

*Govan and Linthouse
Parish Church
Magazine*



March 2018

Dear Friends

Oh the delight of seeing the first of the spring bulbs pop up from the ground! Such a simple thing that can lift the spirits, and create, for a second at least, a moment of joy. With the days now beginning to stretch, it is amazing how the year moves on.

We have also moved on with our building works at Govan Cross. The builders have started on the sanctuary, and we have been able to think about what lighting and heating we need before we can move back. There continues to be the juggle of finance, and with that the management of the project. I am indebted to the help and support given by Tony Ireland who faithfully supports the congregation through this last period of time, and with that the incredible work of folks within the congregation who have got on with the task of rebuilding Govan Cross. We still have a bit to go, and the journey will have its ups and down, but hey, I think we are used to that. God seems to give answers to the challenges that we face, and we are hopeful to return to Govan Cross by autumn.

Many of you have met Jamie, our Research and Development Facilitator. He has been helping us develop our community contacts, and with that he is outlining within the magazine two different projects that will help our future development. One relates to the painted windows at Govan Cross. They depict industrial Govan, and tell the story of the Govan that many of you know well. They are part of our continuing story as a congregation, marking not only our place within the extended Govan community, but they will help us as we create a new story about the church in Govan and Linthouse.

Who we are, and what we represent, becomes a vital part of our telling of our new story. Yes, we are shaped by our history, and that will remain an important part of our identity. The gospel though, is about how God continues to work in the world, not just in past times, but on what He is doing in the here and now.

Also in the magazine, you will see a report from the TSG. The Transition Support Group are a group of people from the Church of Scotland who accompany the congregation through the interim ministry period. They met folks at an open meeting with the congregation early in January, and took time to listen to the congregation. From that, a set of aims and objectives have been established, and the Kirk Session will use these to guide their work in the coming months. It is important to remember that these serve as a guide, and not simply a question of ticking boxes. We can change them if need be and provide focus to our future direction of travel.

It is that part that makes me feel excited. The windows in Govan Cross are unfinished, and the project, will hopefully see them finished. Future generations will look back on them, and on the work we have done, and hopefully find that we built a strong foundation for them. Adding to history.... Adding to His Story.... God's interaction with each of us.

Through Lent we are holding a series of Lenten Gatherings. Colouring-in for grown-ups has become fashionable, and so we will have some large sheets, available, that will help evoke stories and sharing with each other. Look out for the dates, and drop in if you are passing. We will also hold our Holy Week services, and full details are given in the magazine and in our monthly update sheet.

Meantime, in this reflective season of Lent, let us remember the grace of God that allows us to live with the imperfections of both ourselves and of others. Grace is what we celebrate at Easter. Grace as the undeserved, but wholly given love of God.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With every blessing

Eleanor

Hi Folks,

Doesn't seem any time since I was last writing to you but here we are, spring is round the corner but as I write this it feels like we are in the dead of winter. Talking of which, I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and feel refreshed.

As you know we started up a new group called The Meeting Place which you can read more about later in the magazine. It's been going well and I thank everyone for their support. This is open to all so please come along and see us and feel free to bring a friend.

Please can I remind you to let me know if anyone is ill or in hospital, it would surprise you to know that sometimes the message doesn't get passed on and as I've said before I'd rather hear it 6 times than not at all. My mobile number is on the back page so please feel free to get in touch.

Take care of yourselves and each other

Andrew

They say that time flies when you are having fun, this certainly must be the case at Govan & Linthouse Parish. Unbelievably, I am already a third of the way through my time with the Church and I am extremely thankful to all for such a warm welcome.

The past three months have been fast paced as I have gotten to know those within the congregation, the team and other organisations within the area. December saw us undertake a

'Christmas Takeover' at Café 13, an informal night of live music, food and friendship. We were able to attract fourteen new faces to the night and it was wonderful to share an evening together celebrating the festive season.

I have been heavily researching into the Govan Cross building and the community as a whole, discovering interesting stories about its history and how we might use this in the future of the Church. As a result, we have devised 'An Untold Story', a project currently shortlisted for funding through the European Festival 2018. This project would see Govan & Linthouse Parish work with an artist and the local community to re-tell the story of the Govan Cross building and Greater Govan, whilst highlighting mental health issues. It would also see the completion of the painted windows by Danny O'Neil within the Govan Cross building. If anyone has any information about these paintings or would like more information on the project it would be great to hear from you as we move it forward.

I also presented my current findings to the Kirk Session, as well as a larger piece of work about the opportunity that faces the Church as we look to move back to Govan Cross. I hope to share this with the wider congregation very soon.

At this time there is a very practical way that members could help, by voting for 'An Untold Story'. There are two ways that people can vote for their favourite proposals: online, and in person at libraries, community facilities, or at the Share & Decide Event. Everyone in the community will be welcome to vote for their five favourite proposals. You will need to give your name and postcode to vote. Libraries and community centres throughout Glasgow are aware of the Our Place Fund vote and will be able to support people to take part. Online voting will be live from 5 February – 9 March. The link to the voting page will be shared online at www.glasgow2018.com/festival2018/ourplacefund

The Share & Decide event will take place on Saturday 10 March 2018, and will be held in Glasgow City Chambers. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. This event will bring applicants together to share their creative ideas and be inspired by the other proposals. People can view and vote from 11am – 3pm, with the final decision announced at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

I look forward to sharing more in the coming months as I continue to represent Govan & Linthouse Parish.

Many thanks,

Jamie Goodwin

Members Deaths

Mrs Bessie Nicol – February 2018

The Guild

I do hope you all enjoyed Christmas and New Year although it now seems like ages ago. The time for the Guild to restart is fast approaching and we will be back to our regular meeting as of Monday 26th February at 7pm in the Linthouse Building and we have an exciting programme ahead with plenty to keep us busy.

On the run up to Christmas we had some lovely nights with the Christmas dinner being one of my favourites. We were served a delicious dinner from a lady called Margaret who comes in, takes over the kitchen and cooks up a storm not to mention setting all the tables up and doing all the dishes afterwards. I'm sure you will all agree that a dinner tastes so much better when someone else makes it and does all the hard work and you just get to enjoy it with great company to top it all off. We were visited by Santa Clause during the evening and we had the lovely Andrew as our compere. Also our Christmas would not be complete without a carol service where we sang, enjoyed readings and remembered the great joy that Christmas brings to us all. A lovely start to the holiday and now the time has come for us to be together again and sharing Monday nights.

We have some great nights planned for the Guild and we have the pleasure of welcoming back Rev. Tom Pollock from Sherbrook Church. He so impressed us last time that we rebooked him again for our opening night. We will also have a talk on our local parks one night, then our annual night Eastwood Theatre to see the musical 'Nine to Five'! This is a night we all enjoy especially if we win any of the many raffles. One of our speakers for last year was Rev Aquila Sing but she was unable to visit so I've asked her to fit us in and hopefully she will be able to visit us sometime in March.

We celebrate the beginning of Holy week by joining the congregation for the Monday evening service on 26th March. Later we will be enjoying listening to 'letters from a Desert Rat', having a rep from project 'Let's get together', a return visit from Joyces Voices, the Bring and Buy sale and the DVD of the Annual Gathering, return of the concert party, the AGM and our Cream Tea and I hope we will arrange a trip to suit everyone. As you can see a pretty busy time ahead of us.

Again may I thank Betty and all my committee for their hard work keeping things right.

There will always be a welcome to anyone wishing to visit us.

With love and blessings

Elsbeth

Communion

Our next Sunday Morning Communion Service in Linthouse will be on Sunday 4th March and we hope to see you there. Our second collection will be for The Glasgow Night Shelter.

Please also remember there is a monthly Communion Service in Govan Old. This is held on the last Sunday of each month at 9.45am.

WFO Envelope's

For those of you who are confused as to why your WFO number has changed (not everyone's has, only some) the answer is pure and simply to make our bookkeeping and Gift Aid collection process easier and better.

We hope this has not caused too much confusion and if you need any further information, please speak to June Little or Sandra Harvey.

Thank you again to all who use the envelopes and if you don't already use them but are a tax payer then *please* get in touch with us, it helps the church out and means we can claim back Gift Aid on your donation. If you are putting it in the collection bag anyway then its better if we can claim the tax back on it. Every penny counts 😊

Thank you

God's Gang

As we look forward to Easter our Nativity at Christmas seems a long time ago.

We do hope you enjoyed our service. I think all the children performed well. Remembering all their words and actions. Our solo performers and the singing were excellent too. We do have such a talented group of kids.

It is so good to hear that the children enjoy taking part. So much so that they would like to do more plays throughout the year!

On 11th February we had our 'Christmas Outing' to Bellahouston Ski Centre. The children, and Linda, took part in a tubing session. This is sledging, on the dry ski slope, sitting on a giant rubber doughnut! The session lasts an hour. Everyone had lots of fun sledging down. The walking back up the hill is a bit more tiring. The weather was cold, but sunny, which was great as the forecast had been for snow. You'll see some of our fab photos attached.

After tubing we headed to Pizza Hut for a meal. We always have to have food on a God's Gang outing!

A lesson from Ivy at the tubing –

After 1st slide down the hill - "I don't like this. Can I stop?"

After 2nd slide down the hill - "Is this supposed to be fun?"

After 3rd slide down the hill – "That was fun".

After 4th slide down the hill – "Did you see how fast I went?"

She then continued to sledge for the rest of the hour with a smile on her face.

If we all try something that scares us and we keep going who knows, we may end up loving it!

We all hope that spring will soon be here and that you all have a Lovely Easter.

Thank you

Karen Stevely





Girl's Brigade is 125 years old this year and to celebrate there is a lot going on for the girls and officers.

On 18th February, there is a rededication for leaders at the Hallmark Hotel in Glasgow. This will be followed by an afternoon tea where we will get to meet up with officers from other districts.

Our first celebration event for the girls takes place at Auchengillan on the 10th March. At Auchengillan, there will be a variety of activities for the girls and they will also get to meet girls from the other districts of Greater Glasgow Division.

Our Annual Display will take place earlier than usual so please make a note in your diary. It will take place on Friday 20th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the McLeod Hall, Pearce Institute. We hope to see you there!

There is a National event taking place on the 28th April at Kelburne Country Park. We have been given 15 places for our Juniors to go to this and the theme is 'A Mad Hatter's Tea Party.' I'm sure it will be a great day.

Our weekend away will be at Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre at Loch Tay. We are leaving on Friday 18th May and will return on the 20th May.

As you can see we are going to have a very busy time over the next three months.

We thank you for your continued support of our company and hope to see you at our Display on the 20th April.

Sandra MacDonald

34th Glasgow Girls' Brigade

Scottish Racial Justice Sunday Service 11th Feb 2018

For those of you who don't know, I am now on Presbytery's Ecumenical Relations and Interfaith Matters Committee (ERIM for short), and I hope to keep you informed of some of the items that come up.

I had the privilege of attending this service at Cardonald Parish Church. It was a very moving, ecumenical service, and during it we heard of some of the work going on in Glasgow and in Scotland. Rev. William Young told us why the work of Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking is so important and Margo Uprichard told us about The Space, in Govanhill. In The Space they are currently working with the Roma community, a group who are so used to being mistrusted that they find it hard to trust anyone. Their literacy class is not about teaching people to read and write in a second language, it is teaching people who have never had a chance at any education at all. She said that the first 3 weeks were spent in simply teaching them to hold and use a pen. Yet those same people, who were dismissive of education, are now starting to see the possibility of their kids one day going to University.

We were also commemorating some very special anniversaries.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, 50 years ago this year. We heard recordings of excerpts from some of his speeches. He said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Nelson Mandela was born 100 years ago, in 1918. He was released from prison on 11th February 1990, exactly 28 years before this service took place. He said, "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

And finally, I have to mention the delicious buffet that Cardonald laid on for us afterwards.

Elsie Donald

Souper Sunday 2018

This year we will be holding our Souper Sunday service on Sunday March 18th. The theme of the service this year is, "The least of these", and it focuses especially on children living with HIV.

As always this will include lunch afterwards. Those of you who have attended one of these before will know that instead of the simple soup and bread recommended by the Church of Scotland we always have a lovely meal of soup, sandwiches, cakes, etc. Bearing that in mind, perhaps you would like to contribute what you would normally pay for a nice lunch out somewhere. There will be Gift Aid envelopes available so that those who pay income tax can get the Government to pay back some of that tax to the charity involved. (Did you know that this adds an extra 25% to your donation?)

Equally important are your prayers, and hopefully the service will help you to focus them, as we look together at the work which the Church of Scotland HIV Programme helps to fund: work to benefit some of the 2.1 million children under 15 years of age who are living with HIV.

Mary's meals and Action Aid

Hope everyone is keeping warm and well in this really cold weather . Hopefully spring is just around the corner, as signs are all around us if we look hard enough...little snowdrops and crocuses appearing and the sun trying hard to come out. Our hearts must go out to those who don't have all the comforts of home we enjoy, the family's who continue to go hungry and have to survive in thousands of refugee camps all around the world...but we continue to help the best we can and I'm sure bring hope to lots of people. So thanks for all your continued support , we make a good team. There have been lots of worrying news lately about charities, and of how much of their donations are going, not to the people in need, but to the running of it. So I am glad to say

that our two charities hold excellent records for having as low expenses as they can, which means more of our donations goes to the actual people who need it.

Sorry, I have missed a few services lately, and some of you have brought your heavy boxes to church then taken them home again, please don't do that...several people are kind enough to pass them on to me...Elspeth especially, Thanks Elspeth

I pray you all enjoy the coming Easter season

God bless

Rose.



The Meeting Place

Since we started up the meeting place on 11th January the number have increased week on week and we have just finished one and had 14 people there. There is no set format to this, it is simply, come along, bring your lunch and eat with friends. We will supply the tea, coffee and chat. It runs each Thursday from 12-1.30pm in Govan Cross in the newly refurbished Session Room & Vestry. Come for the whole time or just a section of it, it's up to you, you will always be made welcome and feel free to bring a pal or neighbour.

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too
I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

Lenten Gatherings

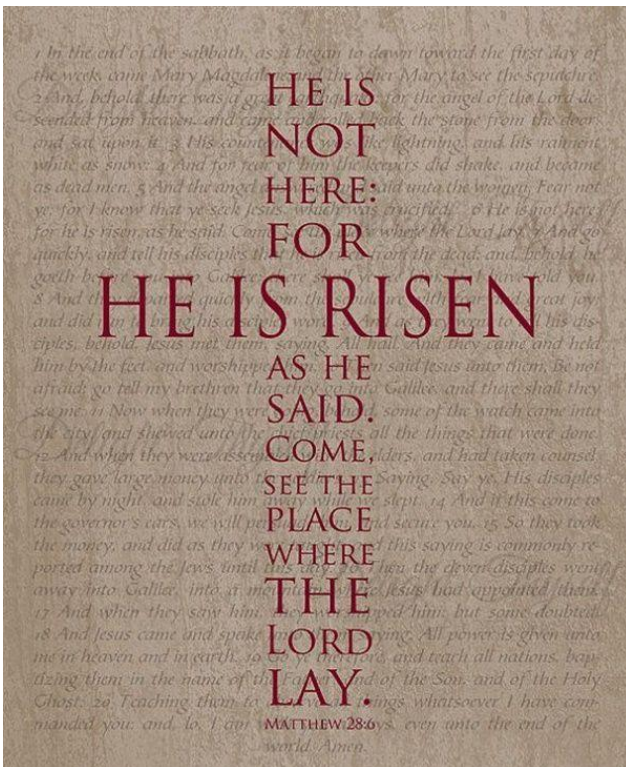
A time of Colour

Several stand-alone gatherings will be held through March leading up to Holy Week. The broad theme is The Colour of Lent. Adult colouring-in has taken off in recent years...and we will have a large group colouring in that will prompt our discussions. Whether you lift a pen or not, we will have time to read, talk, listen, laugh and share together. The meetings will be spread in different places and at different time and provide space for simply exploring faith. The provisional dates are:

Thursday 8th March @ 1.30pm..... following the Meeting Place

Monday 12th March @ 11.00am.....in the Church Office with the Ministry Team

Saturday 24th March @ 11.30am..... at the Saturday Café.



Holy Week Services & Events

Palm Sunday 25th March @ 11am - Sanctuary

Monday 26th – Friday 30th March @ 7.00pm – Sanctuary

The Tuesday evening will take a different shape and format and be held in the hall, as we are gathering for a “Remembering” time, remembering those we have loved yet lost.

On Maundy Thursday, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served, and on Good Friday, our service will consist of reading and carols for Easter.

Easter Sunday Breakfast & Communion 1st April @ 9.30am – Large Hall Linthouse

Easter Sunday 1st April @ 11am - Sanctuary

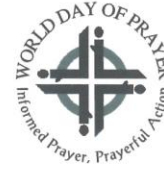
Pirie Park Primary Easter Assembly Monday 26th March – We haven’t as yet confirmed the time of the assembly but it will probably be around 10am and we will have it on the hymn sheets nearer the time.

Thank You

A message of Thanks to ALL who help with the day to day running of things, from washing dishes to collecting church members to setting up rooms etc. Your help is greatly appreciated and our church wouldn’t be as great a place without each and every one of you. Churches run on volunteers and kindness.

SO THANK YOU ALL

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 2nd March 2018

IN

GOVAN & LINTHOUSE PARISH

CHURCH, 9 SKIPNESS DRIVE

AT 2 PM

ALL WELCOME



World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee – SC 020446

**Presbytery of Glasgow
Govan and Linthouse Parish Church
Interim Ministry Transition Support Group meeting 8th January 2018**

Those present moved into three groups of 6-8, each group facilitated by two members of the TSG.
Feedback from the groups highlighted the following:

1. Coming to terms with the history

Appreciation was expressed for the ministry of the late Rev Dr Moyna McGlynn. The congregation have been well supported throughout this time, and are now looking to the future.

During the process of Union, it was commented that the Guilds had shown a good example of working together harmoniously, which had been an encouragement for the congregations to do likewise. In more recent times, a deeper sense of trust and unity has also developed, and a strong determination to look to the future. There was also appreciation expressed for the improved communication within the church in recent times, especially between the Kirk Session and the wider congregation.

A stronger sense of commitment within the congregation was also mentioned, and the view that those who are actively involved in the church are here because they want to be here. That same commitment is evident in looking to the future and a determination to overcome challenges which might lie ahead, specifically relating to buildings.

The dominant feelings within the congregation are positive and hopeful, with a determination to begin a new chapter in the refurbished Govan Cross building, with a clear sense of identity, and mission and outreach to the local community. "We're nearly there", was an expression of the positivity which was felt on the night.

It was also noted that before a new minister can be called, the buildings issue needs to be resolved. Mention was also made of the feeling among some people that there are still three congregations. However, many felt that this was increasingly less so and the majority are focused on working together as one united congregation.

2. Discovering a new identity

Recognising that this is a time of change, several suggestions were made concerning what the congregation needs now. On a practical note, and looking to the refurbished Govan Cross building, the installation of a lift access to the upper floor was considered a necessity. Others agreed that continued strong leadership, a clear focus and shared vision are what is required.

From the list of priorities in section two, all agreed that being open and welcoming to the community was of utmost importance. A church in the heart of the community where people can meet and gather on a daily basis, as well as developing a mission and outreach which would welcome more groups and activities. And a church which looks to the future rather than the past, open to embracing new ways as part of discovering a new identity.

Appreciation was also expressed for the work Jamie has been doing, and the importance of building upon this in the future.

In the course of journeying forward and the process of transition, the congregation are discovering a new identity, which some felt would become clearer once resettled in the Govan Cross building.

3. Planning for the future

In the process of coming together in a Union, determination to see it work, good leadership, and a clear purpose have all been important. Good communication was also considered vitally important. One group also suggested the importance of being open and broad minded in the process.

The images which sum up the hopes for the future life of Govan and Linthouse included:

- A busy church open and welcoming of all the community, and fit for purpose in the 21st century.
- A united congregation with a shared vision for the future and a mission to the wider community.
- A church with good connections and relationships with the community, schools, and other organisations.
- A church with a strong presence in the community.
- A church which has the potential to grow and flourish here in Govan.

Conclusion

The evening's discussions were very positive and encouraging. There was clearly a sense of determination to move forward, excitement about the prospect of moving into the refurbished Govan Cross building, and a commitment to becoming an open and welcoming parish which reaches out to the wider Govan and Linthouse community. All six members of the TSG were greatly encouraged by the work being done by the Interim Minister, other members of the ministry team, and the congregation.

Aims and Objectives for Govan and Linthouse

- To continue to pursue funding and support for the ongoing refurbishment of the Govan Cross building and prepare for a new chapter in the life of the parish.
- Consider the future use of the Linthouse building, with a realistic assessment of the resources required to upgrade the building to provide adequate facilities for community use.
- Continue to discover a new identity which reflects one united congregation worshipping in the Govan Cross Building.
- Develop further the Govan Encounters project, ensuring that an emerging project is viable, and appropriately governed, managed and funded.
- Formulate a Mission Strategy which would express who you are as a worshipping community, your understanding of God's calling, your responsibility to this community, and the direction you've agreed to travel.
- Consider adopting a new name for the worshipping community which reflects the unity of the congregation.
- Continue to build upon the existing work of mission and outreach, exploring how stronger connections with other organisations and schools could be developed throughout the Govan community.
- Explore new ways and expressions of worship and witness in the church.
- Consider how the congregation might best support any future minister, which following the sale of the current manse, ought to include consideration of the location and provision of a new manse.
- Review the current roles of the ministry team in conversation with the Presbytery of Glasgow.
- Ensure that governance issues relating to the longstanding non-attendance of trustees at Kirk Session meetings are fully addressed.
- Explore avenues of ensuring the appropriate resourcing of worship within Govan Old.
- Ensure that policies regarding safe-guarding, data protection and other policies relating to the governance of the congregation are fully in place.
- Ensure that a ten-year maintenance schedule is developed for the manse, Govan Cross and Linthouse buildings.

[Prepared by the Revd, Ian Murray, external Interim Minister on the TSG, 9th January 2018]

Dads' Group

GLASGOW City MISSION, GOVAN

Home START

Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start
Glasgow South



Wednesday

5-6.30PM

February
21st

February
28th

March
7th

A time and space for **dads to have some fun** with their kids. We'll be getting messy, building things, playing with food and growing things outdoors. It's a **great opportunity for the kids** to make new friends and the dads to have a blether whilst spending time together.

.....
Location: Glasgow City Mission Child & Family Centre, 4 St Kenneth Dr, Glasgow G51 4QD

To enquire about joining the group please speak to the **Glasgow City Mission Team** or just to find out more, please contact

Ryan via ryan@homestartglasgowssouth.org.uk
or phone 0141 570 8735



**glasgow
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CHRISTIAN CARE SINCE 1826

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