

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine
Issue No. 58 August-September 2019



Field of Barley at Seamill

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Minister: Rev. James McNay

Tel: 01294 823186 Email: jmcnay@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Miss Carol Fulton

Church Office: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10:00am to 12:00am Tel: 01294 829902

Email: office@westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk

Web: www.westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk

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Letter from Betsi

It is Summer time! It doesn't feel always like Summer with temperatures closer to the late Autumn, rainy mornings and cold wind in the afternoon. But some days are indeed warm and sunny, and then on such days we are reassured that we have the Summer season.

Lately someone asked me why I am always smiling. Am I? Well, I do not always smile but I try to do my best.

Sometimes the circumstances of life, illness, bereavement, divorce, job situation, etc give us the feeling of darkness and sadness all around us. We think that we cannot bear any more, that it is too heavy, we feel the burden and heaviness of diagnoses, difficult decisions but we do know better.

So often life situations such as illness, lethargy, job loss, divorce or others cause us to feel like we are surrounded by darkness. As it is summer, we should be feeling the light and warmth of the July sun.

My life is not always easy so why am I smiling?

“God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives”

I have known this song since I gave my life to Jesus 30 years ago.

My father died when I was young. I loved him so much, he was such a great man, my daddy. Then he was gone and sadness and emptiness filled my life. But when I met Jesus I learned that I am loved no matter what. I learned that my sins are forgiven and that HE holds my future in His hands. What a wonderful promise! I hold to this promise every new morning.

As my husband died unexpectedly almost four years ago I woke up the next morning not knowing what will happen to my daughter and I. At that time we were living in the manse and I was a full-time-mum at home. Markus' death meant to us not just losing a life partner and daddy but also losing a place to live and losing a steady income.

A few months before he died I started training for the ordained ministry. However, without an income I did not know how I was going to finance my studies and three years of training.

I asked God, "what do you want me to do"? Then I remembered the words:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future...

God is good. He provided as He promised. I now live in a nice apartment and with His help and guidance I am about to finish my training.

Sometimes in summer we need the cooler days with rain and wind to appreciate the really sunny days!

In a few months I should be ready to begin to look for my own Parish. Yes, I do wonder where it will be. I am nervous if I will find the right place. Then, I remember that HE holds my future, that He is in control and then I can smile because I know, that HE knows the plans He has for me and that's what is most important.

During the last few months we learned from the book of Nehemiah that God keeps His promises.

Nehemiah did not do anything without God. Nehemiah kept praying and trusting. Despite all the difficulties in his way he rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem. Therefore, this is what I would encourage you to do – pray and trust God. Whatever the circumstances, especially on the days when the wind of troubles and bad news blow into your face, on those days when the summer seems to turn to winter, then pray and trust God is with you! He cares about you, He loves you, He knows your situation! In the time of trouble and difficulties “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10)

Knowing that, how can I not put a smile on my face?

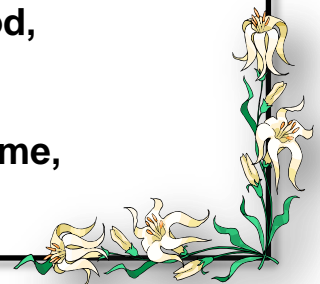
Yours in Christ,

Betsi

Church Register

**The following people have passed away recently.
Please remember their families in your prayers:**

Christina Cooper,	latterly South Beach House, died 17th May 2019.
William Adam,	Ardrossan, died 28th May 2019.
Archie Stevenson, age 2,	Drummilling Avenue, died 10th June 2019
Bessie Walton,	latterly Caledonia Care Home, died 13th June 2019.
Maureen Whitelaw,	of Happy Hills, died 18th June 2019
Moiria Brander,	Caldwell Road, latterly Linwood, died 19th June 2019.
Sheena Dench,	latterly of Abbotsford Care Home, died 21 June 2019



Wedding

Congratulations to **Gillian McMaster** and **Allan Wright** who were married in West Kilbride Parish Church on 24th June 2019.

We wish the new Mr and Mrs Wright every blessing as they begin their married life!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Lynne Baillie who celebrated her 60th birthday on 8th July. We hope you had a lovely day Lynne and wish you blessings for the future.



THANK YOU

Anne Kean and family wish to express their gratitude to all those who were able to attend Robert's funeral service. Thanks to Rev James McNay for his spiritual support and to Gilmour Smith for his organ accompaniment to the Service. The family appreciate the many beautiful cards, flowers and prayers which have given them great comfort. Thanks also to those who gave so generously to the collection for the Ayrshire Hospice.

Mrs Mary Sargeant would like to thank the church family for the beautiful flowers she received after a recent church service. She appreciated them very much.

On Monday 24 June, Gillian McMaster and I were married in West Kilbride Parish Church. We had met a year before, almost to the day, at Cafe Church in the Village hall. Gillian and I would like to thank all our friends who came to share in our special day and for the kind gifts we received. For some of our newly joined family, it was their first time in the Parish. They were amazed at the modern surroundings and enjoyed a warm welcome and hospitality. Special thanks to Cath Higgins and her team for the flowers in the sanctuary and the beautiful arch."

Regards

Allan



EDITORIAL

Here we are, halfway through the summer holidays and I am enjoying the break from all the committees I am on and spending time working in the garden on these light nights. I volunteered to help water all the lovely hanging baskets that the Environmental Group put up in the Village (although being vertically challenged has its drawbacks for this task) so, if you see me on a Tuesday late morning with the water tank and hose, please say "Hello". Volunteers for the group are always welcome and they meet at Garrett Gardens, across from the Community Centre, on a Friday morning from 9.30am until around noon.

The church gardens are looking lovely, bringing joy and pleasure to all who pass by, thanks to Donald and Laura McKay. They are doing a sterling job digging, weeding, planting and cutting the grass. If you would like to help them in any way, please let Donald or Laura know.

I feel as if I have been editing a church magazine for ever and recently I came across a copy of the July 2002 issue of The Grapevine, as the magazine was called in St Andrew's Church. It made interesting reading and in it I wrote of the tragic accident in Dijon, involving the young people and teachers at Largs Academy, which resulted in the

death of young Katherine Fish. It certainly doesn't seem like 17 years since that happened.

I also mentioned how blessed we had been with the visit we arranged of the asylum seekers who came to West Kilbride for a day to experience some relief from the isolation of living in the high-rise flats in Glasgow. What a wonderful day they had with us! In that issue we were also eagerly awaiting the visit of a group of Saharawi children and their chaperones, arranged by the Wider World Group. The ten children stayed with host church families and the two adults stayed with Brian and I. We had a such a blessed time with them - one we will never forget, and I don't think they will forget that visit either! The chorus "Count your blessings, count them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done" comes to mind. How long is it since you counted your blessings? Why not do so today!

Whatever you are doing over this holiday period, at home or away, may you know the blessing of a time of relaxation and joy.

Deirdre Murray

SESSION SNIPPETS – 28 MAY 2019

Having sung the hymn “How Great Thou Art” James introduced the theme of radical change within our church, both at national and local levels, through reading and devotional study of Galatians 2:11- 2. Paul challenges Cephus (Peter) about his reluctance to spend time with Gentiles, preferring the company of Jews from Jerusalem. Change can be hard and people may feel comfort in the past rather than opportunities of the future.

It was with these thoughts that the meeting was constituted by prayer.

Those of you who receive The Life and Work may have read about a radical action plan for reform of the church passed at the General Assembly. The 16 tasks within the plan recognise the challenges faced by the church and envisage reforms across the church (national, presbytery and parish), investment in new forms of ‘doing church’, collaborative working across the church, improved leadership training and support and a focus on engaging with those under 40. As a Kirk Session we discussed some of the headlines.

A growth fund of £20m to £25m to be spent from 2020 to 2026 will be created to develop mission to be spent in all areas where the church is active with an emphasis on engaging the young and building on the church’s work addressing loneliness, poverty and injustice.

A reduction in the number of Presbyteries from 45 to 12 'units' by 2025 linked to new forms of church structure, *including networks, hubs and other forms of church*, and a review of the size and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions, including options for 'fixed-term' eldership roles. These initiatives will build on improved collaborative working and regional and local support for buildings, safeguarding, employment, accountancy, etc. and a focus on development of those in leadership roles within the church.

A focus on the under-40s will use the experience of churches already successful with young people and families both nationally and internationally and will include the creation of a group supporting contemporary forms of worship and ministry with investment in digital and social media.

Whilst we recognised the challenges faced by the church we also saw opportunities in elements of this Radical Action Plan to energise the whole church. We can all support this process through a period of prayer and preparation from September.

Having considered team reports from the Finance, Fabric and People & Policy Teams, and the annual report from the People & Policy Team, we discussed new team remits. We've reduced our teams from nine to eight – Catering, Fabric, Finance, Mission, Pastoral Care, People

& Policy, Worship & Discipleship and Youth (the remit of the Communications & Technology Team – which included the production and distribution of this magazine – has been divided between three of the other teams).

To realise (release) the talents of all our congregation we'll hold a team focus towards the end of September at which everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to the work of one of more of these teams. Please prayerfully consider whether, as an act of stewardship, you can help in any of these teams areas.

Analogous to the Radical Action Plan, whilst the national church needs the “right spaces in the right places”, we need the “right faces in the right places”.

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 24 August 2019. Members of the congregation are most welcome and are, indeed, encouraged, to attend all such meetings.

Colin McDougall

Yours Sincerely

I was born in the Kingdom of Fife, the East Nuek, in the North Lodge of an estate on which dad was a forester. I don't remember too much about Fife for we moved to Luss Glen when I was three. From there we moved to a farm near Balerno just outside Edinburgh and just below the Pentland Hills. I can still remember seeing the white hares in winter.

I have three sisters one younger than me and two younger brothers.

I started school at what is now Deanpark Primary and nearly finished my early schooling there, but for a year at a wee school near Tamworth, Birmingham and half my primary 7 at Oathlaw, a tiny primary school near Forfar in Angus.

However, all my upper schooling was done at Castle Douglas High School and then on to Kirkcudbright Academy.

So you see, in my early years we moved around a lot and such moves begin to impact on one's character. I expect I had a bit of that wanderlust within me as well, always going on to do other things. When I left school I went straight into an apprenticeship in Anthony Wolffe's architectural practice in Gatehouse of Fleet and began a lifetime of study that only finished last year when I gained my Certificate of Divinity from Aberdeen University. Through the seventies I gained a Diploma in Building Technology and Management, through the eighties I went on to gain my diploma in Architecture from The

Mackintosh School of Art in Glasgow and finally, and not really related, I did the distance learning at Aberdeen University that qualified me to be a Reader in my Church of Scotland.

I am semi retired from architecture now, having given up the office, but I still dabble a bit and the other couple of days and a Sunday I work as Locum for Kirkgate Parish Church in Saltcoats, visiting, taking funerals and conducting Sunday Worship. I find it an amazing privilege to be able to preach and to conduct services for the Lord Jesus and find it most rewarding.

My calling to do so came late in life, well beyond the age to be a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament, so I accept that God had this special purpose for me just now. What He has for me in the future will be according to His will. I decided a few years ago just to let God have his way with me and I would follow His calling, what ever that entailed.

I joined the church when I was 16 and took to it with enthusiasm walking the four miles on a Sunday morning to a lovely little church on the river Dee called Balmaghie Parish Church. There I spent a good couple of years until, like many a youngster, I moved away to study at Napier College in Edinburgh where I joined the Christian Union. We had some lovely times away on retreat, one such occasion I remember going with the group to Linlithgow where we sang with guitars at the local church service on the Sunday morning. A forerunner to the part I would later play in the praise band in St. Andrews Church, now West Kilbride Parish.

Other Christian events that influenced my life greatly, was going for many years to 'Clan Gathering', a Christian

conference week at St. Andrews. There I was part of the prayer teams and I was amazed and encouraged in my faith to step out in answer to the call to pray for healing and peace for others. Deirdre, my wife of 27 years, joined me and we set up The Three Towns Healing Rooms with other interested Christian friends. The Healing Rooms has since ceased, after a few successful years, as we all moved on to other God inspired callings.

I have always believed that God trains us in many diverse ways so that we have a gift or two for evangelism in whatever way we are led.

My interests over my life have been varied. I played rugby for Kirkcudbright Academy going on to play for 'The Stewartry'. I had a season or two of running half and full marathons and lately I love getting out on the bike for a run around the countryside.

I have been involved with Amateur Dramatics most of my adult life in one form or another, from plays, musicals to pantomime. Acting, singing, producing and, yes, even dancing!

It was while I was taking part in 'Fiddler on the Roof', in Dumfries, that I met Deirdre and our friendship blossomed into marriage in 1992. Although I have no blood children of my own I was adopted into Deirdre's family and now we have nine grandchildren to keep us busy.

I play the guitar 'kind a' self taught, but enough to be in the praise band playing simple tunes and I can hold a note in some other less exciting instruments. Recently

Deirdre and I have been part of the Community Choir in West Kilbride taking part in two concerts a year.

People say I'm a busy man, always doing something and never known to say 'No'. With such a life I need that occasion to wind down and I find that in many rewarding hours out in our garden planting, cutting and enjoying the outdoor life reminiscent of my upbringing on farms and estates.

My favourite programmes on tele are few for I don't watch much of it, but I like 'Escape to the Country' and some of the DIY programmes. My guilty secret show would be 'The Voice' or 'Britain's Got Talent'. Favourite film other than Sci Fi would be 'Serendipity' that I watch every Christmas time. (I'm really a softy at heart). Gardeners World on a Friday night is a must and I suppose the news channels are about all.

I have an eclectic musical taste, really, anything that's tuneful from pop, rock or classical.

So perhaps you get a flavour of who I am and what drives me in my purpose driven state.

Life brings seasons in which we experience different things, we gather skills and perhaps some baggage as well, but we travel through life hopefully showing kindness and a helpful hand to all we meet. I'll continue to listen out for God's calling to where He will have me serve and hope that there are still a few seasons to look forward to here before I go home to be with Jesus, my Lord and my Saviour.

Yours Sincerely,
Brian Murray

AN ANCIENT PRAYER

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
With sense to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind O Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight,
Which seeing wrong is not appalled
But finds a way to see it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About that fussy thing called 'I'.
Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.

This prayer was found in the 11th century parish church
of St.Cuby in the village of Duloe in Cornwall.

Moira Mackinnon

OUR VISION

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ, believing that God calls us to discover together his transforming presence in our lives and in every community, in Jesus Christ we pray!

- To engage fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally.
- To grow God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders.
- To deepen our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer.

We seek to:

- Nurture a confident people of God.
- Develop healthy churches and leaders.
- Serve the community
- Re - imagine our buildings
- Target support to key areas.

This is the vision of the congregation of Ely Cathedral which I found very apt and which expresses our wishes here in West Kilbride.

Moirra McKinnon

Church Conference 2019

Our Church Conference this year will be held on the weekend of 13th - 15th September 2019.

We look forward to having Mark Fleming, Senior director and trainer with Positive Mental Health Scotland, Chaplain to the SFA & Scottish director of Sports Chaplaincy UK with us as our speaker.

Mark is very engaging and will be speaking about Mental Health from a Christian perspective.



Our church conference is to encourage us to have fellowship together, to grow together and to learn together.

Please put the dates in your diary and think about coming along if you possibly can.

Our conference will run as follows:

Friday 13th September - 7.30pm

Saturday 14th September - 11am, followed by lunch.

Sunday 15th September - 10.30am.



Shepherd

Sheep are wayward creatures, always wandering astray
Humankind is much the same, it's in our DNA;
Ever envying, ever hankering after greener
Pastures – discontent is part of our demeanour.
Hirelings cannot save us, they'll quickly run amok
Every time a ravening wolf threatens the flock.
Remember Jesus is The Gate, for both Gentile and Jew:
Didn't he leave the ninety-nine, just to search for you?

Late Call

This notice was spotted in the vestibule of a church near Hockley in Essex. It was clearly placed by an exasperated vicar, fed up with mobile phones going off during his sermons. The neatly typed notice reads: "The Call of God. When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear the call of God. However it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving." *June Kerr*

Monthly Prayer Diary – August 2019

- Thu 1st ‘He leads me beside still waters’ Ps 23 v 2.
Whether we are on holiday or not this summer,
may we all have opportunities to be still and enjoy
the beauty of God’s creation
- Fri 2nd We pray for our Minister James, Anna his wife,
and their sons John and Alasdair. We hope they
have been refreshed by their holiday and their
time together
- Sat 3rd We give thanks and pray for Betsi, Brian, Mandy
and Douglas in their various stages of Ministry
training.
- Sun 4th We give thanks for the recent challenging
question given by Betsi. Are we an invitational
church? Lord, please help us to be bold and be
glad to invite people to come along to hear The
Good News about Jesus!
- Mon 5th We pray for the residents who live in Headrigg
Road and Heritage Park
Dalry St Margaret’s Church congregation and
their Interim Moderator and Locum Minister Rev
Marion Howie
- Tue 6th Reports that some asylum seekers and refugees
in Glasgow are being threatened with eviction is
deeply troubling. Pray for those who are living
under the threat of eviction, for those in power;
and staff and volunteers at Glasgow City Mission
as they seek to be obedient to God’s will
- Wed 7th “Our Father and our God, we praise You for Your
goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far
beyond what we deserve... We pray today for our
nations’ leaders. Give them wisdom to do what is
right and the courage to do it” (Excerpt from Billy
Graham’s Prayer for the Nation.)

- Thu 8th We give thanks for all who work in our GP Surgery. We pray for the changes taking place there, may they bring about good outcomes for the staff and for all who attend the surgery.
- Fri 9th We remember all who are grieving the loss of someone they have loved. O Lord, reveal Your tenderness toward them so they may see how much You care as we mention their names to You in prayer.
- Sat 10th We continue to remember SU Camps and Holiday Clubs being held through the summer months. May many young people come to know how exciting life with Christ can be!
- Sun 11th We give thanks for the hymn writers and for the gift of music, and that we can raise our voices in praise to You any day, any time, anywhere!
- Mon 12th We pray for – the residents in Highborne Crescent and Hillside Dalry Trinity Church congregation and their Minister Rev Martin Thomson
- Tue 13th Morven Day Services, East Ayrshire is a day resource for adults with mental health issues. Please remember those in the service who struggle with daily tasks; may they feel cared for, included, and have a sense of purpose.
(Crossreach)
- Wed 14th We remember and pray for all we know who are unwell, awaiting tests or results, or having treatment. Also for those with long term health issues
- Thu 15th We pray for all who are struggling with addiction and for the impact this can have on family life. Lord, be their strength in times of weakness
- Fri 16th As the teachers and staff return to school today for in-service day, we give thanks for gifted

- teachers and those who dedicate themselves to inspiring and equipping children in our schools.
- Sat 17th We pray for children in the developing world who are denied an education because of poverty, displacement, discrimination, illness or disability. Please inspire all who work to end to this injustice. (CARE)
- Sun 18th As our Youth Leaders gear up to begin another year of youth work, we give grateful thanks for all their dedication. May they be truly blessed, encouraged and supported in all they do.
- Mon 19th We pray for – the residents who live in Hunterston Road and Hyndman Road Largs St Columba's Church linked with Fairlie and their Minister Revd Dr Graham McWilliams
- Tue 20th We pray for our children back in school. We pray for the little ones to settle and also for those who have made the transition to Academy. May all our schools be safe places to be where children can thrive.
- Wed 21st We pray for children who need special help, those with learning difficulties, life-limiting conditions, physical impairments and mental health issues. We pray for those who are unable to face going to school
- Thu 22nd Give thanks for the Trauma Healing groups happening throughout Scotland. Please pray as many read and hear about a compassionate God, healing will begin in their lives. (Scottish Bible Society)
- Fri 23rd Father, we bring before You all the troubled places of the world and for all who are affected by war and terrorism. We pray for all who work for peace.

- Sat 24th We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who do not have the freedom to worship as we do and are persecuted because of their faith. We are so often amazed by their endurance. Please supply their every need.
- Sun 25th We pray for the Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland. We give thanks for the things we can celebrate. We pray for wisdom when difficult decisions need to be made. May Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.
- Mon 26th We pray for the residents who live in Jack's View and Kilruskin Drive.
Kilbirnie Auld Kirk, their Interim Moderator Rev Minister David Watson and Locum Mr Archie Currie
- Tue 27th We give thanks and pray for the organisations that meet within our church building week by week as many of them restart after the holidays. May Your Name be glorified as people spend time together in Your house
- Wed 28th We remember the Church Prayer Meeting being held tonight and pray for the Life Groups and Wednesday Fellowship – opportunities to grow together and encourage one another in our faith.
- Thu 29th Father, we pray for the many people near and far who do not have enough food to eat, and we pray that we might all work for a fairer world.
- Fri 30th Lord, open our eyes to see as You see. Open our hearts to love the broken and those without hope. Open our hands to hold what we have lightly and to share what we have cheerfully
- Sat 31st Lord, in this our Year of Discipleship, please help us to catch Your vision of how to go forward during this autumn season

Monthly Prayer Diary – September 2019

- Sun 1st We give thanks for our Minister James, Anna and their sons John and Alasdair. May they feel supported by our love and prayers. We pray for Betsi as she looks to her next placement, we have been so blessed to have her.
- Mon 2nd We pray for the residents who live in Kirkton Ave and Law Brae
Kilbirnie St Columba's congregation and their Minister Rev Fiona Ross
- Tue 3rd Father, following the difficulties of trying to secure a workable Brexit agreement, please bring together Parliamentarians who have been fiercely opposed to each other and grant wise leadership as the country tries to move forward in these challenging times. (CARE)
- Wed 4th Please pray for Pakistan. Problems include poverty, drought and famine. Many in desert regions face a daily struggle to survive, whilst the poor in other regions are at risk of becoming bonded labourers if they borrow money. May believers be able to persevere through every trial. (Asialink)
- Thu 5th We pray for all who are affected by mental health issues. May help and understanding be available at every point of need.
- Fri 6th We pray for the many men, women and children all around the world who are victims of Human Trafficking. We give thanks and pray for the agencies working to rescue them. May Your love bring healing

Sat 7th Father, we pray for our own hurts today. Help us to recognize any unforgiveness we might be holding against another. Please help us to release the situation into Your hands, so that healing can begin

Sun 8th Help us dear Lord, to be channels of Your love

Mon 9th We pray for the residents who live in Lawfield Ave and Maimhor Road
Malala Presbytery in Malawi – twinned with Ardrossan Presbytery

Tue 10th We give thanks for Rendezvous, for the lovely ladies who serve there and for the drivers who make it possible for people to attend

Wed 11th We give thanks for Community Chords, for all who give of their talents to make it happen. We pray that it will be a great blessing to many.

Thu 12th We give thanks for chaplains working in many settings. We pray for James in his role as a school chaplain and chaplain to Kilmarnock Football Club

Fri 13th We pray for Street Pastors out in the cities at the weekends. We pray for those they will meet. May those who are lonely be warmed by your presence, those who are bruised and hurting find healing in your love, those who are ashamed and without hope be set free by your forgiveness and grace

Sat 14th We pray for all who are bereaved and give thanks that You have promised to comfort those who mourn

- Sun 15th We lift up all Seedlings, Junior Church, XL8 Messy Church and our youth organisations
“Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way they should go, and the values they’ve learned from you will be with them for life.” Prov 22 v6 (The Passion Translation)
- Mon 16th We pray for residents living in Main Street and Manse Road
Kilmory Church linked with Lamblash and their Minister Rev Lily McKinnon
- Tue 17th Lord of mercy, please move powerfully in the nations of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe as they recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai. Please heal the sick, comfort the brokenhearted and provide for those who are desperate. (Tearfund)
- Wed 18th We pray for Carol our Session Clerk, our Elders, Team Members and all who work behind the scenes to aid the smooth running of our church
- Thu 19th We pray for our GP Surgery, hospitals, hospices and Care Homes. We give thanks for our NHS and pray for all the dedicated staff
- Fri 20th We lift up our local schools, praying that pupils have settled well. We pray for those starting or preparing for college or university
- Sat 21st We pray for the Persecuted Church in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia Libya, Pakistan. The countries with the most extreme levels of persecution
- Sun 22nd We give thanks that our aim at West Kilbride Parish Church is to: ‘Know Christ and to make Christ known.’ May that be a reality for us all
- Mon 23rd We pray for the residents who live in Meadowfoot Road and Meadowside

Kilwinning Mansfield Trinity and their Minister
Rev Hilary Beresford

Tue 24th We do pray for all we know who are unwell and
for their loved ones who care for them. We thank
You that You are faithful God, always with us.

Wed 25th We pray for the many areas of the world where
there is conflict. We pray for those living there
who have lost all hope of things ever changing,
and for children who have never known any other
way of living.

Thu 26th We give thanks for small miracles in the midst of
tragedy, for refugees rescued from sinking ships,
earthquake victims brought alive from tumbled
buildings. We do give thanks for Aid Agencies
and Rescue Services

Fri 27th We pray for all whose lives have been devastated
by Natural Disasters. May they find in You Lord,
all hope to believe in a future worth living

Sat 28th We pray for peacemaker's working behind the
scenes in troubled spots around the world. May
they seek godly wisdom and integrity. We pray
also for the safety of peacekeepers in many
dangerous places.

Sun 29th We give thanks and pray for our church family,
from the smallest baby to our oldest member!
Help us to care for one another in love, and not to
forget those who once worshipped beside us but
are now too frail to attend

Mon 31st We pray for the residents who live in Merlewood
Road and Nethermiln Rd
Kilwinning Old Parish Church, their Interim
Moderator Rev Ross Mitchell, Parish Assistant
Isobel Beck

God miraculously delivered them; you can help them read His Word

21 June 2019

Northern Nigeria is a dangerous place for Christians – especially for those who have left Islam to follow Christ. But God intervened in power to save 72 converts and their children from Boko Haram militants. These believers excel in courageous faith, they have met Christ face-to-face and heard Him speak, they have experienced His miraculous deliverance. But they cannot build themselves up by daily study of His Word. Why not? Because they cannot read. Or they do not have a New Testament. Your gift can meet this need.

Christ appears

The story begins with a group of 500 Nigerian Christian converts from Islam and their children. It is not normal for this tribe to gather in such large numbers, but all of them had already been attacked by Boko Haram Islamist militants and they hoped that a larger group would give them a measure of security. But Boko Haram were not deterred. They attacked the group and captured 76, taking them back to their camp.

Michael, the archangel, defeating Satan

At the Boko Haram camp, the Christians were tortured, and their four male leaders were told they must deny Christ and return to Islam or they would be shot. The four refused and were duly shot dead, in full view of the rest of the group.

A week later the four widows of the dead men were told they must renounce their Christian faith or their children would be shot. They were given time to think over this dreadful choice. As they agonised together that evening, their excited children came running in, telling their mothers that Jesus had appeared to them and told them all would be well.

Jesus then appeared to the whole group of 72, and told them not to fear for He would protect them. He said they should not renounce Him but should stay strong, and that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Deliverance from evil

The next day, the four mothers gave their decision to the militants – they would **not** deny Christ. The militants prepared to shoot the children, who were already lined up against a wall. The youngest was a little girl of four. Suddenly the militants began screaming and clawing at their own heads. Shouting “Snakes!” they fled the scene, and some of them dropped dead.

One of the Christian men reached for the gun of a dead militant but the four-year-old put her hand on his arm to stop him. “You don’t need to do that,” she said, “Can’t you see the men in white fighting for us?”

And you can help them too

Barnabas Fund is supporting a grass-roots literacy programme to help the many members of this nomadic tribe who have not had any education. We also want to provide more New Testaments in their mother-tongue and solar-powered micro-voice-players loaded with audio versions of Scriptures in their mother-tongue.

One New Testament costs **£2.80** (\$3.60; €3.20)

One solar powered MP3 player costs **£12** (\$15.50; €14)

Your gift of any size will help these 72 and other believers to study the Word of God.

Give today

If you would like to make a gift, please direct your donation to **39-772 Victims of Violence in Nigeria**

[Donate](#)

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If you prefer to send a cheque by post: [Click this link](#) for the address of our regional office. Please quote project reference above.

SMS

For a quick donation of £5.00 by SMS (see terms and conditions [here](#)) text **AID1** to **70660** (Please note: This facility is presently only available to UK supporters). Text costs £5.00 plus network charge. Barnabas Fund receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission. Customer care 024 7623 1923. Charity No 1092935.

The M word

What is the M word? Surprisingly, it is barely mentioned in the Bible! According to one of the most popular Bible commentary websites, BibleGateway.com there are only 9 occurrences of it in the Old Testament, 8 of which are in 1 Samuel...., the other is an earlier book Joshua but that could just be a matter of translation, or which translation you search in. More surprisingly the word is not mentioned in the New Testament yet the NT *breathes* the concept of that word!

The word is not Marmite but surprisingly peoples' reaction to it is rather similar! You either love it or hate it! Some people, when they hear the M word mentioned pull down the shutters, the mind goes into a sort of glaze, it is a TV channel they do not subscribe to... like Formula1 racing. Who wants to watch 22 cars whiz round a track? You might feel a little twinge of happiness when you learn at the end that Lewis Hamilton has done it again, after all he is a Brit, but you are not a Formula 1 fan. It does not tick your boxes.

Perhaps the M word is Munro baggers, those energetic types who must climb all 282 of them. (For the uninitiated incomers, a Munro is a mountain in Scotland over 3000 ft. How sad it is that our local friendly mountain just across the water from Seamill is 33 feet short of being a Munro!) They say the air is sweeter and keener at the top of a Munro! The arm chair Munro bagger sighs "Yes it is, but oh! the effort of getting even to the foot of one of them yet alone up it!". Munro bagging is for the enthusiast.

And so it is it is with that other M word. It can be a spectator sport and not one played. We only want to be cheering from the sidelines, not participators. What *me* play? Oh I am too old, I am not fit enough. I'm not good enough. I'm not strong

enough. I'm not trained enough. I could never do that. Send my sister but not me. I am bound to mess it up.#

It is great that it is happening; great that *special* people can go out there and be used of God and see great results. We don't like to fail do we? The last thing we would want is to see no results. Some M "enthusiasts" have spent 50 years in a hot foreign land and never see any fruit for their labour, yet the next generation of M word entrepreneurs (sometimes from the local team) see the goals, reap a harvest. Did that struggling enthusiast mess up? Was it all a waste of time effort, money, sweat, tears and prayers? Did he labour in vain?

The cost! The cost! Why, a century ago 'enthusiasts' for this sport took their coffins with them because it was a strong possibility they would not come back. Many died within days from diseases that now through our prophylactics are a doddle; their field of service and sacrifice is now our tourist destination. We can get there in hours not weeks, or months.

God is still looking for M people. He is not looking for experts, enthusiasts - He is looking for willingness. Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? were the words that Isaiah heard.

At the bottom of our Intimations is a pithy phrase which really sums up the whole M word thing. Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known. I have a longer definition of it. Mission at the heart of the church and the church at the heart of mission. There I have gone and done it.. let the cat out of the bag. But you knew it from the start, didn't you!

Stephen Elliott-Lockhart

Church Diary Dates for August & September 2019*

**Please check the Intimations sheet each week in Church, or view them on the church website as meetings and details may be changed or added.*

4 August 10:30am Morning Service with Holiday Club

5 August 2:00pm Bereavement Group - Lower Hall

6 August 9:30 am Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

6 August 10:00 am Rendezvous

7 August 7:00 pm Wednesday Fellowship

11 August 10:30 am Morning Service with Holiday Club

13 August 9:30 am Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

13 August 10:00 am Rendezvous

14 August 7:00 pm Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

18 August 10:30 am Morning Service with Junior Church

20 August 9:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

20 August 10:00 AM Rendezvous

21 August 7:00 PM Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

25 August 10:30 AM Morning Service with Junior Church

20 August 9:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

20 August 10:00 AM Rendezvous

21 August 7:00 PM Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

25 August 10:30 AM Morning Service with Junior Church

25 August 7:00 PM Evening Service

20 August 9:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

20 August 10:00 AM Rendezvous

21 August 7:00 PM Wednesday Prayer Meeting

1 September 10:30 am Morning Service, Junior Church & Communion

1 September 7:00 pm Evening Service

2 September 2:00 pm Bereavement Group - Lower Hall

3 September 9:30 am Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

3 September 10:00 am Rendezvous

4 September 7:00 pm Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

7 September 10:45 am Messy Church - WKPC

8 September 10:30 am Morning Service with Junior Church

8 September 7:00pm Evening Service

10 September 9:30am Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

10 September 7:30pm Team Leaders Meeting

10 September 10:00am Rendezvous

10 September 7:30pm Team Leaders Meeting - Prayer Room

11 September 2:00pm Community Chords - Lower Hall

11 September 7:00pm Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

13 September 7:30pm Church Conference - Sanctuary

14 September 11:00pm Church Conference – Sanctuary

15 September 10:30 am Morning Service with Junior Church

15 September 7:00 pm Evening Service

17 September 9:30 am Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

17 September 10:00 am Rendezvous

18 September 7:00 pm Wednesday Fellowship and Bible Study

22 September 10:30 am Morning Service with Junior Church

24 September 7:00 pm Evening Service

24 September 9:30 pm Women Who Pray - Prayer Room

24 September 10:00 am Rendezvous

24 September 2:00 pm Guild - Lower Hall

24 September 7.30 pm Kirk Session Meeting - Lower Hall

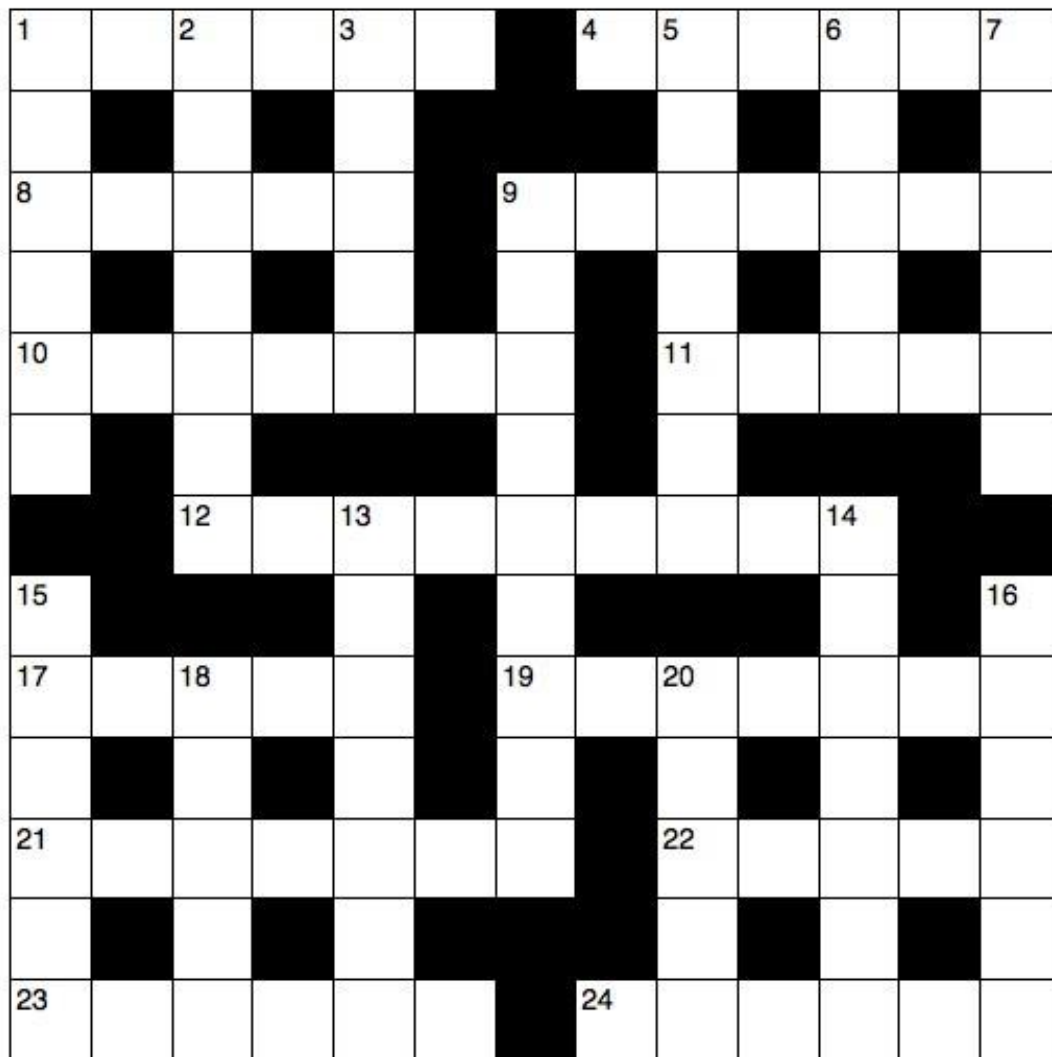
25 September 7:00 pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting

29 September 10:30 am Dedication & Thanksgiving Service

29 September 7:00 pm Evening Service

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Crossword



Crossword Clues & Answers

Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)

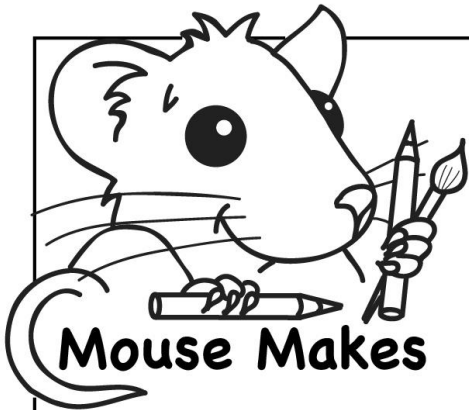
17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
 15 See 12 Across
 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

Answers

ACROSS: 1, Amazed. 4, Others. 8, Peter. 9, Zebedee. 10, Accuser. 11, Endue. 12, Scripture. 17, Shrub. 19, Abashed. 21, Foolish. 22, Upset. 23, Loathe. 24, Lesser.
DOWN: 1, Appeal. 2, Attacks. 3, Earns. 5, Tableau. 6, Ended. 7, Shekel. 9, Zarephath. 13, Rubbish. 14, Ephesus. 15, Useful. 16, Editor. 18, Rhoda. 20, Abuse.



What is your most valuable treasure?

The Bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.

The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

The **LOVE** of money is at the root of all sorts of what?

_____ *1 Timothy 6:9-10*

What should you be on your guard against?

_____ *Luke 12:15*

What did Jesus ask the rich man to do?

Read: Luke 18:22-26

What is it good to be rich in?

_____ *1 Timothy 6:18-19*

What two things can't you serve at the same time?

_____ and _____ *Matthew 6:24*

What is better than gold?

_____ *Proverbs 6:16*

Who supplies all your needs?

_____ *Philippians 4:19*

What is like a hidden treasure?

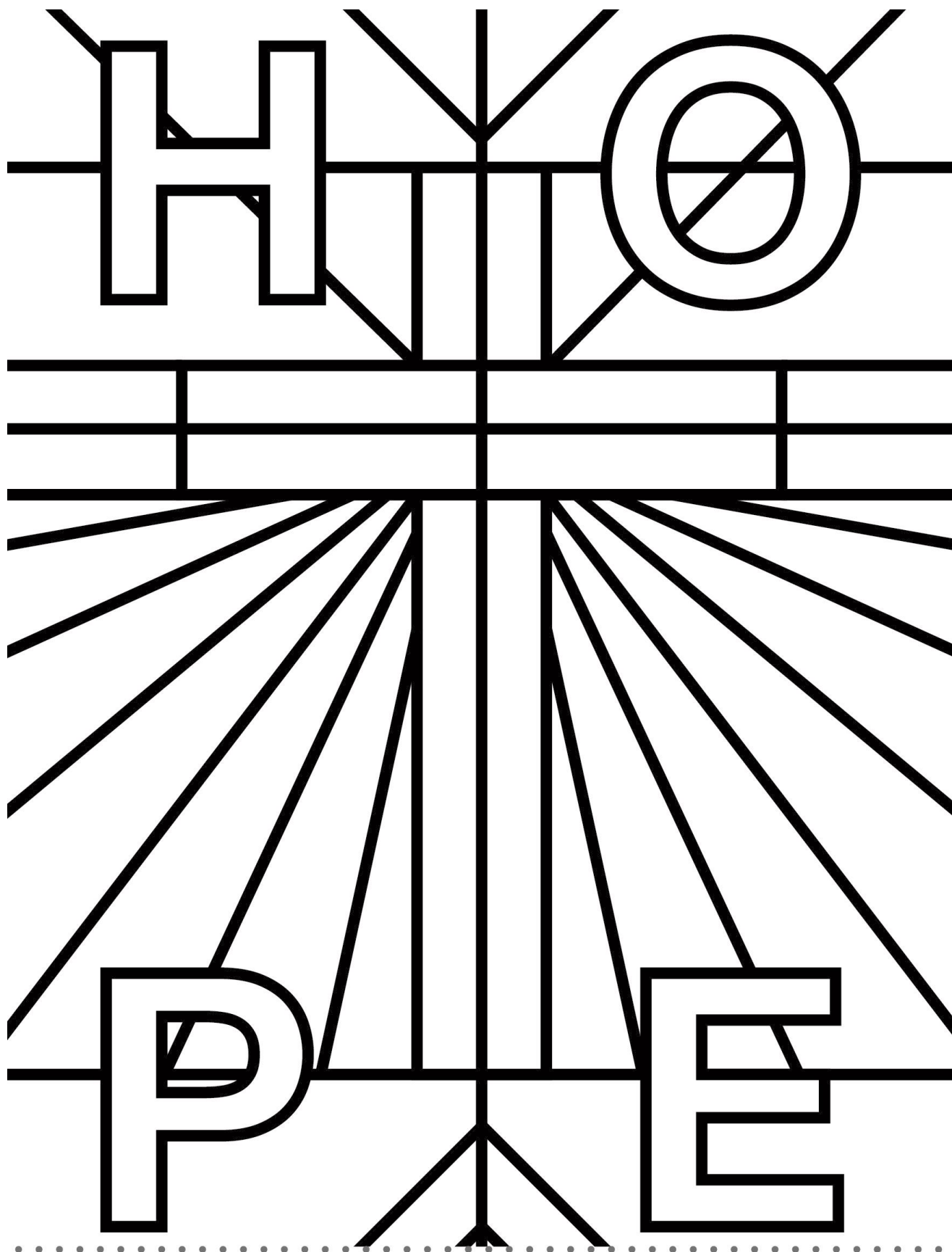
_____ of _____ *Matthew 13:4*

Who has all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

_____ *Colossians 2:2-3*

How many other words can you make from...

TREASURE IN HEAVEN



Available as posters up to A0 size from cpo.org.uk
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