

# Marksman

April / May, 2023



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

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## From the Manse

As winter began to turn to spring (albeit with some snow!), this last month has seen a number of events where we have seen life breaking through in difficult circumstances. As we marked the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, I have welcomed into the manse a family from Ukraine. As the government introduced new legislation unjustly punishing refugees, over 1000 church leaders from the UK demonstrated their opposition in a joint statement. As new life breaks through in spring flowers and trees beginning to bud, we are called to remember to look for signs of hope, even in challenging times.

Vitalii, Viktoriia, 10 year old Dasha, and baby Ivan arrived in Newtyle Road on the 28th February having driven the 3500km from Ukraine. As they get used to life in Scotland, Mylo and I are adapting to living with a family again! We are all exploring the cultural difference between the two countries and learning each other's languages – although their English is going much better than my Ukrainian! I am enjoying introducing them to Scotland. For them, this is a place of real safety, and they are grateful for the welcome they have been shown. However, whilst they want to settle and contribute to this country, they hope for an end to the war, and the opportunity to return home, and help rebuild Ukraine.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Right Rev. Dr Iain Greenshields, on our behalf, was one of over 1,000 Church leaders who signed a joint

declaration to the UK government expressing opposition to the “Illegal Migration Bill”. Part of it reads, “We are appalled by the proposals in the government’s ‘Illegal Migration Bill’ to detain, punish and reject thousands of people seeking safety. They are completely incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God, and are therefore inherently worthy of treatment which honours their dignity. Instead of dignity, these plans will foster discrimination and distrust, and cause immeasurable harm to people already made vulnerable by conflict and persecution. If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it.

When two in three people who cross the channel to seek sanctuary in the UK are granted asylum following rigorous checks, it seems unthinkable to reject them before they have even had a chance to have their claim for asylum heard. Many people fleeing war and persecution in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Eritrea and Sudan have been left with no safe and accessible routes to claim asylum in the UK, forcing people to make difficult and dangerous decisions. The UK falls far behind our global neighbours in welcoming people seeking sanctuary into our communities, and yet these plans essentially put a ban on claiming asylum and reject the UK's responsibility to play our part in responding to global inequalities and conflict.”



I am reminded of the motto of Aberdeen University, which comes from Job 28, which we looked at recently. “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Fear of the Lord, not terror and that awful fear that accompanies it when your life is threatened, but fear, as in awe, reverence, and respect. We thought about wisdom, and read an earlier part of that same chapter, thinking about all the places wisdom isn't. Sadly, true wisdom is not necessarily found in the policy of any Government, but true wisdom belongs to God, and only when we are right with him, when we revere and respect him, then and only then, do we experience true wisdom for ourselves.

St Mungo had his priorities right when he said, “Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of his word and the praising of his name.” Researching Mungo recently, I was minded to share some of what I learned with you, but I decided I should begin a new series on ‘Celtic Saints with local connections’ with St Mirin, and I hope you enjoy reading this later in the *Marksman*.

For now, I wish that you find godly wisdom when you need it, plenty of hope for the future for you and your family, and a faith-filled Easter. I hope the series of readings for Holy Week helps you walk through that week with Jesus, and I pray that God will bless you as we celebrate this wonderful season of Easter together.

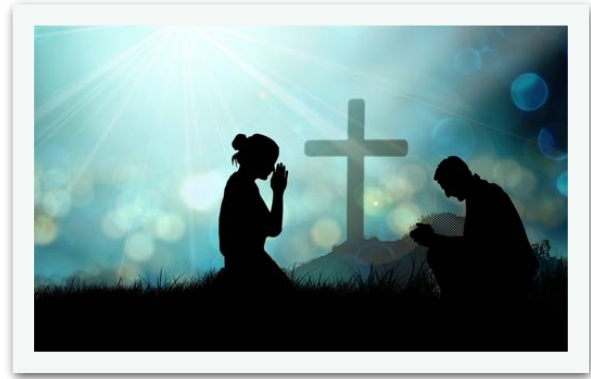
Your friend and minister,  
*Sonia*

## Worship Matters

*Holy Week* services will be held at 7pm each night of *Holy Week* (3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April) and there will be a Communion service on the Thursday evening.

*Easter Sunday* will start at 8am with a celebration in the church garden (weather permitting) followed by breakfast, and then the usual Easter Sunday service at 11am which will be followed by the annual church Barbecue.

Sonia will be on holiday from the 18<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May. Pastoral cover will be provided by Rev. John Murning and his ministry student, Chris Barlas. Chris will be taking the service on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Rev. Jeanette Peel, Healthcare Chaplain at Inverclyde Hospital, will lead worship on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.



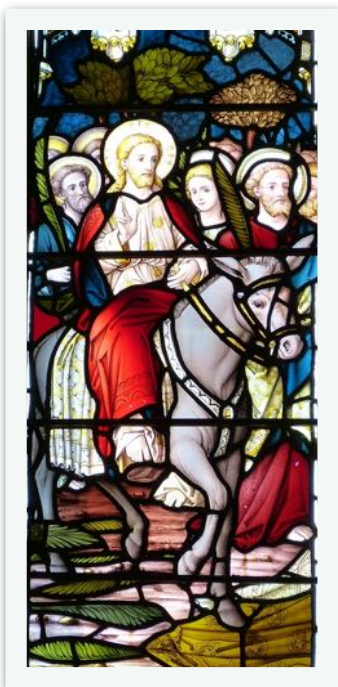
Considering the recent Thinking Day/ Founder's Day service which was well attended by children and their parents, the Worship Team suggested increasing the number of family services e.g. with an End-of-Session service for the Youth Organisations at the end of May. This was received favourably by the youth leaders present at the recent Kirk Session meeting.

This service will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> May when we will celebrate *Pentecost* and you are invited to wear the colour red.

## Funerals

9<sup>th</sup> February - Janet Moffat, Ralston Path

15<sup>th</sup> February Eileen Wilson, Killearn Drive



# Holy Week

Use this guide to lead you through the events of Holy Week.



## **Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Read *Matthew 21:1–11*

Jesus rides into Jerusalem, perched on a colt. This was the first time since raising Lazarus from the dead that he had shown his face in the city.

The story of Lazarus's resurrection had circulated widely. Many regarded Jesus as a celebrity and threw palm branches in his path. Everyone wanted to catch a glimpse of him. They went out to meet him and received him like a King, because they heard he had done this.

*Praise to David's son ! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord ! Praise God !*

**Something to think about** – How often do you praise God for coming into your life?

## **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Read *Matthew 21:12–22*

Jesus enters the Temple and is upset by all the activity going on there. He overturns the money-changers' tables and heals the sick.

**Something to think about** – Think about your body as the Temple of God. Is there something in you that needs to be cleansed by Jesus, or do you need his healing touch? Ask him for what you need.

*My temple will be called a house of prayer. But you are making it a hideout for thieves.*

## **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Read *Matthew 21:18- 26:5*  
(or at least *21:18-27, 26:1-5*)

If Monday's arrival in the temple was an all-inclusive, living parable of cleansing God's house, Tuesday's entrance is a direct, verbal confrontation with the Jewish leadership. Jesus says he does not believe these leaders have any authority over him, and he spends the rest of the day in the temple teaching the people God's Word. By the time he leaves, the religious authorities are planning how they can be rid of him.

**Something to think about** - Have there been times when Jesus' truth has seemed harsh to you, or hard to follow? Did you grumble and back off, or did you speak with him about it?

*The Pharisees went off and made a plan to trap Jesus with questions.*

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Read *Matthew 26:6-16*

Jesus is in the home of Simon the Leper in Bethany. During the meal, a woman, Mary, comes to Jesus with an alabaster flask of perfume. She has been saving this perfume, worth a year's wages. She begins pouring it on Jesus's head and feet. She is offering Jesus everything she has.

**Something to think about** – What do you have that you can offer to Jesus? How can you honour him as Mary did?

*... wherever this gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.*

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April** Read *Matthew 26:17-75*

Jesus is preparing to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. As they begin to eat, Jesus announces one of them is about to betray him. Each wonders if he means them.

During this last supper, Jesus sets apart the Passover bread and cup and reassigns their meaning. The bread is his body; the cup, his blood. Then Jesus and his friends leave for the Mount of Olives to pray. But he is not there only to pray. He is also there to wait.

Soon, a line of torches snakes its way toward him in the darkness. This is what he has been waiting for.

**Something to think about** – Jesus told us to remember him when we break bread i.e. eat a meal. Do you give thanks before you eat? Think of the disciples. Jesus asked them to stay awake and be with him while he prayed, but they could not. Pray now, thanking him for all he has done for you.

*Look! The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinful men.*

**Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April** Read *Matthew 27:1-61*

On Thursday night in Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested - betrayed by one of his disciples and abandoned by the others. The chief priests and the Sanhedrin called for secret trials in the dead of night, and the verdict handed down was that Jesus would be crucified. This is something the Roman Prefect, Pontius Pilate, reluctantly arranges.

After a severe beating, Jesus is nailed to a cross where he remains for six hours until dead. Later, as his body is moved to a borrowed grave, the women who have followed him around Galilee and watched over him all day continue their silent vigil.

**Something to think about** – The women sat in silence – spend some time in silence thinking of what Jesus went through for you.

*Then they led him out to crucify him.*

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April - The Forgotten Day**

Read **Matthew 27:62-66**

Less is written about the Saturday following Jesus's crucifixion than any other in this week. Though we may not make much of this day, when we look at the few verses the Gospels give us about it, we find he was by no means forgotten by the chief priests who had handed him over to death.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus repeatedly said he would die in Jerusalem, yet on the third day rise again.

Of course, the chief priests had scoffed, but they did not forget it. On this middle day, between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Jesus' prediction preoccupies their thoughts such that they simply cannot leave him alone, or dismiss out of hand the possibility that Jesus might know something they do not.

**Something to think about** – Think about all the things you remember that Jesus did, and consider why hearing about only a little of this might have made the chief priests worry.

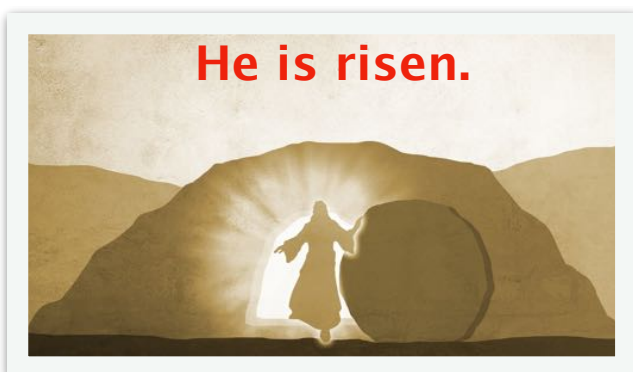
*So they left and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard on watch.*

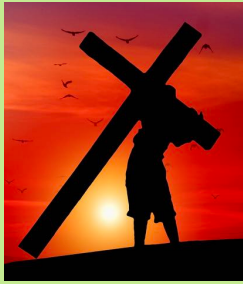
## **Resurrection Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April** Read **Matthew 28:1-20**

Early Sunday morning, some of Jesus's friends set out for his grave to anoint the body of their friend and teacher. When they arrive, however, they are greeted by what one Gospel writer calls "a man dressed in lightning." He tells them Jesus is not there. He is risen. Later Jesus meets his disciples, gives them the great commission and reminds them that he will be with them always.

**Something to think about** – Give thanks to God that he did raise Jesus from the dead and that through his death and resurrection you can have eternal life with him, for your sins are truly forgiven, and you are washed clean.

*He is not here ; he has been raised, just as he said.*





*There I should see a Sunne, by rising set,  
And by that setting endlesse day beget ;  
But that Christ on this Crosse, did rise and fall,  
Sinne had eternally benighted all.  
Yet dare I'almost be glad, I do not see  
That spectacle of too much weight for mee.  
Who sees God's face, that is self life, must dye ;  
What a death were it then to see God dye?  
It made his own Lieutenant Nature shrinke,  
It made his footstool crack, and the Sunne winke.  
Could I behold those hands which span the Poles,  
And tune all speares at once, pierc'd with those holes?*

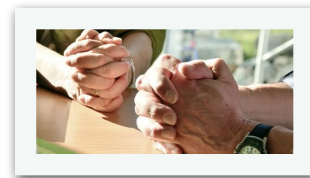
from *Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward*  
by John Donne 1572-1631

*Who knows not Love, let him assay  
And taste that juice, which on the crosse a pike  
Did set again abroach ; then let him say  
If ever he did taste the like.  
Love is that liquour sweet and most divine,  
Which my God feels as bloud ; but I, as wine.*

from *The Agonie* by George Herbert 1593-1633



# Prayer Guide



APRIL, 2023		
Sat	1	Pray for Ukraine and an end to the war. Pray for Sonia and her Ukrainian family that they will know God's protection and peace. Pray, too, for many Russian families who don't want to be caught up in the war.
Sun	2	Palm Sunday when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We give thanks for his willingness to face what was ahead – Amazing Love! World Autism Awareness Day.
Mon	3	We pray for all who live in Woodend Drive, and all those who live outwith our District. HOLIDAY CLUB STARTS TODAY. Pray that there will be a good response to this. <b>Holy Week services</b> this week start at 7:00p.m. Jack will lead with help from Graham.
Tue	4	HOLIDAY CLUB – pray for the leaders and helpers. <b>Holy Week Service</b> this evening. Andy will lead our service with help from Nancy.
Wed	5	HOLIDAY CLUB – pray that their Pirate themed activities go well and they learn more about Paul and his journeys. No Prayer Group meetings this evening as we meet for <b>Holy Week Service</b> . Eileen will lead with help from Elizabeth.
Thu	6	HOLIDAY CLUB – as the children go through the week, pray that they will be enjoying their time together and making new friends. <b>Holy Week Service this evening will be Communion</b> led by Sonia.
Fri	7	HOLIDAY CLUB – as the week comes to an end, pray that God would indeed have blessed all the young folk, leaders and helpers. Thank you for all the work that has gone in to this. <b>Good Friday Service</b> this evening. Pray for Sonia too, after this service as she is on Street Pastor Patrol around the West End of Glasgow.
Sat	8	We reflect and meditate today on Christ's death on the Cross. Our Bible Studies recommence this morning on Zoom looking at Proverbs.
Sun	9	Let us celebrate this <b>Easter Sunday</b> the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Hallelujah! 8:00a.m. Service in the Church Garden(weather permitting) and BBQ after the 11:00 morning service.
Mon	10	Remember all who live in Allanton Avenue, Alton Road and Atholl Crescent. Peter is off for a week so pray for rest and refreshment for both him and Amy.
Tue	11	We pray for people around the world – today remember those in Yemen, and for the extreme difficulties and poverty they are living in. May they experience God in the people helping them there.
Wed	12	Prayer Groups meet on Zoom and in church followed by our new Bible Study on Proverbs.
Thu	13	Pray for the Property Committee – for Gordon McLintock and Graham Wright and the work they do. Dementia-friendly Café this afternoon.





<b>APRIL, 2023</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	Pray for the Boys' Brigade and all the youngsters who attend. Be with their leaders too, as they seek to lead them and teach them more of you.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>	Pray for Turkey and Syria weeks after the earthquakes, as people try to rebuild lives and homes. For families who have lost loved ones pray that they may be comforted.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>	We pray for our Service this morning, for us as a congregation to come ready to hear your word, and for all those who take part. Be with Sonia as she preaches.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>17</b>	Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place are in our prayers this coming week. Sonia is on holiday from tomorrow until the 1 <sup>st</sup> May. May she enjoy this time and she be refreshed. Rev. John Murning will provide pastoral cover during this time.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>18</b>	We pray for people around the world — today remember those whose lives have been impacted, or devastated, by earthquakes, flooding and drought.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>19</b>	39thA Brownies meet and hopefully their newest Brownie will make her Promise. Prayer Groups meet this evening on Zoom and in church.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>20</b>	We pray for the people of our world – we remember Christians who are persecuted for their faith. Pray they will have the courage to stand firm in their faith. Dementia Film Café this afternoon.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	We pray for the Finance team as they carry out this important role, and thank them for their work.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22</b>	Bible Study on Zoom this morning. We pray for the people of our World - Pray for the people of Yemen, often overlooked by more current news.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>	Pray for Rev. Jeanette Peel, Healthcare Chaplain at Inverclyde Hospital as she leads our service this morning.
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	Remember folks who live in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>25</b>	We pray for people around the world – remember the Rohingya refugees who live in the largest camp in the world, and in some other camps. Pray that the root cause of their plight is addressed and pray for Myanmar where the atrocities took place.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	Prayer Groups meet on Zoom and in the church tonight followed by Bible Study. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.
<b>Thu</b>	<b>27</b>	We pray for the work of Evolution and for the leaders. We pray that there will be more people willing and available to help out and to give the current leaders time in church.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>28</b>	We pray for the work of ROAR in our community, for all who help to run it and for those who come along. Thank you for the opportunity for people to come together and meet with friends.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29</b>	Pray for the women and girls in Afghanistan who are being denied access to education. May this change and they be allowed to attend schools and universities again soon.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30</b>	Chris Barlas, student at Sherwood Greenlaw, will lead our service today. Pray for him as he joins us.

## 24th Paisley Boys' Brigade

All sections had a great start to 2023 with several new members joining. This was largely down to the boys asking their friends to come along, which is really encouraging. It also makes a difference to the activities we are able to undertake.

The Anchors have had a bit of a scientific focus by making rain measurement devices with recycled plastic bottles, studying chromatography (Google it) and natural history among other things. They even produced bird boxes in time for spring.

The Juniors have also given nature a helping hand by making Bee Hotels and participating in the RSPB's *Big Garden Birdwatch* in January.

The check sheet for this event even inspired some Lego 'impressionist' designs as you can see. How many species do you recognise?

New skills were developed in the ancient Chinese art of Tangram. They may not be black belts just yet, but they enjoyed making shapes ranging from cats and fish to sailboats.

The Juniors have been considering prayer. They learned about the Lord's Prayer and more recently praying for others with a focus on the needs of Ukraine and the wider world. Their prayers are on the BB noticeboard.

Working with, and encouraging, others has been a bit of a theme over recent months. In Paul's words:

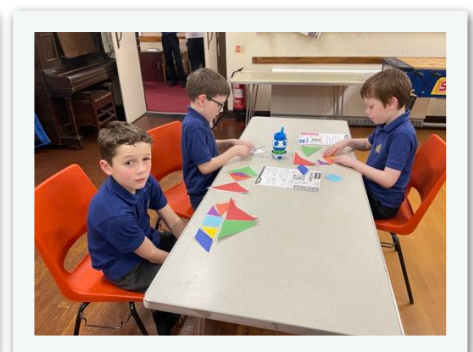
*1 Thessalonians 5:11* "So encourage each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now."

The Company is looking forward to welcoming our neighbours from the 22nd Paisley (Sherwood Greenlaw) before Easter.



This is the first of a few joint activities planned before the end of the session. It will be a great opportunity for the two companies to pull our resources on a few nights and will again provide the necessary numbers for some activities that would not work so well on our own. It is encouraging that both companies have the shared ambition of ensuring the boys have the best opportunity to fulfil their potential and have great fun doing it.

**Jack Goodall**  
**(Company Captain)**



## 50 Years Later : Bugles, B.B. and Brick Arches

Back in November, 2022, I returned to St Mark's after an absence of exactly 50 years. I had a very busy life at the church in my childhood, being part of the Boys' Brigade led by Captain John Wylie and I remember playing the piano for the Boys' Brigade service on Sundays, playing an active part in the bugle band and being part of the soccer team.

Vivid memories returned when I entered the church as the pulpit had gone and the hard pews had been replaced with lovely, soft seats. I also remembered the brick arches where the hymn numbers were posted. In the large hall I noticed that the stage where I had embarrassed myself on many occasions had gone.

I enjoyed the service and a lovely sermon from Sonia. As I made my way out of the main entrance, Sonia made a point of coming over and asking if I was new as she had not seen me before. I replied that I had returned after 50 years. She asked me to come through to the large hall for coffee where I met several other people who all made me feel right at home.

I recently found old photos of the Boys' Brigade trip to Copenhagen in July, 1969 (a journey of 44 hours by bus,

ship and train). The photos showed most of the company and were very clear so I decided to copy and frame them and give them to Sonia at the Wednesday morning service on the off chance that someone in the congregation might recognise someone. I was amazed when several people recognised themselves.

Two of my former Boys' Brigade officers - Graham Black and Alistair Boyd - remembered me.

I am beginning to feel like a celebrity when I return to the church around once a month (my local church is Elderslie Kirk) with people remembering me and stopping to say hello, including Dawn the organist.

The Boys' Brigade and the church gave me a great start in life through discipline and teamwork and I now feel that I am back at my spiritual home when I visit.

The church is very active and I was surprised at the number of activities on offer.

I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to Sonia and the rest of the congregation for welcoming me back into the fold and re-establishing my faith.

**Jeffrey K. Blackshaw**



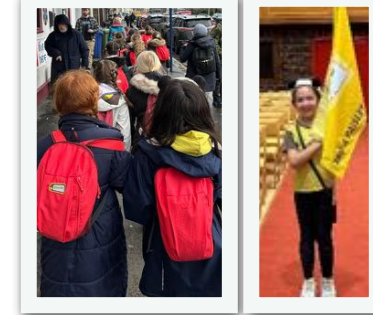
# 39thA Paisley Brownies

Every Wednesday evening continues to be a busy time for the Brownies and leadership team. We have worked our way through the *Know Myself Skill Builders*, with girls choosing whether to work on *Network* or *Reflect*. There are 5 activities in each *Skill Builder* and cover different ideas from building card towers to considering emotions and designing an emoji. We were delighted to present 6 *Reflect* and 22 *Network Skill Builder* badges

Our celebration of the Chinese New Year was led by one of the Brownies, Ruyi. She shared information about the celebration and helped us make Chinese lanterns to take home. Good job and thank you Ruyi!

The 'newbies' that joined us in January had been looking at what it means to be a Brownie. We were delighted to invite their parents along when they all decided to make their Promise. We are delighted to welcome Charlotte C, Charlotte L, Esme, Francesca, Lottie and Maisie into the Pack.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February, we joined with about 500 Girlguiding members from across Renfrewshire for a day of *Thinking Day* fun. There were many activities in various Church halls in Paisley town centre and we were able to choose what to attend. The Brownies enjoyed a 'Highland Hustle' fitness session, followed by



'Laughing Yoga' that helped us cool down.

We also went to a Magic Show where two of our Brownies were able to assist the magician.

The Pack then headed up the High Street, singing all the way and bringing smiles to the faces of many of the shoppers!

After our walk, Lego and table-top challenges awaited the Brownies. Our last activity was a visit to the 'Silent Disco' – how peaceful! The finale of the day was a sing-song and presentation and everyone renewed their Promise. What a busy, fun-packed 6 hours! A big 'thank you' goes to the County Guiding team that organised it all.

The next day, some of the Brownies attended the *Thinking Day* service in St Mark's. The service was enjoyed by the Brownies who were even 'dancing' to the hymns. Ruyi did a great job representing the Pack by carrying our flag into the Church and Charlotte S did the reading in a lively and confident manner. Many thanks to the members of the congregation who took time to speak to the Brownies or spoke to me to pass on their congratulations to the Pack on being an excellent advert for Girlguiding.

Many of the Brownies continued their 'ambassadorship' on *Thinking Day* [22<sup>nd</sup> February] when they wore their uniforms to school. All the schools attended by the Brownies were delighted to encourage this and they were proud to show their membership.

## 39thA Paisley Brownies

As always, many of the Brownies have worked on badges and successfully completed Interest and Theme Badges. Well done to them all!

*Express Myself Theme Award* – Jessica M

*Baking Badge* – Jessica M

*Zero Waste Badge* – Daisy Mac

*Painting* – Charlotte L, Jessica L, Charlotte S

*Anniversary Badges* –

5 years – Zoe, Charlotte S

2 years – Francesca

1 year - Lexi

*Bronze Award* – Jessica M.

We are lucky to have help at Brownies from one of the Guides, Georgina. She works well with the Brownies and is becoming an integral part of the leadership team. We were delighted to present her with a *Saltire Award* for 10 hours of service.

Our next programme activity is working on *Skills for My Future Skill Builder*. We started with discussion of leadership and the Brownies took turns to lead their Six through a series of challenges.

I look forward to sharing more information in the next edition of the *Marksman*.

**Christine Hair**  
**(Brown Owl)**



## Church Bake Sales

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our monthly bake sales, or has come along and supported us by buying goods on the day.

Our April Bake Sale will be on **Sunday 2 April**, but to coincide with the Plant Sale on **Saturday 13 May**, there will be meringue orders only for collection on **Sunday 7 May**.

**Sheena Tonner and Liz Morgan**



## 39<sup>th</sup> Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)

The Pack had a really special *Thinking Day* when Isobel Ritchie popped along to tell the Brownies about her Guiding experiences during the Second World War. 'Black Out' was a completely new term to them – and no cars! Isobel kindly showed the girls how to tie her uniform tie correctly, and the girls went on to find out how to apply a triangular bandage. We also made beads out of paper and used these to make a piece of jewellery. Two Brownies made their Promise, and everyone was presented with the *Twit Twoo Challenge* Badge from Isobel.



Ten Brownies attended the *County Thinking Day* event held in Paisley, where we took part in various activities at Paisley Methodist Church, St Mirin and Paisley North. The girls danced, with and without music, did Laughing Yoga, heard about Paisley witches, made seed bombs, were entertained by a

magician, played parachute games and did lots and lots of craft. The day finished with a campfire and presentation of Long Service Awards. And it's always a bonus when the girls receive a badge.



We've really enjoyed the *Explore* Skillsbuilder, where we've had virtual trips around Scotland, learning about our foot health and proper footwear to suit the terrain.

We "visited" different countries and had to pack our suitcases ensuring that we didn't inadvertently take with us something which would not be allowed across their border.

We also created our own compass from a paperclip which we magnetised to help us find north, and then plotted the rest of the compass points, making up a phrase to remember them (NESW).

We've also had fun making constellations and star signs out of marshmallows and

# Brownies

cocktail sticks, and a solar viewer, both parts of the *Space* interest badge. The girls have been reading the news about Northern Lights over Scotland, and I was lucky enough to share some images that I took from my Norwegian adventure.

We missed out on seeing the Owls at RenFriends, so we've invited *Owl Magic* to come along to our Tuesday night meeting, so that we can find out more about them. We are also planning to have a joint activity with the Rainbows and Guides to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

We are planning our Pack Holiday for June, which will be on a *Matilda* theme, and we hope to have many of the girls coming away for their first overnight adventures. There will be a special GirlGuiding showing of *The Little Mermaid* at the Odeon before that.

So lots to fit in before we stop for our summer break.

**Sheena Tonner**

**(Brownie Leader)**

# Celtic Saints with local connections

**Saint Mirin** lived from 565 to 620. He is also known as Saint Mirren, Merinus, Merryyn and Meadhrán. He was an Irish monk and missionary who founded a religious community in Scotland that indirectly went on to become Paisley Abbey. As a result, he is viewed as the patron saint of Paisley.

St Mirin was born in Ireland, into a noble family. While still young, he was admitted to the monastery at Bangor Abbey in County Down, where he studied under the guidance of St Comgall.

Mirin later became the prior of Bangor Abbey. Legend has it that Mirin performed a miracle (of sorts) when he was refused permission to preach the gospel by the High King of Ireland. The queen was heavily pregnant, and Mirin is said to have prayed to God to have the king suffer from his wife's labour pains. The king fell ill and roared with pain for three days and nights. Mirin was sent for and, on 'curing' the king, was given the permission he wanted to preach. Clearly not a saint to be messed with!

Mirin later travelled to what is now west central Scotland and, with the permission of the local chieftain, established a small church near the White Cart Water some miles south of the River Clyde, probably in Seedhill.

Little is known of Mirin's activities in Scotland but, after he died, the shrine to Saint Mirin that was created there became a place of pilgrimage and what is now the town of Paisley grew up around it.

In 1163 Walter Fitzalan, the High Steward of Scotland, founded a Cluniac priory on land he owned in Renfrewshire. This became Paisley Abbey and was not far from the site of Saint Mirin's earlier church.

The priory was dedicated jointly to Saint Mirin and to Saint Milburga, the patron saint of Wenlock in Shropshire, where the first thirteen monks came from.

It is said that Paisley Abbey at this time housed the relics of St Mirin, and it continued to be an important centre of pilgrimage.



In 1488 King James IV issued a charter granting Paisley the status of Burgh of Barony. One of the reasons given was "the singular respect we have for the glorious confessor, Saint Mirin". Saint Mirin is today remembered in the St Mirin Chapel in Paisley Abbey and in the Roman Catholic St Mirin's Cathedral.

Paisley's football club is called St Mirren F.C., and there is a Knockmurrin ("Mirin's Hill") in Ayrshire, an Inchmurrin ("Mirin's Island") on Loch Lomond, and a St Mirin's Well near Kilsyth, as well as streets, (small) rivers, and a primary school named after him.

Thanks to Undiscovered Scotland <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usbiography/m/stmirin.html> and Wikipedia

**Sonia**





## Social / Café – position 9 / 3 / 23

Hooray, we are now putting things back together and have glass in the windows, insulation, power, water, drainage and hope to have the disabled toilet, painting and the flooring finished by Easter, allowing the space to be used again and, importantly, in time for the **Plant Sale on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Café cannot open commercially yet until Presbytery and Trustees permissions are received, nor can the frontage window be fitted. Pop up cafés and the monthly Dementia-friendly café will nevertheless be able to use the space, as will those that used the room before.

The **Plant Sale** format will be like last year but using the new café space with plants and stalls out front on Glasgow Rd to make us more visible.

As well as community stalls, *Dr Bike* will attend, offering free cycle servicing and *Led Rides* by qualified staff, paid for by a Cycling Scotland grant to encourage cycling.

Bikes will be available for use, but please also bring your own and do let us know before if you want yours checked over by the Doctor.

### How will the café run when finished?

We have engaged *First Enterprise*, a specialist business development firm with experience developing Church of Scotland Cafés, who will answer our questions and produce a Business Development Plan.

Answers will include card payments, banking, water rates, charity status, insurance, and lots else, so let us know what your questions are.

### What will the café be like? How often will it open?

The café is successfully developing generically and it is anticipated this will continue but, to provide direction, we need to know what is wanted so do keep letting us know. So far it has wi-fi, toddlers' area, booths, upright chairs and tables, sofas and a picture rail to exhibit local artists' work.

### Funding

Whilst a government Start-up Employment funding application has been declined, we have been told another can be reconsidered if supported with a Business Development Plan.

Separate funding applications will continue to be made for the front patio windows and the opportunity to **Buy a Brick** will, we hope, be in place for the plant sale.

Grant funding recently received will be used for cycle stands, a cycle repair station and providing gazebos, bunting, etc.



### Autumn 2019 Geocache pop up café successfully trialed use of the space as a café.





# Café Tasks remaining - volunteers wanted.

## Toilet

Decoration, plumbing,  
Sanitary ware.

## Café

Colour coats (Evolution young team) ; varnish doors and glazing beads ; Fit temporary servery counters and shelves (pending new units in Sep.) ; drainage connection ; water connection ; boiler and hot water ; fit sinks ; wash hand basin ; soap dispenser ; towels ; bin ; fit and power fans ; move espresso machine ; dishwasher ; fridges ; panini press; soup terrines ; crockery and glasses ; paint table and chair legs ; re-upholster seat pads ; fit front door handle and lock and clean windows.

## Cloister to café

Fit Push Bar to form new fire escape ; fix sagging floor ; lay carpet.

## External

Adjust Steel boundary fence and form café fire escape path ; replace stays with posts to allow space to pass ; include timber front gate and screening to patio ; install bike racks ; repair station and café signage along with lights ; form patio furniture/ bike store by altering cage.

## Vestry / Session room

Carpet fitted ; decoration needed.

## Evolution / Stage room

Carpet fitted ; decoration and plain glass to window needed.

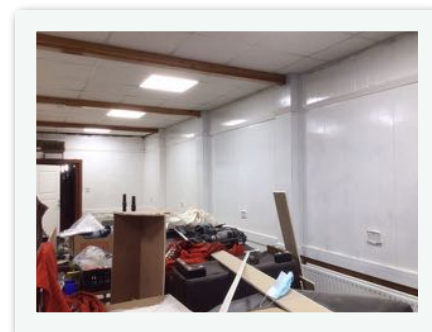
## Small and Large halls

Wi-fi installation.

**If you can help, please get in touch.**

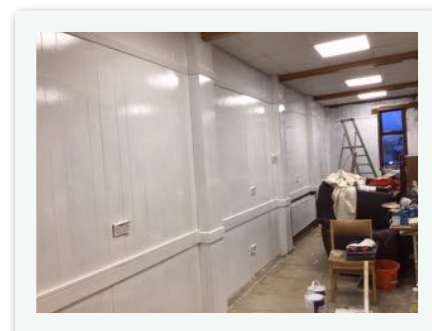


**Accessible toilet being formed.**

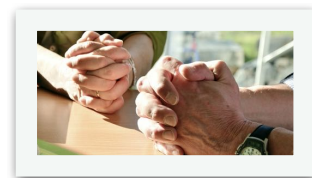


**Ceiling insulated ; new electrical sockets with integral USB charging points ; Wi-fi and LED low energy lights installed and walls undercoated.**

**Will you help, please?**



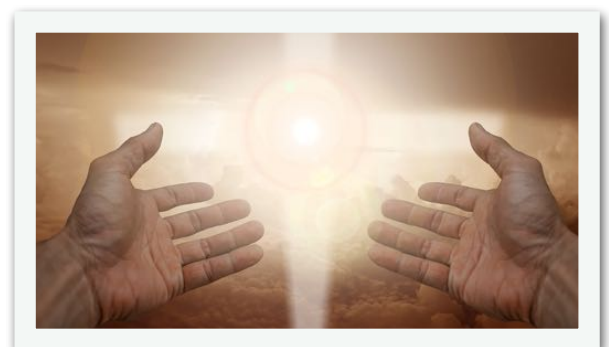
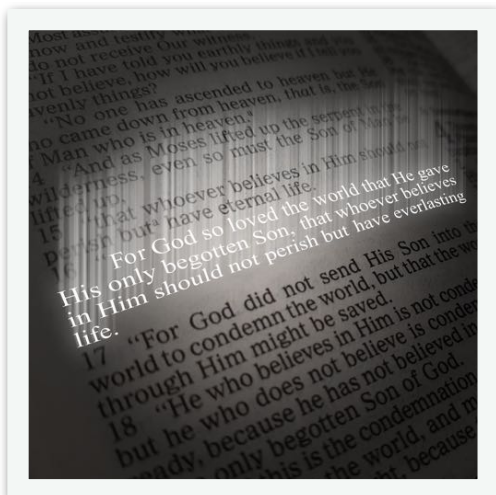
# Prayer Guide



MAY, 2023		
Mon	1	It is the turn of Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent for our prayers this week.
Tue	2	Pray for the 39 Brownies as they meet that they enjoy their time together and the new things and skills they learn.
Wed	3	Prayer Groups on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	4	We pray for people around the world – for those on the margins of society, for those who are discriminated against and for those whose voice is seldom heard.
Fri	5	Pray for the local schools, for the teachers and staff who work with the children. Pray for the children and their parents.
Sat	6	Pray for the Royal Family at the Coronation of the King and Queen today. Bible Study meets on Zoom this morning (this will be confirmed later).
Sun	7	We ask that we come prepared to worship you today. For Sonia we pray a blessing on her as she leads our worship. Pray for the Church Meal that is planned for today.
Mon	8	Stop and pray for those in Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.
Tue	9	World Migratory Bird Day. Pastoral Afternoon Tea. May all who come along enjoy their time together.
Wed	10	Prayer Groups on Zoom and in church followed by Bible Study.
Thu	11	Sonia and Peter involved in the School Assemblies today. Dementia-Friendly Café today. Pray for the Choir as they meet and as they come to the end of their session. Be with them as they, and Dawn, lead us in worship.
Fri	12	We give thanks for the Green Team as they work to help our church become more environmentally aware.
Sat	13	Plant Sale today. Pray for good weather and for lots of people to come along from the church and community.
Sun	14	Our prayers are for Sonia today. Bless her work, her life and her family.
Mon	15	Our prayers this coming week are for those living in Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road.
Tue	16	Kirk Session meets this evening and we ask that your Spirit will be with us at this meeting. International Day of Living Together in Peace.
Wed	17	Prayer Groups on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	18	Thy Kingdom Come global prayer event begins today – Ascension Day – and runs until the 28 <sup>th</sup> May - Pentecost.
Fri	19	We pray for the people of our World – today we remember the Peacemakers in Israel and Palestine. Give them protection. We pray for an end to hostilities in this part of the world.



MAY, 2023		
Sat	20	Bible Study meets this morning on Zoom. Pray for many countries who have been devastated by natural disasters, floods and drought. May there be agencies to help bring them the support they need, and help us give where we can to help them too.
Sun	21	We ask that you bless us as we meet together today. Help us all to reflect and meditate on what you have to say to us.
Mon	22	Sonia is at the General Assembly this week. Pray for her while she participates and for discussions and decisions made. Golf Drive, Hawkhead Road, Killlearn Drive are the streets to pray for this week.
Tue	23	We pray for our local Community, and all that goes on in it. Pray for those who work to help others, and be with those who are lonely. We pray for the Community Council too.
Wed	24	Prayer Groups meet on Zoom and in church followed by Bible Study.
Thu	25	We thank you for the Flower Team who decorate the sanctuary so beautifully week after week. We thank you that those who receive the flowers are blessed by this.
Fri	26	Our prayers are for all who use the church building that they may be aware of God's presence here, and want to come along to find out more.
Sat	27	MESSY CHURCH this afternoon. Pray that there will be a good turnout of children and parents, and that they have a great time.
Sun	28	Pentecost Sunday. Pray for Sonia as she leads us in worship today.
Mon	29	Our streets for prayer this week are Kinpurnie Road, Lanfine Road and Marchbank Gardens. International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
Tue	30	We pray for the Elders and office bearers of St Mark's. We pray for each member and adherent and for those who just come from time to time. Help us to nurture our fellowship together and be a presence in our community that shows your love.
Wed	31	Prayer Groups on Zoom and in church this evening.



# Session Report

At the session meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March, the church accounts and OSCR report were agreed and will be presented at the Stated Annual Meeting after the morning service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We have had confirmation from Presbytery that we will be a 'shared parish' with Sherwood Greenlaw. This in effect will have little or no influence on our day-to-day working. Both churches have full time ministers and both buildings are in a good state of repair and so, although we will continue to work together with some shared services and joint working with our guilds and BB companies, we will remain separate churches.

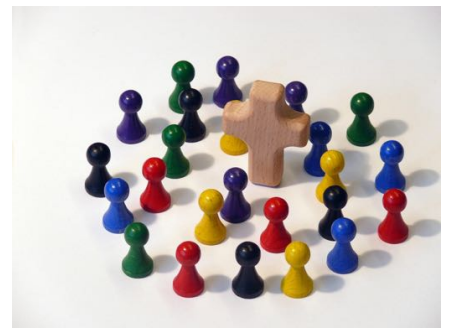
This decision has to go to Edinburgh head office and then be sent back to Clyde Presbytery for final

ratification - in June this year, it is hoped.

Our church café is progressing well and grateful thanks are due to Jok, Andy and Graeme and their helpers for all the work they have done.

It is hoped we will have the place up and running in time for our Plant Sale in early May. We also plan to have a bike station erected with 2 spaces for 4 bikes each and a small repair station on site to try and entice passing cyclists to stop and have a cuppa. There may also be the opportunity for members to take the loan of a bike for a short fitness run.

We await full permission to create patio style doors at the end of the Session Room to enable passersby to see into the café and perhaps encourage them to visit.



We continue with warm spaces until the end of this month, but the Dementia-friendly Café will continue as normal. The Film Club hopes to continue its monthly offerings so watch out for future promotions.

We are pleased that Simone Smith has agreed to be our Presbytery elder when Sandy Fergusson steps down at the end of his term and we are grateful to Sandy for the many hours he has spent in Presbytery meetings.

**Colin Reid**

**(Session Clerk)**





Christian Aid's two partners in Malawi are the Nandolo Farmers' Association (NFA) and Alliance Development African Foundation (ADAF). NFA helps farmers market their produce, form co-operatives and supports them to increase their pigeon pea harvests. ADAF helps farmers who cannot obtain traditional bank loans with access to loans, and brings people together in village savings and loan associations.

One of the people these organisations have helped is Esther Saizi. The 54-year-old grandmother grows pigeon peas, which she uses to bake bread and also sells, using some of the profits to help her daughters with nursing training and a carpentry business, as well as paying for grandchildren to attend nursery.

Esther has struggled to get a fair price for her produce and lost a lot of her crops during Tropical Storm Ana. She felt desperate. But when she joined a pigeon pea programme run by Nandolo Farmers' Association, and started selling as part of a cooperative, she was able to earn much more.

With the profits, Esther bought goats which also provide manure for her crops, saving on expensive fertiliser. She now keeps her peas in a warehouse, safe from floods and storms. She also processes pigeon peas into fish food using the cooperative's machine, which was provided by Christian Aid.

"We are a community that helps one another a lot," Esther said, "If people face a problem, we do not allow them to suffer alone."

This is how the money raised during Christian Aid Week can help:

- £50 could provide pigeon pea seeds and farming tools for a family.
- £70 could buy a bicycle so an experienced farmer can reach others in remote areas and teach them essential business skills.
- £250 could pay for a co-operative oven, supporting more than 800 people to turn their pigeon peas into profit by baking bread.



- £1,000 could pay for a fish food processor, so co-operatives can turn their pigeon peas into fish food and raise fish to sell.

Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities. We act where there is great need, regardless of religion, supporting people to live a full life, free from poverty.

For more about Christian Aid's work, visit : [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).



Esther Saizi and her cooperative make bread from processed pigeon peas. They meet every morning in the warehouse Christian Aid has built and use the large oven to bake bread to sell at the market.

**Christian Aid**

**Adam Haggerty**



## Flowers in Church

## Ladies Delivering Flowers

02.04.23	Dr Colin Reid	02. 04. 23	Mrs J Dempster	
09.04.23	Mr Sandy Fergusson	09. 04. 23	Mrs. K Mclauchlan	Mrs W Browning
16.04.23	Mrs M Currie	16. 04. 23	Mrs Sheena Tonner	
23.04.23	Mrs B Craig	23.04. 23	Mrs I Ritchie	
30.04.23	Mrs Simone Smith	30. 04. 23	Mrs D Grant	Mrs M Adam
07.05.23		07. 05. 23	Mrs Sheena Tonner	
14.05.23	Mrs J Dempster	14. 05. 23	Mrs I McBride	
21.05.23	Mrs C Kinloch	21. 05. 23	Mrs Lesley Campbell	
28.05.23	Mrs M Robin	28.05.23	Mrs A Black	

## Isobel and Kate

### 101st Birthday



Doris and Margaret visiting David Bowman on the day of his 101st Birthday in February.

### 60 Years Wed

Greta & Bill Whyte would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and flowers received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary.



### My Friends in St Mark's

I have been overwhelmed at the kindness shown to me after my fall. Many thanks to you all for the beautiful Get Well cards and good wishes I have received.

God bless you all.

**Winnie Keith**



## Making Sure Nobody Faces Dementia Alone

### Communicating With Someone Who Has Dementia:

### 12 Helpful Hints from Alzheimer Scotland

1. Be calm and patient.
2. Face the person, speak clearly and slowly.
3. Make sure that you have their attention by saying their name.
4. Use short, simple sentences and say exactly what you mean.
5. Try to get one idea across at a time.
6. Allow plenty of time for the person to take in what you say and to reply.
7. Try not to confuse or embarrass the person by correcting them bluntly.
8. Use questions which ask for a simple answer.
9. Don't ask questions which test their memory eg. What did you do yesterday?
10. Talk about familiar people, places and ideas.
11. Use the names of the people you are talking about instead of 'he' or 'she'. It will remind the person who you are talking about.
12. Use facial expressions and hand gestures to make yourself understood.





# Renfrewshire Foodbank – Monthly Update

## Food Parcels

In January we supplied the following parcels across our distributions:

- Singles – 325
- Couples – 85
- Small Families (up to 4 people) - 96
- Large Families (5+ people) – 36
- Total - 542

These parcels provided 985 people with food.

A total of 12,747kg of food, toiletries & cleaning products was distributed.

Comparing those figures to last January makes for pretty sad, but not surprising, reading. We have seen an 18% increase in food parcels issued and a 22% increase on people fed.

## Donations

We have received incredible donations in the last month - 7,023kg of donations in January alone. These include 30kg of food which was brought by young Rebecca who made and sold Loom Bands to friends and family and an incredible £9000 from Pro-Life Fitness Centre. Cash donated goes towards paying for the fresh packs we provide.

## Current needs

We have particular need for chocolate, multipacks of crisps, tomato ketchup and other sauces at this time.

## Recipe Book

We are in the process of making up a recipe book using only items from the food parcels.

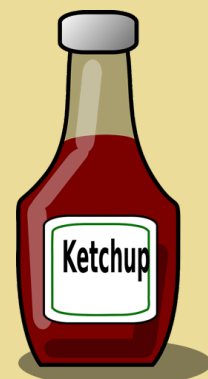
## Distribution News

We are seeing significant numbers of Ukrainian Refugees attending the foodbank. The language barrier has been hard to navigate, but we now have Pascha, a young Ukrainian man, volunteering at the Paisley distribution centre. Pascha has already helped in the Warehouse/ Van on an ad hoc basis since arriving in Scotland in September last year.

## Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read our update and more importantly thank you for your continued support and dedication to Renfrewshire Foodbank.

## Donations we currently need





The Church of Scotland

# STAMP APPEAL 2023-2024

**Firmly Planted  
- collect your  
stamps to support  
Malawi project.**



Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

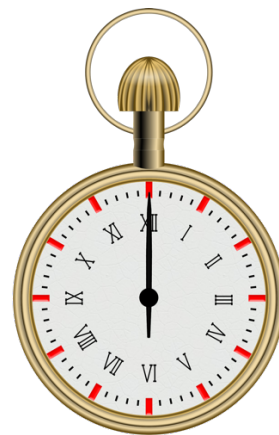
## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2023, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB  
For other options and more information visit: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps)

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

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Please send articles for the *Marksman* to the editor at :

[marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk](mailto:marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk)

Contribution deadline for Jun / Jul edition : **12 noon, 18 May, 2023.**