

Marksman

April/May, 2026



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From the Manse



“Churches play an irreplaceable role at the heart of our communities – reaching out to those in need, offering practical support and spiritual guidance, and helping to build bridges where there are divides.”

Those were the words of the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to attendees at the 2026 ChurchWorks Summit held in the Central Hall in Westminster last month. The ChurchWorks Summit brings together senior church leaders, government ministers, public sector representatives, and charity leaders to explore how faith and policy can work together for the social good.

Key topics in this one day event include faith in public life, tackling the mental health crisis, poverty, and supporting vulnerable children, building effective partnerships between churches and government, equipping local churches to work with public services, including Local Authorities and the NHS.

So, I thought it would be useful for me to summarise some of what goes on here in St Mark’s for I am sure there is more than you realise.

We have celebrated many events, Church festivals like Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. We have dedicated our Boys’ Brigade in a Youth Service, welcomed the Girl Guiding organisations for Thinking Day, and the Scouting Association for Founder’s Day – and in case you think you missed one, those last two were both on the same day. We’ve marked Remembrance Sunday, and with sadness we have held funerals and given thanks for the lives of some of our older members and remembered many more in our ‘Let us Remember’ Bereavement service.

We have shared together over cups of tea and coffee after the service, and at the Pastoral Care Afternoon teas. There have been a couple of Church lunches and the annual Barbeque. The Paisley Church of the Nazarene, and the Kingdom Ambassador Ministry continue to worship here on Sunday afternoons.

We have many opportunities to open our doors to visitors on a Sunday, but our Church has been a place of warmth and welcome to many more – to the people who never step foot in here on a Sunday, but who come to other things like the Tremendous event, and The Haven, our Dementia café – which has just celebrated its fourth anniversary. The Guild has met regularly over the last year, but is struggling a little with so many members no longer able to commit to the administration required for its organisation. (If you could help please speak to me.)

We’ve passed the second anniversary of Ralston Community Café, which continues to attract people from the local community and further afield. Ralston Seniors Club formed under the St Mark’s banner, after ROAR withdrew funding for the Ralston Club which met here on a Friday so that the club could continue to support the people who attend. The club is flourishing and has gained several new members.

We have been working with the Community Council during the development of their Ralston Community Plan – they came to launch the enquiry phase at our Tremendous event, we went to Community Sports Centre for teas and coffees and home baking last summer, and just two weeks ago

From the Manse



we made teas and coffees for their Community Drop-In day at the Community Centre.

Paisley Sinfonia held their Christmas Concert here last November, and will return for their Spring Concert in a few weeks time.

We have dance classes, and a 'Sweaty Mamas' exercise class, two counsellors, (mental health support), and a community councillor (local politician) meet people in St Mark's, and we are used by Ralston Out of School Care for regular meetings and the occasional day-care when their usual premises are not available to them.

By way of our 'in-house' activities, Peter organises the Easter Holiday Club, Messy Church, The Junction (our church youth club) and Trash. The Boys' Brigade is a key part of our Christian outreach to the youth, and several units of Girl Guiding meet under our

roof, and we welcome the Oldhall Scouts along to special services. And, of course, our choir, who meet weekly.

We are a prayerful church - prayer and worship underpin all we do. Our Prayer Groups meet weekly, and the Bible Study Groups every fortnight. We've been looking at the life of Daniel and at prayer this year. So, let us all give thanks to God, who loves us, and calls us to come together as his church in this place, and who chooses to use us to do his work here in Ralston and Oldhall and beyond. May all that we do in his name, give glory to him.

I look forwards to celebrating Easter with you, and wish God's richest blessings upon you and your families at this time,

Your friend and minister,

Sonia

The Proposed Union with Sherwood Greenlaw Church

The last couple of years have seen us work more closely with the people of Sherwood Greenlaw, with whom, one day, (hopefully this year) we will unite. We have shared worship every month with them, and had some social events too. There is still a lot of progress to be made, but our Kirk Session has agreed to work towards presenting the Basis of Union to our congregations as soon as the details are approved by Law Department at 121, Church Central Offices.

It is proposed that the new congregation be called Paisley: Barshaw Trinity, reflecting the three congregations of Sherwood, Greenlaw and St Mark's and the fact that Barshaw Park will be at the centre of our new Parish, (rather than the originally proposed name of Paisley:East).

Please continue to pray for this process and for the people involved in the group discussions, and for both our congregations.

Worship Matters



Thank you all for your support of the joint services at Sherwood Greenlaw and at St Mark's. As we move slowly closer to union, it is good that already we are worshipping together. Through Holy Week we will worship together with the other Church of Scotland congregations in Paisley as we move around, meeting in a different church each evening. This year the programme of joint services is slightly longer, starting with an evening service on the evening of Palm Sunday, which will be at St Mark's and led by me. I'll also lead the Good Friday service at Sherwood Greenlaw, and we will close with a service on the evening of Easter Day at Paisley West.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 29th March | Palm Sunday services at 11am and 7.30pm |
| Sunday 5th April | Easter Sunday Early service at 8am (outside in the church garden)
Followed by breakfast
Easter Sunday at 11am followed by Church Barbeque |
| Sunday 12th April | Service at 11am marking end of Holiday Club |
| Sunday 10th May | Service led by Worship Team |
| Sunday 17th May | Joint Service at Sherwood Greenlaw
(while Sonia is at the General Assembly) |
| Sunday 24th May | Pentecost |

Funerals

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11th March | Ian Wright, Stanely Park Care Home |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|



Session Report



I am pleased to report that at its recent meeting the Kirk Session voted unanimously to accept the Basis of Union document which is the first step in our joining with Sherwood/Greenlaw. We await a similar acceptance from their Kirk Session and then the union can progress at a pace. Pray that this all goes smoothly.

As you may be aware, we had a very successful joint service just a week ago and it was good to see the congregations getting together. It is noted that many 'Sherwood' folk attend the church café. The friendly welcome from our volunteers is a great boon, I am sure.

We were pleased to host some pupils from Ralston Primary to help with tidying-up the church gardens and planting some Spring flowers. They worked very hard and hope to return in a couple of weeks for further duties. I have many tasks for them to perform. I am also very grateful to the adults

who turned up to help with leaf gathering, weeding and planting.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the installation of our solar panels and note that we are able to heat and light the church for services on our power. Well done to Jok, Graeme and Andy for their expertise.

Whilst being grateful to all the volunteers who do help with church activities, it would be good if others would also offer to assist. Many hands make light work. Between them this morning in the garden the adults put in 15 hours of work - £190 worth at NMW. Please think about helping.

Colin B. Reid
Session Clerk

Sunday Duty Team Rota



DATE	TEAM	LEADER	DATE	TEAM	LEADER
05/04/2026	4	Mr G. Black	03/05/2026	6	Dr C. Reid
12/04/2026	5	Mr A. Boyd	10/05/2026	1	Mr J. Goodall
19/04/2026	5	Mr A. Boyd	17/05/2026	1	Mr J. Goodall
26/04/2026	6	Dr C. Reid	24/05/2026	2	Mr A. Taylor
			31/05/2026	2	Mr A. Taylor



The past few months have been busy but everything is going well and I'm looking forward to what lies ahead over the next few weeks.

TRASH



The **Real Answers Start Here** continues to provide bible study time for young people from P7 upwards. At present we have a small group of young people who come along fortnightly. We have been looking at different topics such as *New Beginnings* and *Broken World* and what the Bible has to say on these topics.



The **Junction Youth Café** is a space for young people from P6 to S3 to come together and have fun with their friends.

We continue to run the Junction with two separate groups that meet on alternate Thursday nights. There is a P6 + 7 group and the other is for P7, S1,2,3. We have about twenty young people come along to each group.

They have time to do their own thing, followed by a couple of 'Big Games' with everyone and back to doing their own thing with any time left. The Junction is going really well and I'm encouraged that the young people are enjoying it so much.



Messy Church is on the last Saturday of every month from 2pm to 3.30pm. This current season at Messy Church we are looking at *Who is Jesus?* In January we looked at his whole life in an afternoon and then in the other sessions we will be looking at his characteristics.

Messy church is going really well and we have a core group of families who are there most months.

Ralston Primary School



I am encouraged by the welcome we continue to have from the Primary School. Sonia and I were in taking an assembly recently, looking at teamwork and how Jesus had a team of people who helped spread the news about Jesus.

I still go into the school on a Tuesday morning to work with both P7 classes on their maths work. I am also looking forward to going away with the P7s for their residential week to Lockerbie at the start of May.

I am also working with the school with their links to the wider community. Classes have come down to the Ralston Seniors club and the school's Gardening Leaders have been at the church tidying up and plan

Holiday Club



This year's Easter holiday club is *Going Bananas*. The holiday club looks at a number of biblical characters whom people think did 'Bananas' things as they followed God – Noah, Gideon, Elijah, Zacchaeus and the women who poured the perfume on Jesus.

As I write this, we are still a few weeks away from the Holiday Club and we have 45 young people preregistered to attend.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of me and the work I do at St Mark's. Thank you for your prayers and please do continue to pray for the ongoing work and mission of the church.

Peter



ST MARK'S CHURCH



Date: 6th to 10th April
Time: 10am to 12 noon
Ages: P1 to P7
Where: St Mark's Church
 (334 Glasgow Road)

A free tropical island themed children's holiday club.

You can preregister online for the holiday club on the church website or by emailing peter@stmarksoldhall.org.uk. Or you can also register the first day you come along. www.stmarksoldhall.org.uk

crafts *quizzes*
games *juice and*
drama *snacks* *songs*
lots of fun



Resurrection

*It's the little things that live in memory,
that touch the heart,
that herald hope.*

*Blinded by tears,
heavy with grief.*

*In the garden,
the world was recreated,
wonder born afresh,
as he softly said her name,
"Mary."*

Mary Hanrahan

Here Comes the Sun

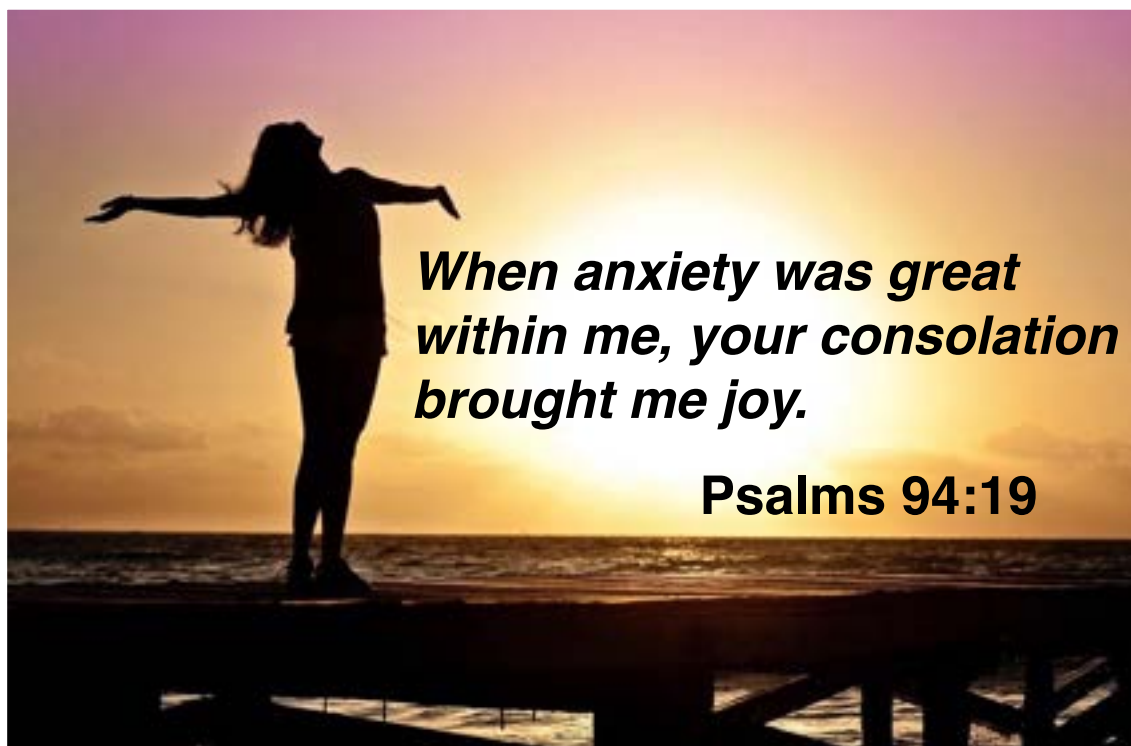


Solar Panels

We have recently installed solar panels on the halls' roofs, which after a few teething issues, (mainly caused by our old electrical equipment) are now operating well. Last Thursday saw us generate 85kw of electricity, but we only used 67kw, and our storage batteries are almost full. (These store electricity for the evenings, and for darker days when we don't generate enough electricity for our own use.) Soon we will be able to start exporting surplus energy into the National Grid.

This was a major project which cost somewhere in the region of £38,000, but we were grateful for a CARES grant from the Scottish Government which covered almost 80% of the cost. Many thanks to those church members who donated money towards the cost of this too. We should recoup the rest with our savings on electricity bills over the next two years, and potentially sooner if we can sell electricity to the national grid.

This enables us to continue to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth as we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. (One of the Five Marks of Mission).



Prayer Diary



APRIL, 2026		
Wed	1	Holy Week service at Paisley North at 7:30pm. Prayer group isn't on this week due to the services. 39 th A Brownies meet and maybe a visit from the Easter Bunny?
Thu	2	School Easter Service today in St Mark's. The service this evening is in Oakshaw Trinity at 7:00pm.
Fri	3	Good Friday service at Sherwood Greenlaw, led by Sonia, at 7:30pm.
Sat	4	Keep Peter, our Church worker, in your prayers. Give him wisdom as he plans and be with him in the various activities he is involved in. Holy Week Service at Paisley South at 7:30pm.
Sun	5	Easter Sunday. We come to celebrate Jesus' rising and for the new life we can know when we put our trust in him. Hallelujah. Pray for new members who will be admitted this morning, and for Casey's baptism too. Early service at 8:00am followed by breakfast. Main service at 11:0am followed by BBQ. Pray for dry weather. Easter Service at Paisley South at 7:30pm.
Mon	6	Our streets for prayer this week are Auchmannoch Avenue, Balfron Road and Barshaw Place. HOLIDAY CLUB STARTS TODAY – 10AM.
Tue	7	World Health Day. Pray for all involved in healthcare and for those who live in areas where access to healthcare is restricted Pray for the Holiday Club and all who come along.
Wed	8	Holiday Club this morning. Pray for the leaders and helpers. Prayer Group meets on Zoom and in church at 7:00pm.
Thu	9	Continue to uphold the Holiday Club in your prayers.
Fri	10	The final day of the Holiday Club. Pray that the young folk have learned more of God's love for them.
Sat	11	Family Event for those who attended the Holiday Club this past week. Give thanks for this work. We pray for all our organisations as they meet regularly. Be with all their leaders and helpers, and especially with the young folk who come along each week. May they experience your love. Bible Study on Zoom this morning at 10:15 for 10:30am.



The Lord is risen indeed!

Prayer Diary



APRIL, 2026		
Sun	12	As we come to worship this morning, we pray that you will make our hearts receptive to what you have to say to us.
Mon	13	Remember the folk who live in Bathgo Avenue, Blair Road and Buchlyvie Road this week.
Tue	14	Kirk Session meets this evening at 7:30pm.
Wed	15	Prayer group meets on Zoom and in church at 7:00pm. Followed by Bible Study at 7:45pm.
Thu	16	We remember The Junction on this evening.
Fri	17	Pray for our Boy's Brigade company and their meetings tonight.
Sat	18	We remember all those who attend the Guild and pray for them and the session that they have enjoyed this year. Paisley Sinfonia Spring Concert in St Mark's.
Sun	19	Be with Sonia as she leads our worship today.
Mon	20	Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent are our streets for prayer this week.
Tue	21	Pray for the local Community – for all who live and work in this area. 39 th Brownies' planning for their pack holiday at start of May.
Wed	22	39 th A Brownies welcome Jim McCulloch to teach some archery skills. We pray for the young people who are starting exams today. Help them in their studies and be with them to calm anxiety or stress. Prayer group on Zoom and in church this evening at 7:00pm.
Thu	23	Haven Café is on this afternoon for anyone with dementia or their carers. All welcome.
Fri	24	Pray for Sonia, Ann and Lorna as they attempt the Kilt Walk Big Stroll tomorrow 25th for Erskine Veterans. Pray for a good day weather wise and for stamina and enthusiasm.
Sat	25	Several 39 th A Brownies and 2 Leaders join Greenock Division's Festival of Friendship. Remember the work of Fiona in the office and for all involved in administration work within the church. Bible Study this morning on Zoom at 10:15 for 10:30am. Last of this series.
Sun	26	Morning Worship. Pray for Sonia and each of us as we meet to worship you. May our worship be acceptable to you, O Lord.
Mon	27	Pray for all who live in Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.
Tue	28	Clyde Presbytery Ministers' lunch in the Glynhill. Pray this will be a good time to meet people, build relationships and share fellowship.
Wed	29	Prayer Group on Zoom and in church at 7:00pm followed by Bible Study in church at 7:45pm.(Last of the series).
Thu	30	Give thanks for the month gone by and praise God for his faithfulness.



Flowers in Church

05/04/26	Mr S. Fergusson
12/04/26	Mrs M. Currie
19/04/26	Mrs B. Craig
26/04/26	Mrs S. Smith
03/05/26	Mrs R. Forrest
10/05/26	Mrs J. Dempster
17/05/26	
24/05/26	Mrs M. Robin
31/05/26	Mr & Mrs Pollock



Ladies Delivering Flowers

05/04/26	Mrs K. McLauchlan
12/04/26	Mrs S. Tonner
19/04/26	Mrs A. Christie
26/04/26	
03/05/26	Mrs K. McLauchlan
10/05/26	Mrs I. McBride
17/05/26	Miss J. Chapman
24/05/26	Mrs A. Black
31/05/26	Mrs S. Tonner

The Haven

Drop-In Café

(for anyone living with dementia, including their families and friends)

in

Ralston Community Café

2 - 4 p.m.



Future Dates

Thursday 23 April

Thursday 21 May



Volunteering Opportunity



Glasgow Street Pastors are offering the exciting opportunity to be part of this year's Commonwealth Games and to see a little of our work from the inside and during daylight. The Games take place from 23rd July to 2nd August.

We are looking for volunteers to be *Games Pastors*. We did this during the last Glasgow Games and it worked really well. Church volunteers from around Glasgow will serve on short daytime / evening shifts alongside experienced Street Pastors. The emphasis is on meeting visitors to the city, giving directions, engaging in conversation and making people feel welcome. All of this is within the GSP ethos of *Listening, Caring and Helping*.

The Salvation Army and *Good News for All* will be on the streets too, along with other Christian groups.

We are also looking for people to pray over this period and, if you can help, this would be much appreciated.

If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Sonia or get in touch with Elizabeth Lacey (GSP Coordinator) by email to coordinator@gsp.scot. A short training programme will be provided. Please note that there will be a short application form to complete by Easter.



39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)



February is always a busy month for us in Brownies. Our 5 Leaders and 6 of the Brownies attended an event to mark the 100th anniversary of *Thinking Day* at Park Mains, Erskine. Our day started with a bus journey along with the Wednesday Rainbows and Brownies.

We took part in all sorts of activities during the day, including an archaeological dig, a music session, bouncy slides, Lego, badge work and crafts. We finished our day with ice cream and a disco. A full on day, and a return bus journey back home again.

Sunday 22 February was our *Thinking Day* Service at St Mark's. We were joined by the Rainbows, Brownies and our Scouting family, where Brownies Faith Kilby and Alba McIssac did a beautiful job of reading one of the lessons.

Our Tuesday evening also focussed on *Thinking Day*, and we were joined by parents and family in the Sanctuary to see Mia Doherty make her Brownie Promise and the Brownies to be presented with their earned badges. Sonia came along and joined us for the ceremony, and we put her to good use in handing over the Certificates and Badges. We also presented Faith and Alba a *Star of the Week* certificate for their lovely church readings.

We've now started on a new Skills Builder and our *Kindness Interest Badge*. So far we've done a *Kindness Challenge*, made a paper chain of all our individual acts of kindness, and made heart-shaped cards for Mother's Day. For St Patrick's Day we created our own leprechauns and, given a Pot of Gold from the end of the Rainbow, asked the Brownies how they could share kindness in the community.



39th Paisley Brownies (Tuesday)



Easter is just around the corner, and we've got a *Random Act of Kindness* challenge for the girls coming up. Oh, and we might be sharing some chocolate with them to thank them for all their kindness.

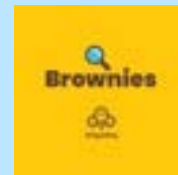
The girls voted on the theme for our Pack Holiday in May, so we'll find ourselves in *Munchkinland* as we enjoy our *Wicked* theme for the weekend. I'm looking forward to seeing which of the leaders are Elphaba Thropp, Galinda Upland, Madame Morrible, Doctor Dillamond and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

We look forward to a fun weekend.

Sheena Tonner, Brownie Leader



39thA Paisley Brownies



The Brownies were delighted to return to meetings after a break for Christmas. Wednesday nights are a bit quieter now that 9 Brownies were of age to leave and only 1 Rainbow joined us! Our new member, Sadie, has settled well and we were delighted when her Mum joined us last week to hear Sadie make her Brownie Promise.

Since we returned in January, most of the Brownies have been able to complete programme work in *Skills for my Future* theme. As a result of their efforts, we were able to present 11 *Lead* badges and 10 *Live Smart* badges. We are now ready to start *Take Action*, the third Skill Builder for this session. It is hoped most of the Brownies will complete this before the end of session.

This year *Thinking Day* celebrated its 100th anniversary. Renfrewshire County organised a fun day for members. This took place in Park Mains High School where 10 Brownies and 2 leaders joined almost 400 others from across the County.

We had fun on inflatables ; made music (?) with Boomwhackers ; took part in an archaeology 'dig' ; played with Lego ; made 'friendship trees' ; enjoyed ice cream and had fun at a disco! It was a great day and we are grateful both to the County team for organising it and to the Division for financing the transport.

On *Thinking Day*, the Brownies were invited to join in a special service in St Mark's. A big well done to Eve who carried the Brownie flag and to Georgia who read with confidence.

More Brownies have been working at home on Interest Badges and we have been able to present the following recently :

- Daniela - *Birdwatching*
- Eve - *Kitchen Creations ; Celebrate ; Mechanic*
- Georgia - *Painting*
- Tilly - *Games Master ; Kindness ; Birdwatching*

We also presented Theme Awards :

- Georgia and Imogen - *Be Well*
- Georgia - *Know Myself*
- Eve, Georgia and Tilly - *Skill For My Future*

As a result of completing these themes, Georgia gained the Bronze award. Well done!

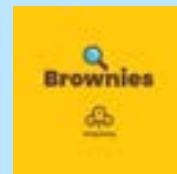
We also issued Anniversary badges :

3 years – Aoife and Eve

1 year – Imogen and Sadie



39thA Paisley Brownies



In the summer, Girlguiding introduced an *Eco Award* and Tilly has been working on this for several months. After she spoke to the Brownies about what she had done, we were able to pass her work to the County for approval. As a result, the County has awarded this badge to Tilly. Well done!



Our next planned trip is to join Greenock Division for a *Festival of Friendship*. This will even involve a train trip to Greenock in April! Finally, our annual trip to PGL Outdoor Centre in Dalguise is booked for a small group in May.

If you know of anyone (young person or adult) who would like to join Girlguiding, a warm welcome awaits them!
(www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Christine Hair

Brown Owl



1st East Rainbows



It has been a busy few months with 5 new Rainbows starting.

In January, Jane Nicol was awarded the County Quaich and we shared this with the church at the *Thinking Day* Parade.



I had a significant Big Birthday in January, and the girls and leaders gave me lovely gifts.



The girls attended our county *100 years of Thinking Day* on Saturday 21st February and had a great time. Thanks to parents who helped to escort the girls.

The Rainbows also wore their uniform to school or nursery on Friday 20th of February.

We have been working on *Fruit and Veg* badge as part of our *Be Well* award. The girls made delicious fruit kebabs on the night.



The Rainbows have been busy completing Interest badges and gaining awards.

We have some girls who will soon be getting their Bronze, Silver and a few Gold Awards .

We are all looking forward to our Easter break.

Purple



Easter Eggs



The history of Easter eggs blends pagan symbols of Spring rebirth with Christian traditions, originating from ancient practices of decorating eggs to celebrate new life, which merged with medieval Lent fasting rules where eggs were forbidden but, because hens continued to lay eggs, families boiled and decorated these to preserve them for a feast on Easter Sunday.

Before the rise of Christianity, many cultures associated eggs with the arrival of Spring. Eggs represented new life, fertility, and the rebirth of nature after winter. Ancient Egyptians, Persians, and Sumerians placed gold and silver eggs in tombs to symbolise rebirth. Archaeologists have even found decorated ostrich eggs in Africa dating back roughly 60,000 years.

Early Christians integrated these existing symbols into their religious celebrations. The hard shell of the egg became a metaphor for the sealed tomb of Jesus and today's custom of rolling hard-boiled eggs downhill - which started in Mediaeval Europe - represents the stone being rolled away from Christ's tomb.

Eggs were often dyed red by early Christians in Mesopotamia to represent the blood of Christ shed on the cross and this custom evolved into intricate designs like Ukrainian pysanky. This term is sometimes used to describe any type of decorated egg, but it traditionally referred to an egg created by the wax batik method, utilising traditional folk motifs and designs.

Eggs covered in gold leaf or silver with intricate designs started appearing in England in the 13th century and the tradition of highly-decorated eggs peaked in 1885 with the incredible artistry of Fabergé eggs created for the Russian Tsars.

Chocolate eggs first appeared in France and Germany in the early 19th century as solid, bitter blocks of cocoa.

In 1873, the British company J.S. Fry & Sons produced the first hollow chocolate Easter egg by refining the process of moulding cocoa.

Cadbury introduced its own version in 1875. By the mid-20th century, mass production and the removal of rationing made chocolate eggs a global staple.

While filled eggs were first manufactured by the Cadbury Brothers in 1923, the Creme Egg in its current form was introduced in 1963. Initially known as Fry's Creme Eggs, they were renamed Cadbury's Creme Eggs in 1971.



An example of Ukrainian pysanky.



An example of a Fabergé Egg.

24th Paisley Boys' Brigade



All sections have been very active this session. The Anchors showed plenty of agility as they tackled an assault course and their usual enthusiasm was evident too. They have also been making some great craft items. Not least, wonderful Mother's Day gifts and elephant face masks as part of an activity on 'remembering'. The Juniors also made pots of 'pipe-cleaner' flowers for Mother's Day.

The Juniors jumped through hoops, literally, in one activity but also had to work as a team to dispose of 'toxic waste' with hockey sticks, avoiding it 'contaminating' the floor of the Small Hall. Their teamwork and persistence were very impressive.

All sections are now setting their sights on targets for the end of the year, but equally they were on the mark with some physical targets as they tried archery again and, in the case of the Company Section, axe throwing. (Yes, we trust them to throw axes in the Church hall!)

There is still so much to look forward to before the end of the session. Our *Family Quiz Night* is imminent and we have our Display and Company Section Camp later in May.

One achievement, very worthy of marking, was the award of our first King's Badge for some time. Angus McCartney achieved this highest BB award and was presented with his certificate by the Lord Provost.

Setting challenges and goals is very much part of the BB programme of activities with targets set appropriately based on abilities. These will vary but perhaps, given the current world situation, we should follow the words of the Apostle Paul from Romans 14:19 :

"So then, we must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help strengthen one another."

Jack Goodall - Company Captain



24th Paisley Boys' Brigade



Prayer Diary

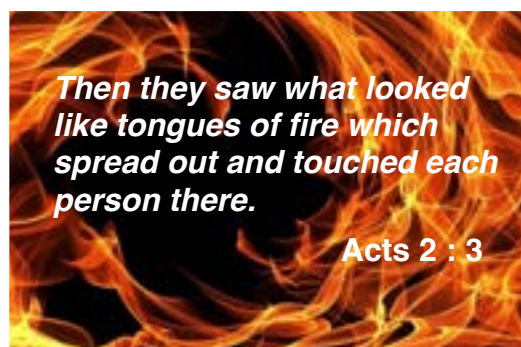


MAY, 2026		
Fri	1	39 th Brownies pack weekend. Pray for them and that they have a great time.
Sat	2	We remember the work of Messy Church and pray for leaders, helpers and all the families who attend. We ask you to continue to bless this work.
Sun	3	Pray for the service this morning and for all who take part. Be with Sonia as she prepares and delivers your message and help us be responsive to what you have to say to us.
Mon	4	The following streets are for our prayers this week – Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road. Sonia is on holiday this week. Be with her and help her enjoy her time off.
Tue	5	Pray for Mission Workers around the UK and the world. May they know they are being upheld in prayer and ask God to bless their work for him.
Wed	6	Prayer Group on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	7	Give thanks for all those who work in the Emergency Services. Be with them as they carry out their various tasks and keep them safe.
Fri	8	39 th A Brownies and Leaders look forward to a weekend of outdoor adventures at PGL Dalguise. Pray for lovely weather.
Sat	9	ANNUAL PLANT SALE. Pray for pleasant weather and a good turnout of church and community folk. Remember the Brownies and Leaders while they are away. Pray, too, for the work of the Haven Café. May those who attend find welcome and friendship.
Sun	10	Service this morning. Eileen is leading worship today. We pray for her this morning. Pray for a safe return of the Brownies and their Leaders after their weekend.
Mon	11	Remember those who live in Golf Drive, Hawkhead Road and Killearn Drive this week.
Tue	12	Pray for all who work in our health services, for all the different Disciplines that we have access to.
Wed	13	Prayer Group on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	14	We pray for all who come along to our services – members, adherents and those online. May we all experience the love of God through our church family.
Fri	15	International Day of Families. Sonia is away at the General Assembly in Edinburgh as a Commissioner from 15-18 th . Pray for a Spirit-filled time of fellowship, of learning about the work of the church elsewhere, good discussions and wise decision making.
Sat	16	Thank you for the Property Team and all the work they do to ensure our buildings and Manse are well maintained.

Prayer Diary



MAY, 2026		
Sun	17	Today we ask that you open your word to us and that we are challenged by it. May we know your amazing love for us.
Mon	18	We pray for all who live in Kinpurnie Road, Lanfine Road and Marchbank Gardens.
Tue	19	We pray for Stuart, our Marksman Editor, and give thanks for the work he does.
Wed	20	Prayer Group on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	21	The Haven Café runs again this afternoon. Pray for all who attend and all who help with this.
Fri	22	We bring the leaders and helpers and young folk of the Boys' Brigade to you again this week and ask that you are with them as they meet.
Sat	23	We pray for our Presbytery Elder, Simone, and ask that you are with her in the work she does for that role.
Sun	24	PENTECOST Sunday. Be with Sonia as she brings your word to us today. May we know your Spirit with us this morning.
Mon	25	Netherdale Drive, Newtyle Road and Newnham Road are our streets for prayer this week.
Tue	26	We pray for the local school community – Primary and Secondary – and give thanks for the relationships we have been able to grow over many years. We ask that you would continue to give the leadership a willingness to maintain this link over the years.
Wed	27	39 th A Brownies Games Night led by Tilly as part of her Gold Award. Prayer Group on Zoom and in church this evening.
Thu	28	Pray for those in care homes, residential homes or sheltered housing, for those who are supported by carers too, that all may find the help and support they require.
Fri	29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers. Pray for all who are involved in areas of conflict.
Sat	30	We pray for the Mission Planning Team. Be with them as they look for ways to share your good news.
Sun	31	Bless the worship today, Lord, as we come to you expectantly. Be with Sonia as she shares your word with us.





With funds raised by the Sunday School and the congregation the *Lakeside* stained glass window was installed in 1960 and dedicated to the memory of Mr Thomson, the first Sunday School Superintendent.

It depicts the risen Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the shores of Lake Galilee. They have just come off their boat and Jesus has a fire on the shore, cooking fish. Jesus instructs Peter to 'Feed my lambs' and 'Feed my sheep'.



Jean Fryer left a legacy to the church with instructions for a stained glass window. The window was dedicated on the 12th June, 2016.

It depicts the scene on that first Easter morning when the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. When they arrive, the stone is rolled away and the body is gone.

At the top of the image there are two of the 'I am' statements from Jesus: 'I am the bread of life' is represented by wheat sheaves; 'I am the true vine' is represented by the vine and grapes.

The wooden cross which hangs over the West Transept was donated by Mr and Mrs George.

From the Church Archive



In 1954 two stained glass windows, designed by Douglas Hamilton, were installed in the chancel.

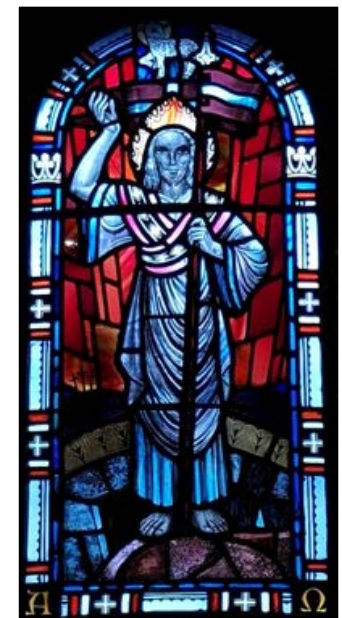
The *Nativity* window was gifted by Mr Ernest George (father of Rev. George) in memory of his grand-daughter Ada who was knocked down on Glasgow Road.

It depicts Mary, Joseph and Jesus being visited by the shepherds.

The *Resurrection* window was gifted by Mr Wells in memory of his wife.

It depicts the risen Jesus standing with a staff and flag with a white cross on red background. The flag usually represents his victory over death.

At the top of the window there is a lamb which represents His sacrificial death. At the bottom are the first and last Greek letters- Alpha and Omega. In the book of *Revelation* Jesus says, 'I am the Alpha and Omega.'



The third chancel window was created a year later by the same artist. The *Baptism* window was donated by Mrs McLay in memory of her husband.

It depicts the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. At the top of the window is the latin text : 'Ecce Agnus Dei' meaning 'Behold the Lamb of God.' There is also a descending dove.



Easter Encounter

The Church of Scotland congregations in Paisley invite you to attend their joint Holy Week services. Tea/coffee served at 7pm followed by the service starting at 7.30pm. (NB Thursday Service starts at 7pm with tea/coffee following).

We look forward to welcoming you.

Sunday 29/3	Oldhall St Mark's	334 Glasgow Rd. PA1 3DL
Monday 30/3	St George's	82 Causeyside St. PA1 1YP
Tuesday 31/3	The Abbey	Abbey Close. PA1 1JG
Wednesday 1/4	*Paisley North	Abercorn Street. PA3 4AB
Thursday 2/4	Oakshaw Trinity	6 School Wynd. PA1 2DB
Friday 3/4	Sherwood Greenlaw	Glasgow Rd PA1 3PA
Saturday 4/4	Paisley South	123 Rowan Street. PA2 6RZ
Sunday 5/4	Paisley West	King Street. PA1 2LS

Friday 3/4 Three Hour Vigil at The Abbey

12noon till 1.00pm: Abbey Choir sings: *'Miserere' (based on Psalm 51)* by Gregorio Allegri; *'Litanies pour la Vierge Noire'* by Francis Poulenc; *'Jephte'* an oratorio by Giacomo Carissimi.

1.00pm till 3.00pm: Meditations and Prayers in St Mirin Chapel.

*Paisley North carpark off N Croft St. Disabled access and tea/coffee: Access halls at Halfords end of carpark.



**ST MARK'S
PLANT
SALE**

**SAT 9TH MAY
10AM TILL 1PM**

Come along for your summer bedding plants, shrubs and perennials. As well as community stalls and of course the Ralston Community Cafe will be open.

Scottish Charity Number
SCO11210

St Marks Church Lawns
334 Glasgow Road

The poster features a bright sun in the top right corner. On the left, there are three small square images: the top one shows a garden with people, the middle one shows a large crowd of people, and the bottom one shows a tree in a garden. The background is a light blue sky with a white cloud.



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

marksman@stmarksoldhall.org.uk

Contribution deadline for the next edition : 12 noon, 21 May, 2026.