

*Govan and Linthouse  
Parish Church  
Magazine*

**CHURCH IS NOT AN  
ORGANISATION YOU JOIN; IT  
IS A FAMILY  
WHERE YOU BELONG,  
A HOME WHERE YOU ARE  
LOVED AND A HOSPITAL WHERE  
YOU FIND HEALING.**

*March 2019*

Dear Friends,

It is now two years since I joined you as interim minister. We have travelled quite a distance with each other, and with much work and commitment from the congregation, we have achieved a return to the Govan Cross building.

We will celebrate that in a service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in Govan Cross. We want you to come, and to bring as many family and friends that are able. We will be extending an invitation to all those who helped us on our way, including our funders, our builders and architects, those in the Presbytery and the central offices, who each in different ways, have helped us along. It will be a real evening of celebration.

This service is about us as a congregation. For while it celebrates our achievement, it marks the beginning of a new phase of our life. Our new space is not simply for us to enjoy for an hour a week, to keep it as a good room, but a space to be shared and used by many different groups. Already, we saw through Narnia – the Experience, how flexible our new space is, and we build up a varied programme to which we will be able to invite friends, both new and old. On Palm Sunday evening, we will have again the Flutronics Orchestra, well kent friends, and on Good Friday, under the conductor of the Glasgow Barons Paul McAlinden, we will have a production of St John's Passion. In May, the Girls' Brigade will hold their display in the church.... a first for them.

Together with opening up the use of the building, we also want to explore who we are and what it means to be a church. This will involve a conversation with the congregation as a whole, and we will bring you more details in the Spring. What this means is that I will be with you as interim minister for longer than was first anticipated. No time has been set on when I might leave as there is still work to be done at this time.

There are a few changes that we will have to navigate in the next few months. As you are aware, George and Carol retired after 22 years in the role of church officer. The Kirk Session has looked carefully at the needs of the congregation, and we will soon be advertising a new role of Church Co-ordinator who will take over some of the office administration, together with some of the facilities management of the building. We will let you know when this post is advertised as you may know someone who could fill it. We will also be looking for someone who is able to open and close the building when some of groups and events are being held. Again, if you know of someone who would be good at this, then let us know.

We also have a vacant MDS post now that Jamie has left us. We are considering how best this post can support our development as a congregation. Our MDS posts are funded by the central church, and so we have to work in tandem with them to ensure that our posts match the criteria they set for appointment. MDS stands for Mission Development Staff, and the clue is there. These posts have to be more mission orientated, with a focus not just on the internal workings of a congregation, but supporting the outreach into the community at large.

All in all, these are changing times for every church community. We can face these changes with fear and dread, or we can look for the opportunities that they might open up for us. I have learned many things about you as a congregation. I know you are hardworking, determined and want the congregation to grow. You will face the future strengthened by what you have achieved in the past. You will bring the same gifts to the future that helped sustain you, knowing that the future will be different. We face that with excitement and expectation, that God will guide and challenge us. He will ensure that all things are made new, and that as we enter into Lent, looking forward to the journey towards Easter, that there is new life promised, with new hope before us.

With all good wishes

*Eleanor McMahon*

Interim Minister

# God's Gang

It seems such a long time since our Narnia inspired Nativity Service. We do hope you enjoyed our telling of the Christmas story. The children performed very well as the children from Narnia and then as the cast of the Nativity story. They remembered their lines and actions so well especially as we only had one rehearsal!

There was great excitement at performing in our 'New Church'! The sound system, with extra microphones, and the larger performing space were a great hit. Adam wants to sing 'Away in a manger' next time as he knows all the words – so watch this space.

This year we have talked about Jesus' escape to Egypt, FROG – Fully Rely On God and how God guides us in our life. We tried some of the food that Mary and Joseph may have packed for their journey to Egypt – dates, pitta bread, olives and olive oil, grapes and honey. Very tasty.

We are looking forward to the official opening of the Church in March. The children will be taking part in this service which will be a great celebration of our Church, our achievements and our future.

As we look forward to spring -



**For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!**

**For blue of stream and blue of sky;  
For pleasant shade of branches high;  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!**



**Amen**  
by Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

## The Guild

We are now into February and it's only a few weeks until the Guild starts back. I'm sure you will know that on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February we will be back at Govan Cross at 7.30pm. It will be a bit of a strange experience as we have been using Linthouse for the last few years and we will have to think about how we will use the new space at Govan Cross which is quite exciting.

The end of last session was very good. We had our great Christmas Dinner which I'm sure you all enjoyed and all our entertainment was led by Andrew and Sandy and our final night was a relaxing carol service. I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year and I look forward to see you all again soon.

We have many good evenings planned for the next session and will name but a few...we will have the pleasure of Eleanor speaking to us on our opening night, this will be followed by Paul McAlinden with his talk 'from Iraq to Govan'. Following Paul will be a return visit from 'Joyce's Voices' and we will be going to Theatre South in March. We will be having our usual Monday Easter service at Govan Cross for the start of Holy Week and we can enjoy the Annual Gathering on DVD, our bring and buy sale and a visit from Lodging House Mission.

This is a taste of the next few months and we will soon be deciding where our annual outing will be.

It will be great to catch up with you all on 25<sup>th</sup> and please remember all are most welcome.

With every blessing

Elsbeth

Dear Friends,

It is an absolute pleasure to take my next steps in my journey of faith alongside you at Govan and Linthouse Parish. I may only be here for a short time with you, but the welcome you have all afforded to me I find impossible to describe with words. I have been made to feel part of the Govan and Linthouse Family, and that has been a truly humbling and restorative period for me.

Whilst here I will be looking to be involved in the children and youth work within the church. I've already been involved with children's addresses on a Sunday morning and hope to become involved with God's Gang, Scripture Fun, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and the Scouts. I am greatly looking forward to getting to know you over the coming months. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to me - I promise I won't bite!

Many thanks again for your very warm welcome into your church family, and for your many kind words of support.

Yours in Christ

Douglas

### The Meeting Place

As some of you will know, Andrew has been unwell so in his absence I've adopted 'The Meeting Place'...aren't they lucky? Basically, it's a great excuse to get out the office for a while and have a blether over lunch!! We meet it Linthouse in the small hall from 12-1.30pm, it's a 'bring your own lunch, we'll provide the tea and coffee' group. If anyone is in the area and fancies popping along then just give the fire exit door a bang and we'll get you in. If you are travelling from Govan Cross, then so am I, so you're welcome to a lift. Everyone is welcome to join in and we would be delighted to see you. There's a few of the regular faces missing due to holidays and other commitments but here's a wee picture of their smiley faces from Thursday past (they were pretending to be camera shy). If you want to know more just give us a shout.

Gillian



### **34<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Girls' Brigade**

Since the last magazine we have been busy. We had a successful Christmas Fayre on 1<sup>st</sup> December in the former Royal Bank and would like to thank all who supported this event.

We attended the Narnia Experience on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and everyone enjoyed the experience. Afterwards we stayed in the church hall and did some Christmas crafts.

The girls had Christmas dinner at the Steam Wheeler, Braehead on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and were very excited to see Santa there.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December we were invited to carol sing on the Virgin train to Carlisle. The girls were able to raise funds for Virgin trains chosen charity of the year which was Rethink mental health. As this was the "Santa Express" the girls got to visit Santa on the train.

When we arrived in Carlisle, we had time for lunch and to see Santa at the station for more treats. The girls sang all the way back to Glasgow and everyone enjoyed the trip.

We were glad to return to the hall at Govan Cross after the new year.

We are working on items for our display in May including various dances and songs.

As part of the Brigader's badgework they are doing a fitness programme. They are cycling on an exercise bike on a Wednesday evening and between them they are hoping to clock up enough miles to get them to Glenshee and back before the display.

Our annual activity weekend is on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June when we are going to the Compass Christian Centre at Glenshee.

If you know any school age girls who would like to join us, please send them along any Wednesday at 6.30pm.

Sandra MacDonald

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We have had a winning start to the New Year.

Farrah, Rudi, Kyle and Angus received Bronze Certificates and Shaun received a Silver Certificate for their entries in the Battalion Anchor Section Christmas Colouring-in Competition.

The Junior Section took part in the Battalion Sports on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and Oscar, Kayden, Aiden and Reilly managed to get into the top ten of at least one event in their age group, but didn't manage to get into a medal position. However, Jack won a Gold medal in the Primary 4 Shot-putt competition.

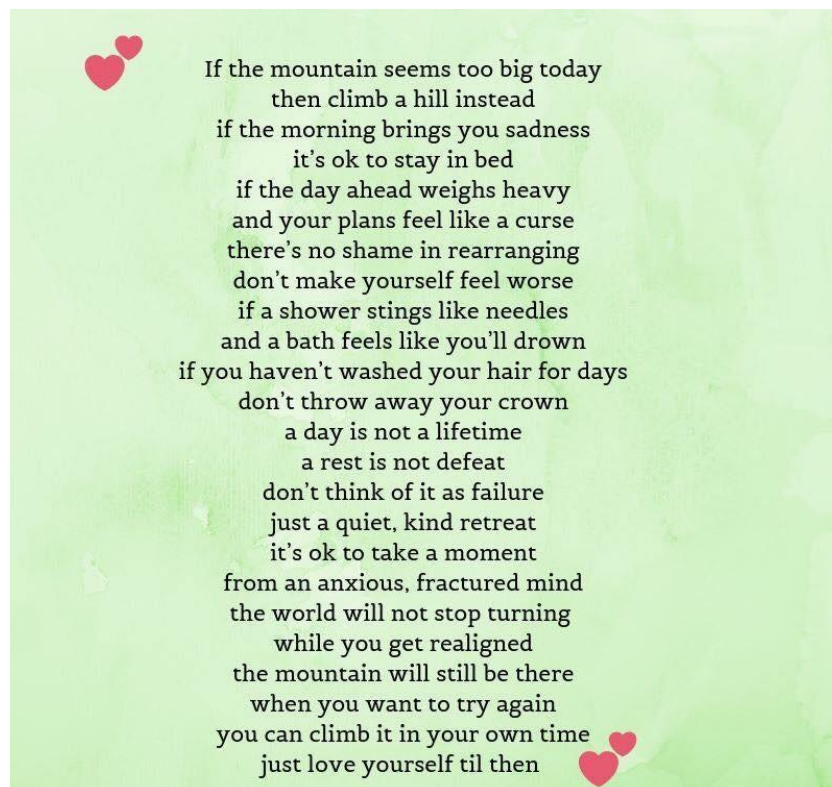
As well as this we have already enjoyed the Battalion Junior Section 10 Pin Bowling, and the Anchor Section Lego day when Farrah & Shaun had fun building a train and 3D characters.

We are looking forward to the competitions and events to come over the coming months.

We thank you for your continued support.

Marion MacKinnon

119<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade



### Members Deaths

Margaret Houston & David Sinclair



Happy Holidays...received this post card from Elsie just before I was due to print so I thought I would pop it in the magazine so you can all hear how she is enjoying her holiday 😊 talk about perfect timing



Cataratas do Iguazu - Brasil





# Ronald McDonald House™

## Glasgow

**Keeping families together when it matters most**

20 December 2018

Govan & Linthouse Parish Church  
796 Govan Road  
Glasgow  
G51 2YL

Dear Friends

### Thank You from Ronald McDonald House Glasgow

It is with our warmest wishes that we write to thank you for your very generous donation of £131.91 (via cheque on 08/11/2018). This money will be used towards the running costs of Ronald McDonald House Glasgow and help us to continue providing a home for families when they need it most.

Please pass our thanks on to everyone who donated through your collection at Church, we are really heartened by how generous people from the Parish have been to the House. It was wonderful to meet some of you for the tour of the House back in July and a pleasure to visit your Untold Story exhibit in August. Thank you for your continued support, I spotted a donation from 2015 for £154.56 which means you've now donated a wonderful £286.47! It was lovely of Gillian and Jamie to pop in with the box of chocolates too, these were put out at reception for everyone to enjoy.

Over 550 families per year find a home with us whilst their children are receiving vital treatment close by at the children's hospital. Families stay with us for as long as their child's treatment takes, often for weeks or even months at a time. Currently our average stay is 30 days (although this does change from month to month). As a small independent Scottish charity with no government funding or support via the McDonald's collection boxes (as is commonly misunderstood), we rely on the kindness and generosity of people like yourselves to keep the doors of the House open and to provide them with a safe base.

The circumstances necessitating a stay with us can often mean a very difficult time for a family, so to have wonderfully warm hearted individuals such as yourselves thinking so kindly of them can really make an incredible difference. I hope you are really pleased to know that through your most recent donation you have given just over 3 nights' accommodation for families when they need it most and this will go a long way towards helping create a welcoming 'home from home'.

Ronald McDonald House Glasgow  
1299 Govan Road  
Glasgow  
G51 4TE

Phone: 0141 201 1900  
Email: [enquiries@ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk)  
Web: [www.ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk](http://www.ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk)

Find us on





As a small token of our thanks we have included a certificate for you to display in the Church. We hope that you will be able to visit the House again soon – there have been some big changes since your last visit – although we appreciate that you know all about renovation works!!!

On behalf of all the families who will benefit, thank you for helping to keep the doors of the House open for those future families in need.

With warmest wishes from all at the House.

Sarah Sall  
Fundraising Assistant  
Enc



**Ronald McDonald House™**  
Glasgow

**A very special**  
**THANK YOU**

to

**the wonderful Govan & Linthouse Parish Church**  
**for donating £131.91!!**

**and helping to give families of sick children**  
**a 'home away from home'**

Ronald McDonald House Glasgow, 1299 Govan Road, Glasgow, G51 4TE  
Phone: 0141 201 1900 ♥ Email: [enquiries@ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk) ♥ Web: [www.ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk](http://www.ronaldmcdonaldhouse.co.uk)  
Ronald McDonald House Glasgow is an independent charity registered in Scotland (SC023199)  
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August 2018

Dear Supporter,

Your support through ActionAid's *The Next Step* here in The Gambia has changed my view towards the rights of children. With the help of Joana Mendy of ActionAid, I would like to share my story with you.

My name is Alhagie (60) and I am married with children. I live in the central river region of The Gambia and I earn my living as a subsistence farmer. I'm also a religious leader in my community, so many people come to me for learning and advice.

ActionAid organised several meetings with influential leaders in the community to raise awareness of the effects of practices carried out on our children such as child marriage. I learned that a child is not mentally or physically mature enough to carry a baby, in fact it can be very dangerous for both the mum and the baby. I also learned that children have a right to an education and to be looked after by the family until they are older.

ActionAid helped us to learn about the laws that are in place to protect children and why children should have their rights respected. I knew very little about these rights and laws before the meetings. At the end of these meetings my eyes were opened, and I agreed to take positive actions to stop these practices.

All this knowledge inspired me to educate the elders in my community about the impact of these practices on our children and to gain their support in ending child marriages.

Before the meetings, there were up to three child marriages a year in my community and the girls were as young as 14 years old. Our community have agreed there will be no more child marriages. Going forwards the parents of any girl who is to be married must provide her birth certificate before we will proceed with the ceremony.

The current age for marriage in The Gambia is 18 years. This is the law that we are going to adhere to, child marriage is no longer accepted in our community.

I feel very privileged to have gained this knowledge. Thank you for your support which has enabled ActionAid to come to my community and help us end child marriages.

Best wishes,  
Alhagie

PS: I have enclosed a photo of myself, my wife Nuimi and my 3-year-old daughter Fatoumata who I promise will go to university and will not be a child bride

We would love to continue to tell you about ActionAid's work and how you can help us. If you no longer wish to hear from us, you can opt out by sending an email to [dataprotection@actionaid.org](mailto:dataprotection@actionaid.org) or calling us on 0800 012 2038



### ACTION AID AND MARYS MEALS

It does not seem that long since I was last thanking you for your brilliant support, time is flashing by so fast. Gillian is putting a letter from Action Aid into the magazine , it lets us see how much our donations are helping, thank you all for your constant support, it really does make a big difference. As for Mary's Meals, in February, all our donations will be matched by the government. As I am writing this I am holding between £400 to £500, with still some more to come, which will take our total donated so far to nearly £7,200.00.

The latest news I received, said that Mary's Meals have now moved into Zimbabwe, and have adopted 40 schools there...The amount of children now being fed is unbelievable...All from one man's hope to make a small difference.

Thank you all once again for all your support of these two great charities.





# Govan Ceilidh



with The Charlie  
Kirkpatrick Ceilidh Band  
introducing The Govan  
Men's Samba Band

Saturday 2nd March

6.30pm–9pm

McLeod Hall, Pearce Institute  
840-860 Govan Rd, G51 3UU

Tickets £3/£1  
on the door or  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



## **Sign up for Bethany's 50<sup>th</sup> Sleep Out!**

For many people this winter being out in the cold, out in the darkness and out of chances is a reality.

However, we are not out of time. We are challenging YOU to get out of your comfort zone and Sleep OUT to support people who are homeless in Scotland.

Since 2002 Bethany Supporters have been involved in 47 Sleep Outs across 9 locations in Scotland to raise money for the life-saving work of Bethany Christian Trust. Join us this year with three more Sleep Outs in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow taking us to 50 Sleep Outs on Friday 8th March 2019.

The experience will be challenging, but it is nothing compared to what those who have to sleep rough have to go through every night. For us, this may be our worst sleep ever, but this is the reality for many people in Scotland today.

One of the stories we are sharing this year is from Constantine. Constantine is someone who was living on the streets, experiencing violence and abuse daily, "During the winter you've got nowhere to go so you wander the streets all day in the pouring rain. You try sitting in the station but the police just move you on. Which is no fault of them they're just doing their job, but then you're back out on the streets again just wandering around."

He was often at risk of violence and abuse. "Somebody shouted 'oh there's a human slug - let's see if we can get him squashed' and dragged me into the road in my sleeping bag. If you're sleeping there's drunk people, youngsters around who are trying it on... Let's have a laugh, let's pee on him, let's see if we can set fire to him".

Constantine then came across the Bethany Care Shelter and says, "The Bethany Care Shelter saved my life. At night at the door of the Church and you just know that tonight I'm gonna have a warm place, it's gonna be safe, I'm gonna be able to sleep". Bethany offers grace and kindness in the shape of a warm bed, love, security and support. With Bethany's help, Constantine moved into the Bethany Christian Centre then Bethany House and now has his own Bethany Flat where he is beginning to rebuild his life.

Constantine found support through Bethany's services but there are many more people struggling on the streets this Winter. By signing up to the Sleep Out, you will be helping to support people like Constantine, who are homeless throughout Scotland.

Registration is £5 and we ask that you set your target to raise £100. Over the years at the Sleep Out we have raised nearly £400,000 towards ending homelessness in Scotland. This money has had a massive impact on so many people's lives, but we know we need to do more. For example;

£21 could provide a hot meal, a safe, warm bed and specialist support for someone who would otherwise be forced to sleep outside.

£75 could pay for a weekly drop-in to support homeless and isolated people gain skills and build confidence.

£250 could fund 3 months support for someone who has been homeless and is resettling in the community.

Homeless and vulnerable people in our society urgently need your help. For Bethany's 50th Sleep Out are you willing to have the worst sleep ever?

To find out more call 0131 561 8924 or e-mail [sleepout@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:sleepout@bethanychristiantrust.com)  
Visit [www.bethanychristiantrust.com](http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com) to sign up today.



 Bethany Christian Trust

# BETHANY BIG SLEEP OUT

Spend a night under the stars and help  
end homelessness in Scotland

To participate please register in advance, contact us on  
0131 561 8925 or email

[bethanychristiantrust.com](http://bethanychristiantrust.com)  
Registered charity no. SC003783





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For more information on our church and activities please visit our website at:  
[www.govanlinthouseparish.org](http://www.govanlinthouseparish.org) or our social media @govanlinthousep