

# Marksman

August/September, 2026



**Lammas : 1 August**

St Mark's Church of Scotland (Oldhall), Paisley  
334 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3DL  
Office Telephone – 0141 882 2755  
Email: [office@stmarksoldhall.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarksoldhall.org.uk)  
[www.stmarksoldhall.org.uk](http://www.stmarksoldhall.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity SC011210



## From the Manse



As I travelled around Scotland during my fortnight's holiday, I was blessed with some amazing weather in which to enjoy the spectacular beauty of Scotland's scenery. From the rainy Oban seashore, to the lush, fertile plains of the Black Isle, and up into Wester Ross, a remote, breathtakingly rugged region of the Northwest Highlands of Scotland, known for its deep sea lochs, ancient pine forests, and towering mountain ranges, I experienced three seasons of Scottish weather – sometimes all in one day.

As I drove around, I was struck by the constantly changing beauty of Scotland, and reminded, in so many ways, that God is the creator of all that I see. In the amazing colours of the sunsets, the deep sparkling blue of the sea lochs, the many shades of green in the hillsides. And just as important, I was reminded that God was my creator as well. We are, according to the book of Genesis, made in God's image, "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness,' " (Genesis 1:26). Then God placed humankind at the centre of his creation, to be responsible for all his creation. It was all part of God's plan for us to care for his creation.

One of the books I took with me is entitled *Streams in the Wasteland*, and delves into the life and teaching of the Desert Fathers and Mothers of our faith, who, towards the end of the fourth century, withdrew from society with its rules of power and privilege into the desert to rediscover the radical way of Jesus. As I drove through the wilderness, I pondered on the call into the wilderness, originally voiced by the prophet Isaiah, as he predicted a time when healing and renewal would be brought to the thirsty ground. (Isaiah 35).

The Desert Fathers and Mothers remind us, as St Paul wrote, "that the greatest of these is love." (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:13). Paul wrote a lot about love, to the Philippians "And this is my prayer for you, that your love may abound..." (Philippians 1:9), to the Ephesians "Follow God's example, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us." (Ephesians 5:1,2.) And we were loved by God long before we loved him in return. Loved for who we are, his beloved children, not for what we do.

I was reminded of the importance of Sabbath rest. "On the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." (Genesis 2:2-3). Now whilst the Seventh Day Adventists insist that we should take each Saturday as our Sabbath, I'm fairly sure God doesn't mind the rest of the Christian Church treating Sundays as the Sabbath, regardless of it being the first day of the week. In fact, I'd go as far as to say that for many pastors and ministers (and others) Sunday is a day of work, and a sabbath day of rest can happen on any day of the week – as long as we go out of our way to make it happen.

This holiday was, for me, a prolonged sabbath rest. Time to be with God, in his beautiful creation. Time to be with God, to rest in God, to recognise that God loves me when I'm on holiday, and not just when I'm rushing around trying to show him how much I love him by all that I do for him. Time to rest in my faith, not in my works, for "For, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

## From the Manse



This holiday was a time of great peace, and yet, James says, “Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17) so I return to work, return to Paisley, to the parish of St Mark’s (Oldhall), to begin the new chapter that God has already written for us, his plan for the next stage of our lives.

We await the decision of Clyde Presbytery, to be taken on 29<sup>th</sup> July, on whether to recategorize the building of Sherwood Greenlaw church as a category B building, to be scheduled for sale within a year of the union, and for their instruction as to when the congregations of St Mark’s (Oldhall) and Sherwood Greenlaw can vote on the Basis of Union that will bring us together as the new congregation of Paisley: Barshaw Trinity,

worshipping together in the building currently known as St Mark’s Church. However, this I know, that just as God is seen in the mountains, and the sea lochs, he is known in his people, who are made in his image, and called together to be the church of Jesus Christ, a community of faith, here in this place.

“The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine on you, and  
be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
(*turn his face towards you*)  
and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26)

Your friend and minister,

*Sonia*

## Worship Matters

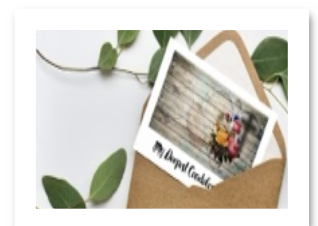


|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b> | Sacrament of Baptism     |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup> September</b>  | Harvest Thanksgiving     |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> October</b>     | Youth Dedication Service |

Dates of joint services with Sherwood Greenlaw are still to be agreed.

## Funerals

**29<sup>th</sup> June, 2026** Connie Kinloch, Kingsley Care Home, formerly of Killearn Drive.



## Kirk Session



## Sunday Duty Team Rota



| DATE       | TEAM | LEADER        | DATE       | TEAM | LEADER      |
|------------|------|---------------|------------|------|-------------|
| 02/08/26   | 1    | Mr J. Goodall | 06/09/26   | 3    | Mrs C. Hair |
| 09/08/2026 | 1    | Mr J. Goodall | 13/09/2026 | 4    | Mr G. Black |
| 16/08/2026 | 2    | Mr A. Taylor  | 20/09/2026 | 4    | Mr G. Black |
| 23/08/2026 | 2    | Mr A. Taylor  | 27/09/2026 | 5    | Mr A. Boyd  |
| 30/08/2026 | 3    | Mrs C. Hair   |            |      |             |



### Flowers in Church

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| 02/08/26 | Mrs M. Currie    |
| 09/08/26 | Mrs N. Macgregor |
| 16/08/26 | Mrs A. McLachlan |
| 23/08/26 | Mrs A. Fisher    |
| 30/08/26 | Mrs K. Sheils    |
| 06/09/26 | Mrs J. Forson    |
| 13/09/26 | Mrs D. Grant     |
| 20/09/26 | BB Co. Section   |
| 27/09/26 | Mrs S. Smith     |



### Ladies Delivering Flowers

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| 02/08/26 | Mrs J. Dempster   |
| 09/08/26 |                   |
| 16/08/26 | Mrs M. Robin      |
| 23/08/26 |                   |
| 30/08/26 | Miss I. Higgins   |
| 06/09/26 | Mrs K. McLauchlan |
| 13/09/26 | Mrs S. Tonner     |
| 20/09/26 | Ms J. Chapman     |
| 27/09/26 | Mrs J. Dempster   |



## The Junction Youth Café

The Junction started as a summer holiday event and then developed into a fortnightly and then weekly club.

The Junction has been very successful over the last year. We started a second night of the Junction in October for those in P6+P7 and it has been very well attended.

We will be running the Junction again this summer from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of August, the last full week of the school holidays. With the numbers we had last year we may have to have different age groups on different nights – full details will be publicised close to the time.



## Ralston Primary School

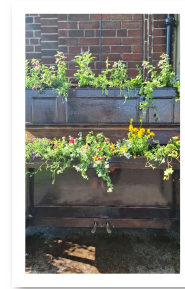
The summer will be a time of change for Ralston Primary School. As with most years, some teachers will be starting after the summer. In June the headteacher, Jillian Bryers, retired from teaching so there will be a new headteacher at the school after the summer.

In June there were a number of visits to the church from different groups from the school. The Reading Leaders were back down to the Ralston Seniors Club sharing some of their favourite books and reading sections to the members.

The school's Gardening Leaders were also back to do a bit of unusual planting at the church. They came down to plant the boxes that are in the old church piano that is currently outside at the front of the church.

The young people enjoyed choosing the plants, planting the boxes and putting them into place.

Thanks also to Colin, Gavin and Alasdair who helped move the piano into place.



The P7s had their leavers service at the church which was very well attended. Two of the P7s shared some of their classes' memories of primary school and of P7. The P7s sang a couple of songs before being presented with their yearbooks by Mrs Bryers.



## Messy Church

Messy Church continues to run on the last Saturday of the month. The May and June Messy Church events went well where the young people filled in the story of Easter and we looked at Psalm 139 "wonderfully made." We will meet in July but will have a games and sport afternoon with some Commonwealth Games on in the background. We will be back to our usual Messy Church in August.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who helps me run all these activities and to all the prayers for me and my work.

God Bless.

**Peter**

***“ It fell about the Lammastide,  
When the muirmen win their hay.”***

***The Battle of Otterburn ( Traditional Ballad )***



*Lammas*, which is celebrated every year on August 1, is a historic harvest celebration marking the beginning of the grain harvest season.

The festival has its roots in ancient rural customs, where people honoured the season's first harvest by baking bread and giving thanks for nature's abundance.

*Lammas* was also celebrated with communal feasts, games, and gatherings, helping to strengthen both seasonal and social connections.

The idea of offering the first fruits of the land has deep roots in Judeo-Christian traditions.

In the Hebrew Bible, early grain offerings were seen as acts of reverence, symbolic of trust in divine provision.

In Scotland, *Lammas* was one of the four traditional quarter days, key dates used for settling contracts and managing agricultural work.

**What Does Lammas Mean?**

The name *Lammas* comes from the Old English term for 'loaf mass', pointing to the custom of baking bread from the season's first grain and presenting it at a church ceremony.

It is one of the earliest Christian festivals and In medieval times, this sacred loaf was occasionally divided into four parts and placed at the corners of a barn to guard the stored crops.

In some places, these loaves are also used during Communion, turning the first fruits of the harvest into something sacred.

Members of the congregation are sometimes encouraged to bake the *Lammas* loaf themselves, making the offering more personal and deeply rooted in community.

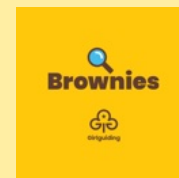
In areas where the tradition still holds strong, churches may organise processions to local bakeries, offer blessings to workers, and make small symbolic offerings that connect faith and agriculture.

Towns and cities still organise festivals in August to coincide with *Lammas*.

St Andrews in Fife, for example, still has a thriving *Lammas* Market and Fair every August.



## 39thA Paisley Brownies



As the Brownies were finishing up for last session, one completed her work for the Gold Award. As part of this, she brought along a selection of board games and organised the other Brownies to play these. It was a fun evening and the Brownies really enjoyed it. Very well done to Tilly for achieving this award, the highest award in Brownies.

Our final meeting for the session saw us welcoming parents and guests for coffee and cake and the presentation of badges that had been completed over the last few weeks.

There was quite an assortment of badges issued and we congratulate the Brownies (and parents) for the hard work they put in to achieve this.



The badges presented included :

|               |   |                         |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| Charlotte Max | - | <i>Baking</i>           |
| Charlotte McN | - | <i>Collecting</i>       |
| Eilidh        | - | <i>Charities</i>        |
| Emily         | - | <i>Collecting</i>       |
| Eve           | - | <i>Holidays ; Space</i> |

|           |   |                                                       |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Georgia   | - | <i>Aviation</i>                                       |
| Jessica C | - | <i>Holidays</i>                                       |
| Summer    | - | <i>Games Master ;<br/>Kindness ;<br/>Sportsperson</i> |

Several *Theme Awards* were also awarded :

|                            |   |                                                |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Skill for my Future</i> | - | Summer                                         |
| <i>Have Adventures</i>     | - | Bella, Georgia                                 |
| <i>Know Myself</i>         | - | Charlotte McN,<br>Eliza, Emily, Mia,<br>Summer |

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

All the Brownies were given a book that shows all the newest *Interest* badges and challenged to see if they could complete one over the holidays. I look forward to lots of badges being issued when we return. They were also invited to take part in Girlguiding Scotland *Out and About* Summer challenge.

While the leaders are still finishing up the paperwork to complete the session 25/26, we are starting to plan for the return to meetings on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We are also looking forward to seeing the new uniforms that are being launched at the end of July – watch for the press releases!

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

([www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk))

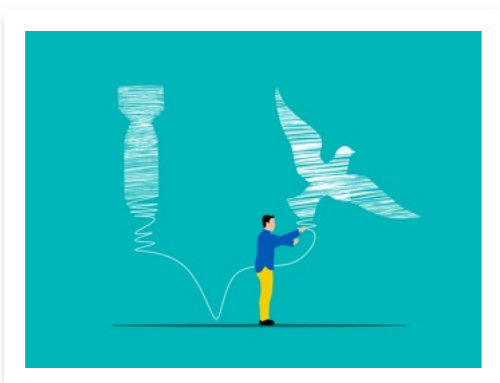
**Christine Hair**

**Brown Owl**

# Prayer Diary



|            |           | <b>AUGUST, 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>1</b>  | Continue to pray for those who are on holiday still that they may be refreshed and energised after a break.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>2</b>  | Pray for our service this morning.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>3</b>  | Our streets this week are Drummond Drive, Duchray Drive and Dunchurch Road.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>4</b>  | Pray for our Community, the Community Council and the businesses in our area. We also pray for some from the church who are volunteering as Games Pastors at the Commonwealth Games. Remember Ann, Marion and Jack and any others involved. |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>5</b>  | We pray for those who are living on their own, for those who are lonely. May they be aware of your presence with them.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>6</b>  | We pray for our Presbytery Elder, the meetings she attends and the reports she brings to us regularly.                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>7</b>  | Be with all who are in Care homes, Residential Care and those in hospital.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>8</b>  | Pray for the Emergency Services, especially those dealing with wildfires due to extreme heat recently around the UK.                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>9</b>  | Be with us as we gather to worship this morning, online and in church. May we realise afresh your wonderful love for us.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>10</b> | Remember those who live in the following streets this week: Gartartan Road, Gartmore Road and Glasgow Road.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>11</b> | Kirk Session meeting this evening. Pray for all discussions and decisions to be made in line with God's will.                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>12</b> | International Youth Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>13</b> | We remember those on the Property Team and thank them for the work they do.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>14</b> | We pray for the young folk as their school holidays are coming to an end. May they have had a happy and safe time and be ready to face the challenges of the year ahead.                                                                    |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>15</b> | We continue to pray for the ongoing troubles in Iran, Israel, Russia and Ukraine. We ask that peace would come to these lands.                                                                                                              |



PEACE

# Prayer Diary



|            |           | <b>AUGUST, 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>16</b> | Pray for all who are involved in our service of worship this morning. Help us to come with prepared hearts and ears to hear your message to us.                                                                             |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>17</b> | New school term starts for staff. Be with the new Headteacher of Ralston Primary as she begins her new role.                                                                                                                |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>18</b> | Pupils start back today. Be with them and help them settle in quickly.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>19</b> | World Humanitarian Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>20</b> | We remember those who live in Golf Drive, Hawkhead Road and Killearn Drive this week.                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>21</b> | Pray for the Haven Café and the fellowship folk find there.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>22</b> | International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>23</b> | We pray for the service this morning, for the message that we will hear and for a time of rich fellowship together.                                                                                                         |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>24</b> | Our streets for prayer this week are Kinpurnie Road, Lanfine Road and Marchbank Gardens.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>25</b> | We continue to remember the ongoing work for our union with Sherwood Greenlaw. We pray that we may know good fellowship together and look forward to the new congregation as we become Paisley Barshaw Trinity.             |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>26</b> | Pray for the leaders of the 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies as they meet to prepare for the next session. May they have had a good rest and have enthusiasm for the coming term.                                                |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>27</b> | Today we would remember Sonia especially and pray for her and her family. Be with her in her work for you, bless and protect her and may she know your presence with her.                                                   |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>28</b> | We remember the Street Pastors who are out and about in Paisley and Glasgow. Be with them and the people they encounter and may they bring help and support, as well as showing your love to those they encounter.          |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>29</b> | Many Christians are being persecuted throughout the world because of their faith. We pray that you would give them strength to continue to follow you and protect them from the dreadful things that are happening to them. |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>30</b> | Be with us this morning in our worship, in the preparation done for the service and for each of us as we come to share in the fellowship together.                                                                          |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>31</b> | Netherdale Drive, Newtyle Road and Newnham Road come under our prayers this week.                                                                                                                                           |



## Preparation for the first Communion Service in our Church in 1937

### The Church of St. Mark, Oldhall

No. 2.

Supplement to "Life & Work."

October, 1937

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

As we draw near to our first Communion Service, the sacred family meal of the children of God, I desire to help you in your preparation for it.

There are many aspects of the Service whose precious meaning will, I hope, be more and more unfolded as we come together, seeking to grow in grace. For the present, however, it may be of help if we link this first occasion with the "RECALL TO RELIGION" which has been sounded out by the leaders of the various branches of the Church in our land.

WE ARE RECALLED to religion by the warnings and pleadings of those in prominent places, who see, as few of us more humbly situated could ever hope to do, the play of the mighty forces of good and evil on a world scale. And those who have insight into the havoc of spiritual wickedness in high places call us each and all to put on the armour of God (Eph. vi. 10-19). We shall answer their call in so far as we recognise in their message the urgent word of Christ in a time of crisis; for surely we feel, all of us, that now is the time for all who are called Christian to be Christian.

WE ARE RECALLED to religion by the provision of a 'church' in the midst of our own community. Some of us have experienced what it means to want a church for three or five years or so. Have we thought, however, what it would be like to be entirely churchless? Have those who make themselves 'outsiders' really 'written off' all that they owe to the Church of Jesus Christ, in their characters, homes, community, and nation? Clearly they have not. Often, indeed, when they point to hypocrisy in churchmen, it is the very standard of Jesus Christ by which they measure us, if not themselves. Is not this a time in the history of our community when, acknowledging all that we owe to Christ, we should all come together into our new house to help in the mighty formative and transformative work that is to be done?

"I dreamed in a dream I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the whole of the rest of the earth, I dreamed that was the new city of Friends, Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust love, it led the rest, It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city, And in all their looks and words."

Finally, and supremely, as always, WE ARE RECALLED to religion by the solemn nature of the service to which we look forward. The Communion Service is communion of the oldest saints with the youngest, and all with Christ. Its true meaning is not in our minds, but in the mind of Christ (Phil. ii. 1-11). It is Christ giving Himself, pouring Himself out, for us.

May I suggest that we all at this time make our personal solemn and glad renewal of the vows we have taken, whether recently or long ago? It may help us if we have before us the actual words of the Profession of Faith which our first new members are using. Shall we make them our own, putting afresh our personal signature to them, by bowing our knees unto God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in quiet pledging our allegiance anew?

"I COME to the Lord's Table in obedience to the invitation and command of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for me. Through Him I BELIEVE that God is my Heavenly Father.

To Him I OWE THE ASSURANCE that my sins are forgiven.

On Him alone I DEFEND for strength and courage to overcome temptation, and do the will of God.

I DESIRE WITH MY WHOLE HEART to forsake all evil, to learn of Him, to give myself to Him as my Saviour and Master and Lord, and to confess Him openly.

By the help of the Holy Spirit I SHALL STRIVE to maintain the honour of Christ's Name, and, in the fellowship of this congregation and with all His followers, to further His Kingdom on earth."

Yours in the service of the Highest,

GILBERT M. GEORGE.

#### CONGREGATIONAL NOTES.

**Holy Communion.** The first Communion Service in St. Mark's Church will be held on Sunday, 24th October, at 11 a.m., and the Service of Preparation and Admission on the preceding Friday at 8 p.m. It is earnestly hoped that as many members as possible will be present at the Friday evening service, as well on Sunday. It has been decided to issue no cards for the first Communion Service; and as the first meeting of the new Kirk Session cannot be held until



## On the Outbreak of World War II.

# The Church of St. Mark, Oldhall

No. 21.

Supplement to "Life & Work."

SEPTEMBER, 1939.

25 DARVEL CRESCENT,  
RALSTON. (TEL. HAL 2460).

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Twenty-five years ago Sir Edward Grey said, "The lamps are going out all over Europe." If we thought they had been lit again, what figure more darkly emphatic can we find to describe the latest eclipse of good hope which has covered the world? And if, on the last occasion, the war was entered as a "war to end war" (such a venture being already recognised as all too grimly wasteful of life, and beauty, and good), what shall we say of this?

The war-system is so essentially totalitarian in our present world that every individual finds himself "in the war" from the beginning. If our homes ever were our castles, they are clearly such no longer. But we are among the disciples of Him who prayed that His men, though in the world, might not be of it. The fortress of the heart is still left to us, over which the peace of God will "stand sentry" (*Phil. iv. 7*).

As to the extent of our participation in war, there is only one sure guide, namely, the conscience directed by Christ. Here there can be no infallible rule except by our own understanding of the Spirit and Teaching of Christ. The first and finest and most constructive thing we must do is to follow that. And we may usefully remember that though the frontiers of nations are closed, the fellowship of Christians among the nations may remain as real as we, by Christ's help, are prepared to make it.

We may have differing opinions as to the "good" the war may do; but we are all agreed and it must multiply evil, and inflict suffering far and wide. In the Church we shall need to be ready to heal the wounded hearts of men and women. Our selfishness will be searched out by the events of these coming days, and we may rediscover that the Gospel of giving and forgiving love is after all the only hope of man.

I do pray that the many among us whose families are broken may be greatly comforted, and that all those who have gone forth may find the presence of Christ where they are. May the sacrifices and prayers of these days serve speedily to bring unity and peace to the groping, broken family of mankind.

God's guidance direct you; God's peace be in you; and, in the great sorrow of the world and your own sorrow, God's comfort be with you.

Your loving Minister and Friend,

GILBERT M. GEORGE.

### KIRK SESSION NOTES.

The dislocation of normal life caused by the outbreak of war has inevitably extended to the activities of the church. Owing to the darkness, the evening service will be held at 6 p.m., on Sunday 17th and thereafter as circumstances shall decide. The Sunday Schools will continue to meet as usual but the hours of Bible Classes may need to be changed. Week-Night meetings will not be held for some time until an arrangement is made for darkening the halls. It is hoped to have the new organ, at present in transit from the makers, installed soon but no date can yet be fixed for its inauguration. Everything will be done to expedite its installation. The Communion will be celebrated on its usual date on 8th October and will be dispensed both at the forenoon and afternoon service. The distribution of cards will be a problem to a number of elders for various reasons and members are asked to excuse visits at unconventional hours or even at inconvenient times. It will be of importance too to have information about members of families in the congregation who are away from home on military service, evacuation or other duties. It behoves those who remain to step forward and fill the places of those who are absent so that the work of the congregation may go ahead.

W.A.A.

### CONGREGATIONAL BOARD NOTES.

At their last meeting the Board appointed Mr G. Purvis Convener of their Property Committee in the room of the late Mr C. A. Anderson.

The Board wish to express their appreciation of the wholehearted support given to the Weekly Envelope System by the members and to place on record their thanks for the splendid collections received during the summer weeks.

# Prayer Diary



|     |    | SEPTEMBER, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue | 1  | 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies will hopefully start back this evening. Be with them and their leaders at this time.                                                                                                        |
| Wed | 2  | We pray for the first meeting of the the 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies when the returners will be joined by 8 new starts who are moving up from Rainbows. Pray they have a happy time and make friends quickly.         |
| Thu | 3  | We give thanks for all who are part of the Media Team, for their weekly contribution to bringing our services together and available for those who join us online.                                                    |
| Fri | 4  | We remember the work of the Boys' Brigade and the young folk and leaders as they will be preparing for a new session. All three sections start tonight.                                                               |
| Sat | 5  | International Day of Charity.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Sun | 6  | Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness. Lord help us to come to you as we ought, and to be thankful for your gift of salvation to us.                                                                             |
| Mon | 7  | Oldhall Road, Ossian Road and Penilee Road are our streets for prayer this week. Remember those who live there.                                                                                                       |
| Tue | 8  | International Day of Literacy.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wed | 9  | We remember the Prayer Group that meets online and in church. Thank you for their faithfulness and may others want to join them.                                                                                      |
| Thu | 10 | We pray for those who suffer from severe addiction of any kind, that they may find release from these and find their worth in you.                                                                                    |
| Fri | 11 | We remember the work of the Renfrewshire Foodbank and ask you encourage us to be generous in our giving of foodstuff and monetary gifts.                                                                              |
| Sat | 12 | We pray for the Bible Study group that meets online and in Church as they seek to delve deeper into your Word.                                                                                                        |
| Sun | 13 | May our worship be acceptable to you this morning, Lord. We pray for all who will be involved in our service this morning, that you would bless each of them and we pray that they would be a blessing to each other. |
| Mon | 14 | We remember those in Ralston Avenue, Roffey Park Road and Rosshall Avenue this week in our prayers.                                                                                                                   |
| Tue | 15 | We pray for the 39 <sup>th</sup> Brownies who meet tonight.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wed | 16 | We pray for the 39 <sup>th</sup> A Brownies this evening too.                                                                                                                                                         |

# Prayer Diary



|     |    | SEPTEMBER, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu | 17 | World Patient Safety Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Fri | 18 | We pray for the Women's Refuge and all who find safety and shelter there. Be with those who work to support them and help the women and children to rebuild their lives.                                                                                                                                            |
| Sat | 19 | We remember all who make use of our church buildings throughout the week. May they feel welcome and be aware of your presence here. Thank you that our building is being used to support our community.                                                                                                             |
| Sun | 20 | Sing to the Lord a joyful song. Help us to bring to you our hearts full of joy and to praise you as we ought.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Mon | 21 | Pray for those in Rotherwick Drive, School Road and Southwold Road this week.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tue | 22 | We pray for the Café and all who work and volunteer there. Continue to bless the interactions they have with their customers and may the love of God be shown through this work. Thank you for all who contribute.                                                                                                  |
| Wed | 23 | International Day of Sign Languages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Thu | 24 | We pray for Dawn and the choir and the work they do. Thank you for their faithfulness week by week.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Fri | 25 | So many folk volunteer in St Mark's in order to help things continue to run smoothly. We give you thanks for those we are aware of personally, but also for those folk who quietly get on with things behind the scenes. You know who they are Lord, and we ask that you will help them feel valued and encouraged. |
| Sat | 26 | We remember the Toilet Twinning Project and ask that you help us to continue to support this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Sun | 27 | As we come to worship you today, make our hearts ready to hear what you have to say to us.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Mon | 28 | Remember those who live in Crookston Drive, Dalfoil Court and Darvel Crescent this week.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Tue | 29 | We continue to uphold Peter and the work he does in various ways throughout the week and the year. Continue to give him vision, enthusiasm and support to help him in the work he does.                                                                                                                             |
| Wed | 30 | International Translation Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Long-Serving Office Bearers



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 the Moderator of Clyde Presbytery, Rev. Mhairi Breingan presented **Church of Scotland Long Service Certificates** (for more than 30 years of service) to:

Bill Strachan 1970 (56 years)

Graham Black, Alistair Boyd, Alasdair Campbell, Ken Dunsmore 1977 (49 years)

Wilma Browning 1988 (38 years)

Sandy Fergusson, Margaret Gauldie, Elizabeth Macdonald, David Munro 1990 (36 years)

Jack Goodall 1991 (35 years)

Alan Taylor 1992 (34 years)

Eileen Wilkie 1993 (33 years)

And our own **St Mark's** certificates to those serving 20+ years

Ron Weston 1997 (29 years)

Gary Allan, Ann Black, Margaret Currie, Phyllis McLean 1999 (27 years)

Colin Reid 87-97, 2010-2026 (26 years)

Irene Boyd, Andy Grant, Donald Macdonald, Simone Smith 2002 (24 years)

Ruth Forrest, Karin Grant, Gordon McLintock 2004 (22 years)

And to former Congregational Board still serving :

Ian Brackenridge 23 years

Joe Reid 26 years

Jim Jenkins 24 years

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June our Organist, Dawn Hope, marked 20 years of service and was presented with a certificate of thanks, and received the church flowers as a token of our appreciation.

## Where in Scotland



## Answers

- |                                                 |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| A Riverside Museum and Glenlee, Glasgow.        | F The National Wallace Monument, Stirling. |
| B Fingal's Cave, Staffa.                        | G St Andrews Cathedral, St Andrews.        |
| C Angel Statue, The Russell Institute, Paisley. | H Skara Brae, Orkney.                      |
| D V&A Museum and RRS Discovery, Dundee.         | I John Knox House, Edinburgh.              |
| E Iona Abbey, Iona.                             | J Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway. |



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

# Michaelmas



Michaelmas, celebrated annually on 29 September, is a Christian feast honouring St. Michael and all angels. Historically, it marked the end of the harvest and the start of autumn's shorter, darker days. Farmers would hold great feasts to celebrate the bounty of the earth and thank God for the food needed to survive the winter.

It was also celebrated to recognise divine protection, summon personal courage, and settle seasonal farming and financial accounts.

In medieval Europe and the British Isles (except Scotland), Michaelmas was one of the four key 'quarter days'. It was the date when rents were due, leases began, and workers or servants were hired.

## Food & Folklore Traditions

A traditional Michaelmas dinner features roast goose. According to British folklore, 'Eat a goose on Michaelmas Day, want not for money all the year.' On 29 September eating a well-fattened goose fed on the stubble of the last of the harvest brought good luck and protected against financial hardship for the coming year.

Another old folktale warns against picking or eating blackberries after Michaelmas. It is said that when St. Michael cast the devil from heaven, Satan landed in a prickly blackberry bush and cursed or spat upon the fruit.

According to British and Irish lore, September 29 is the absolute last day of the year to pick blackberries. In Scotland and Ireland, families prepared a special multi-grain cake known as St. Michael's Bannock or baked a blackberry-flavoured Michaelmas pie, sometimes hiding a ring inside to predict an upcoming marriage.

The Aster flower—often called the Michaelmas Daisy - blooms around this time, symbolising valour and providing a final touch of colour before winter.



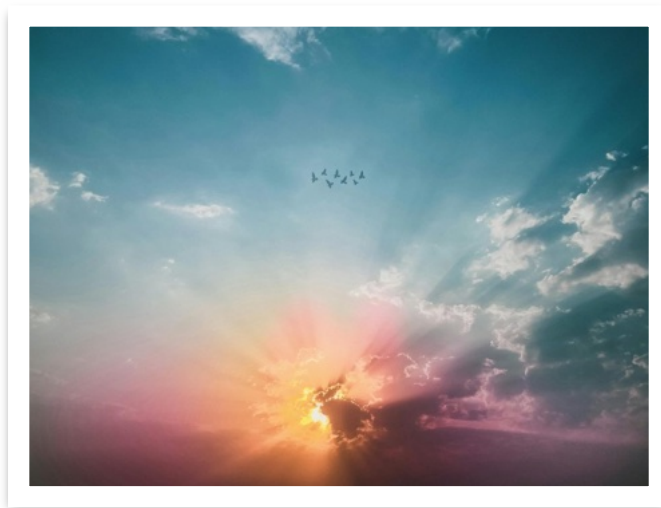
### *Holy Sonnet X*

*DEATH be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so,  
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.  
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,  
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,  
And soonest our best men with thee do go,  
Rest of their bones, and souls delivery.  
Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,  
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,  
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.*

*John Donne*



## Celebrating Calling 2026



Are you sensing God's call to serve? Whether it's a gentle nudge or a growing conviction, **Celebrating Calling 2026** is an opportunity to explore where that call might lead.

Hosted by the Church of Scotland's **People and Training Team**, this thought-provoking event will take place on **Saturday 3 October 2026** at **St George's Church, Paisley**, and is designed for anyone interested in exploring ministry and service within the Church.

Discover the Church's vision for ministry in the 21st century, learn about the new pathways into ministry, and explore the wide range of ministries now serving communities across Scotland. You'll also hear personal stories from people who have responded to God's call and are now serving in a variety of ministry roles.

Bring your questions, uncertainties, and aspirations. Attend presentations, speak one-to-one with experienced ministers and staff, and find out what support is available as you discern God's calling on your life.

**Why not reserve your place today by emailing:** [ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Celebrating Calling 2026

 Saturday 3 October 2026, 10.30am - 3.00pm

 St George's Church, Paisley

*Come and explore, listen, learn, and discover what God may be calling you to next.*

### *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.*

*And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.*

*I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

*William Butler Yeats*



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

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

**Contribution deadline for the next edition : 12 noon, 17 September, 2026.**