

Govan and Linthouse
Parish Church
Magazine



Spring
2020

Dear Friends,

So how are you?

Really, how are you?

It's easy to ask the question, but much harder to take time to stop and listen to the answer.

Increasingly we are aware of the need to look after our mental wellbeing. There are times when we are all pushed to the limits as the stress of life overtakes us. Family tensions, illness, loss of friends, job challenges all take their toll. Having someone take time to listen to us may never solve the problem, but it can take some of the pressure off us, allowing us space to think, to talk and gain a different perspective about life.

Talking is good for us. Should you need that space to talk, then please do not struggle alone, touch base with friends, come along to one of our new groups and activities, or be very brave, let us know and we can give that space to talk. A problem shared is a problem halved, or as the Bible puts it, "'Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.'" (Matthew 11 : 28).

I am pleased to say that we have a new space in the building. We now have developed a small quiet room that we will use for quiet conversations and smaller meetings. I am very grateful to an anonymous donation that has allowed this work to happen, together with monies raised through the Saturday Café, we have this new space, together with a second office for the use of our ministry team. We are grateful for these donations that allow us to develop our pastoral work, and give you space to talk when you need it.

Light has been one of the themes this winter. We have just participated in Govan Window Wander Land, and have allowed our light to shine to the community at large. This has been helped by the completion of the renovation works which has brought new (doubled glazed) windows to our upper hall. Together with another anonymous donation we have been able to replace the lighting units with LED lighting, a gift that not only provides light, but future savings for the congregation.

We are grateful for such donations, as our reserves are much depleted after the renovation works, and we are beginning to watch our pennies very carefully. We may have to speak to you further about this, but meantime we are grateful for all giving, that help fulfil our work both in the congregation and the community.

We are moving towards returning to settled ministry once more. I am pleased to say that the Presbytery of Glasgow has given permission to the congregation to call a minister, and with that a whole new set of processes have now begun.

A Nominating Committee will be elected on **Sunday 1st March**. Nominations have been sought from members and regular attenders. It is important to say that if we go to a vote for Nominations, we must take care to ensure that there is representation from the whole congregation. We have only 9 places, and those 9 will meet and interview prospective ministers. They will then make a recommendation of a "Sole Nominee", and the congregation will vote whether to accept the person they recommend.

Members of the Nominating Committee need to give their time, their wisdom, and their effort, and take account of the needs of the whole congregation. The church, nationally and locally, is in the midst of change, and we need to

find a minister to take the congregation forward. Yet we also need to think about what we offer a minister and what support will we give him or her.

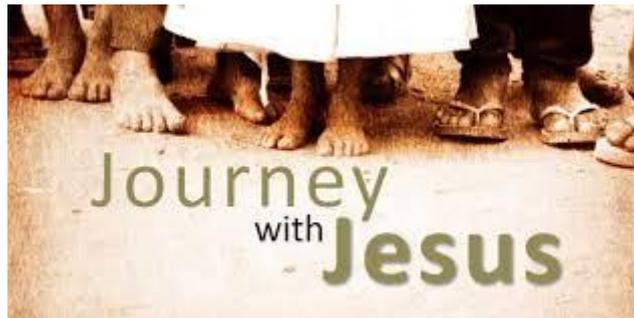
In these times, let us pray for all those who place themselves forward to be members of the Nominating Committee, and that they have vision, energy and enthusiasm to take this important task forward.

With all good wishes

Eleanor McMahon

Interim Minister

Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem



An opportunity to explore some of the stories of Jesus' life as we journey towards Easter and think what it means to be modern day disciples.

Every Wednesday in March from 12.30-2.30pm

[4th, 11th, 18th and 25th]

From 12.30-1pm there will be tea/coffee cake and a chance to chat.

From 1pm discussion and reflection.

Don't worry if you can't manage every week you'll be welcome anytime.

Ann

MORE LOVE ACTUALLY

BIG CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Silent Disco, as part of Govan Loves Christmas saw 1022 visitors to our building, in only three hours! Far surpassing expectations and projections, a huge thank you to all our willing volunteers who fronted the event amazingly.

The Govan Baby also saw nearly 200 visitors over the three night performance (oh yes it did!). We were also able to provide free tickets and refreshments for 42 local people. A huge thank you to those who provided an excellent front of house service with "home made" tablet and macaroon.



What do you think the biblical significance of a pigeon appearing might be? Birds were often used in the Bible and have hence been associated with promises from God, a sign of peace or other meanings.

A strange question you might think but I actually had a run in with one in our very own Church foyer, and no matter how I tried I could not get this pigeon back out the Church doors. I tried to shoo it, I tried throwing some paper at it, I tried everything I could think of but it would not leave.

Mid February, during the middle ages, was also a time for birds. It was widely thought that at this time birds would pair for life. That is why St Valentine's day has become renowned with the celebration of love.

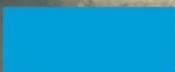
Secretly I was hoping that this pigeon hadn't decided to pair with me or the Church foyer. Thankfully with some gentle persuasion with a tea towel I coaxed the pigeon back out to Govan Cross.

It got me thinking though. This pigeon, some many would consider vermin or a pest felt very much at home within our space. It certainly showed no signs of wanting to escape to the windy wet square outside.

Then how might a person feel when they enter our space? Are we good at welcoming and loving people exactly like they are? Or like me and the pigeon, are we trying to shoo them out the door because we see them as a pest?

It certainly made me think twice on how I treated people during our silent disco, Especially one mum who re-entered our space four times to try and collect her son's lost balloon, during closing time. I hope that she felt welcome and loved each time, even though inside I was trying to shoo her out.

So next time I see a pigeon, which let's face it will be pretty often, it shall encourage me to show more welcome and more love actually than what I might normally. And that, I think, has some significance.



The Guild

I'm writing this on a very wet Saturday afternoon. I have just returned from seeing Dr Doolittle in the cinema; what a great way to escape February.

This week is the week I start thinking about the Guild resuming and going over the syllabus to remind myself of events to come.

It seems no time since we were preparing for Christmas activities. Our dinner was as usual a great success as was our Carol service, and it was wonderful to share in the Christmas services, even the weather didn't hamper the celebrations.

We now look forward to this session. On our opening night we will be welcoming back Fiona Crawford, and hopefully hearing about how her training is progressing. The following week we will be welcoming back another friend in the form of Douglas Robertson and catching up on his stories of how so many things in life point to career and choices. We will be joined again by Joyces' Voices on another night and please feel free to drop in if you've missed them before.

Our Guild project this year is supporting the Boys Brigade so that will be an interesting evening. Most of the other evenings will be about different themes which is always stimulating. We will be celebrating VE Day on the 4th May and we will be having our usual visit from Theatre South Productions on 18th May. Please come and enjoy this special evening.

This is now the time to look ahead to our annual outing...where to this year...who knows!

Again, I wish to thank all the Guild and Congregation for their support. Please come along and join us, the invitation is open for one and all.

Blessings Elspeth

God's Gang

As we head towards spring our Nativity seems so long ago. Our Nativity had an X-factor feel, but the message was the same. Jesus was born for each one of us and we all have a part in spreading the Good News of Christmas. The children truly did shine with the X-factor. Each one of them played their part in our fantastic version of the Christmas story. A big thank you to Eleanor and Jamie for the script and their encouragement. A thank you also goes out to our 'extras' who joined the cast for the finale.

Since Christmas some of the lessons have included spreading the good news, let your light shine and the Beatitudes.

We are looking forward to the Winter Wonderland. I'm sure it'll be a great success and the Church will shine on the night for all to see.



Hi All,

We have had a successful start to the New Year with Jack Chambers winning the silver medal in the Shot Putt event for P5's during Junior Section Sports Night at the Emirates Area on Thursday 16th January 2020. Oscar, Kayden, Farrah and Shaun all managed to get into finals or top 10 of some events but with just under 200 competitors, there was tough competition in all age groups.

The main thing is that everyone enjoyed the night and made new friends while waiting on their turn and we are looking forward to seeing some of them again at the International Games event on Saturday 22nd February 2020.

We have also been getting to grips with some of the new badge work and have enjoyed creating our display for the Govan Winter Wanderland Event and are looking forward to the rest of the session.

Our thanks again for your continued support.

Yours

Marion MacKinnon & Staff
119th Boy's Brigade



34th Glasgow Girls' Brigade



On Sunday 15th March we will be going to the Divisional Gathering in Cranhill Community Church where the girls will get the opportunity to meet up with other girls from all over Glasgow.

Our annual outdoor activity weekend has been booked for the 24th to 26th April at The Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee. This is always a good weekend with the children getting to try activities they might never have had the opportunity to do.

This session seems to be passing very quickly and we are encouraged to have several new girls. The children have enjoyed their projects this session and are working hard on items for our forthcoming display.

The Display will take place on Friday 8th May, 2020 starting at 7pm in the Govan Cross building. Tickets will be available nearer the time.

The Company will be 90 years old this year. We are hoping to have a church service and reunion in October. If you know of any former members of Govan 4 Girls Guildry, now 34th Glasgow Girls' Brigade, could you let them know and if possible hand in their name and address to one of the Girls' Brigade officers.

Sandra MacDonald

Thanks to everyone who has given me stamps for the Church of Scotland, World Mission Appeal for 2019.

But don't rest on your laurels, because they now have a new appeal for 2020. This year the money raised will go to help the Women's Development Centre in Sri Lanka. Started in 1986 by Pearl Stephen, wife of the Minister at the Scots Kirk there, it does lots of work, but is best known for its work with victims of sexual violence.

It can accommodate 50 girls under the age of 16 who have been raped or abused, sometimes for years, sometimes resulting in pregnancy. They care for them, help them with childcare, teach them crafts and even bring their parents for counselling to rebuild relationships. For more info, look at the poster beside the box for stamps in the vestibule.

Thanks again, and keep those stamps coming!

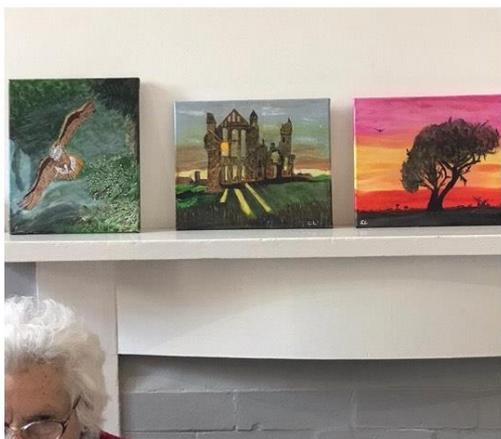
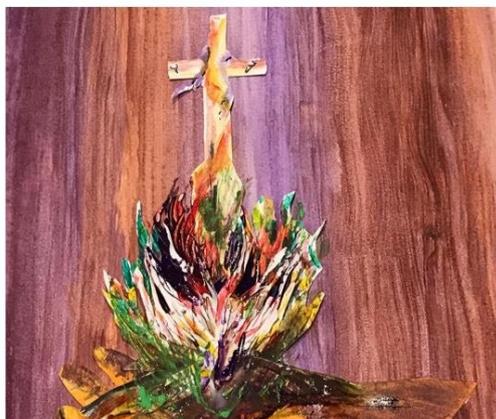
Elsie Donald

ACTION AID AND MARY'S MEAL'S

Thanks everyone for your forever ongoing support of my two charities, it really is remarkable as the years go by, but as they are both so worthwhile I hope you feel that you at least know you are making a huge impact to so many people in the world. Mary's meal's recently sent me out all these dinner plates with my supporters names on them, it was a nice touch, it was their way of saying we are all invited to sit down at their family table, a small thanks from all the school children that eat a meal every day because of your support, so thanks from me too, on constantly coming to me with your wee boxes. As for Action Aid, they were out on the street's in Glasgow recently, showing all the things they are involved with all over the world, ready at an instant to go to a disaster and supply badly needed help, forever working in countries supporting the people with farming utensils ect, helping to set up a small business , but recently working to help change the mindset of leaders with regards to girls futures, stopping young girls marrying too young, getting

educated the same as boys, and they are seeing remarkable changes already, so thanks again for all your support, just to remind you, action aid supporters only donate £6 per year, so please see me if you would like to help this great charity.

Thank You!



Art Group

The Art Group started on the 13th January and I'm happy to say every week the class gets bigger. Everyone is on different levels of painting but our more experienced Artists are always eager to help and share their knowledge with others. I have been blown away with the talent in the class and the willingness of others to learn. There's always good banter and cake so please come along and join us. F Chisholm (Founder) 🍷🍷🍷

As most of you will be aware June Little goes away to the caravan from April - September and she does most of the opening up on a Sunday. Last year we struggled to get enough helpers to cover the time she was away and this resulted in the ministry team and the MacKinnon's doing most of the work. We need to find an easier way to keep the building looking at its best and until we have someone in position to do this, we need to share the work load. There are several jobs that are done 'behind the scene' that we need help with. These include: hoovering the church, putting out the bins, setting up the church, opening up and locking down the building. I'd really appreciate if you could let me know if you are able to help out with any of the above. There is a spreadsheet which I will circulate and if you could put your name next to the Sundays you are able to open up and lock the building, I'd really appreciate it. Training will be given so you are fully aware of what is required. Thank you in advance for your help and support. Gillian



This picture is real and was not edited, the stone is real, the trees are real, the soil is real and the sky is real.

Now the only thing you have to do is to change your point of view, look at the picture upside down!

Flower Fund

If you are looking to donate to the flower fund then please speak to Jean MacFarlane. The funds are running low and the flowers are a vital part of our service as they are then delivered to someone who will really appreciate them. If you would like flowers in church for a special anniversary or birthday then that can be arranged. Thank you in advance.

Members Deaths

It's with a heavy heart that we announce the deaths of the following members of our church family:

Charlotte McNeil

John Thompson

*those we love
don't go away
they walk
beside us
every day
unseen, unheard
but always near
still loved,
still missed
and very dear.*

simply designing

We would like to thank all of the Govan and Linthouse church family for your love, prayers, care and support including flowers, cards and phone calls after we lost Charlotte so suddenly.

Thanks too, to everyone who helped in so many different ways on the day of the service - your help and support was very much appreciated.

Special thanks to Eleanor and Anne for the moving services in Church and at the crematorium, and also to Catherine for playing so beautifully for both services.

It is always so hard to say goodbye to someone that you love, but your love and support has helped so much.

With love and thanks,

John, Sandra, Charlie and the family

Baptism

Agnes Pizzey 22nd December



A SONG FOR EASTER

What is it? – a chance to meet in a small group for four weeks before Easter, learn a few songs and choose one to introduce for the congregation. The group would then sing this at Easter, with a view to the congregation joining in.

What is it not? – a choir presenting an anthem.

When is it? – 4 rehearsals after morning service on Sunday, and after the tea, for twenty minutes (finishing by 1 pm sharp). 1st rehearsal on 15 March.

What will it not be? – an open-ended commitment for the future. This is a one-off, to try it out.

Why is it? – we have been discussing for some time what the best way of introducing new hymns should be. It is always easier to learn if there is a group of people at the front leading a new song, even if only once.

Volunteers wanted – ability to read music not essential.

If interested, speak to Catherine.

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