



## Connecting the people of St. Mark's Issue 2 2017



Easter 2017

### Inside this Issue:

Worship Opportunities 2	View from the Manse 3	SuperGroup 6
Heart & Soul Sunday 9	Family Church 10	Pippa's World 12

**You are invited to share in the  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 10.50 a.m**

**The Table of the Lord Jesus Christ  
is open to all who know and love the Lord**

### **Opportunities for Worship**

Sunday Worship .....10.50 a.m.

Evening Service .....6 p.m.  
meets every week apart from 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month.

Family Church..... 2 p.m.  
meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month in the Hall

St. Mark's@Sainsburys every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 5.30 p.m.  
meets in the Training Room just off the café.

See Local Press for details.

Your Elder is:

Telephone:

Good day everyone and HAPPY EASTER.

## **View from the Manse**

Jesus said,  
I am the resurrection and  
the life. John 11:25



A few years ago, when we in St. Mark's Church began to meet fortnightly in the Sainsbury's training room calling ourselves *St Mark's @ Sainsbury's*, we followed a short programme of studies which looked at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus.

It seemed that if we wished to introduce people to Jesus then a series, which focussed on some of the famous sayings of Jesus, might be a good place to start. And so, along with quizzes, songs, chat, tea, coffee and dinner, we looked each fortnight at the various times when Jesus said, 'I am...'

As the weeks passed, we discovered that Jesus said 'I am the Bread of Life, the Way, the Good Shepherd and so on and a particular favourite, I have to confess, was when one week we read that Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

The reason for this is simple: we don't like death. Of course, no one does really but it is a fact of life and we must accept that. When Jesus lived on earth, He had a friend called Lazarus who died and He was very sad about this.

Lazarus' sisters were unhappy and told Jesus that He could have prevented their brother's death. It was during this conversation with Jesus, when the sisters' emotions and rational were working extra hard to understand it all that Jesus spoke His truth into their situation when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life" - "Do you believe this?"

What did He mean by that?

How can one person be all that these words suggest?

Resurrection means to come back to life, life means life, and I believe that Jesus was saying that He is not just about life here and now but also about life, again when life is over. These are encouraging words where Jesus tells us that He is the giver of all life and especially the promise of life everlasting.

As we approach Easter, we will focus quite rightly on the death of Jesus and the price He paid for the sins of the world. We will sing of the cross and the cruelty of the punishment, which fell on the sinless Son of God.

We will remember the last supper and Jesus' final words to His closest friends.

We will also be there on Easter Sunday to echo the words of the Stuart Townend song: *"Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered!"*

These days at St Mark's @ Sainsbury's, we are exploring different stories and passages of scripture over our tea and coffee, and that is great.

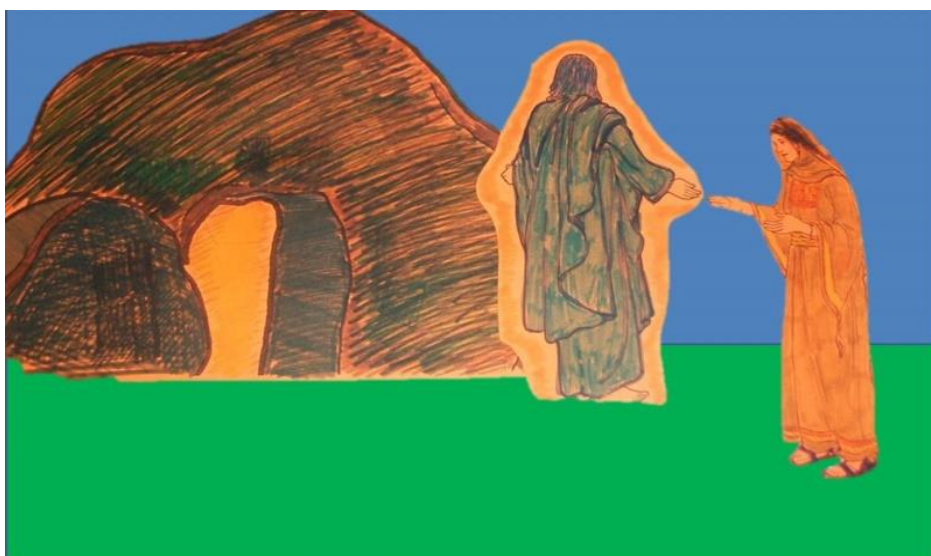
Over these next weeks into Easter, as well as into the summer months and our Seaside Rock Holiday Club, we'll also explore more of the Bible together. A book which, Christians believe, has life not because of itself but because of the words it contains, for in them are the words of the One who is LIFE.

As you read this Link Magazine and its contents, it is our HOPE that in everything we will always point to the exciting message we have to share which is that following Jesus is not a dry religion but a vibrant relationship with a living God.

May the Peace and Life of Christ be yours.

*Stewart*

Minister  
31st March 2017





# **SUPERGROUP NEWS**

**Greetings once again from the Team and Kids of SuperGroup.**

This session has brought about several changes in the way things are being run, for example, tasks are being delegated to all members of the Super Group team. People have informed us of particular things they enjoy doing such as preparing snacks , doing crafts, games ,or any other task they wish to try.

We are also very happy to welcome Alan as our personal treasurer of Super Group and also Rachel as our SuperGroup Librarian, our library which has been open for three weeks has lovely books on many topics which can be shown to all interested parties, and is open at the beginning of every Wednesday evening(6.15-6.40ish) for all members of the Wednesday squad.

Recently, we have been doing the life lesson slightly differently; many interesting stories have been told about animals, their friendships and falling out, their similarities and differences. We have discussed bullying and working together and linked all stories to the bible and God's plan for us all. Are you intrigued? Ask any member of the team to find out more.

We are happy to report the number of kids regularly attending SuperGroup have grown well. Therefore, it was discussed and decided by the team that we will have two games a night with the children split into two separate teams for these specific games. Teams are “Cool Cats” and “Hot Dogs”. This way, the children are learning to work in teams, sharing, problem solving, winning and losing, along with positive behaviour.

These games are run on a point system where good manners and behaviour and accepting the fact you cannot always win count as much as winning a game. Many team points are won but, just as quickly for negative behaviour or being bad losers, points are taken away. This is actually working very well. The winning team are asked to shake hands with the losing team and say better luck next week.

### **Future plans**

In early June, we intend to take the SuperGroup team, and of course the children, up to Briarlands Farm ,Blair Drummond for their end of session treat, It is all secure and will provide several activities for the children such as ,extra large pillows which they bounce high on like trampolines but lower and fixed at ground level. There are competitions and go-carts, racing cars, pedal cars. For the youngest, a tractor ride while the older ones have archery.

All activities will be well supervised by the appropriate amount of adults required. We are also bringing back the church picnic from the old days where all children are given a small brown bag containing sandwiches, crisps, juice, biscuit, and of course a wee treat. I say BRING ON THE FUN!

### **SuperGroup Humour**

Which famous poet is really setting the place on fire?

A. Robert Burns

Did you hear about the new Scottish football team whose players don't know each other?

A. They are called the Glasgow strangers.

What is very smelly, and is spoken in the Highlands of Scotland?

A. Garlic.

Another important topic which our Young Helpers have been discussing is **Refugees**. - hence the poem below which if read as it should be, will make us all think.

## **REFUGEE**

Brian Bilston

Please read this poem from top to bottom, then read it again from the bottom to the top:

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt us a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and Scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not OK to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
**The world can be looked at another way.**



# **HEART & SOUL SUNDAY**

**MAY 21st 2017**

As ever, Heart and Soul 2017 promises an exciting programme for all ages; with even more live music and performances on either of our "main stages", more energy and fun in our children and youth zones, and an even greater worship experience – all with Jesus at the centre.

**We hope you can join us on Sunday 21st May at Princes St. Gardens.**

Our theme for 2017 is "Word of Life" – something organisers want both visitors and exhibitors to explore through different types of media.

Heart and Soul is an event that attracts thousands of people on the Sunday of the General Assembly. This year that will be **Sunday 21st May, from 1pm -6pm**, in Princes Street Gardens. Over fifty organisations and congregations are ready to share with you their journey and explore this year's theme: "Word of Life". There will be congregational stories, exhibitor marquees, music for the children, the Heart and Soul Swing Band, and from 5.30pm massed closing worship at the Ross Bandstand. If you've never been to Heart and Soul, please come to one of the most inspiring events that the Church of Scotland organises. And it's free!

**"HEART AND SOUL SUNDAY":** May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

# Family Church

We enjoyed exploring the Story of Noah and Ark at our recent Family Church.



Our Family Church team of Irene Asher, Jean Davidson, Lesley Davidson, our Minister Stuart, Morag Letford, Jennifer Stewart, Lynne Swanston and myself each brought something special for us to do including making doves, animal puppets & rainbow bottles, playing a Noah's Ark Game – with puppets and praying using the colours of the rainbow.

If you would like to get involved in Family Church, please speak to any of those named above.

*Jean Porter*

# E.A.S.T.E.R.

## An Acrostic Poem

**E** is for Easter, coming soon

**A** is for angels, near the tomb.

**S** is for stone which was rolled away.

**T** is for the tomb found empty that day.

**E** is for early morning, the women are glad.

**R** is for the Risen Lord, no need to be sad.

## Prayer Spaces in Schools

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**St. Mark's Church Halls**

Drip Road , Stirling FK8 1RE

Parking available in Community Campus Car Park opp. church

See and experience  
Prayer Spaces in Schools  
at our drop-in event for  
Schools staff (Eligible for CPD);  
Schools Chaplains;  
Education Representatives;  
Schools & Children's Workers

Come along and hear from  
Prayer Spaces in Schools  
Representative, Debbie Meehan  
11 a.m./ 12.30 p.m./ 3 p.m.



## **Pippa's World: A Canine Partner in training**

Hello once more,

I would like to ask if you could help myself and my friends.

The charity that I am training to help have unfortunately had to stop accepting any new applications this year. This is because there are now 142 people waiting for a dog to help them. This means there are 102 more people than there were in March 2015 in need of our help.

Why so many people waiting? Myself and my friends help people with various disabilities ranging from Cerebral Palsy, MS, Stroke or Brain Injury to Inclusion Body Myositis.

### **HOW COULD YOU HELP?**

Could you, your family or your friends think about becoming a Puppy Parent or Foster Parent for Canine Partners?

I am asking for anyone who lives in the Stirling/Falkirk/Clackmannan/Perth areas who feel they have the skills and patience to become a Puppy/Foster Parent to check out our website: [www.caninepartners.org.uk/puppy\\_parents](http://www.caninepartners.org.uk/puppy_parents) or speak to Verity on 07909900790 to see what a difference you could make.

As for my training, that is going well, and I am hoping that I shall be travelling on a train to Edinburgh in the next few weeks. Tell you about it in my next exciting blog!

**THE LOVEABLE PIPPA**





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# CANINE PARTNERS in SCOTLAND

*March 2017 Infographic*

★ Shetland  
★ Orkney



WE'RE ON THE  
MOVE  
new address:

Canine Partners  
PO Box 29251  
DUNFERMLINE  
KY12 2ER



27

PARTNERSHIPS  
LIVING IN  
SCOTLAND



17

PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND  
ON OUR  
WAITING LIST



11

PUPPIES CURRENTLY  
TRAINING  
AT OUR SCOTLAND  
SATELLITES



PAISLEY SATELLITE - 7



STIRLING SATELLITE - 4







# RAPLOCH friday club

We are a happy group of individuals who meet in the Church Hall at least twice a month with a varied programme which we feel would suit the needs of anyone wishing to join us. Our meeting lasts from 2.00 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. and it's a good way of sharing ideas and interacting with others.

Telephone Donnie or Mary or 01786 463387 if you feel you would like to join us for an afternoon.




**Prayers for the General Assembly**  
**2017**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
**2 – 4 p.m**

**Cambusbarron Parish Church Halls**  
St. Ninians Road, Cambusbarron (Opp. Community Centre)

**Teas & Coffees provided**

Registered Scottish Charity No SC021320  
Presbytery Ref No 231446



**People of..... the Way**

Involved in a Prayer Group?  
Would like to start a Prayer Group?  
Interested in Prayer?

**Stirling Presbytery Prayer Promoters**  
are holding an  
Informal Prayer Gathering

on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
from 7 – 9 p.m.

**In Lecropt Church Hall**

Presbytery of Stirling is a Registered Scottish Charity (Charity Number SC222320)

## COMMUNION SUNDAYS in 2017

30th April 25th June 1st October 10th December.



# Office Bearers

**MINISTER:** Rev. Stuart Davidson 01786 609237  
**Deaconess:** Mrs Jean Porter D.C.S. 0772 931 6321  
**Session Clerk:** Mr David Russell 01786 470159  
**Treasurer:** Mrs . Fiona Russell 01786 470159

## **Clerk to the Congregational Board:**

Mr John Murie 07583914619

## **Property Convener:**

Mr. Hugh Stewart 01786 464706/ 0783 163 1972

**Roll Keeper:** Mrs Irene Asher 01786 470733

**Gift Aid Convener:** VACANT

**Safeguarding:** Mrs Lynne Swanston 0791 862 6177

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## **Groups**

**Ladies Discussion Group:** Mrs. Jean Porter 0772 931 6321

**SuperGroup :** Mrs. Lynne Swanston 0791 862 6177

**Friday Club:** Mrs. Mary McKinlay 01786 463387

### **CHURCH WEBSITE:**

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

### **CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS:**

[info@stmarksstirling.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarksstirling.org.uk)

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

( not permanently manned)

01786 470733



Please email any articles, news or celebration articles for inclusion in the next exciting issue of **the link** to [info@stmarksstirling.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarksstirling.org.uk)

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:** 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Copies of the latest edition of **the link** are available on the church website [www.stmarksstirling.org.uk](http://www.stmarksstirling.org.uk)

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There are links from our website weekly news page.