

Marksman

November and December, 2021



St Mark's Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley

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Few British politicians who have addressed the General Assembly in the past could use Scripture in a speech to any great effect, except perhaps Gordon Brown. In 2008, this son of the Manse, then in his first year as Prime Minister, addressed the General Assembly and said, "to ask that simple searching question: *'Who is my neighbour?'* is also to ask: *in facing as we do now such a range of urgent challenges: the global environment, the global economy, eradication of world poverty, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and new pandemics;*

How can we discover right across the world common ground on which to act?"

These words have never been more relevant than now, when, while the world is still struggling with a devastating Covid 19 pandemic and its aftermath, world leaders are gathering just a few miles from here for COP26 to consider what to do next about the future of our planet. The weight of expectation that rests on our country's leaders, the world's leaders, the church and all the world's religions today is enormous.

Post-pandemic we can all be caught up in the rhetoric of change and hope and desire the common effort for a better world. As long as there is hunger, poverty, disease, corruption, hatred, warfare, lies, spin and despair there will still be people who are sitting by the side of the road crying out to Jesus for mercy. People who are hurt and desperate, with little hope.

The story of blind Bartimaeus sitting by the roadside crying out for help challenges us today to reflect on the life circumstances of the world's poor and destitute who call out continuously for mercy. Most have no security blanket, no coats to keep them warm and no hope for a better life. What therefore are the words and actions of mercy to the socially and economically disadvantaged persons who live in despair in our world?

Sometimes life is so unfair we can't begin to understand it. And that's when we sometimes begin to question not just the fairness of life, but the fairness of God. BUT saying life isn't fair is not the same as saying God isn't fair, because God doesn't owe us anything. On the contrary, we owe God everything: our time, our talent, our money, even our very lives.

The lives we live are lives that God has given to us;
the breath we take,
the clothes on our backs,
the food on our table,
our health in its varying degrees,
the gifts of mind and body to do the jobs we've been called to do ...
all of it is the gift of God.

We don't deserve any of it because God doesn't owe us a thing. And when God doesn't owe us anything, we shouldn't begrudge God's acceptance of those who seem less deserving of God's love.

In a rather negative view of the Book of Job, we have made health, wealth and happiness equal to God's blessing, and sickness, poverty and suffering to be a sign of God's curse. Jesus consistently challenged this view, and as Christ's followers we need to as well.

It is always easier to give up than to endure. It's always easier to blame others than to take responsibility for one's life but there is power in determination. When a person simply refuses to be defeated by whatever circumstances he or she has to overcome, something almost magical happens. They see with eyes of faith.

We need to recognise that those who are 'blessed' receive blessing not for themselves, but for all – in order to share. Neither wealth nor poverty or health are signs of God's approval or lack of it even. They are simply realities of the world and of life.

We are blessed when we share with others, our time, our talents, our money.

We are blessed to know and serve our Lord Jesus, who promises to be with us through all our life trials.

We are now well into autumn, with the first morning frosts arriving, and anticipating the clock change (as I write this), the nights are lengthening, and the days shortening. We will move quickly through the seasons of Remembrance, then into Advent and soon Christmas will be upon us in no time. This November/December edition of the Marksman carries us through all of this time so there are many things to include, and I hope you will dip back into it over the weeks to come.

We move and change as we pass through the seasons of the year but our God is the unchanging, everlasting, almighty God and he is with us, challenging us, through it all.

May I send you my best wishes for a happy holy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. I hope you see more friends and family than you did last year, go more places, but above all stay safe and well.

Your friend and minister,

Sonia

Worship Matters

Sunday 31 October	11am	Communion Sunday
Sunday 7 November	11am	Climate Sunday Service 3pm Memorial Service
Sunday 14 November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 5 December	11am	Communion
Sunday 12 December	11am	Gift Service
Sunday 19 December	11am	Nativity
Friday 24 December	6.45pm	Carol Singing in Church 7pm
		Christmas Eve Service
	11.15pm	Carol Singing in Church
	11.30pm	Watch-night Service
Saturday 25 December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 26 December	11am	Boxing Day/Sunday Service
Sunday 2 January	11am	New Year Sunday Service

Funerals

14 Sep.	Jeremy Browning, formerly of Atholl Crescent.
5 Oct.	Rena Brown, Kinpurnie Rd.
21 Oct.	Joan Napier, Dykebar Hospital, formerly Auchmannoch Ave.



Baptism

29 Aug	Luca Richard Carrera Barnes, son of Paul and Ashley, 400 Glasgow Rd.
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Jeremy Browning

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers or supported me in any way on the occasion of the death of my son, Jeremy.

Wilma Browning

Mary Kettlewell

Thank you to all at St. Mark's for the lovely flowers and many cards and letters I received. They were greatly appreciated and of real help and comfort.

David Kettlewell



Bill Strachan

I would like to thank you for all the kindness shown to me before and after my recent operation. Pat and I found your prayers, flowers, visits, phone calls and cards to be of great comfort.

I am making a good recovery and am delighted to be pain-free and getting back to normal life.

Bill Strachan

Donald Macdonald

Donald and I would like to thank you all for the love shown to us over the past six weeks. We have valued your prayers, cards, flowers, visits and phone calls and found them a great source of comfort.

Donald has a long way to go in his recovery, but he is staying positive and will get there with God's help and the excellent support we have from our family, church family and friends.

Thank you so much .

Donald and Elizabeth.

Thanks from the Foodbank for Harvest Donations

Our Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated on 19th September and the church was beautifully decorated, with flowers and fruit, a fresh baked loaf of bread in the shape of a wheat sheaf, and with a generous number of donations for the Foodbank.



288kg of food, toiletries and cleaning products were taken to the Foodbank. We have received a letter of thanks from their manager Elizabeth Alexander – equating our donations to 640 meals for people struggling with food poverty.

In addition we gave £176.80 as cash donations – which were appreciated as they are now providing help with gas and electricity costs. Also they provide some perishable goods like bread, eggs and fresh fruit and vegetables, which cannot be donated but are purchased as needed.

Their current 'shopping list' is for

Tinned potatoes,

Long-life juice.

Washing up liquid,

Cleaning products such as bleach and cleaning sprays,

Toiletries.

Thank you





Coin Collection

We have decided to continue with our coin collection and we would ask you to donate any loose change you may have to go towards Church funds. These coins can weigh down your pockets, purses and wallets (some more than others!) before we become a completely cashless society. Just collect in any box, jar, bag etc and leave at the Church Office or at the Church door on a Sunday. Thank you.

Margaret Adams

National Giving Day 24th October 2021

As some members may know, the Church of Scotland is having a National Giving Day this autumn. All congregations are being encouraged to participate in this initiative.

During the last eighteen months we have been extremely fortunate to have been able to continue to worship our Lord via the Internet and once restrictions permitted back in our own sanctuary for face to face worship.

Our members continued to give their offerings during this time, and our income from this source held up very well. A BIG thank you to everyone. We did however lose much of our income from hall lets, and most fundraising events were cancelled.

The Church of Scotland recognised this and suggested the National Giving Day. None of the money donated for this will be given to the national church, it will be retained locally and partly used by St Mark's and part passed onto the Renfrewshire Foodbank.

On Sunday 24th October donation envelopes will be available in church, and on request on the following two Sundays. Please indicate on the slip if you would allow us to collect Gift Aid on your donation and how you would like your gift used – e.g. for Church Boiler work, towards the salary for Peter, our Church worker, as start-up funds for our Church cafe or for the Foodbank. (Donations can be divided between these, or left for us to allocate as needed.)

Donations can be made by cash or cheque or directly into the church bank account (St Mark's Church of Scotland 80-09-29 Ac 00173385).

It is an opportunity for members of any age to reflect and remember God's presence with us at all times and to offer our gifts of thanksgiving back to God.

Please consider giving to this Day, which will run as a season of thanksgiving between October 24th and November 7th.

The Finance Committee

Global Day of Action for Climate Change 6 November, 2021

In November, Glasgow will host COP 26 - the United Nations Climate Change Conference. This will be the biggest international summit ever held in the UK, with delegates, diplomats and heads of state and government coming from around the globe - as well as scientists, campaigners, activists, businesses, human rights organisations and development NGOs.

COP 26 will be the most important gathering to discuss the climate emergency since the 2015 Paris Agreement. This will be an important opportunity for countries to set out plans as to how to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

With COP 26 taking place here on our doorstep, it is a good time to share our belief in the importance of safeguarding the integrity of God's creation.

Saturday 6th November has been called a Global Day of Action for Climate Justice and thousands will gather in the city. There is a large rally planned by Christian Aid, Oxfam and others, which will process from Kelvingrove Park, and on to Glasgow Green for 3 p.m.

Many of us would not want to go into Glasgow and be amidst so many people at this time, but I invite you to gather with me on Saturday 6th November, at 2.45 p.m. in our church garden (or Corrie Drive vestibule if very wet) to join the protest virtually to pray for our world and the COP 26 conference. There will also be a Zoom prayer meeting at the same time. Please contact Irene Pollock for details. (irene.pollock03@googlemail.com)

We will celebrate Climate Sunday on 7th November, and during the days of COP 26 (31st October - 12th November), there will be various prayer stations set up around the church, on tables, notice boards and on the trees outside. Please take time to look at these, participate and pray whenever you are in and around the church.

Sonía

Cop 26

For information on how the Church of Scotland is responding to the issues to be discussed at the upcoming conference, visit the following page :

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>



Memorial Service - Sunday 7 November 2021 - 3 p.m.

This memorial service will be held to give us time and space to remember all those we have lost during the last 20 months.

During the Covid pandemic many of our church members died – either with Covid, or with other unrelated illnesses. Because of the Covid restrictions, attendance at the funerals was severely limited, and in many cases we did not get to say goodbye to people from our Church family in the way we would have wished. This service is an opportunity to remember them all, and to remember others we have lost from our own circle of family and friends.



Specific invitations will be going out to the immediate families of the deceased, but this is a time for us to come together as a congregation and remember those we have lost.

Everyone is invited to this reflective service. Please invite any friends, neighbours, or relatives who you think would appreciate this time of remembrance.

Remembrance Service - Sunday 14 November - 10:45 a.m.

Lest we forget



39thA Paisley Brownies

The Pack is back to meeting inside and the girls are loving taking part in a variety of activities from all the themes in the programme. The 4 Rainbows that have been welcomed into the Pack are settling in well and we have another 4 girls who are new to Guiding who have joined us too. Due to personal circumstances, we have also had 3 girls transfer from another Pack. So much for having a “quiet” year!!



With so many new starts, we started by looking at what it means to be a Brownie. This gave us the opportunity for everyone to think about the Law and Promise, using lots of teamwork and fun activities. We were delighted to be allowed to use the Sanctuary so that Parents could watch their daughters make their Promise. The Parents thought the surroundings added a great deal of “dignity” to the event and were delighted they could be safely welcomed to our meeting.

We are working on the Take Action Skill Builder and the girls are getting the chance to practise skills of listening, including being open to listen to the opinions of others. Alongside this, we are working on assorted Unit Meeting Activities to allow the Brownies to work towards different Theme awards.

Since we started back, we have been able to award the Bronze Award to both Meiyee and Charlotte. Meiyee has also completed the Silver Award – the first one in the Pack!! We have just applied for another two Bronze Awards, so we hope to present more soon.

On 3rd October, a few of the Brownies attended the Dedication Service in Church. Darcy did a great job of carrying in the Brownie flag and was well looked after by the very tall BB boys!! Darcy’s Mum was thrilled to be in Church to watch Darcy represent the Pack. Well done Darcy!! We were also delighted to be able to present Saltire Awards [produced by Scottish Government to celebrate volunteering] to 2 of our Young Helpers. Nicola has been helping with Brownies for 3 years and has achieved an amazing 200 hours of volunteering and Emily, who started with us this year, was presented with certificate for achieving 10 hours. Well done and thank you girls.



As I write this, the Leaders are preparing for a fun night at the end of October. We are having our own version of the “Olympic Games”. There will be running games as well as throwing and jumping events. I am sure the Brownies will have fun. We are delighted that Dr Blakesley has agreed to help out on the night and she will be working alongside our visiting Elders, Mrs Boyd and Ms Wilkie. Photos will be shared in the next *Marksman*.

Looking ahead, we have plans to visit the cinema in December to see a new Disney film. Hopefully, many of the Brownies will be able to join in the fun. We have finalised the numbers to attend an adventure weekend at PGL Dalguise in May. We have an amazing 16 Brownies and 4 Leaders attending - exciting times ahead!!

I know there has been a lot of buying of houses in the area over the last year. If you have any new neighbours with girls in the family, please encourage them to come along and enjoy the fun and friendship that Girlguiding offers. Adult volunteers will, of course, be very welcome too!! Interest should be registered at :



39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

We resumed Brownies on a Tuesday night at the end of August, and have been working on our Brownies Programme. We have three Brownies working on their Pre-promise activities, and we hope that they will make their Promise in November. Our numbers are smaller this term, having had three move over to Wednesday night, and two on to Guides. However, this has also helped us to put in practice our routine for hand sanitising, cleaning, one way system etc, with the Rainbows and Brownies both in the halls, and making sure all is well before the Guides arrive.



We have been working on the Network Skillsbuilder over the past weeks, with a variety of different activities. We have a visit from Paisley Historical Society, when we plan to get to know Paisley a little better, and complete our Local History Interest Badge.



The girls were given a family challenge for over the October holiday to seek out many of the murals which can be found throughout Paisley, and have a photograph taken with them. We are also investigating Paisley Pattern and finding out about the weaving which Paisley was famous for. These two badges will then see us working towards the Know Myself Theme Badge.

Ella came along and joined us for the Dedication Service, and was delighted to be awarded a Well Done badge for her endeavours. We followed up Sonia's sermon by asking the Brownies about one thing they could do to change the world, and walking/cycling instead of using the car, sharing our food, and using less water were some of our answers.

No pantomime for us this Christmas again, but we hope to be going to a special Girlguiding-only screening of Disney's *Encanto*. This is the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a magical house, in a vibrant town, in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto.

Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader

24th Paisley Company Boys' Brigade

We started the new session shortly after the Olympics so at an early Bible Class we had some discussion on the Olympic motto: *Citius, altius, fortius* or *faster, higher, stronger* with *together* added recently. (*Communiter* for the Latin speakers) We considered how this might summarise some of the objectives we had as individuals and as a Company starting a new session with face-to-face for the first time in 18 months. The idea was not to replace the BB's motto from Hebrews 6: Sure and Steadfast, but to think about how we should approach the new BB year. The values of the Paralympics seemed even more appropriate. These are *courage, determination, inspiration and equality*.



Taking further inspiration from the Paralympics, we have tried out a few new games. The Juniors have played blind football and sitting volleyball. It is more energetic than it sounds. The Company Section also had a go at blind football although, as you can tell from the photos, at times it looked more like social dancing. One-handed and wrong-handed hockey where you could not use your dominant hand also proved to be quite a challenge. Goalball, another sport for blind competitors was particularly popular with the staff looking on because it has to be played in complete silence to allow the teams to hear the bell in the ball. These were all great fun but, more importantly, the boys gained an appreciation of some things we take for granted such as sight and physical abilities.



The Anchors have been learning about the planets and the wider universe amongst many other interesting topics. The highlight of this particular activity was the opportunity to play with some *Star Wars* toys although they also learned about how God created the universe and as such we should look after it.

The Juniors and Company Sections have been following a Climate Change themed programme. This is very timely, given the COP26 events in Glasgow, and it is really encouraging to see how passionate our young folks are on the subject. We have been thinking about Stewardship in the light of Psalm 24:1.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

The boys are keen to understand the climate issues and take action. We learned about the greenhouse gas effect with a desk lamp, two plastic bottles, vinegar, sodium bicarbonate, plasticine and a couple of thermometers. It was quite alarming and of course going forward demands us all to take action. Our themed programme will help ensure we are properly informed but, more importantly, it will help us to take steps as individuals and collectively. To quote a *Star Wars* character, Yoda, "Don't try. Do." We can all "do" something and must if we accept the words of Psalm 24:1.

Jack Goodall
(Company Captain)

Bible Studies

We meet at 10:15am for a 10:30am start and usually manage to keep it within an hour!

A new Bible study series will begin on 30 October based on Creation/Environmental issues and Sonia will lead both the in-person and the Zoom Bible studies. The discussions will also tie in with a series of sermons on the same topics in the run up to COP26.

These will be on the following dates :

Saturdays - 30 October, 13 November, 27 November and 11 December on Zoom at 10:15am for 10:30am start.

And Wednesdays – 3 November, 17 November, 1 December and 15 December in the manse at 7:45pm

There will be one more Study after Christmas in this series (date to be confirmed).

Irene Pollock



Prayer Group



<p>OCTOBER 31</p> <p>Communion service this morning. Be with us as we meet to celebrate your death and resurrection.</p> <p>COP26 begins today. Each day take time to stop and pray that decisions made will be directed by God, and wisdom prevail.</p> <p>There will be prayer stations in and around the church between 31 Oct and 12 Nov.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 1</p> <p>Pray for all those living in Newnham Rd, Oldhall Road, and Ossian Road.</p> <p>Guild meets today.</p> <p>Pray for those affected by climate injustice.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>We pray for the ACORN event being held in St Mark's tonight, with speaker Michael Harvey. He will talk more about how ACORN came in to being, and what it is all about. Starts at 7:30pm.</p> <p>Why not come along and find out more?</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Word for Wednesday. Prayer groups on Zoom or manse 7:00pm.</p> <p>We remember the 39 th Paisley Brownies as they meet weekly.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>We pray for those struggling to make ends meet, for higher cost of living and reduction of universal Credit impacting on them.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Be with all the young lads and leaders of the BB. May they learn more of You each week.</p> <p>31/10/21-7/11/21 has been Scottish Interfaith Week. Climate-related events have taken place.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Prayer event at 2:45 in the church garden and on Zoom - more details in the <i>Marksman</i>.</p> <p>Pray for a global day of action and rally being held in Kelvingrove Park from 11:30am. Parade through city streets, arriving in Glasgow Green at 3:00pm.</p> <p>We pray for Street Pastors out and about during COP 26 and for conversations they have with people.</p> <p>Pray creative installations would speak to people about your creation.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Make us receptive to your Word this morning. Be with Sonia as she prepares and with all who will participate.</p> <p>Memorial/ Bereavement Service this afternoon.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Our streets for prayer are Penilee Rd, Ralston Ave, and Roffey Park Rd.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Give thanks for the beauty of God's creation, and this wonderful planet on which we live.</p> <p>Pray that we can play our part in changing things.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>Prayer group 7:00pm in session room prior to SESSION in the church at 7:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>We bring before you all who are hampered by addiction.</p> <p>May they find help, release and hope in You.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>The last day of COP26. May our world see a positive impact from decisions made and agreements reached. Hear and answer the prayers of your people during this time.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bible Study (2) led by Sonia on Zoom 10:15am.</p>

<p>14</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Please pray for those in Rosshall Ave, Rotherwick Dr and School Rd.</p> <p>Pray for all who attend the Guild.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>We pray for the Rainbows. Bless these young children as they meet together.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>Prayer groups at 7:00pm on zoom and in the manse.</p> <p>Bible Study (2) in manse at 8:00pm.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lord, we pray today for those who are less able bodied, or have learning difficulties. Change our attitudes to see everyone through Your</p>	<p>19</p> <p>World Toilet Day.</p> <p>Pray for Tearfund initiative Twinning Toilets. Dawn still running this.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>World Children's Day. Pray for all the children across the world, especially those in poverty and need.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Pray for Sonia who is off this week.</p> <p>We ask you to be with Andy Grant as he leads us in worship.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>We remember Southwold Rd, Springfield Ave and Strathmore Ave.</p> <p>Guild meeting today.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Remember all who are shut in, or limited in getting about. Think of ways to connect with others in our fellowship and community.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>Prayer groups at 7:00pm on zoom and in the manse.</p> <p>Remember the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides tonight.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>International Day for the Elimination of violence against Women.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pray for countries where there is war, poverty, famine or natural disasters. May God raise up people to help.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bible Study (3) led by Sonia on Zoom at 10:15am.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Help us focus on your coming to earth on this first Sunday of Advent.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pray for folk in Tylney Rd, Woodend Dr, and all those outwith our district.</p> <p>Pray for the Guild.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>We pray for the ACORN groups that meet, and for the way God is using people to make relationships with others. Help them show Your love.</p>	<p>DEC. 1</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>World AIDS day.</p> <p>Bible Study (3) in manse at 8:00pm after Prayer groups at 7:00pm, both on Zoom and in the manse.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>International Day for abolition of Slavery.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Give thanks for our NHS. Despite difficulties, we are still able to have access to medical care.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The Church Plant Sale is on today selling Christmas Trees (<i>this is provisional at time of compilation</i>). Pray that this will go well and people from the community will be able to meet up with church folk too.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Advent. Communion service today.</p> <p>We pray for the online services that are still going out to many folk.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>We bring all in Allanton Ave, Alton Rd and Atholl Cres to you in prayer this week.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pray for 39A Paisley Brownies meeting tonight.</p> <p>Pray that the poorest, who are often excluded from decision making, will have a voice.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>Prayer groups at 7:00pm on Zoom and in the manse.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>We remember the work of Glasgow City Mission and other outreach agencies.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>We remember ROAR and all who are now able to attend again, albeit in smaller groups. Be with the organisers, and all who come along. May they know the joy of meeting up again.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Study(4) led by Sonia on Zoom. There will be one more session in the new year. <i>Date to be confirmed</i></p>

<p>12</p> <p>Today is our Gift Service. Remember all who will receive a gift and we ask you to bless those less fortunate than ourselves.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>It is Auchmannoch Ave, Balfron Rd and Barshaw Rd for our prayers this coming week.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>We pray for businesses who have been affected badly by Covid, and for those affected by lorry delays or difficulties getting supplies.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Word for Wednesday.</p> <p>Prayer groups at 7:00pm on Zoom and in the manse. Bible Study (4) in manse at 8:00pm. One final session in the New Year - <i>date to be confirmed.</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pray for Street Pastors, as they meet with people on our streets. Help them show your love and compassion. Keep them safe.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray for all who work in the church, especially remembering the administration team. May all they do be to your glory.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Why not just stop today, and give thanks for the many good things you have received from God. In this season of Christmas, life can get very hectic. It is good to take time out and reflect on God's goodness.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Today is our Nativity service. Help us worship you afresh as we hear this amazing story once more.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Keep all those in Barshaw Place, Bathgo Ave and Blair Road in prayer.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>We pray for the Finance team as they handle our affairs. Bless our giving for your service.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Word for Wednesday. Prayer groups at 7:00pm on Zoom and in the manse.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pray for the worship team and their involvement throughout the year. Bless their work.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve services at 7:30 pm and the Watch night service at 11:30pm.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day – service at 10:30 am. Celebrate the newborn King.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Boxing Day service at 11:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Buchlyvie Rd, Crookston Dr, and Dalfoil Ct. are in our weekly prayers.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>We pray for the Social and Eco groups, working with our fellowship and striving to reach those in our community.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Remember all who work with our young people, and the organisations they are involved in.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pray for our organist, and those who help from time to time. May our music be true worship to You.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>As the year draws to a close, stop and reflect on God's faithfulness in 2021.</p>	<p>JANUARY 1</p> <p>A New Year, and a new opportunity to commit our lives to Christ. May each one of us continue to journey with God faithfully) and living in His hope.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>The first service of the new year will be held at 11:00. Be with Sonia as she leads us in worship.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>We start this year praying for Darvel Cres, Drummond Dr, and Duchray Drive.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>If you are getting a chance to spend time with friends and family, give thanks for this.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pray for those who may struggle with loneliness. Ask God to come close to them.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Schools return today. Pray for all young people and staff as they begin this year. We pray it will be more settled for them.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. Help them remain faithful and give them strength and courage.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>We pray for all corners of our world affected by war, conflict, poverty, famine or natural disasters. We pray for peace, justice and equity for all.</p>

VOLUNTEER



VOLUNTEER



Church Creche

We are hoping to get the creche up and running again in the New Year and are looking for new volunteers to join the rota. Creche 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 can you let me or the Church office know if you are able to help.

Mari Everett
07971 029217



Christmas Cards

Once again we will be looking for volunteers to deliver the Church Christmas card to homes in the parish. The list of roads concerned will be displayed in the Glasgow Road vestibule in early November. If you are able to assist, please put your name beside the road(s) to which you can deliver the cards.

Thank you.



Church Choir

Our fantastic Sunday singers, known as the Choir, have been expertly leading us in worship as restrictions have gradually eased. Not being allowed to sing in church removed a form of worship that we all took for granted in the past, an element that we all expect to be present in every service. Having this back again has certainly made me appreciate singing praise to God all the more and I know my lovely choir friends agree.

I expect choir practices to commence again in November, Thursday evenings, 7pm-8pm in the Session House. A love of singing is all that is required (and a good sense of humour as there is much laughter). The Bible never says, "*let those who have beautiful voices sing*", as if natural talent were required to praise God. The Bible just says "*Sing!*" Over and over, dozens of times, we are commanded to sing: sing to the Lord, sing praises, sing joyfully, sing a new song. Come into God's presence with singing.

Psalm 95 verse 1 :

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Please do get in touch with me if you are interested or want more information, or talk to my delightful choir members instead.

Dawn Hope, organist and choir leader (though they lead me more)

Attention all Home Bakers - Food Hygiene by e-Learning

It is a legal requirement that anyone who handles or prepares food and drink is appropriately trained and/or supervised. We have been requested by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to ensure everyone who bakes at home for Church (or Guild) has undergone a basic food hygiene course.

The REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene course is an accredited and industry accepted introductory food hygiene course that will provide all participants with the knowledge and skills to be able to handle and prepare low risk food safely.

Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for anyone who handles and prepares food and drink. This course will be especially useful for anyone who bakes at home on behalf of their congregation.

How long does the course take to complete?

This course will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

How is the course assessed?

This course is interactive and participants will be encouraged to reflect on their food safety knowledge and skills. There are no tests or exams during or after this course.

How is the course delivered?

This course is delivered through a third party training partner and is entirely online.

Do I need access to a computer?

Yes, you will need access to a computer or tablet with a suitable internet connection.

Will I receive a certificate?

Yes, everyone who completes the course will receive an approved REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene certificate.

Please contact Sonia with your details if you wish to register for this course.



HOLY LAND

Early September 2022



Interested in a trip to the Holy Land?
See the sights you read about in the Bible.
Walk where Jesus walked.
Expertly led by our friendly guide Shafik.
An unforgettable experience!

If you would like to know more, please
speak to Eileen Wilkie or Rev Dr Sonia Blakesley.



Have a truly blessed Christmas.



