

MARKSMAN

April & May 2019



St Marks Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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I'm enjoying being at St Mark's, Oldhall, and gradually getting to know you. It's hard to believe just over seven months have gone by since I came to be your Locum. It's a very demanding charge, and I appreciate greatly (*as will your future Minister*) the assistance of the Pastoral Care Team, who with others, quietly do so much good work behind the scenes in this church. So whatever support, wherever and whenever, you give it (including *just being in church on a*

Sunday) is much needed and appreciated.

Again, I cannot stress that enough, as though being vacant - we always need to ensure St Mark's is well attended, busy, proactive, and well supported *and resourced* (in Time, Talents and Money) churches – *given churches thinking out the box* - are more likely to attract new incumbents.

I fully concur with what the Very Rev Albert Bogle said in his article (**Starting Again** /March edition of Life & Work) – which I quoted from at the recent S.A.M – “*If the church was in crisis 20 years ago, we are now reaching the point where we require to get the lifeboats out. We require to seriously begin to rebuild our Christian communities – and be radical in our thinking. We need to invite a congregation to rebuild itself. To leave the old model behind and venture into a new place*”.

In short, retaining good traditions - *need to be* open to doing new things. To re-evaluating where we are: and if need be (re Albert's words) – to be open to discovering *and implementing* new ways of **being** the church – reaching beyond the wood and stone into the Ralston area to families and youth.

The reason *we have moved* to a Unitary constitution, is so *we may better organise ourselves, implement and work together especially in Mission*, as the churches which “*sit on their laurels*”, and don't attempt doing that, will simply not be around in a few years.

With regard to the above, as I've mentioned in previous editions of the Marksman – in being able to work alongside Peter Blair our church worker (with his vision, experience and enthusiasm) is very much appreciated by many – and I'm grateful we have been able to not only hang on to Peter, but to be given the funds (*through the financial generosity of unnamed members of this congregation*) to increase his hours (for he had been doing a lot of unpaid work).



In addition to this, at the point of writing, Presbytery has given us a grant and we await a reply (expected mid May) from “Go for it Funding”, which if positive will enable Peter to go back to Full-Time, and again assist in Evolution, whose leaders do such committed sterling work among the young folk.

If that “Go For It” funding comes about, the matters Peter and I have been discussing with your very busy Session Clerk, Elizabeth and others who have “volunteered” to help, (and are currently helping with youth programmes such as - “TRASH”, “FRIENDS & HEROES” etc) *will enable us* to start further outreach programmes such as –

YOUTHSPOT...

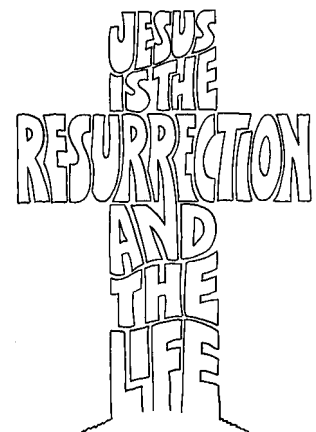


“Church Club” (covering Evolution holiday periods): a “Summer Club” (one week during summer months/similar to Spring Club “Going Bananas”): Messy Church” (will involve young folk + and hopefully families /hope to begin end of August).

Apart from this, the Kirk Session will probably be organising a number of fund- raising events - with the *dual aim* of attracting people in the community to attend, *and* raise further much needed funds for the church, *as it will involve further financial cost* to run the above. So, bearing this in mind, please note the Treasurer’s page.



Well, by the time you receive, this edition of he Marksman, Holy Week and Easter will soon be upon us – when we will again celebrate Christ risen, *and given thanks* for all Jesus has done for us: for the hope that is ours: as if *Jesus Christ be not risen our faith is in vain.* (Read 1st Corinthians 15:12-21).



What a difference it makes to our living to accept and believe what is said in 1st Corinthians 15:20 (“*But Christ has indeed been raised*”) and not doubt that. Oh, how I pray many more might come to believe that – as *what a positive difference* that makes to peoples’ living and their dying.

Speaking of the latter, and though I haven’t had a lot of funerals to conduct here (*you are a healthy bunch and benefit from two doctors in the congregation*) - personally, I find it very sad, in conducting funerals of folk who haven’t been able to accept and believe, “*the message of Easter: that the best is yet to come*”. Especially when meeting with relatives to find out a bit about the deceased, and what they would like said at the service.

This reminded me not just of the numerous adverts on TV, but of the following article I came across- **What About Your Funeral?**

Have you ever thought how interesting it might be to take a survey from church members as to what they would like to have said concerning themselves at their funerals. Should the minister **A)** tell the truth about you, **B)** exaggerate your good qualities and eliminate your flaws; or **C)** throw integrity to the wind and simply lie. If you were asked to write a short paragraph providing the minister a “script” exactly what would you say?

As a now deceased, and greatly loved minister of several years past, who was a gentle and kind man, was called to conduct the funeral of a church member who was anything but faithful. He struggled to know what to say.

According to his own testimony, this is what he said, as kindly as he could, regarding the deceased gentleman. *“He was a member of the church but was careless in attendance. He was a member of the church, but he did not think nurture in the faith was important, so he never came. He was a member of the church, but he never gave as he prospered.*

His funeral is being conducted in this building paid for by others. He was a member of the church, but not once did he ever speak to another about the need for faith in Christ. He has now gone to judgment to meet his God; all he can say to God is, ‘I was a member of the church.’”

It was later commentated as people filed out of the church building, an irate person commented, “He preached him straight into hell.” No, he did not. By that time, that member was already at his destination, and the funeral comments had nothing to do with that.

Have you ever thought: when your minister is called to conduct your funeral, do you have any suggestions as to what he should say? Consider this, in the light of this question, *“if you were put on trial as a Christian, would there be enough evidence as convict you?”*

As from a minister's point of view, it is much easier to conduct the funeral of a person who was an active Christian and faithful church member, and be able to genuinely use the phrase “Welcome home, good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of the Lord”. (Mtt 25:21)

Enough on sombre matters, but do give thought to what *“the Lord requires of you”* (Micah 6:8) and how your talent(s) might be used in St Mark’s – as one thing I do note about you, is how friendly you are, and how you enjoy chatting to each other; hopefully when the right opportunity arises, about matters of faith to those of no faith, or to someone who has ceased attending church, and that they are being missed.



A little story that illustrates the problem of church attendance goes like this: In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to people in his town. At last he decided to build them a church building.

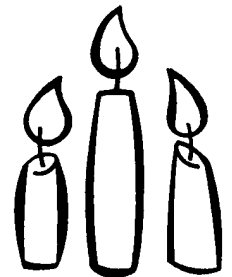
No one saw the complete plans for the building until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marvelled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked,

“But where are the lamps? How will it be lit?”

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a candle which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.



“Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lit,” the nobleman said. *“Each time you are not here, that area will be dark.”*

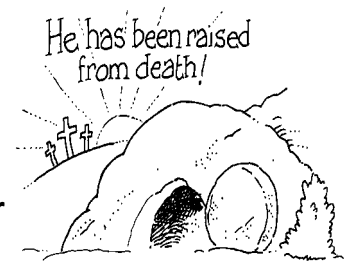


This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark.”

Point being, *we are all needed in St Mark's Oldhall*, and as I often say, nothing encourages a potential incumbent more than a full church, and seeing people being *“lights for Christ”* – working together in unity for Christ, and supporting each other.

So, bearing in mind what Jesus says in Matthew 5:14-16, *about believers being called to be “lights for the world”* - let's all see what we can do *to continually light up St Mark's*, and attract not only a new minister here, but others who know not Christ, to Him –

And as we begin the journey towards Lent and Easter and are reminded of Jesus did for us.



May we open ourselves to where God is leading us and may God bless us and guide us, and may we ALL continue to work for the coming of His Kingdom.

Yours in Christ *Ian W Bell (Locum)*

PS: I'm thinking of not only handing out Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday, but sending out candles to those I and others miss seeing, and celebrating with - on RESURECTION DAY.

From the Clerk's Minute-book

If you have any comments or questions on Finance or Property then please get in touch with any member of the team, we'd be delighted to hear from you.



Summary of the March Congregational Board Meeting

Church Accounts

Bill Whyte reported that the church accounts were in good order and he thanked Julie Wright for her diligence in maintaining the accounts and also the Finance team for their support.

Finance

The church treasurer, Gordon Forrest commented on Finance matters as follows:

2018 Financial Statements

A deficit of £4044 had accrued over the year. Donations had continued the downward trend, decreasing from £113181 in 2017 to £107284 in 2018, giving cause for concern.

Compared with 2017, Heat and light costs had increased by £1800 and Stationery and Postage had increased by £2000. Further investigation of the Heat and Light costs will be conducted to determine the reason for the increase. The Stationery and Postage increase was attributable to the cost of a replacement office printer.

Gordon recommended that the continued reduction in income should be addressed quickly in order to overcome the deficit in 2019.

Approval of the 2018 Financial Statements was granted at the meeting.

Jan-Feb 2019 accounts

Income

Donations had continued to decline, with a reduction of £2652, compared with the first 2 months of 2018.

Expenditure

Church expenses were similar to the same period in 2018.

2019 Budget

A £7322 deficit is predicted on the basis of the current conditions.

The Church Worker will continue to be funded from grants, St Mark's legacy fund and donations. (Church of Scotland, Go-for-It grant funding, amounting to £5000, remains to be confirmed.)

Elimination of the forecasted budget shortfall will be given high priority.

Property

Ladies Toilets

Selection of the contractor to replace the washbasins and water heater in the Ladies Toilets will be made when requested quotations are received.

Church Door Entry System

Repair to the door entry system is underway by the selected contractor.

Church Fire Extinguishers

A rolling programme to replace the pressurised water fire extinguishers with the foam-type will be established to avoid incurring a single large replacement cost.

Manse

A meeting to review and discuss the manse property report will be held in early April.

A decision on granting permission to call a minister is expected in May; any renovation of the manse will require to commence immediately upon permission being given.

Finance committee report

I hope everyone has managed to read through the Financial Statement for 2018, which was available for the SAM, held on 24th March. If not in summary this showed that once again St Marks was in a deficit position with a loss of £4044.

The majority of the deficit originates from a drop in income during 2018. This was due to several causes. The main cause was a reduction in congregational weekly giving's from £113181 in 2017 to £106,284 last year. There were also reductions in income arising from fundraising activities throughout the year and from income derived from use of the Church halls.

Our expenditure throughout the year was approximately the same as in 2017 after several measures to reduce our spend last year.

However, the overall effect resulted in a deficit situation for the year.

Unfortunately, this reduction in income looks to be continuing into 2019. Our income for the first two months of 2019 is nearly £3500 less than the same period in 2018 (approx. a 15% drop). This is extremely worrying and a trend which we need to address urgently. As such we would ask all members to look to their weekly giving's and if possible, increase them significantly. We shall need approximately £120000 in 2019 to maintain the status quo. In addition, we shall have extra costs arising from having to maintain the manse during the vacancy e.g. Council tax and heating.

We would again ask all members who are standard rate tax payers to ensure that they have gift aided their donations as this ensures HMRC donate an extra 25% to the Church. I would also urge all who do any shopping via the Internet to use the easyfundraising.org website to raise money for St Marks. This has contributed over £1500 over the past two years to our cause at no extra cost to the contributor.

It costs approximately £27000 per annum to fund Peter our church worker. We have received funding from Presbytery of £7500 and are hoping to receive a further £10000 funding from the "Go For It Fund" to help fund Peter for the forthcoming year. However, part of the conditions for receiving this grant is that St Marks has to match fund the same amount each year. So far, we have had donations totalling £2500 so far from four generous church members to help keep Peter at St Marks. Having a church worker will be essential in our search for a new minister and is a priority in our spending intentions for 2019.

The other major expense, should we be lucky to be able to find a new minister, will be the renovation of the manse. The estimate is that this will require about £60000 to bring the manse back up to modern habitable standards. This will be a major fundraising effort but will be further discussed in future updates.

As you can see St Marks faces a challenging time financially in the coming months and years. We shall be having various fundraising initiatives and events in the near future and it will take the involvement of all members for us to be successful. However, this should be taken as a challenge that unites us rather than an impossible task.

We shall be giving regular financial updates throughout the session about where we are against our targets. Once again all in the finance team wish to thank everyone for your support.

The Finance Committee

The more observant amongst you will have noticed my error in the last Marksman – I added the article from 2018!!! Here is what should have appeared.

39thA Paisley Brownies – February 2019

We are happy to have resumed our meetings after the Christmas break. One of our girls reached the age to move onto Guides and, while we will miss Kitty, we wish her every success.



At the end of last term, we were delighted to welcome Elizabeth Alexander from Renfrewshire Food Bank. The Brownies and 1st East Rainbows had been collecting food donations throughout November and we were delighted to hand over 5 large boxes full of assorted tinned and dried



foods. A big thank you goes to all girls and their families who were very generous with their contributions.

In December, the Pack had a visit to the Paisley Arts Centre to see "Jack and the Beanstalk". The evening was enjoyed by the Brownies [and Guiders!!] who were very vociferous and joined in with the cast. Many of them were invited onto the stage to join in the fun of a song and dance!

On Christmas Eve, it was great to be joined by 3 (and one cousin from another Pack!!) of our Brownies at the early service. Maisie, Millie, Jessica O. and Rose did a great job, introducing one of the Christmas songs!

The Pack have been working on the new Girlguiding programme and many of the Brownies have completed a Skill Builders badge in the theme of "Express Myself". In January, we presented 15 Innovate Badges and 5 Communicate Badges. The Brownies are encouraged to work, at home, on Interest Badges and we were delighted to present Georgia and Innes with the Performing Badge and Georgia and Charlotte with the Baking Badge. We also issued another 2 Anniversary badges. One girl who is new to Guiding made her Promise and we welcome Devon into the Brownie family. Although we are working from the new programme, Jessica O. had been working on her Advanced

Swimmer from the old programme. She has completed this and has now received her badge,

Our helpers continue to give great service to the Pack. Each week, they help the Guiders in the planning and carrying out the programme. As a result of this, both Nicola and Isla have now received Saltire Award certificates, celebrating 25 hours of service. Well done and thank you girls!



In January, we had the opportunity to attend a special "Girlguiding only" showing of the film "Mary Poppins Returns". There were 18 Brownies and 4 leaders who joined other young Girlguiding members from across Paisley area to attend a viewing early on a Saturday morning. We all thoroughly enjoyed the film and the time spent together.



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 we have been learning more about this important day in the Guiding calendar. We have found out about our place in the Guiding world and the meaning of the Guiding Trefoil badge. Our efforts to reproduce the badge on a biscuit had mixed results!!

Practice for singing at the Thinking Day Church Service is underway and it is hoped we have lots of girls able to come along and sing. We have a joint meeting with the Rainbows planned and we are looking forward to an evening of fun and games.

In March, we have a couple of Craft Evenings planned. Plans are also moving on for Pack Holiday in June. We have even started planning to join other Brownies from across Renfrewshire on an overnight trip to Blackpool in October.

BUSY BROWNIES!!!!!!

Christine Hair
(Brown Owl)

39thA Paisley Brownies – March 2019

Wednesday nights are always busy and, hopefully, full of fun for the Brownies!

We are happy to welcome Lottie who is new to Girguiding and is working towards making her Promise and we look forward to welcoming her parents along to our meeting to watch this important event in the Brownie calendar.



On 17th February, we had a very disappointing turnout of Brownies at St Mark's for a Thinking Day Service. The girls who attended enjoyed the service that encouraged them to be active participants. Jessica O. did a great job of carrying the Brownie flag and her Mum, and Dad were very happy to be in



Church to see this. Those who were in the congregation I am sure will long remember the amazing, confident job that Alex did of the bible reading. The girls that attended were each given points for their Sixes and got a special badge. Also as part of the Thinking Day activities, the Brownies were encouraged to promote Girlguiding by wearing their uniform to school.

The Pack continue to work through aspects of the new programme. We have completed Unit Meeting Activities that included a range of diverse activities from card-making, designing to making a "set" for a fairy story presentation to considering threats to wildlife!! The girls are working towards another Skill Builder badge. This time they have chosen to work on the "Be Well" area and enjoying a selection of activities.

The Brownies always enjoy craft activities and we have plans for both Mother's Day and Easter.

We are again selling some Easter Novelties containing chocolate eggs. The money raised from this helps towards Pack and Church funds. There will be some available on Sundays before Easter. Thank you for your support in this.

There are lots of plans to be overtaken before the session ends. These include a final meeting in front of parents and a Pack Holiday in June when 11 of the girls are going for a weekend to Dalguise House. We look forward to telling you more later.

Christine Hair (Brown Owl)

Mission Fair

Explore church in your community

Sunday 12 May 2019 2-4 pm
The Cornerstone, Bishopton

Speaker: Robbie Morrison Future Focus

Speaker: Dave McCarthy Fresh Expressions

See and hear what churches are doing in their communities –
(local churches will be showcasing their work and on hand to talk you
through their ups and downs)



All welcome: please invite your session, members of your congregation or prospective partners

Thank you

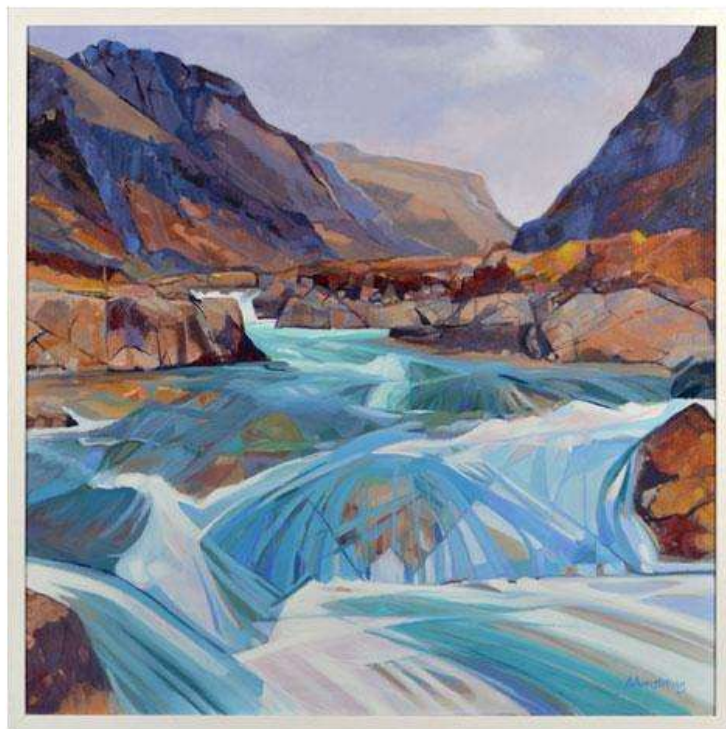
Dear friends,

When I retired last August you kindly presented me with a cheque. I decided to use it to purchase something special and thought a piece of art probably a painting, would fit the bill. Since that day I have been looking for that 'special' piece. I dabble a bit in painting (a lot more since I retired - and not the walls round the house)! This though did not help in my quest perhaps even made it more difficult.

The good news is that I have at last found a really nice painting. The scene is of the River Coe and is oil on linen and as you see it is modern is style. I hope the photo does it justice and you also like it.

Again thank you for your generosity but more importantly for all that we shared over the thirteen years.

Robbie (and Elizabeth)



Thank You

Paddy and Jannice Bryson would like to thank St Mark's for their best wishes and beautiful flowers on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

THY KINGDOM COME

This wave of prayer across our country runs from 30 May through to 9 June 2019.

Churches and individuals the length and breadth of the UK have signed up to pledge that they will pray for the country during this time.

You can sign up as an individual, a family, a church – or all three!

I have signed up as an individual and as part of the church, and would invite you to join me in this prayer journey.

The details are to be found at www.thykingdomcome.global, where you can choose to sign up and read a bit more about the initiative.

My initial idea is to run a Prayer lunch after the service on Sunday 9 June. Before I can organise that I would need to know who would come along. It would run along the lines of the previous Prayer Breakfast only we would have lunch first, and a time to chat together. After lunch an opportunity to get together and pray for our country, our community and our church.

There is no pressure to pray out loud, so don't be put off from coming because of that.

You can write a prayer before you come if you wish, write one while there or pray silently.

You don't need to stay for the whole time of prayer, although that would be lovely, but rather feel you could participate for a short while than not at all.

There will be gentle music playing in the background, as some folk may feel complete silence is difficult.

All I need just now is an indication that you'd be happy to join with me for lunch and prayer.

Please complete the wee tear off sheet below and hand it to me, or Julie by 19 May – plenty time to think about it!

Let's get serious about what we believe and see God work in and through us here.

Irene

.....

Please complete this and return it to Irene or Julie by 19 May 2019.
Thanks

Name

I would like to share in lunch and prayer on Sunday 9 June.

I am happy to help with

- Setting up []
- Serving []
- Clearing up []
- Contributing to the lunch []

Office Bearers' duties during April & May

Team 4 – 31st March & 7th April

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

Team 5 – 14th & 21st April

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

Team 6 – 28th April & 5th May

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

Team 1 – 12th & 19th May

Alasdair Campbell, Gordon McLintock, Karen Sheils, Don Grant, Lesley Campbell, Greta Whyte, Margaret Gauldie

Team 2 – 26th May & 2nd June

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

Creche Rota for April & May

April

7 th	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar
14 th	Lisa Murphy	Tracy Potts
21 st	Isobel Higgins	Sara Wilson
28 th	Ann Fisher	Cara Gentle

May

5 th	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair
12 th	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
19 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell

Flowers in the Church April & May

April

Betty Craig

7th Mr Sandy Fergusson, Kinpurnie Road
14th Mrs Ann McMahon, Kelburne Court
21st Mrs Betty Craig, Lanfine Road
28th Mrs Simone Smith, Roffey Park Road

May

Kate McLauchlan

5th Mrs Nan Kemp, Kinpurnie Road
12th Mrs Janice Dempster, Newtyle Road
19th Mrs Connie Kinloch, Killearn Drive
26th Mrs Mary Robin, Lanfine Road

People delivering flowers during April & May

April

7 th	Kate McLauchlan	Wilma Browning
14 th	Sheena Tonner	
21 st	Isobel Ritchie	
28 th	Doris Grant	Margaret Adams

May

5 th	Sheena Tonner
12 th	Isobel McBride
19 th	Lesley Campbell
26 th	Ann Black

Office Hours

Tue, Wed & Fri 11:15am – 2:45pm