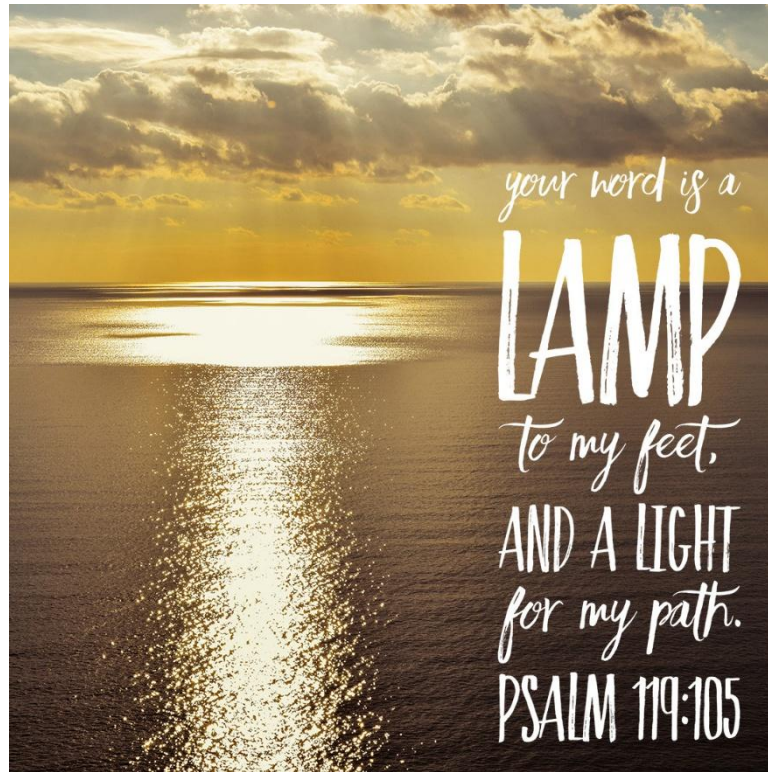




Joint Parish
newsletter
September
2026



Sunday services

6 th September	9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Rev. John Bridge 11am – Holy Communion by Extension at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Chris Pegler
13 th September	9:30am – Communion by extension led by Chris Pegler 11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. John Nightingale
20 th September	9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Rev. Peter Camody-Heaton 11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Rev. Peter Camody-Heaton
27 th September	9:30am – Eucharist at St. Andrew's led by Father Ron Farrell 11am – Holy communion at Good Shepherd with St. John led by Father Ron Farrell





During our interregnum, our vicar's message/sermon will be written by members of the congregation. If anyone would like to write one please contact Niamh Lees via email at niamhbethanylees@hotmail.co.uk. Thanks in advance to anyone who contributes.

Walking by the Light of God's Word

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

It's a verse that speaks to the heart of our faith — the way we walk, step by step, trusting that God's light will guide us.

When we picture a lamp, we might imagine something small — not a blazing spotlight showing the whole road ahead, but a gentle glow that helps us see the next few steps. That's how God's word works. It doesn't always reveal the entire journey. It gives us enough light for today.

And that's often all we need.

We live in a world that loves certainty — plans, schedules, outcomes. We want to know what's coming next. But faith asks something different of us. It asks us to walk forward even when we can't see the whole path, trusting that the light will be there when we need it.

Sometimes that light feels faint. We might be walking through change, loss, or uncertainty. We might be starting something new — a new school year, a new job, a new chapter in life — and wondering if we're ready. But the promise of this verse is simple and strong: God's word is enough.

It doesn't flicker out. It doesn't fail. It shines steadily, even in the darkest places.

When we let Scripture guide us, it doesn't just show us where to go — it shows us how to walk. It teaches us patience when we'd rather rush ahead. It reminds us to show kindness when we're tempted to turn inward. It calls us to hope when the world feels heavy.

And as we walk by that light, something beautiful happens. The path itself becomes holy ground. Not because it's easy, but because God walks it with us.

Think of the times in your life when you've had to take a step without knowing what came next — maybe a decision, a change, a challenge.

Looking back, you can often see that God's light was there all along, guiding you quietly, faithfully, step by step.

That's the rhythm of faith. Not a sprint into the future, but a steady walk with God.

So as we move into this new season — as routines begin again, as the days shorten and the evenings draw in — let's remember this truth:

We don't need to see the whole road.

We just need to trust the light that's in front of us.

Let God's word be your lamp.

Let it guide your choices, your conversations, your moments of stillness.

Let it remind you that even when the way feels uncertain, you are never walking alone.

Because the One who lights the path also walks beside you.





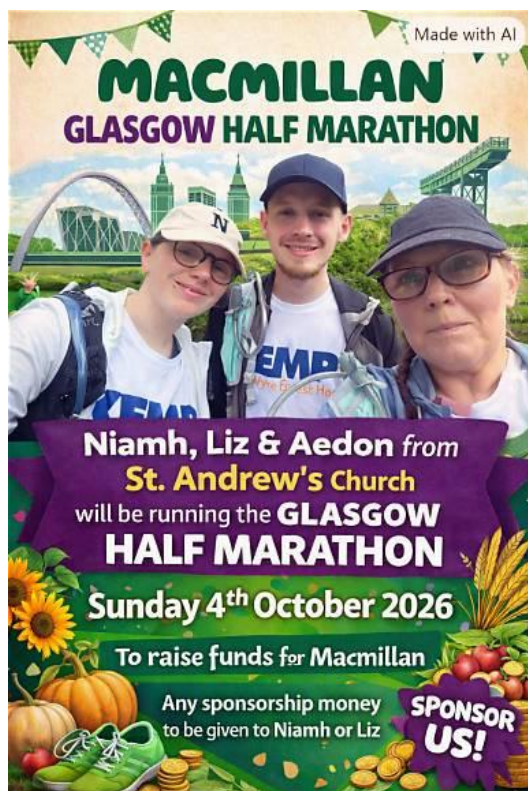
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2 Place of Welcome 10:30am – 12pm Place of Welcome with Extend Exercise – 10:30am – 12pm Cubs – 6:30pm	3 Scouts– 6:30pm	4 Place of Welcome; Coffee and Craft – 10:30am – 12pm Beavers – 6:30pm	5 4pm – Welcome service for Rev. Peter Powers at New Road Methodist Church Weston-Super- Mare trip	6 9:30am – Eucharist led by Rev John Bridges 11am – Holy Communion by extension led by Chris Pegler
7	8	9 Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy – 10am – 12pm Place of Welcome with Extend Exercise – 10:30am – 12pm Cubs – 6:30pm	10 Scouts– 6:30pm	11 Place of Welcome; Coffee and Craft – 10:30am – 12pm Beavers – 6:30pm	12	13 9:30am – Communion by extension led by Chris Pegler 11am – Holy Communion led by Rev. John Nightingale
14	15	16 Place of Welcome 10:30am – 12pm Place of Welcome with Extend Exercise – 10:30am – 12pm Cubs – 6:30pm	17 Scouts– 6:30pm	18 Place of Welcome; Coffee and Craft – 10:30am – 12pm Beavers – 6:30pm	19 Bible Study – The Story of Ruth – Refreshments at 10:30am for a 11am start	20 9:30am – Eucharist led by Rev. Peter Camody- Heaton 11am – Holy Communion led by Rev. Peter Camody- Heaton
21	22	23 Ladies Fellowship trip – Bantock House, contact Margaret Morgan if you wish to join Place of Welcome with Extend Exercise – 10:30am – 12pm Cubs – 6:30pm	24 Scouts– 6:30pm	25 Place of Welcome; Coffee and Craft – 10:30am – 12pm Beavers – 6:30pm	26 Joint Macmillan Coffee Morning – 10am; Good Shepherd Church Hall	27 9:30am – Eucharist by Fr Ron Farrell 11am – Holy Communion by Fr Ron Farrell
28	29	30 Place of Welcome 10:30am – 12pm Place of Welcome with Extend Exercise – 10:30am – 12pm Cubs – 6:30pm				

Key

Good Shepherd with St John

St. Andrew's Church

Joint events





Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: 1956 - 2026

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

"But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

"Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge.



Niamh from St. Andrew's was invited by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to a garden party in May to celebrate 70 years of the Award. Niamh has been involved in DofE for 5 years as a manager and an assessor.





Easy sudoku

	3			4	8	9		2
		8		3			1	5
		5			7		8	
1	7	2	4				5	
4								8
	8				3	2	9	4
	5		8			6		
3	6			5		8		
8		4	3	7			2	

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Intermediate sudoku

	3				2			6
7	9			8		2		
8								
		5					2	
		8	2		3	9		
	6					7		
								9
		1		4			6	8
6			1				5	

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Solutions found on the back page.



The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13: 24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Words to find

Kingdom
Heaven
Good
Seed
Field
Sleeping
Grain
Weeds
Enemy
Servants
Master
Sow
Gather
Reap
Root
Let
Grow
Together
Harvest
Bundles
Barn
Burned



Solutions found on the back page.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

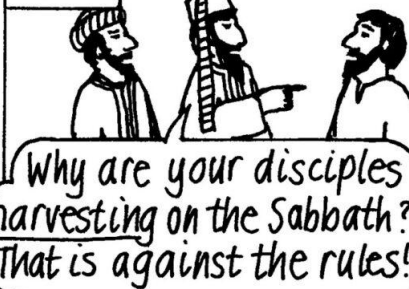
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



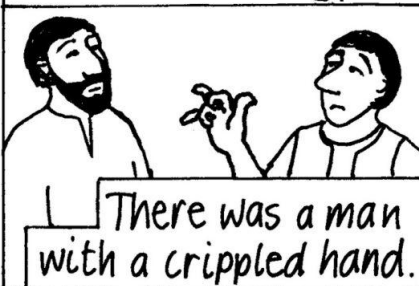
Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.





Readings are subject to change depending on celebrant. If you scan the QR code, it will take you to a webpage with the readings.

Sunday 6th September 2026

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

New Testament: Romans 12: 19-21

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20



Sunday 13th September 2026

Old Testament: Genesis 50: 15-21

New Testament: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35



Sunday 20th September 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 55: 6-9

New Testament: Philippians 1: 20b-27

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16



Sunday 27th September 2026

Old Testament: Ezekiel 18: 21-25

New Testament: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-32



A Prayer for New Beginnings

Lord of all seasons,
As we step into new rhythms and fresh beginnings,
Renew in us a spirit of hope.

Where we feel uncertain, steady our hearts;
Where we feel weary, breathe new strength into us.
Open our eyes to the opportunities You place before us,
And help us to walk into them with courage and grace.

Bless our parish, our homes, and our community
With patience, kindness, and a deep sense of Your presence.

May this new chapter be shaped by Your wisdom,
Guided by Your light,
And filled with the quiet assurance
That You go before us in all things.

Amen.

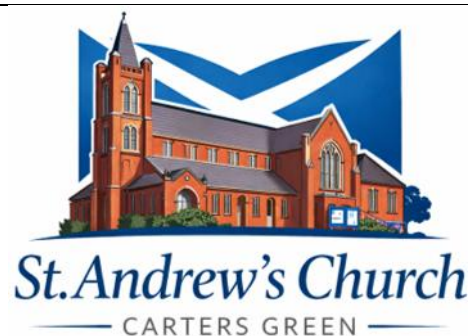


For all enquiries, please contact our Churchwarden during our vacancy;

Churchwarden: Sue Hardcastle
Contact number: 07817204597

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact our PSO:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Hardcastle
Contact number: 07817240597



For all enquiries, please contact our Churchwarden during our vacancy;

Churchwarden: June Davies
Contact number: 01922632186

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact our PSO;

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Lees
Contact number: 07950778403

Puzzle solutions

7	3	1	5	4	8	9	6	2
6	4	8	9	3	2	7	1	5
9	2	5	1	6	7	4	8	3
1	7	2	4	8	9	3	5	6
4	9	3	6	2	5	1	7	8
5	8	6	7	1	3	2	9	4
2	5	7	8	9	4	6	3	1
3	6	9	2	5	1	8	4	7
8	1	4	3	7	6	5	2	9

Easy

5	3	4	7	1	2	8	9	6
7	9	6	3	8	5	2	1	4
8	1	2	6	9	4	5	3	7
3	4	5	9	7	8	6	2	1
1	7	8	2	6	3	9	4	5
2	6	9	4	5	1	7	8	3
4	5	3	8	2	6	1	7	9
9	2	1	5	4	7	3	6	8
6	8	7	1	3	9	4	5	2

Intermediate

H	I	U	S	L	E	E	P	I	N	G
E	E	R	E	A	P	B	E	H	T	K
N	I	A	R	G	E	U	W	W	I	B
O	D	R	V	D	K	N	T	O	U	T
R	L	E	A	E	I	D	T	R	S	H
Y	E	H	N	S	N	L	N	G	D	A
T	I	T	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
Y	F	A	S	O	D	S	M	B	E	V
T	T	G	O	A	O	D	A	Y	W	E
E	V	D	N	D	M	R	D	E	E	S
H	S	E	O	A	N	P	I	L	E	T