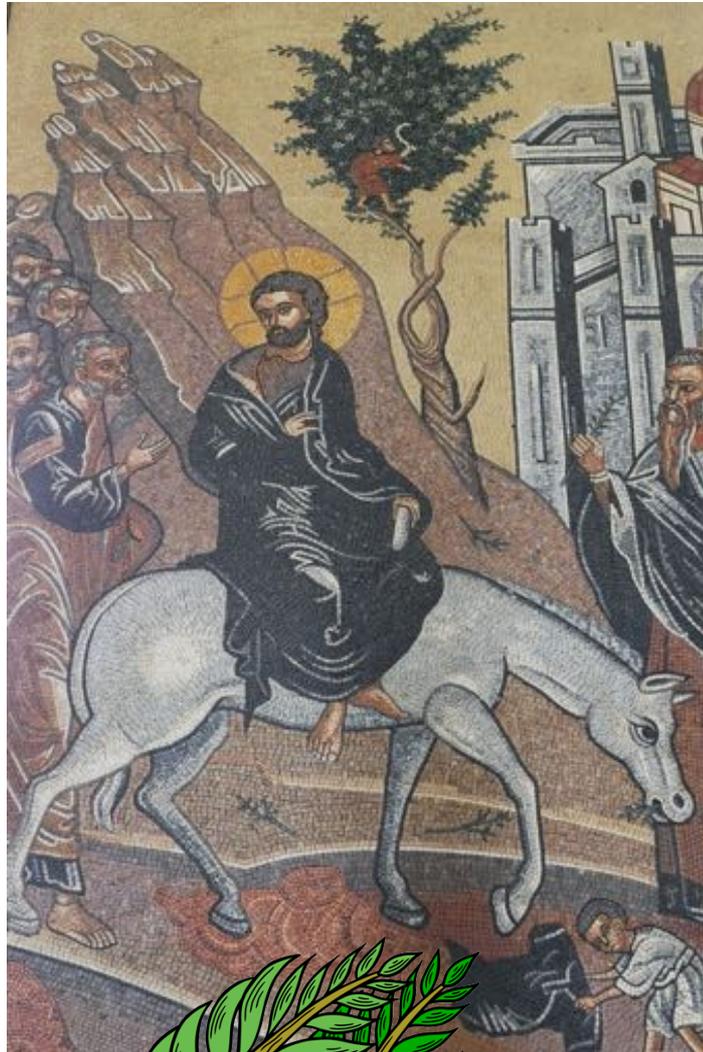


Marksman

April/May, 2022



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From the Manse



I thought it might be useful, instead of my usual letter, to reproduce my Minister's Report from the recent Stated Annual Meeting held on Sunday 20th March. It provides an interesting summary of my time here in St Mark's.

"Firstly I'd like to give thanks to everyone for the warm welcome you gave me when I arrived in January 2020. Little did we know then what was to lie ahead, but with the Covid pandemic we are now in my third March here, but at my first Stated Annual Meeting – large gatherings having been prohibited during the last two years.

However, we adapted to Covid – with Peter's help services were first recorded on video, then once church reopened for services, live-streaming became the norm.

- My thanks to Peter, for all he does with our IT and with the young people. Thanks to his team who are now helping with projection and streaming on Sundays, and for some funerals as well.
- Thanks to everyone involved with our young people on Sunday mornings, especially Ruth, Eileen, Jen, Colin and Kirsty and everyone who has a part to play during the week, and at Messy Church.
- Thanks to Dawn and the choir for their help with music. We all enjoy listening to them on a Sunday. As a new minister here, I don't know what you know, and sometimes I think you will know songs you don't but they keep me right.
- Thanks to Elders keeping in touch with their districts, and with others during last two years. Thanks for letting me know what is going on, and who to be concerned about. There is no way I could have managed to get to know so many people without your help.
- Thanks to Pastoral Care team, and flower team, for showing God's love in difficult times through cards, flowers and phone calls. It is good to help people celebrate and to commiserate with them too, and flowers look lovely in sanctuary each week.
- Thanks to the Session Clerks – to Elizabeth Macdonald for her welcome, and introduction to St Mark's, for the help settling in, and answering my many questions like "How do you usually do...?" or "What usually happens...? And helping me decide how best to proceed when we couldn't do what you usually did because of Covid.
- Thanks to Dr Colin Reid, for stepping up to the mark when I asked, "Will you be the new Session Clerk?" First main task this meeting!
- Thanks to Julie and Fiona in office. For the lists and records. For answering "Do we have...?" "Can you give me the report from...?"
- Thanks to Dr Gordon Forest, Sandy Fergusson and Bill Whyte and everyone who helps with Finance Team, and all the Committees, especially Andy Grant (Property) and Worship team who help with services. Thanks to the Wednesday morning musicians.
- Thanks to everyone who makes teas, and generally helps out in any way, inside the building and in gardens.

The Stated Annual Meeting is always a time to look back over the last year, but important today not to look back and think of all we couldn't do but think of what we did achieve :

Recordings/live stream of services every week, sometimes twice a week ;

Pastoral care by distance, with phone calls, cards, and flowers;

Establishing new working patterns under Unitary Constitution;

Carried out Funerals, welcoming the families of our members, and from our parish, and we shared a successful Service 'Time to Remember' in November;

We've shared Communion, and Prayer meetings and Bible studies and Kirk Session meetings on Zoom, and in person, and the *Marksman* went out every month during Lockdown ;

We have commemorated Remembrance Sunday, Thinking Day, Founders Day, and the BB Dedication, with our congregation and young people, and other visitors;

We've held Afternoon teas, Christmas tree and plant sales;

We sent out knitted hearts, held Christmas services, ordained new elders, baptised a baby, blessed a marriage, started a Dementia-friendly drop-in café and Messy Church restarted.

We have been busy about God's work.

Now we look forward - in next few weeks to Holy Week Services - in person for the first time since I arrived, and to the much spoken about Easter Sunday Barbeque, and to the Easter Holiday club, which will finally happen after being in the planning for more than two years. Then to all that lies ahead in the life of the church.

Thank you all for your welcome, support and friendship. I've enjoyed getting to know you, and will continue to do so.

I look forward to us walking together, following God's light and his leading, finding his path for us as individuals, as a community and as his church, as we move through 2022 and into the future."

Your friend and minister,

Sonia



Worship Matters

Holy Week Services will take place at 7pm in the Church from Monday 11th until Friday 15th April. They will be led by Sonia and members of the Worship team. The service on Thursday 14th will include the celebration of Holy Communion.



Easter Sunday 17th April.



Midweek Service

There will be no midweek services during April (because of Holiday Club, Holy Week, and Sonia's holiday). They will restart for month of May, then stop for the summer.

Funerals

2 nd February	Jane Cobb, Strathcarron Drive
17 th Feb	Rose Carnan, Atholl Crescent
3 rd March	Rev Douglas Hamilton, Corse Road
22 nd March	Chris Still, Duchray Drive
30 th March	Minnie Marshall, Mosswood Care Home
31 st March	Jean Morrison, Bathgo Avenue
4 th April	Jenny Caldwell, formerly of Jenny's Well Care Home



Also we have heard of the death of Jean Russell.

Marriage Blessing

16th March - a blessing on the marriage of Peter and Carol Holding, Kings Ferry Court, Renfrew.

New Members

Carol Holding by certificate of transference, and Peter Holding by resolution of the Kirk Session.





Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families.

Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

'My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide.' Jessica says. **'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'**

Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
- **Act** and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign.
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

Join us at caweek.org

Christian Aid / David Brazier



Janet Zirugo waters fine beans in her garden of plenty.

Christian Aid Envelopes will be available in the Church on Sunday 15th May. Standard envelopes can also be used – just mark it clearly 'Christian Aid'. Please return on Sunday 22nd May.

New Elders - Introducing . . .

Stuart Burns



I have lived in the Ralston & Oldhall area my whole life apart from a period of exile of 8 years in Greenlaw Avenue, Paisley.

I am single, with no children of my own.

For almost 24 years, I have been employed by a well-known financial services company in Edinburgh.

There have been 3 phases to my time at St Mark's. I attended Sunday School as a child in the early 1980s. I was a member of the popular Agape young adults group in the 1990s. I formally joined the Church of Scotland in 1992 at Houston & Kilellan Kirk as that was the congregational church that my mother belonged to. I came "home" to St Mark's in 2006 a year after she had passed away.

My other interests are Current Affairs, Cinema, Eating Out and Socialising with Friends, Photography, Reading, and Travel.

Mari Everett



I have been a member at St Mark's for over 20 years. I am married to Jok, and our sons, Samuel and Thomas, are both at University.

I feel blessed to work for a faith based organisation (SCIAF) and have had the privilege of travelling with them and meeting many inspirational people from around the world.

I love my cycling whether as a participant, fan, club organiser and, more recently, a trainee race official.

Being on the Nominating Committee at St Mark's showed me that you will find support, fellowship and friendship in whatever you are called to do.

Gavin Hair



I have been a member of the St Mark's family all my life, having been baptised in the Church and then attending Sunday School from the age of 3.

I have also been involved with the 24th Paisley BB from Anchor Boys to Company Sections and am proud to be a "Queen's Man" and an officer in all the sections.

I work in Marks and Spencer in Braehead and am always happy to meet friends from St Mark's in the café.

I was delighted finally to become a member of St Mark's five years ago. My joy was increased when I was asked to become an Elder.

Happy to serve in St Mark's, I am frequently found serving "after service" teas, helping in Evolution and Trash. I am a member of the Church "Green Team" but, with my love of a particular football team, it pains me to say that!

Nancy Hamilton



I have been involved in church life since I was a young child and became a Christian when I was 14.

I trained as a nurse in Glasgow Royal Infirmary from 1972 – 1975. Douglas was called to his first charge, Newtongrange in 1976, and it was there that we had our 2 sons. Ten years later we moved to Greenock where we stayed as a family until Douglas retired in 2009. I was a Director of Nursing in the Independent sector, then worked as Manager of an Inspection team prior to having to retire early to become Douglas' full-time carer.

We moved to Penilee and found our new church home in St Mark's. As I now take on the role of Elder, I hope humbly to serve the congregation and community to the best of my ability through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jen Morgan



I have been lucky to have grown up as part of the St Mark's family since the age of 2 - progressing through Sunday School, to joining the church and becoming a member of the Congregational Board.

As well as enjoying leading the young people on a Sunday morning, I have also been a Scripture Union leader on the Snow Sports Easter Holiday Camp in Austria for the last 13 years.

In my spare time I like to play lots of sports, in particular Hockey for Kelburne Hockey Club, doing a spot of gardening and reading in the sunshine.

Julie Wright



Most of you know me as the previous Church Secretary, which I combined with working at Ralston Primary School as an Additional Support Needs Assistant. Prior to this, I worked as a Business Banking Manager and I am now working for a Business Finance Company.

I grew up going to Sunday School in St Nicholas, Hillington and as a teenager started going to Bible Class & Youth Fellowship at Cardonald Parish Church where I joined the Church. My first connection with St Mark's was going to Agape (a young adult group) that met on a Sunday evening. I later transferred my lines to St Mark's when I moved to Ralston.

I am married to Graeme and have 2 children, Craig & Nicola. I am a Brownie Leader at Cardonald Parish and I enjoy taking the girls away on Pack Holidays including several trips to London.

Green Team



Watch out for action around recycling in Church building. Thanks to the Boys' Brigade for helping with this.

Keep your eyes open for new green bins for plastic bottles/cans etc.

Please only put paper and cardboard into the blue bins.

See below for more information about recycling facilities for your used ink cartridges.

Environmentally friendly planning for the garden is under way, and some trees and bushes have already been cut back at the side and back of the church.

Applications have been submitted for Council climate funding grants.

Why not go green with your spring clean?

The sun shines and it's time to get the dusters out, and your sleeves rolled up because it's time to do your spring clean. But, before you head to the shop and fill your basket with products that will make your home sparkle, take a look at the packaging and check if it's an eco-friendly cleaning product. Choosing products that are kind to the planet offers a whole host of benefits, not just for the environment, but for ourselves and our families, too. Or try these natural options:

1. Use lemon instead of strong chemicals as a natural cleaning solution. The high acidic content also means they are also a natural deodoriser. You can use lemon to do anything from bringing back the shine on your copper pans or mix it with vinegar to absorb odour and even rubbing a slice of lemon across your chopping board will disinfect it.

2. Remove mould naturally - stubborn mould and mildew in your bathroom might have you reaching for some tough chemicals. However, you can also get rid of mould naturally with just a few drops of white vinegar. Let the vinegar soak for a few hours to kill the mould and then simply scrub it away. If that doesn't remove stubborn mould, try making a paste of baking soda in a bit of water and apply to affected areas.

3. Freshen up with bicarbonate of soda - bicarb can supercharge your washing-up to help remove residue from your pots and pans. You can also use it for its odour-absorbing properties. Just keep a box in your fridge, or even sprinkle some on your carpet to keep it fresh – just vacuum it up the next day. (Find it in the supermarket baking aisle.)

4. Clean up your laundry - whilst tumble dryers can be a convenience in our busy lives, they can cause problems for the environment as they consume a lot of electricity (which costs a lot too). You can significantly reduce your carbon footprint by air drying your clothes on a regular basis, and why not try detergents that have eco-friendly ingredients.

Recycling Ink Cartridges

St Mark's "Green Team" is looking at ways that our Church and congregation can become more eco-friendly and sustainable. As part of this initiative, we are going to be collecting used ink cartridges for recycling. This will reduce the number of cartridges going to landfill and will give the cartridge "another life"! It has the added advantage of raising some funds for the Church too.



If you [or any family and friends] have a printer at home, please bring your empty cartridges along to Church. There will be collection boxes available at the doors for you to deposit the cartridges. Please help if you can.

Prayer Group



		APRIL, 2022
		NO MID WEEK SERVICES IN APRIL.
Fri	1	Give thanks for a brand new month. Pray for the BB as they continue to meet. Remember our world and the ongoing situation/war in Ukraine
Sat	2	Bible study this morning at 10.15/10.30am as we continue in our study of Psalms. World Autism Awareness Day.
Sun	3	Pray for all who attend this morning, in person or online, as we come together to worship and praise You. Be with Sonia as she leads us today.
Mon	4	Pray for the Easter Holiday Club this week, for all the leaders and for the children who will attend, that they may learn more about God's love for them. We remember the following streets this week – Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent.
Tue	5	Easter Club this morning. Brownies this evening. Pray for all the youngsters.
Wed	6	Easter Club this morning. Prayer Group on Zoom and in the Manse at 7:00pm followed by Bible Study in the Manse at 7:45pm. Brownies this evening. Remember them and their leaders as they meet.
Thu	7	Easter Club this morning.
Fri	8	Last day of Easter Club. We also pray that the pandemic would come to an end. For everyone still suffering from Covid, we ask that they would recover quickly and that our hospitals aren't overloaded due to increased number of cases.
Sat	9	We pray for all who use the church out-with our services and organisations – ROAR, Little Kickers, and the mums/parents who come with their babies.
Sun	10	Palm Sunday. Be with Sonia as she leads us on our journey towards Easter Sunday.
Mon	11	Holy Week services start. Pray for Eileen as she leads the first evening. Pray for the folk who live in Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.
Tue	12	Jack will be leading our service tonight. Remember him in prayer. We pray for all businesses in our area, as they may still be struggling due to the pandemic.
Wed	13	It is Andy leading our Holy Week service tonight. Remember him in your prayers.
Thu	14	Pray for all emergency and aid agencies throughout the world, bringing relief and help to those who are most vulnerable. Sonia will be leading the services tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Pray for her for each of these.
Fri	15	Good Friday service.
Sat	16	No Bible Study this week – it will be added on to the end of June.
Sun	17	We come to worship this joyful Easter Morning giving thanks for the wonder of your sacrifice for us and to celebrate your rising again. Plans for our Easter Sunday BBQ are underway.
Mon	18	Our streets this week for prayer are Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road. Pray God would bless the people there.

		APRIL, 2022
Tue	19	Remember all who deliver emergency services throughout the country – for paramedics, firefighters, coastguards, electricity and gas supplies, doctors and nurses and others who work to keep us safe and healthy.
Wed	20	Prayer Group tonight at 7:00pm on Zoom and in the Manse. No Bible Study this week – moved to the end of June.
Thu	21	Pray for all our leaders and elders, those involved in our organisations and committees as they seek to serve You here in St Mark's. May all they do be done for You. Dementia-friendly café open again today. Pray God will bless this new venture.
Fri	22	Brownies from St Mark's 39 th and Sherwood Greenlaw are off for a weekend to South Newton from today till Sunday. We pray they will have a safe, happy, enjoyable time. Be with them and the leaders.
Sat	23	We pray for the leisure industry which has suffered so much throughout the pandemic. As we are beginning to get back into more socialisation, help their businesses survive, and jobs be kept.
Sun	24	We pray for our services today. Pray for all Probationers and OLMs as they study and undertake placements.
Mon	25	Pray for our young folk who begin their exam timetable this week. Contact Peter if you would like the name of one young person to pray for specifically during this time. Sonia on holiday from today until 2 May. May she be blessed with rest, relaxation and a happy time.
Tue	26	Golf Drive, Hawkhead Road and Killlearn Drive for prayers this week. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.
Wed	27	Prayer Groups on Zoom. Sonia on holiday.
Thu	28	Pray for world leaders that they may seek your wisdom as they make decisions that affect the nations.
Fri	29	<p>THY KINGDOM COME Event runs from 26 May – 5 June. "This is a global wave of prayer calling on all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ." Visit their website for more information on www.thykingdomcome.global.</p> <p>There are booklets to help you pray through this time which I have ordered and can be picked up from me on a Sunday. Contact me if you want any more information on irene.pollock03@gmail.com.</p>
Sat	30	Bible Study this morning meets on Zoom at 10:15/10:30am. We continue to work through Psalms.

Photo by [Bruno van der Kraan](#) on [Unsplash](#)



May you know joy and peace as we celebrate Easter.
To all our church family and friends from Bob and Irene Pollock.

Happy Birthday, David Bowman : 100 Years Young



David was our Session Clerk in St Mark's for ten years : 1988 - 1998. He and his wife, Nancy, lived in the corner house on Crookston Drive and Killearn Drive, where his garden was renowned for its colour and attractiveness.

They moved to Marchbank Gardens when that complex was built but, sadly, Nancy passed away soon after. David eventually moved into Abbeyfield nearer his daughter, Margaret, in Elderslie. He celebrated his 100th birthday in February and could not believe the number of cards he received from the congregation. His comment was : "Do they still remember me?"

Of course we do!



Reba McNeill

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers, cards and phone calls I received during my recent illness. Your concern was deeply appreciated.

Elizabeth Macdonald

I would like to thank you all for the lovely gifts I received from you on the occasion of my retirement as session clerk. To say I was overwhelmed by your generosity, is putting it mildly.

I look forward to using the gift voucher for Cameron House Spa. The necklace is beautiful and something I will cherish. We have decided to use the cheque to buy a painting, if we can both agree on what to choose !

I thoroughly enjoyed my thirteen years as Session Clerk and the time was made all the more enjoyable because of your friendship and support.

I wish Colin and Julie every blessing as they support Sonia, Session and yourselves in moving St Mark's forward into the future.

Thank you.

Douglas Hamilton

Nancy Hamilton and Family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, beautiful flowers and phoned following the death of Douglas. Your support, love and expressions of condolence were greatly appreciated. The attendance at his funeral of so many family and friends and the tributes paid to his life and ministry were heartening for us and demonstrated the impact he had on so many people's lives. Once again, thank you so much.



24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

The Anchors and Juniors started 2022 enjoying the much anticipated "Lego Night". It was stripped back a little with parents and other guests not able to join us as originally planned due to Covid restrictions. The boys, and especially the Captain, thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and opportunities to get creative. The boys were even able to take home a model of their own. We are already talking about when we could do it again.



Creativity was also evident at the Company Section. The boys are seen here designing recycling labels as part of a wider effort to improve recycling at St Mark's. It is reassuring to see how passionate our young folks are about the environment and the need to look after God's creation. At Bible Class sessions recently we have discussed various aspects of creation. This led to some of us taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and others considering creation beyond our planet. In this case, the boys each made a wee Box of Stars which lights up to reveal some well known constellations. We were reminded of Isaiah 40:26 :

"To whom can the holy God be compared?
Is there anyone else like him?
Look up at the sky!
Who created the stars you see?
The one who leads them out like an army,
He knows how many there are
and calls each one by name!
His power is so great—
not one of them is ever missing!"

How wonderful it is to know that the God who created the vast universe is the same God that is able to comfort and strengthen each of us if we trust in Him.



Jack Goodall (Company Captain)

39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

The Brownies have been busy since we resumed after our Christmas holiday. We've been looking at Innovation, and using our ingenuity to invent new gadgets, and turn everyday objects into something else in our imagination.

The girls have also done Baking and Painting Interest Badges, and we've had a huge amount of fun decorating cakes with various icings, chocolate and sprinkles. We've piped icing, rolled fondant icing, made butterfly cakes, and dipped madeleines in chocolate.



For Thinking Day, we decorated cakes and biscuits with our GirlGuiding logo, which we shared with the Rainbows and the Guides.

We were delighted when Liz Morgan joined us, complete with buttercream icing and piping bag to help the Brownies learn new skills.

The Brownies have really enjoyed all the different activities we've done, and the parents have been impressed with the quality of the "baked goods" – potential new customers when we've got our next outdoor cake sale!



Turning to Painting, we've made our own paint with flour and food colouring, marbled with shaving foam and ink, created magic colours with Brushos and water, and used a technique with Washi tape and paint to create a pattern in the void.

We've also done a bit of pointilism, creating painted pictures with pencil ends, cotton buds – and delved a little into Aboriginal art techniques.

We've used watercolour card, card and canvas. I think we can say that we have explored our creativity and imagination.



Our three new Brownies - Connie, Isla and Jessica - renewed their Promise as Brownies, and our five oldest Brownies - Mia, Kayci, Lois, Eloise and Alexa - were awarded their Bronze Awards for achieving two Theme Awards.

Our next venture will be into First Aid and Gardening, and we will plan to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee as we get to the end of our year.



Plans are well in hand for our Pack Holiday at South Newton in April, where we will have Brownies from Sherwood Greenlaw join us for the weekend.

We also have Brownies attending RENCHOX, a Guiding event at South Newton planned for May, which I believe will be similar to a Willy Wonka afternoon of sweet indulgence!

Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader

39thA Paisley Brownies

The Brownies have been so busy every Wednesday – playing, learning and working together. We welcomed another new member, Lexi, who has settled in well and is enjoying learning about Brownies.



As the session moves on, we have been able to present more Anniversary Badges, with Charlotte and Ellie gaining their 4th Anniversary badges. Well done girls for continuing your Guiding journey.

To encourage the Brownies to work on *Grow your Own* Interest badge, we planted some bulbs. The girls carefully transported them home and formed care plan to look after them. Many have also designed their “dream garden” and shared their suggestions with us. As a result of their efforts, we have awarded badges to 16 of the Brownies. Charlie Dimmock better watch out – Brownies are coming for your job!!

On 9th February, we were delighted to welcome the parents of 6 of the girls into the sanctuary so they could watch them make their Brownie promise. It was lovely to hear the girls speak out with such confidence. Well done to Beth, Emily, Evie, Freya, Katie and Lauren!



Every week we are issuing badges to Brownies and so far, as well as the *Grow your Own* badges, we have also presented :

Baking Interest badges to Daisy Mac, Freya, Jenny and Phoebe ;

Languages and My Rights Interest badges to Ruyi ;

Performing Interest badges to Daisy Mac and Jenny ;

Express Myself theme to Darcy ;

Have Adventures theme to Annarosa and Grier ;

Know Myself and *Skills for my Future* themes for Ruyi ;

Take Action theme for Meiyee.



The girls have a lot of fun carrying out different tasks on *Express Myself* theme and we have presented 16 *Communicate* Skill Builder and 11 *Innovate* Skill Builder badges.



We were delighted to have 10 Brownies at the Thinking Day service on 20th February. Ellie did a great job of carrying the Pack flag and enjoyed the experience. Jessica and Meiyee worked hard on their voice projection to read to the congregation. We are very proud of the confidence shown by the girls. We were also happy to have our toadstool and owl join us in Church. Many thanks to Isobel Higgins for incorporating them into floral decorations.

We have just started working on our last Skill Builder for this session – *Be Well*. Most of the Brownies have chosen to practise their *First Aid* skills while the rest are investigating what makes us *Feel Good*. Looking forward, we have plans to make crafts for both Mother’s Day and Easter. We hope these will be fun nights. We are working on drawing and writing postcards which we will send to some Residents in Care Homes in the next couple of weeks. In May, we hope to join Brownies from across the County at a fun event at the County Campsite, South Newton.

We are well advanced in our plans for 15 Brownies to spend the weekend at the PGL outdoor centre at Dalguise. Exciting times that we will share with you when they take place.

Christine Hair

Brown Owl



Flowers in Church

03.04.22	Dr Colin Reid
10.04.22	Mr Sandy Fergusson
17.04.22	
24.04.22	Mrs. B. Craig
01.05.22	Simone Smith
08.05.22	
15.05.22	Mrs J Dempster
22.05.22	Mrs C Kinloch
29.05.22	Mrs M Robin

Ladies Delivering Flowers

03.04.22	Mrs. J. Dempster
10.04. 22	Mrs. K. McLauchlan
17. 04. 22	Mrs Sheena Tonner
24.04.22	Mrs I Ritchie
01.05.22	Mrs D Grant
08.05.22	Mrs Sheena Tonner
15.05.22	Mrs I McBride
22.05.22	Mrs L Campbell
29.05.22	Mrs A Black



St Mark's Church Guild

The Guild members are pleased to announce that at their meeting on Monday 7th March, £250 was raised for the Ukraine Appeal.

Paisley to Poland

Olek and Rebecca Kowalski are 2 people who care deeply about what is happening in Ukraine. Rebecca lived and made great friends in Ukraine as a student and Olek's Dad's family had to leave Poland after WW2, never to return, for fear of the Russians. So they hope that by heading to Poland for a few days they can talk, drive, donate supplies and provide some support for those whose lives have been shattered.

They have been told that the most important need right now is food supplies. This appeal is for any one who wants to make a donation to help; it will be put to the cost of buying supplies and offset against some of the petrol for the Kowalski continental taxi service. They want to give a huge thanks to their friend Jok Everett for the loan of his people carrier, which will allow them to transport more supplies and collect larger groups of people.

Rebecca is a member here at St Mark's.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paisley-to-poland>

Dementia-Friendly Café

On Thursday 17th March we held our first dementia-friendly cafe. Although small in numbers, it was a great success and those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and assured us they would be back in April for the next meeting.

We were pleased to welcome back Carolyn and Katy from Dementia Scotland. They were able to talk to our guests which proved to be beneficial for all concerned. Our next drop in café will be held on Thursday 21st of April. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this type of facility, please let them know about it or if you are interested in helping with the café please speak to Eileen Wilkie or me.

Elizabeth Macdonald

Jam Jars Needed

Hi folks,

Would you please save your jam jars (with lids, please) for me? I'm collecting the jars in preparation for my apple jelly production later this year. I can come and collect them from you.

Thanks.

Liz Morgan.





Home Baking Food Hygiene Guidance

Your kitchen at home is not really suitable for food preparation other than for home consumption. If you use your kitchen to make cakes for functions, fetes, coffee morning or other voluntary work then please follow this guidance.

Before you start

- Ensure the kitchen is being used only for food preparation at the time – no laundering for example.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before preparing any foods.
- Wear a clean apron or overall during food preparation.
- Ensure all work tops, surfaces and cooking utensils are clean and in good condition.
- Keep pets and children out of the kitchen during food preparation.

Ingredients

- Buy ingredients, eg flour, sugar, eggs from reputable suppliers, check the date codes, and make sure the packets are intact.
- Store dry goods in clean, sealed containers.
- Sieve flour and other dry ingredients where possible to minimise the risk of contamination.
- Make sure ingredients which should be stored in the fridge are stored at 5°C or below. Buy a fridge thermometer and check this temperature regularly.
- Where products contain fresh cream, and could be considered High Risk foods, they should be stored in the refrigerator immediately and safely until required. Such products should be consumed quickly once purchased.

Allergens

- Food labelling law has been introduced, which means that it is vital that allergens are identified as guidance for consumers to food hypersensitivity (food allergy, food intolerance, and coeliac disease).
- The main allergens that could be present in sweet treats are likely to be:
 - Flour containing Gluten (such as wheat, barley and oats)
 - Eggs
 - Milk
 - Sesame
 - Peanuts, and tree nuts (almonds, hazel nuts, walnuts, brazil nuts, pecans, etc)
- However, it is important to be aware of **all** your ingredients, especially when using pre-made flours, mixes and fillings.
- Home bakers should be aware of the need to identify the ingredients, and if produced for sale, ensure that detail is also passed over to the sales team, (eg by labelling the wrapping).

Cleaning

- Immediately before use, work tops should be cleaned with a suitable disinfectant to get rid of bacteria.
- Keep clearing chemicals away from the food preparation area to prevent contamination.

Storage

- To prevent mould, make sure that cakes are thoroughly cooled down before placing them into a clean, sealed container or wrapping.
- Store cakes in a clean sealed container, and keep separate from raw foods.
- Only food grade wrapping material should be used, ie clingfilm, freezer bags.
- Foods should be transported to the venue in clean sealed containers.
- Ensure that the cakes are kept well away from raw foods at all times.

Serving

- Unwrapped cakes must be protected from any risk of contamination at the service/ display stage.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before serving items.
- Avoid handling foods – use tongs or a cake slice to serve unwrapped cakes, and consider wearing food grade latex free nitrile gloves for serving.
- It is recommended that wrapped cakes are consumed as soon as possible – within 24 hours.

Training

- Training on the safe handling of foods is available on line, or please ask for further information.
- If you have attended a Food Safety training course, either recently or in the past, please let the Office at St Mark's know, and you will be added to the list.

Remember if you cannot prepare foods at home safely then don't do it at all!

Adapted from Renfrewshire Council Guidance ES/RS/11-0024

Ralston Golf Club Seniors Lunch Club

Our Lunch Club, which has been going for 5 years now, is keen to invite any folk in the community who would like to come along and join us on a Tuesday.

We pick up and take home all our regulars and it is a good chance to meet up with folk and enjoy a meal at the same time.

If you are interested please contact me on 07718477711. You can be assured of a warm welcome from us all.

Christine Harrison



MAY, 2022

		MID WEEK SERVICES RESUME FOR MAY THEN STOP FOR SUMMER.
Sun	1	Be with Peter as he leads us in worship this morning.
Mon	2	We are praying for the people who live in Kinpurnie Road, Lanfine Road and Marchbank Gardens this week. We pray for the ACORN groups who meet regularly.
Tue	3	For all refugees throughout the world, those in camps, those in asylum centres, we pray that there would be help and support given to them in these dreadful circumstances.
Wed	4	Vestry Hour and Word for Wednesday. Follow up Bible Study this evening in the Manse at 7:45pm after the prayer group at 7:00. Prayer group also on Zoom at 7:00pm.
Thu	5	We pray for all the organisations in the church, and all the young folk who are involved in them. Pray for the leaders who work throughout the year with the youngsters.
Fri	6	We think of the carers who work to support people in our communities. We pray for those unpaid carers who also work tirelessly supporting their own families.
Sat	7	Possibly a Spring Sale on today(date not yet confirmed but may be 7 th or 14 th . Pray for everyone involved and for the community to come and join in, for conversations to take place and relationships grow.
Sun	8	Today we ask that we reflect on our journey with you. Help us show in our lives that you are Lord.
Mon	9	Netherdale Drive, Newtyle Road and Newnham Road are in our prayers this week. Pray for those who live there.
Tue	10	Brownies tonight. Remember them.
Wed	11	Vestry Hour and Word for Wednesday this morning. Prayer Groups on Zoom and in the Manse this evening at 7:00pm. Brownies tonight too. Pray for them.
Thu	12	We thank you for all those who are given talents and skills in creative arts.
Fri	13	BB tonight – pray for all the young lads who come along. May they see God’s love in their leaders, and come to know more of you.
Sat	14	This morning’s Bible Study on Zoom at 10:15/10:30. The 39thA Brownies are taking part in a County fun outing today. Pray for them to have a safe and happy time.
Sun	15	Christian Aid week begins today and runs till 21 st May. This year it focuses on drought which numerous countries face around the world. As we gather today we remember all those who have gone before us and give thanks for their witness to you. Pray for Sonia in her ministry here and for each person who attends online or in person.
Mon	16	It is the turn of Oldhall Road, Ossian Road and Penilee Road this week for our prayers. International Day of Light. We thank God for his Son, the light of the world.
Tue	17	Kirk Session this evening. Pray for all the discussion and decisions made.
Wed	18	Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in the Manse at 7:00pm, followed by Bible Study in the Manse at 7:45pm. Vestry Hour and Word for Wednesday.
Thu	19	Remember all local, national and international leaders. Pray that God raises up many who follow him and give them strength as they seek to serve.
Fri	20	Pray for 39 th A Brownies(15 Brownies and 4 leaders) who are heading off to PGL Dalguise for a weekend of outdoor activities until Sunday 22 nd .
Sat	21	Another weekend and time of rest for many. Thank God for leisure time to recharge.

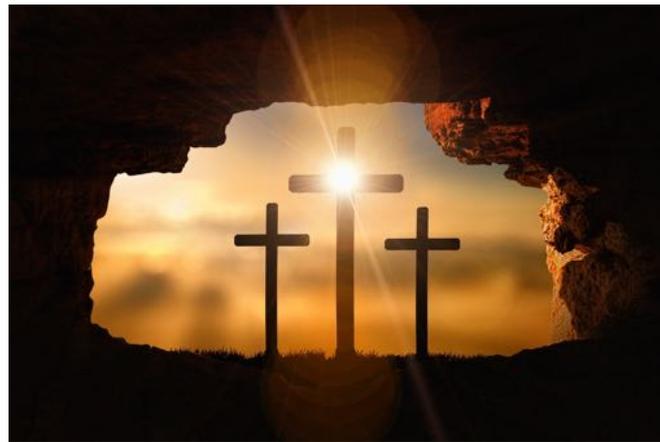


Sun	22	Give thanks for this day when we are called to come and worship together. Give thanks for a day of rest, and help us understand the balance this gives to our lives.
Mon	23	We bring before you the people who live in Ralston Avenue, Roffey Park Road and Rosshall Avenue.
Tue	24	We pray for all our Elders. Uphold them and guide them as they serve you here.
Wed	25	Vestry Hour and Word for Wednesday (the last one till after summer). Prayer groups meet on Zoom and in the Manse at 7:00pm.
Thu	26	THY KINGDOM COME EVENT runs from today until the 5 June. You can go online at www.thykingdomcome.global for more information.
Fri	27	Take time today to pray for someone you know who is going through a difficult time.
Sat	28	Bible Study again this morning on Zoom at 1:15/10:30am.
Sun	29	As you come to worship today, bring your praise to God. "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth" Psalm 8 verse 1. International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
Mon	30	Our final streets for prayer this month are Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road.
Tue	31	Give thanks for all the many good gifts you've been given, and pray for those less fortunate than yourself. Ask God to show you ways in which you can help.

Crèche

APRIL		
3	School Holiday	
10	School Holiday	
17	Easter	
24	I Boyd	C Hair
MAY		
1	School Holiday	
8	tbc	L Morgan
15	M Everett	I Higgins
22	J Bryson	J Wright
29	School Holiday	





He is risen.

He isn't here! He is risen
from the dead, just as he
said would happen.

Matthew 28, v.6

Please send articles for the *Marksman to the editor* at :
marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

Contribution deadline for June/July edition : **12 noon, 19 May, 2022.**