

MARKSMAN

June & July 2019



St Marks Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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As I put pen to paper, this year's General Assembly has now begun, and the challenges facing it to find answers to certain matters are now extremely urgent. In fact, if you get the Glasgow Herald, *you will have recently read a number of very concerning articles regarding the future of the Church of Scotland.*

In short *some very hard decisions will have to be made* – as to how the CofS is managed, and with regard to the "Radical Action Plan"; and possibly by the time you get this edition of the Marksman, and Alastair Boyd, who is attending the Assembly reports back- with declining congregations: the shortage of ministers: and costs requiring to be cut – *a decision will have been reached* - as to the way ahead, part of which involves Presbytery Plans and congregations sharing ministers.

We are not exempt in that regard, as our own Presbytery, currently revising its Presbytery Plan, is looking to reduce the number of ministries in this Presbytery from 42 to 25.7 - *that will necessitate a number of unions and linkages*, particularly with regard to Paisley where Presbytery require *to reduce* the number of ministers to 8 [two in East, West, South and North].

All in all, for us to be given permission to proceed with our Vacancy [unrestricted], *it will require us to agree to a deferred union or linking* with Sherwood Greenlaw. [Long term, I envisage the union/linking to be - one minister; one part time associate minister and one full time church worker with TWO places of worship]

Much work and discussion has been going on behind the scenes by your Session Clerk, Presbytery Elder and Kirk Session in that regard – and subsequent to such, I have met with the Rev John Murning to discuss the situation as is, and way ahead for St Marks.

Since reporting *the positive outcome* of initial talks to our Kirk Session, they have agreed a team of six from St Marks and Sherwood Greenlaw get together on Tuesday 4th June, to further discuss and produce a joint report [in response and agreeing to the PPRC deliverance of 14 May] for the PPRC (Presbytery Committee) and in time for the Presbytery Meeting of 18 June, it is hoped *with the support of Sherwood Greenlaw we be given permission to proceed* with the Vacancy. [**Also see Presbytery Elder Report].

Another piece of *positive news* is with regard to Peter [our Church Worker] and application we made to "Go for it Funding" – as while only getting 75% of what we applied for [due to the Fund being over subscribed] with the generous donations received from members of the congregation Peter will return to Full time on 1 July, *expand on* and continue to do sterling work among the youth and their families. [Read Peter's article]

You'll no doubt have heard, regarding the Manse, *because of a number of factors*, the Kirk Session have had to revise their decision to sell and replace, and will now *retain* the current manse and proceed to refurbish it, hopefully at a maximum cost of less than £50,000.

We should get 10% of that cost via a Presbytery grant, and I'm pleased to report a member who wishes to remain anonymous, a very generous donation of £5000 (+£1000 due to it being Gift Aided) has been received. Also, I believe, our Finance Committee are planning to have a Gift Day to help raise funds for the Manse refurbishment – which must be done – as without it being up to scratch we won't be allowed to induct a new minister. [See also Treasurer and Finance Committee report]

Well, having just returned from a week in the sun, and on Sunday 12th May was worshipping in the Lyle Kirk: Greenock [where your former probationer Rev Own Derrick is the minister, and doing very well] – I was delighted to hear in GREENOCK of *the great success* of St Marks Plant Sale on the 11th.

It was successful on a number of levels – *because of* how well it was planned, organised and run [by Jok Everett and the team of volunteers of all ages]: and *for* what it achieved: *for* the way it drew peoples' attention to St Marks: *for* the amount raised for church funds: *for* the way it drew people from the community, brought them, and enabled us to get alongside them: *for* the way everyone enjoyed the fellowship –

And especially for, letting us see and appreciate, the positive things that do and can happen, when people of all ages in St Mark's support each other and work together in unity. That pleased me most of all, and brought to mind, that passage from Nehemiah 4:6 "*we went on building, FOR THE PEOPLE were eager to work, together*".

May that always be the case – as bearing mind other matters mentioned in Neh. 4 – "*The building work is only half done*" – remember, "it is in the giving of our, time, talents and money for the

Lord's work - and is in us *supporting each other* [firstly by prayer, and then if fit to do so, by our willingness to be involved] we not only *encourage each other*, under the guidance and enabling power of the Spirit, *we can* collectively help to advance Christ's kingdom, maybe build up St Marks Church, *and attract* the right minister.

Yours in Christ

Ian W Bell (Locum)

Update on the current position with the Church vacancy

As you may have noted from the reports from the General Assembly last month, a 'Radical Action Plan' was passed which will have significant implications for both the church, nationally and locally. In parallel to this is the requirement for presbyteries to radically review the number of churches it can support, both financially and magisterially.

Indicative of this is the fact that, based on the current Presbytery Plan, by the end of 2023, there will a reduction of 38 per cent in the number of ministers available to cover all churches within Presbytery.

At the Presbytery Meeting held on 14th May, a deliverance was passed, indicating that it was the intention of the Presbytery Planning Review Committee to enter into discussions with St Mark's Oldhall and Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw towards agreeing a deferred linkage or union; with the aim of allowing an unrestricted call to the deferred linkage or union. This would mean that we would be allowed to call a minister, once we had discussed the matter with our neighboring church.

To this end our Interim Moderator contacted the Reverend John Murning, and it was agreed that six elders from each Session would meet on the 4th June to discuss the way forward.

We consider the most appropriate format would be a linkage, rather than a union. In essence this would mean that each church retains its own minister until such times as the Minister of Sherwood Greenlaw demits office. The Rev. John Murning has indicated that he has no intention of retiring in the near future, and could continue in his ministry for another fifteen years.

On his retiral, if there have been no other significant changes in the interim, then both churches would enter into a linkage, with the Minister of St Mark's taking the joint charge, supported by an enhanced ministry team. Both churches would still remain independent, with their own buildings, Session, organisations and financial accountability. The only difference is the shared minister of word and sacrament.

That is for the future, and we still require to ascertain the position of Sherwood Greenlaw. Once that is known, we will update the congregation. Session will endeavor to ensure that these discussions are not protracted, in order to go back to Presbytery as soon as possible to receive permission to seek a new minister for St Mark's Church.

Manse Gift Day – Sunday 16th June

As you will see from the Donald Macdonald's report reading the Church vacancy it is hopeful that we will be given to proceed to call a Minister at the June Presbytery meeting. As a result of this we require to start work on the Manse as a matter of urgency as we cannot induct a Minister until we have suitable Manse.

As you are aware major renovations work is required to bring the Manse up to a suitable standard. At this time, we are setting a ceiling on spending this year of £50,000. We currently have £20,000 available in the Fabric Fund; Presbytery Property Committee may fund 10% of the cost and we have already received a very generous donation of £5,000 (+ £1,000 Gift Aid). We are therefore looking to the Congregation to raise the balance of £19,000. If everyone donated £100 we would soon be at our target but we would appreciate any donation that you feel that you are able to make.

You will have received an envelope with your Marksman and if you would like to contribute, we ask that you return the envelope on Sunday 16th June or hand it in to the office at any other time. There will be spare envelopes at both vestibules.

If you are a taxpayer please complete the Gift Aid mandate enclosed with the Marksman in order that we can obtain a further 25% of the value of your donation.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his head, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

Peter's News

It has been another busy wee while for the children's and youth work in the church. I am very grateful for all the time that people dedicate to support the outreach and education to the young people of the church and community.

At the start of the schools Easter holidays we ran the Going Bananas holiday club. We had forty five different children attend during the week as we looked at the stories of Noah, Gideon, Elijah, Zacchaeus and the woman who anointed Jesus feet. All of which people might have thought had "gone bananas" because of what they were doing as they followed God. We had an action packed week with all the young people enjoying their time at the church.

At the end of the holiday club we had a family event on the Sunday afternoon. This took the form of a number of different crafts and activities that were related to our tropical island theme or the stories that we looked at. This is a similar idea to the Messy Church events. We also had a BBQ and we had around 50 people join us for that afternoon.





Friends and Heroes is still going along well and I am hopeful that some of the young people from the holiday club might start to come along. We are into the routine of running twice a month and I am grateful for the volunteers who are willing to support this outreach, and the young people from TRASH who also come along and help.

TRASH has also been a lot of fun over the past few months. We have had some really good discussions with the young people as we study the bible and think through the questions they have asked about faith, the bible, God, free will, the church. The young people of TRASH are a real asset to the church and we want to facilitate their service as part of the church community.



The school work over the past few months has been going really well. Monday LiTE (our SU type group) has been going really well with ten young people coming along every week. Since January we have been looking at some of the miracles of Jesus. This short summer term we will be thinking about what they have learnt at Monday LiTE and create some posters to promote it for after the summer holidays.

The Easter services were three weeks before the Easter weekend, because of when the holidays start, but it was really good to welcome the entire school, their teachers and family to the church to celebrate and think about the significance of Easter. It really won't be long before the summer services are upon us.

I had the opportunity to go away with the P7s for their residential week during April. I did not know that many of this year's P7s before going so it was good to get to know some of them and other members of staff. The young people enjoyed their week as they canoed, kayaked, zip wired, fired rifles, biked and lots of other activities. I am glad that I am able to support the school with this week and the opportunity to get to know the young people and for them to get to know me better.

Thank you again for your support, both practical and prayerful for myself and the work that so many do for the young people of St Marks.

God bless,
Peter

39thA Paisley Brownies – May 2019

The Pack continues to be very busy each Wednesday and we are now preparing for our final meeting of the session. The Brownies have been learning table-setting skills and planning for the evening. All the Brownies have been involved in writing invitations to parents and guests and making a decoration for the tables. We look forward to them hosting the evening on the 5th June. Unfortunately, there is no longer a Hostess Badge which our youngest Brownies normally achieved on this evening but we are still learning some hostessing skills.

Before Easter, we had a fun evening Brownies made Easter cards. Once again, the Easter bunny visited the Church and hid eggs for all the Brownies and Rainbows. This brought great fun to the girls as they searched for an egg. The Guiders even found eggs too!!



We have had 2 groups working on different Skill Builders. One group have been looking at Feel Good while the rest are learning some basic First Aid. We hope to present badges to most of the girls in June.

The new programme dictates all the Interest Badges are completed at home. We were delighted to present Devon with her Performing Badge after she showed us videos of her dance creation.

Due to the demands of the new programme, we unfortunately ran out of time for our annual visit to the ON-X Leisure Centre. We will be looking to fit to fit it in early next session.

On 24th April, we were delighted to welcome Lottie's Mum who joined us as Lottie made her Promise to become a Brownie. It is always a reminder to us all about the Promise we all share.

Pack Holiday is taking place from 31st May to 2nd June and 10 of the girls are going for a weekend to Dalguise House, along with 4 Guiders. We are all really excited about that adventure and will tell you more later.

Next session will be on us before we know it and we will start all over again on Wednesday 4th September. We have 8 girls who are leaving us and there are 7 Rainbows ready to join. Can't wait!!!!

Christine Hair [Brown Owl]

39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

Since we last wrote, we've celebrated Mother's Day, and Easter, with our normal dose of crafting activity. Mothers were treated to a lavender bag, which the girls helped to put together. They decorated tags and created cards, and this year our theme was unicorns.

The girls then had the mid term holidays and came back the Tuesday leading up to Easter, when we were joined by the Rainbows and did more cards and Easter crafts. They all went home with a basket, which we made, filled with chicks and eggs, little bunny rabbits with a chocolate rabbit ready to bounce out - and larger chocolate bunny for the day itself (well maybe if it lasted that long!).

We've been continuing on our new Brownie Programme. Our second of the Skills Builders has been "Influence". Another interesting series of activities and themes which focussed on the ability of the girls to listen, to watch, to influence and to adapt a story - in our case Red Riding Hood.

Along with that, we have explored charities, why they are needed and the kind of things that we can do - it's not all about raising money, sometimes it can be giving our time, being thoughtful and recycling what we don't need. Some of the Brownies have achieved their Charities Badge, and others have tackled Dancing. The new badges don't appear to be as appealing to the girls, so it really is taking a bit of home encouragement to get the girls interested. However, for those who have undertaken the appropriate badge, and the Skills Builder, they are also awarded a "Take Action" Theme Badge.

We are having a District Camp at South Newton at the end of May, and 10 of our girls are going for two nights away, and we are going to be joined by 5 as day visitors. It will be a great experience for them, as the Guides will be outdoors camping, and we've also got Brownies from Sherwood Greenlaw on site too. Our theme is The Greatest Showman, and for those of you who don't know, it is about P.T. Barnum and his amazing circus performers. We have a ringmaster coming for the afternoon, and we'll be doing lots of crafts and activities along a circus theme.

We're having our annual craft afternoon in June, and this year it's all about Llamas. Llamas are the new unicorns! By the end of the afternoon the girls will have achieved their Painting Badge, and will have used llamas in a variety of different ways, including making llama cookies.

So, as we get towards the end of the year once again, we can reflect on the changes that our new Programme has brought. Not nearly as many interest badges, a lot more prescriptive activity to achieve the Skills Builders, but the girls are still with us in numbers, and we try to build in as much variety and fun as we can. Happy summer.

Sheena Tonner
Brownie Leader

Finance Report

Following the St Mark's SGM, I indicated I would give regular updates on the church's financial position. As you are aware we projected a significant deficit in our income for the current year and also indicated the need to bolster the Church worker fund to allow Peter's continued employment.

We have had an encouraging response to the Church worker fund with £4,200 having been donated so far. In addition, we have received £14,500 from 'Go For It' funding.

Church income for the first four months of 2019 was £35,362 (£37,214 in 2018) although the deficit has narrowed a bit in the past month. However, our expenditure has also increased to £42,291 (£36,245 in 2018) giving a current deficit for the first four months of the year of £6,939.

Obviously, this is a worrying situation.

I would once again ask all members to review their regular contributions as well as supporting the fundraising efforts that will be happening in the church throughout the year. Also please remember to use the easyfundraising site for your on line shopping.

Gordon Forrest, Treasurer

World Mission Council May 2019

The magazine this time round is called Presence, Practical action and Proclamation, and looks at the life of the world church and how we can engage with that work here in Scotland.

A report will be presented at this years' General assembly entitled 'Following Jesus Around the World'. Looking at what the church is doing in different areas of our world helps us explore opportunities to learn from that, and help us to witness in our own patch.

Many churches are now involved in twinning with other world churches, and they're finding it is more about learning and growing together, rather than just monetary support. For more information read the article from Alloway Parish church and their twin Bandawe Mission Station in Malawi on page 3 of the magazine.

Much of the magazine is given over to introducing some of the delegates from our partner churches across the world.

It really would be easier this month to take a magazine home and digest the information yourself rather than me try to replicate what is being said.

We receive four magazines but if you wish to have one there is a contact on the first page, or feel free to speak to me to organise that for you.

Our world is in such turmoil at present with so many people being displaced, facing natural disasters and living in war torn countries, it is imperative that we pray that God will be seen in those who bear His name.

We may not be called on to go to far-flung places, but we are called on to shine His light in the corner where we are.

Irene

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness during my recent illness. Special thanks must go to the ladies of The Guild who have been so supportive. The cards, phone calls, flowers etc helped keep me going when the going got tough! Thanks also to Rev Ian Bell for his visits and kind words.

Margaret Johnston (Glasgow Road)

Coin collection

We have been collecting coins since 1997 when we were raising funds for a new Church roof. In the first year we raised £400! We had made special collection cans – old drinks cans were cleaned and we put a label round them with cardboard on the top (with a slot). We are now pleased to receive donations in any box, bag jar etc. Mostly it's 1p & 2p coins which way down your pockets and purses.

You may be interested in the yearly totals

1997/1998	£400	2008/2009	£200
1998/1999	£211	2009/2010	£173
1999/2000	£226	2010/2011	£86
2000/2001	£226	2011/2012	£77
2001/2002	£249	2012/2013	£58
2002/2003	£183	2013/2014	£73
2003/2004	£263	2014/2015	£70
2004/2005	£200	2015/2016	£86
2005/2006	£185	2016/2017	£62
2006/2007	£177	2017/2018	£42
2007/2008	£156	2018/2019	£35

Some of you will be collecting for other charities. If not, you might consider collecting for our Church funds. Please leave any donation on the table at the front door or give to Julie in the office.

Thank you.

Margaret Adams

Office Bearers' duties during June & July

Team 2 – 2nd June

Alan Taylor, Craig Camlin, Bob Tonner, Sheena Tonner, Ron Weston, Ian Brackenridge

Team 3 – 9th & 16th June

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

Team 4 – 23rd & 30th June

Graham Black, Gordon Forrest, Mari Everett, Ann Black, Eileen Wilkie, Rena Brown, Margaret Currie

Team 5 – 7th & 14th July

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

Team 6 – 21st & 28th July

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

Creche Rota for June & July

June

2 nd	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar
9 th	Lisa Murphy	Tracy Potts
16 th	Isobel Higgins	Sara Wilson
23 rd	Ann Fisher	Cara Gentle
30 th	Irene Boyd	Christine Hair

July

7 th	Christine Park	Liz Morgan
14 th	Jannice Bryson	Irene Carswell
21 st		
28 th	Mari Everett	Myra McKellar

Flowers in the Church June & July

June
Pat Strachan

2nd Bob & Irene Pollock, Abbey Place
9th Bill & Greta Whyte, Dunchurch Road
16th Anne Roberts, Allanton Avenue
23rd Jenny Caldwell, Allanton Avenue
30th Winnie Keith, Bathgo Avenue

July
Flower Committee

7th Elizabeth Macdonald, Glasgow Road
Lesley Campbell, Strathmore Avenue
14th Ann Black, Roffey Park Road
21st June Chapman, Marchbank Gardens
28th Anna McLachlan, Penilee Road

People delivering flowers during June & July

June

2 nd	Dorothy McKay	Carol Whiteman
9 th	Mary Scobie	Carolyn Smith
16 th	Doris Grant	Margaret Adams
23 rd	Kate McLauchlan	

July

7 th	Isobel Ritchie	
14 th		
21 st	Elizabeth Macdonald	Winnie Keith
28 th	Christian Sinclair	

Office Hours

Tue, Wed & Fri 11:15am – 2:45pm