

Marksman

February/March, 2022



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From the Manse



Have you ever wanted a make-over? Perhaps of your living room, your garden, your face or body? There are now many television shows transforming gardens and houses, and family shopping budgets and eating patterns, and we can even follow the weight loss journey of total strangers.

Have you ever wanted to makeover your life? Perhaps wishing you could do things differently the second time around, learning from the mistakes you had made first time, but couldn't reverse? Whilst we can't turn the clock back 20, or 30 or even 60 years, we can have a fresh start in our relationship with God. Our God is the God of new beginnings. He is the God of the hope found in the stable in Bethlehem, and the God of redemption - found in an empty tomb in Jerusalem. He offers us a new beginning in our walk with him.

Revelation 21:5 - "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

The Bible is clear that Jesus will make everything new when he returns and makes a new heaven and a new earth. But he is already making things new for "we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ Jesus was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, so we too might walk in **newness of life.**"

Romans 6:4

Are you walking in newness of life with Jesus or going on the way it has always been?

We live in world that is enamoured with what is new: new films, new music, new books, new cars. God offers something bigger, something eternal, a new beginning with him. God gave Moses a new beginning and Paul got one too.

How do you want to reconnect anew with God this year?

How would your life be different if you walked more closely with God?

God is ready to walk by your side.

What practical changes do you need to make to help you grow closer to him?

Maybe it is obvious to you ; maybe you need to spend time asking him in prayer.

Do you need to read your Bible daily? Apps and books are available with daily reading plans. Should you set aside a regular time to pray? Or review the time and effort that you give to God? Or simply stop for a few moments each day and think of him? Recognise that all you do is done for him. Don't be afraid to walk more closely with him.

God loves new beginnings. Every spring we see new buds on the trees, and already new shoots are pushing through the earth, the first signs of the new flowers that will soon grace our gardens. Every morning there is a new sunrise as the sun climbs over the horizon - even if we can't see it for the cloud! You are an example of a new creation. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here." *2 Corinthians 5:17*

So thank God for making you a new creation. Our relationship with him is foundational for everything else going on in our lives. He is the source of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness faithfulness and self- control. (*Galatians 5:22-23*). When our relationship with him suffers, everything else suffers too.

Make today a turning point.

If you struggle to have a positive outlook, take strength from God's promises - the early Christians did, even in the face of persecution. Take your hope from God's word "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more" *Revelation 21:4*.

Lord God, thank you for new beginnings, for your mercies which are new every morning. Each day is full of new opportunities, help me to seize them with both hands. Thank you for making me a new creation in Jesus, help me to walk closer with you, and please guide me how best to do this. Amen.

I hope and I pray that each day will be a new opportunity for you, and that you will take advantage of it.

Your friend and minister,

Sonía

Funerals

21st January, Gilbert Chalmers of Cochrane Care Home, formerly
Penilee Rd
31st January, Bertha Kay, Roffey Park Road



Worship Matters

Sunday 20th February - Thinking Day/Founder's Day (for Guiding/Scouts)
Sunday 27th February – Communion Service
February 21st – March 5th Fairtrade Fortnight
Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

Green Team

New Year is a time for new habits and we thought we would try to encourage you to adopt some new habits for the sake of our planet.



Feed the birds - seeds, nuts and fat balls go down well, or make an apple feeder. Core an apple, thread it through with a string and tie in a loop. Fill core space with mixture of lard/suet/seeds, set in fridge. Later stick 2 sticks into apple as perching points, then hang out in the garden.

Think about planting ahead of time - wildlife-friendly plants, food for pollinators, perhaps an area for wild flowers, and longer grasses.

Don't tidy up the piles of rotting leaves too early, insects will be hiding in them throughout the winter.

Fix a dripping tap quickly and consider a water butt in the garden to water the garden with in the summer.

Look out for more seasonal suggestions in the next *Marksman*.



TRASH

We have been having a lot of fun at *Trash* over the past couple of months. When the young people arrive, they can play pool, table tennis, table football and other table top games as we start our night. After a while we will usually have an all-inclusive game or activity to get everyone together. After these games we will sit down for our bible study. It is great seeing the growth in these young people and their understanding of their faith deepening. Frequently, we will not get through all my planned questions as a question will take the discussion in a different direction and the young people ask more questions and the discussion continues.

Over the next few months we will be looking at the prophecies about Jesus as well as some of the Old Testament characters. We will also be trialling some materials produced by the Church of Scotland on stewardship.

In November the young people of *Trash* organised the *Tearfund Big Quiz*. We received a letter this week from head of *Tearfund Scotland* thanking us for the £275 raised by *Trash*. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and to the young people of *Trash* who organised and ran it.

This year a number of the young people of *Trash* will be sitting exams from the 24th April through to the 1st June. Please do pray for the young people as they start to prepare for the exams. If you would be willing to pray for an individual young person on the days of their exams, please let me know and I can provide you with their exam timetable.



Messy Church

With the easing of some of the restrictions we were able to hold an Advent themed *Messy Church* event at the end of November. We were not allowed to hold it like we did before, with people moving around the different activities and mixing together ; everyone had to stay at a table and the activities were brought to them. We also couldn't serve a full meal, but we were able to provide an afternoon tea of sandwiches and cakes. Despite the restrictions, it was great seeing families come together, do some activities together and have fun at church.

We are planning on holding these monthly at the moment and running them for a shorter time. The January one will take place on the 29th from 2pm to 3pm- without any food or drink being served. The February one will take place on Saturday the 26th.

Ralston Primary School



Just before Christmas I was back inside Ralston Primary for the first time since March, 2020. I was invited in to do the *ADVENTure* course with the P6 classes. It was great being back in the school and talking to the P6s about advent and what people waited for before the birth of Jesus and talking about the Christmas story.

I was also able to take the Christmas service for the school. This was done online with me in the church and each class in their own classroom as they still can't meet in the assembly hall. At this service we were looking at Jesus being the centre of Christmas.

Jillian McGown mentioned during the service that the school would meet up to sing some Christmas songs in the school playground later that day so Sonia and myself went down to join in and be a part of the school's Christmas celebrations.

I am going to Lockerbie Manor again this year with the P7s for their residential week in March. The last two years they have not been allowed to go, so it is great for the current P7s that they will get to go and try out some new activities.



Holiday Club

We are planning on running the Easter holiday club from the 4th to 8th of April from 10am to 12 noon. We have not been allowed to hold this the past two years, but we are hopeful that the Covid restrictions will allow us to have it this year.

Pyramid Rock looks at the story of Joseph and the highs and lows that he faced as he faithfully followed God. I am excited and looking forward to running the holiday club and welcoming some of the young people who have missed it the past two years.

Thank you for your continued support of all this work and of me personally. Please do continue to pray for all the work at St Mark's and in particular for the young people of the church and wider community.

God bless,

Peter

39thA Paisley Brownies



The Brownies were delighted to be back into the Church for their meetings in January. We welcomed some new members – Beth and Freya who came from Rainbows and Emily, Evie, Katie and Lauren who transferred into the Pack. Due to increasing numbers, we have had to create a new six and this gives more girls the opportunity of a leadership role.

We had a fun first night looking at Constellations. The Brownies were very engaged in making models, but I think the marshmallow “stars” were the big attraction!!!!

We are starting this term working on the *Express Myself* Skill Builders. The girls will choose either *Communicate* or *Innovate* and we look forward to watching their progress.

As the session moves on we have been able to present more Anniversary Badges with Evie gaining her 1st Anniversary badges and Emily and Katie receiving their 2nd one. Well done girls for continuing your Guiding journey.

In a couple of weeks we hope the 6 new girls will be ready to make their Promise and we hope we can welcome Parents / Carers along to watch this important ceremony.

Christine Hair

Brown Owl



Glasgow City Mission (Christmas Eve offerings)

Thank you very much to Congregation for your generous donation of £332.30 to our Christmas appeal. Your support helped *Gift hope this Christmas*. Your support will directly benefit those affected by homelessness and poverty into the New Year.

We send our best wishes for a hopeful 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Geddes
Marketing and Fundraising Manager

Spinal Injuries Scotland

(Retiring Offering December Communion)

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of £300 to Spinal Injuries Scotland. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and will go towards helping us continue to provide advice, information and education for people with spinal cord injuries in Scotland. Our aim is to achieve positive change so that those affected can live their daily lives in a more equal environment. It's donations like yours which allow us really to touch the lives of our members, their friends and family.

Many thanks again for your generosity and support.

Kind regards.

Maureen Morrison,
Operations Manager

And a big thank you from us

To Mac Asphalt of Scott's Rd, Paisley

For the work they have recently carried out at the church, providing an accessible ramp into the Session House. This will not only benefit the church but also the wider community as the hall is used by Mum and Baby groups, amongst others.

This work was provided as part of their community engagement and was completed with no cost to the church.

Prayer Group



FEBRUARY, 2022		
Tue	1	Pray for the Brownies as they get together.
Wed	2	Pray for the prayer group as we meet tonight, and give thanks for all who use this guide at home. Thank You that we can bring our thanks, concerns and intercessions to You.
Thu	3	Thanks for the gift of music. Be with Dawn and the choir as they practise.
Fri	4	We continue to remember the young lads in the BB and Anchor Boys. Be with their leaders as they teach them of your love.
Sat	5	The first of our studies in Psalms on Zoom at 10.15/10.30am.
Sun	6	We pray for Sonia, our elders and all the Worship Team, for Peter, Ruth and all those who work with our young people. May your work here be seen in the lives of each of us as we walk our journey of faith.
Mon	7	This week we pray for all who live in Newnham Road, Oldhall Road and Ossian Road. Pray for the Guild as they meet.
Tue	8	We pray for our world where there are so many injustices. Be with those people who are homeless, suffering from natural disaster, and raise up agencies to help them. Help us play our part by giving where we can.
Wed	9	Prayer groups meet 7:00pm Zoom and in the Manse (Covid permitting), followed by Bible Study 1 in Psalms at 7:45pm.
Thu	10	Pray for the Glasgow City Mission, and for Renfrewshire Women's Refuge and Food Banks.
Fri	11	We pray for those who are unwell, housebound, in hospital, Care and Residential Homes. Be with the lonely and bring them your comfort.
Sat	12	We pray for Street Pastors, and for other charities and agencies that work with vulnerable people in our local area.
Sun	13	As we gather together as your people, help us to come ready and willing to listen to what you have to say to us today. This is also Racial Justice Sunday. Pray for all who suffer from racial injustice.
Mon	14	Our streets for prayer are Penilee Road, Ralston Avenue and Roffey Park Road. We remember the Guild folk today.
Tue	15	We pray for Stuart as he prepares the Marksman. Thank you for the work he does, and for all who contribute.
Wed	16	Session meeting at 7:30. Prayer group will meet in the Session Room at 7:00.
Thu	17	We pray for people who are displaced, for children knowing nothing other than life in a refugee camp and ask you to be with those who try to help.
Fri	18	Pray for all those in our community who volunteer, for those who are Carers, and for the local businesses around us.
Sat	19	Bible Study 2 on Zoom at 10.15/10:30am.



Sun	20	Remember Sonia today as she leads us in worship. Pray for the Guides and Scouts as they hopefully join us today. This is also World Day of Social Justice.
Mon	21	Remember the following streets this week – Rosshall Avenue, Rotherwick Drive and School Road. Fairtrade fortnight begins today and runs till 5 March.
Tue	22	Guiding’s Thinking Day and Founder’s Day for the Scouts. Pray for all the youngsters who attend these organisations.
Wed	23	Prayer groups meet 7:00pm Zoom and in the Manse (Covid permitting), followed by Bible Study 2 in Psalms at 7:45pm
Thu	24	We remember our emergency services and the work done by them. Help us to be grateful for the support we have in this country.
Fri	25	We bring before you all who are still struggling from Covid. We pray for an end to this pandemic and for all those working to find ways to combat it.
Sat	26	Remember the mission partners who work with the Church of Scotland throughout the world. Pray that God protects them as they work for him.
Sun	27	Communion Service today We pray for Sonia and her family. Be with her as she brings Your word to us today. Pray for all Probationer ministers and students as they study, and for those on placements.
Mon	28	Southwold Road, Springfield Avenue and Strathmore Avenue are our streets for prayer this time. This is also Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Ask God to be with all those who struggle with this.

Jam Jars Needed

Hi folks,

Please save your jam jars 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





Flowers in church 2022

06.02.22	Isobel Higgins
13.02.22	Mrs D MacKay
20.02.22	Mrs Jean McGugan
27.2.22	Boys' Brigade Junior Dept
06.03.22	Mrs W Browning
13.03.22	Mrs. J. Mackenzie
20.03.22	Mr P MacKay & family
27.03.22	Mrs A McLeod
03.04.22	Dr Colin Reid
10.04.22	Mr Sandy Fergusson
17.04.22	
24.04.22	Mrs. B. Craig

Ladies delivering flowers 2022

06.02.22	Mrs. C. Sinclair	
13.02.22	Mrs. J. Dempster	
20.02.22	Mrs & Mrs R Pollock	
27.02.22	Mrs. M. Robin	
06.03.22	Mrs. D. Grant	Mrs. M. Adam
13.03.22	Mrs C Love	
20.03.22	Mrs Sheena Tonner	
27.03.22	Mrs Irene Pollock	
03.04.22	Mrs. J. Dempster	
10.04.22	Mrs K. McLauchlan	Mrs. W. Browning
17.04.22	Mrs Sheena Tonner	
24.04.22	Mrs I Ritchie	

VOLUNTEER



Church Crèche

We are hoping to get the creche up and running again and are looking for new volunteers to join the rota. Crèche enables those with young children to be able to continue to take part in worship. Volunteers are 'on duty' one Sunday every couple of months.

Please let me or the Church office know if you are able to help.

Thank you.

Mari Everett





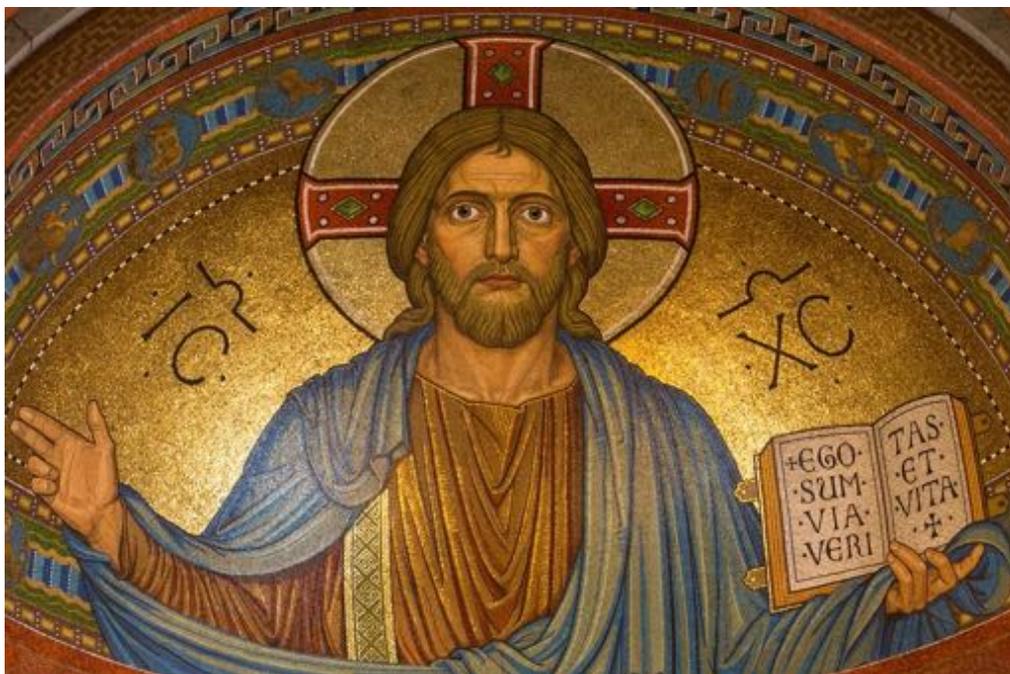
		MARCH, 2022
Tue	1	Fairtrade fortnight continues until 5 March. Pray for all those who strive to achieve better pricing, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.
Wed	2	This is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Pray for Sonia as she leads us through this time towards Easter. As we have been thinking about Creation and the environment in our recent bible studies, it is good to remember that God reveals himself through his creation. This is World Wildlife Day, so take time to thank God for the beauties we see around us.
Thu	3	Bring to God all those countries where there is ongoing war and conflict. Pray that He will raise up people to help those in such situations, that they may see God's love in action. It is also World Book Day. Give thanks that we are able to access books of all kinds, especially the Bible, and pray for countries where access is restricted or where education is denied and just a having a Bible can lead to persecution or imprisonment.
Fri	4	Women's World Day of prayer. It is interesting to note that their verse is the one we have been using in the Prayer Group for January. <i>Jeremiah 29:11</i> "I know the plans I have for you....,'declares the Lord". From what I can find online at the time of printing there will be an online gathering of delegates. I don't have details of any local events as yet.
Sat	5	Pray for our series on Psalms for our Bible Studies on Zoom this morning at 10:15/10:30am
Sun	6	Pray for our services this morning online and face-to-face as we come together to worship and praise God.
Mon	7	Pray for all those living in Tylney Road, Woodend Drive and those who live out-with our district.
Tue	8	Thank God for the young girls who attend our Brownies and Rainbows here in St. Mark's, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Pray also for the Guides.
Wed	9	Remember our mid week services each Wednesday. National No Smoking Day. Pray for all those who are trying to give up smoking, and for others who are struggling with addictions of other kinds. Prayer groups on Zoom and in the Manse at 7:00pm. Bible Study on Psalms, in the Manse at 7:45pm.
Thu	10	Today we remember those in our church circle who are unwell, housebound, struggling with loneliness or feeling drained by the past two years of pandemic. We lift up those known to us in our prayers.
Fri	11	Pray for the young lads who attend Anchor Boys and BB, and be with them and their leaders this session.
Sat	12	Pray for those in the community who use our halls. May we be welcoming and show your love to those around us.



Sun	13	Come to worship today prepared to hear what God has to say to us, and give thanks for the faithful delivery of your word each week. Pray for our minister and all who are involved in worship.
Mon	14	Our streets and families for prayer this week are Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent. We remember all who attend the Guild and ask you to bless them as they meet together.
Tue	15	We remember all the agencies and support staff who work with vulnerable people. Bless the work they do. Continue to pray for the plans for a café and also for the Dementia Café.
Wed	16	Midweek service this morning. Prayer groups on Zoom and in the manse at 7:00pm.
Thu	17	We pray for Dawn and all the members of the choir as they meet and practise. (Hopefully by this time they are meeting in person!)
Fri	18	Think of a charity that is close to your heart and pray for it today, for the work done, the people reached and that God would bless them.
Sat	19	We continue to study our series on Psalms on Zoom at 10:15/10:30am.
Sun	20	Before you come to church today, or log online, take time to give thanks for the freedom that allows you to do so. Pray for Sonia as she shares your word today.
Mon	21	National World Down Syndrome Day. Pray for all those who are discriminated against because of this syndrome and others. Help us to see everyone through your eyes, and to know that we are all precious in your sight. Pray this week for those in Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place.
Tue	22	Continue to remember all those working in emergency services – police, fire, coastguard, rescue services, and those who work to fix electricity, gas and water supplies, often in difficult circumstances and weather.
Wed	23	Pray for the repeat Bible Study in the manse at 7:45pm after the Prayer groups at 7:00pm on zoom and in the Manse.
Thu	24	We pray for our governments, here and in Westminster, and ask that you raise up people of integrity and honesty. May they make decisions that are wise and for the good of those they serve.
Fri	25	We pray for businesses, for local services e.g. bus drivers, waste collection etc., and thank you for those who do these jobs and help keep our society running.
Sat	26	The end of another week and time to take stock and thank God for what He has done for you this week.



Sun	27	Mothering Sunday. Pray for all those who are mothers, for all those who long to be mothers, for our own mothers and for those who have lost their mothers. Help us all to pray for an attitude of care for others.
Mon	28	World Autism Awareness week started yesterday. We pray for all who have autism and for those who find social interaction difficult. Give us understanding and help us learn more about this to enable us to support others. We bring our thoughts and prayers for all who live in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road.
Tue	29	We pray for our elders, pastoral team, worship team, finance teams, administration and cleaners, the flower team and property team who help keep St Mark's serving you.
Wed	30	Prayer Groups meet at 7:00pm on Zoom and in the Manse tonight.
Thu	31	We give thanks for the past month, for your faithfulness towards us, for your love and for the church family we have here at St Mark's.



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

Contribution deadline for April/May edition : 24 March, 2022.

