young people were keen for it to be on more regularly so it now meets every two weeks. We have recently been looking at the story of David and Peter's meeting with Cornelius. There is a good balance to the hour with games, activities, snack, our DVD and discussion.

We have had a number of church family events since the last Marksman, including a Christmas night, a movie night and another games night. We have a list of dates for other events between now and the summer holidays. Please do keep an eye out for these events and feel free to come along.

The schools work is also going well. The P6s came to the church in December for ADVENTure where they look at what Advent is and learn about the Christmas story. The P7s will hopefully be coming to the church to do the Easter Code where they learn about the Easter story. The Monday lunchtime group (Monday LiTE) is currently looking at the miracles of Jesus. I am still going in every month to take assemblies for the school with a mix of stories, videos and activities. I look forward to the school coming down at the end of March for their Easter services.



I have managed to support the school with a number of trips and activities including a lovely Burns supper put on by the P6s. I am going away again with the P7s to Lockerbie Manor for their residential week.



This year's holiday club is Going Bananas, where we will be looking at the story of a number of people from the bible who did strange things as they followed God. It will be on from the 1st to 5th of April from 10am to 12 noon. There are lots of ways that people can help - preparing crafts, decorating the church, preparing fruit and juice, registration, as well as the leaders with the children. If you would like to help at the holiday club in any way please speak to Peter or Eileen. Please also pray for the holiday club and prayer cards will be available in the next couple of weeks. Flyers for the holiday club will also be available in the next couple of weeks if you have children, grandchildren, neighbours who might be interested in coming along.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth ministry of the church and community.

God bless,
Peter

World Mission Council - January 2019

Welcome to the first article from the WMC for 2019.

The articles are always a little out of kilter, as the magazine arrives usually just after the Marksman has been printed. This means that you don't always get information of things that are happening until AFTER the event.

There isn't much point in me telling you about resources for Christmas!

I thought I would use this month to remind you of the magazine itself. I receive 4 copies and put these in the book stands in the side foyer for anyone to take away and read.

I have tidied up the book stand and removed the back copies of the WMC and put them on the bottom shelf of the wooden bookcase in the foyer. Please feel free to use them.

In the October/November issue there was a page detailing resources for churches to use. A photo of the pages is shown below.

WORLD MISSION RESOURCES

We've had a busy summer working on different resources, particularly following the General Assembly. If you would like to order any of these resources contact wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk. Alternatively visit the website for online versions.

Living Together in a World of Religions: Interfaith Engagement – our 2018



Popular Report shares stories of our partners from around the world as they relate their inspiring and challenging experiences of engaging with people and communities of other religions.

"Take your hat off... dip it in honey... don't lay it on the ground." These and many more facts are waiting for you to explore as you play our latest game **"Interfaith Connections"**. We hope by playing this game you will learn more about different religions.

This year a special report was presented at the General Assembly looking at what the Church in Scotland can learn from the **Church in Africa**. We've created a compact version of the report with accompanying Bible Studies for you to work through. If you enjoyed working through the previous Anti-Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence reports and studies then these are similar. If you haven't had the chance to use any of these then there's some great resources waiting for you.



To help you get the most out of the Popular Report we've put together some **bookmarks** that correspond with sections in the report. Each gives you an opportunity to think, share and act on what you can take away from the report.



I will put that page up on the notice board, and should anyone feel they'd been interested I getting some, please let me know.

I am going to get some of the Mission Partner Posters which can be displayed. They give details of the people, their work and how we can pray for them. Keep your eyes peeled!

Should you wish to read the last magazine of 2018 please take a copy from the book stand.

As usual, if you had something you wish to ask me about or any feedback, please let me know.

Thanks
Irene Pollock



Mission Partner Posters – Our Mission Partners appreciate your ongoing support. These posters are designed to share about their work and how you can be praying for them.

Peace Puzzles – these small magnetic puzzles are great discussion starters or perfect for a kids activity. The large wooden version that we used at Heart and Soul is available for you to borrow if you're able to collect it from the Church Offices.



As part of the Year of Young People we have produced a set of **Prayer Cards** focusing on young people written by and focusing on young people from churches around the world.



Our **website** is a great source of information about our Partner Churches and ways that you could get involved.

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

2nd East Rainbows

The Rainbows have now

Returned to their regular meetings on Tuesday evenings following the festive holidays.



We have been working on the Girlguiding new programme resources which involve Unit Meeting Activities (UMA) and Skills Builders Activities (SB) – Themes include Know Myself – Express Yourself – Be Well – Have Adventures – Take Action – Skills For My Future.

The Rainbows have been taking part in many weekly activities:

Den Building

Planting Indoor Daffodils

Making Highland Cows Fridge Magnets for Burns Night

Learning to write their names in Chinese, opening Fortune Cookies & using Chopsticks for Chinese New Year

Making Thinking Day Cards to exchange with another Rainbow Unit in England

We will soon be completing our Rainbow Promise activities & making Easter Crafts.

Our Rainbow unit have spaces for girls aged between 5-7 years of age. Please contact myself should you require any further information.

Come & join us for fun, laughter, games & friendship.

Donna, Kerry & Kristina
2nd East Rainbows Leaders

Mission Questionnaire for Congregations

1. Do you have a Mission & Outreach team or convenor or similar?
2. What initiatives/programmes/events do you currently run that you regard to be to be mission and/or outreach to the community in your parish?
3. Which of these have you started in the last three years?
4. Have any stopped recently and why?
5. What initiatives/programmes/events/ideas are you currently exploring or in the process of setting up?
6. Which areas or groups of people in your community do you feel you should be focusing your attention on in the next three years?
7. Have you used the Future Focus process or similar (perhaps Local Review or reflection during a vacancy) to establish your congregation's vision and mission for the future? If not, why not?
8. Please outline your plans as to how your Kirk Session hope to address the General Assembly instructions mentioned.
9. Would you be prepared to share your missional experiences with others in Presbytery at an appropriate event or in another format (e.g. via the website).

How would you answer these questions?

Please see later in the Marksman for our response.

Girlguiding - Long Service Awards



As East District Commissioner, I was privileged to be able to present Long Service Awards for volunteering with Girlguiding at the recent Thinking Day service held on Sunday 17th Feb 2019 at St Mark's.

Girlguiding Long Service Awards were present to the following Leaders:



5 Years Award

Claire Fyfe - 39th Paisley Brownies (Tues Evening)
Danielle Goudy - 39th Paisley Guides (Tues Evening)



10 Years Award

Grace McGhie - 39th A Paisley Brownies (Wed Evening)
Kirsty Hair - 39th A Paisley Brownies (Wed Evening)



20 Years Award

Karen Sheils - 39th Paisley Guides - (Tues Evening)



30 Years Award

Lesley Barclay - 1st East Rainbows - (Wed Evening)
Sheena Tonner - 39th Paisley Brownies - (Tues Evening)



40 Years Award

Christine Hair - 39th A Paisley Brownies - (Wed Evening)

As a Girlguiding Volunteer, you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources - your time.

The above awards have accumulated 150 years of service between them.

Please join me in congratulating the above Leaders for their service.

Donna Skalley
East District Commissioner
Girlguiding - Paisley Division

39thA Paisley Brownies – February 2018

We are happy to have resumed our meetings after the Christmas break. It was most unusual to begin the new term without having lost any girls to Guides but we did welcome 5 new girls who have finished their time in Rainbows and would like to become Brownies.

At the end of last term, we welcomed our visiting elders, Mrs Irene Boyd and Mrs Lesley Campbell and the Church Worker Mr Peter Blair to one of the meetings. They were there to test the Artist badge that the girls had been working on since September. The visitors were suitably impressed with the work the girls had been doing and we were able to award badges. Mrs Boyd also tested Alexandra Houston on the Designer badge. She liked what she saw and wants to know to when the designs are going into production!!

On the 24th November, some of the Brownies and 4 Guiders headed off to Glasgow Science Centre for a sleepover. We joined Guides and Brownies for across Renfrewshire for an evening of fun.



This included a visit to a Science Show and the Planetarium as well as "free reign" of all the exhibits. After supper, we found some floor space to bed down for the night. Lights went out at midnight and most of our Brownies were



quickly sleeping. In the morning, we had breakfast before leaving about 8.00am. This meant travelling home to bed for many!!!

In December, the Pack had a visit to the Paisley Arts Centre to see Snowwhite. The evening was enjoyed by the Brownies (and Guiders!!) who were very vociferous and joined in with the cast. Many of them even took the opportunity to "tread the boards" when they were invited onto the stage to join in the singing and dancing!!

Each Wednesday, the Brownies have started working towards another interest badge. Everyone has started work are on Fire Safety and we have some exciting plans linked to this. I will let you know in the next article!! Hopefully the Brownies will learn some new and very important skills and have fun completing the work involved.

In the next few weeks, we have lots of plans to keep the Brownies busy. Included in this, we will be celebrating Thinking Day in February and in March, we have a couple of Craft Evenings planned. Plans are also moving on for Pack Holiday in June.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!!!!!!
Christine Hair (Brown Owl)

39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday Brownies)

We've been joined by three Rainbows moving up, one Brownie transferring in from another unit, and Isla Towle has moved on up to Guides. We've been fortunate to be joined by a new leader, Leesa Mackay (who did her previous Guiding in England), her daughter Hazel who is going to start on Young leader training, and Beth, who returns to us having been a Guide at St Mirren's. We also have Ruby, another Guide attached to Sherwood Greenlaw unit, who is currently doing service with us. So, our Guiding family grows.

We enjoyed the pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk at Paisley Arts Centre, along with the Tuesday Brownies. Star of the show for me was one of our Brownies, Caitlin, who ended up on stage with the pantomime Dame, and brought the house down. Well done Caitlin. The girls enjoyed their Christmas party, and as well as bringing along a present to swap in the traditional way, they were generous enough to think of people with very little for Christmas. The Paisley Foodbank was donated food, toiletries and other essentials on behalf of the girls and their families.



We've been continuing on our new Brownie Programme. As a Unit, we've now completed the Skills Builders called "Reflect". Some of the activities have been enjoyed more than others, but we've covered the essentials required, and it's maybe meant taking a slightly different approach to appeal to the group of girls we have.

Some of the girls have tackled the "Collecting" badge and one has done "My Rights". So now that they have done the Skills Builder, and an Interest Badge, they can be awarded with their first Theme Badge, which they will receive on 19 February, as we celebrate Thinking Day and our new Brownies make their Promise.

We have a small group of Brownies going for a Sleepover at Sea Life Centre in March. Last time we slept with the otters, so I wonder where we will end up this time. This, however, will give them a chance to be away from home overnight, and whet their appetite for the District Camp in May at South Newton.

We now turn our thoughts to the next Skills Builder, and encouraging the girls to explore the badge book for their next interest badge.

Sheena Tonner
Brownie Leader

World Mission Council February 2019

Now would you believe it!

Having completed my article for the Marksman, and bemoaning the fact that the magazines arrive out of kilter with the Marksman being printed, the February edition popped through my door!

Fortunately this month the deadline for articles is 10th February, so I thought I would add in a second article and keep everyone up to date.

The theme for February is Act Justly and covers topics about the Ethics of Aid, Climate Change, Fairtrade, as well as looking at a programme called Faithshare scholarship.

Lots to digest.



The ethics of aid article challenges us to think about *'what we truly give as a gift, but one where the benefit is to the recipient, not to ourselves. Having the power to improve the lives of others is for us all, a privilege, and one that comes with its own sense of obligation'*

An update on Traidcraft is included. It was announced they would cease trading on 31 December 2018. The news is that they will continue to trade but with a new business model, slimmed down to sell food and a small selection of crafts imported in the UK. Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 25 Feb – 10 Mar 2019. For those interested to read more see the picture below.



There is an interesting article on Climate change, relating to Nepal. Rev Jan Matheson from Williamwood Parish Church writes about a recent visit there, and how climate change is moving at alarming rates in higher lands. Unpredictable patterns of rain leading to uncertainty for

planting, torrential downpours causing villages to be cut off from getting supplies, are just two issues.

However, there are some signs of things changing, with communities taking responsibility for managing their forests, irrigation schemes and fish farming, providing work and food.

And finally an opportunity for young adults to volunteer.



Should you wish to read the last magazine of 2018 please take a copy from the book stand.

As usual, if you had something you wish to ask me about or any feedback, please let me know. Thanks Irene Pollock.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for their concern, good wishes, phone calls, cards and beautiful flowers which I received after my unexpected stay in hospital. Also thank you to Rev Ian. Bell for an enjoyable visit and to our Elder, Dr Colin Reid, for his patience in answering my endless questions regarding side effects of medications!!!!

Sandra Gemmell

The Guild

March

4th Laughter lines
11th Smalls for All
18th AGM + Ian Walker entertains

Office Bearers' duties during March

Team 2 – 3rd & 10th March

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

Team 3 – 17th & 24th March

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

Team 4 – 31st March & 7th April

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

Creche Rota for March

March

3 rd	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair
10 th	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
17 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell
24 th	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar
31 st	Lisa Murphy	Tracy Potts

Flowers in the Church March

March Flower Committee

3 rd	Mrs Wilma Browning, 11 Atholl Crescent
10 th	Mrs Jean Mckenzie, 53 Allanton Avenue
17 th	Mr Peter McKay & family, 347 Glasgow Road
24 th	Mrs Ann McLeod, 18 Bathgo Avenue
31 st	Mr & Mrs Gordon Kerr, 25 Thornly Park Drive

People delivering flowers during March

3 rd	Mrs D Grant	Mrs M Adams
10 th	Mrs C Love	
17 th	Mrs S Tonner	
24 th	Mrs I Pollock	
31 st	Mrs J Dempster	Mrs L MacRae

Church Register

Deaths

19/12/18 Mr Alastair Boyd, Bathgo Avenue

New Member

24/2/19 Karen Macdonald, Bathgo Avenue
24/2/19 Liz Young, Marchbank Gardens

Our response to the Mission Questionnaire

1. Do you have a Mission & Outreach team or convenor or similar?

Not at present, however under the proposed Unitary Constitution which is awaiting confirmation from the General Assembly, there will be within the team structure.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

2. What initiatives/programmes/events do you currently run that you regard to be to be mission and/or outreach to the community in your parish?

Church worker involved in local Primary School - taking Assemblies, class involvement, support for School trips, runs lunchtime clubs, School visits to Church including Easter and Christmas workshops, end of term services. School choir attends special afternoons held for the housebound & elderly.

Church worker involved in Community outreach - Friends & Heroes club for Primary 1-7, Holiday Club held during the Easter holidays for Primary school aged children. Family BBQ held at the end of the Holiday Club for children and their families. Organises Quiz, Games & Film nights.

Church worker involved in Church - Working with Evolution (Junior Church), Trash (The Real Answer Starts Here) group for Primary 7 to Secondary 6. Supporting music group for young people. Assists with the Boys Brigade.

An Elder supports the local Primary School by playing piano for their Christmas Nativity service and at the rehearsals.

Weekly coffee mornings are held from April to September

Weekly services held from October to March

Prayer breakfast held occasionally on a Saturday morning

Prayer group meets weekly

Bible study group held fortnightly

ALPHA course

Big Sing annual concert

3. Which of these have you started in the last three years?

Friends & Heroes
Prayer breakfast
Quiz, Games & Film nights
ALPHA

4. Have any stopped recently and why?

6/8 group for 18-25-year olds. Core group outgrew/moved away to university etc
We are in the process of re-evaluating what can be done, giving it greater emphasis.

5. What initiatives/programmes/events/ideas are you currently exploring or in the process of setting up?

Messy Church
Community Café
Building bridges with youth groups using Church facilities
Streaming morning services
Improving our Website

6. Which areas or groups of people in your community do you feel you should be focusing your attention on in the next three years?

Young people and young families.
Follow up Members who have fallen away but who are physically able to come to Church.
Evening Youth Café.

7. Have you used the Future Focus process or similar (perhaps Local Review or reflection during a vacancy) to establish your congregation's vision and mission for the future? If not, why not?

Using issues raised in the Questionnaire and the Future Focus we recently held an afternoon conference for Office Bearers to establish our vision for the future.

8. Please outline your plans as to how your Kirk Session hope to address the General Assembly instructions mentioned.

Setting up a Mission Team

Applying for funding to allow Church Worker to go full time

Kirk Session assisting the Church Worker with setting up new ventures such as Messy Church.

Looking at ways we can meet people where they are.

9. Would you be prepared to share your missional experiences with others in Presbytery at an appropriate event or in another format (e.g. via the website).

Not at present via our Website but willing to share at appropriate events the experience of our Church Worker.

Church Office Hours

Tue, Wed & Fri 11:15am – 2:45pm