

*Govan and Linthouse  
Parish Church  
Magazine*



*Be the  
reason  
someone  
smiles  
today.*

*September  
2019*

Dear Friends

Gosh.... Doesn't time fly! It seems hardly a year since we were surrounded by scaffolding and dust strewn in our Govan Cross building. Transformation came, and we continue to build on that work. I am pleased to announce that we have two new members of staff joining the ministry team in the autumn.

We will welcome a new Pastoral Development worker, Anne Lyall. Anne comes to us with extensive experience as a member of the Diaconate of the Church of Scotland. She has worked for many years in Castlemilk, also as chaplain at the Lodging House Mission. More recently she has been an interim Deacon deployed by the Church to a variety of congregations, working to support them in times of change. Anne's post will be part-time, and while the pastoral support of individuals remains important, Anne will be looking to that. As we know, the world has changed, and so have we, and so we must adapt our pastoral structures to meet those changes.

I am also pleased to welcome back Jamie Goodwin. Jamie worked with us for 13 months as our Research and Development worker, brought us new insights into our life as a congregation. We did the Untold Story and Narnia, at a time when we were already busy, but with Jamie's quiet encouragement we managed. Jamie's job will be more focussed on developing the use of the Govan Cross building. We also want to focus on how we support All-age worship and encouraging both young and old to participate in worship.

Looking forward, we have been exploring through our summer worship how we define ourselves as a congregation. Some organisations have a mission statement that describes what they seek to do. We are building our own mission statement:

We are the body of Christ

Nourished by His love

Called to love

Called to serve

We want to hear what you think of that...does it suit us as a congregation? Does it sum us up as the people of God, in this place at this time? Will it help shape and focus our work for the future?

We want to ask you for your feedback, and for your ideas about what is important for the future. We are going to have a congregational lunch one Sunday...that day we will have a shorter service with lunch, and a time when you can share some of your thoughts with us. We will announce the date in good time.

Meantime, all our usual activity continues. Our organisations will restart after the summer break, we continue with some smaller pieces of fabric work, including the much-needed replacement of the hall windows – we'll be able to look out through the glass, and not the frames!

Over the summer we have been pleased to have Fiona Crawford as our summer student. Fiona was previously the Strategy Officer for the Presbytery of Glasgow and is now a full-time candidate for the ministry. We are grateful to the work that Fiona did for us in the background when she was in that role, and so it has been great having her with this year. We wish her well as she continues her studies, and her journey towards her own charge.

One of the joys of Govan and Linthouse is that warm welcome that you give to those who pass through for a time, and how easy it is for others to become part of our congregation. It is where

we find that depth of community that gives the love and support that is needed in life. Our own lives would be the poorer without it. God gives us His blessing through the friendship and companionship of others.

May His blessing be with you,

With all good wishes

*Eleanor*

Interim Minister

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As I write, I'm a little over halfway through my placement at Govan and Linthouse Parish Church and the time is flying past! Everyone has made me feel so welcome and has been so open and friendly that I feel I've known you for much longer!

It has been lovely chatting with many of you over tea and coffee after the service and coming along to some of the Thursday Meeting Places, not least our wee outing to Garrion Bridge Garden Centre, which was great fun! The Wee Jaunts have also been fascinating, as we've discovered more about some of the wonderful work that happens nearby. Heading to a local café afterwards and getting to know everyone better has also been a real treat! I have also really enjoyed visiting some people for whom getting to church is a struggle just now and it reminds me that our body of Christ is far bigger than those we see on a Sunday.

In fact, as we've reflected together on what makes us a church over the last few weeks as "the body of Christ," "Nourished by faith," "Called to love" and "Called to serve", I've started to think, not just of individuals making up the body of Christ, but also of the groups and the points where we meet up as part of that body. These are the glue or sinews that hold us together and each of them have a different purpose. Groups like the Meeting Place encourage us to get out the house and socialise. They are spaces where we get to know each other, look out for each other and nourish each other. The Wee Jaunt takes wee steps to connect us with agencies in our parish who are also looking to love their neighbours. Events like the Community Cinema, exhibitions and the National Play Day help bring our local community to us and having these events says something about who we are as a church. With it being summer, I know the Tea Room, the Guild, Girls Brigade, Scouts, BB and other groups are having a well-earned break but each group and event, fulfilling their own purpose, combine to give shape to us as a body of Christ, that we hope makes Jesus visible and tangible for our community.

Although I have a few weeks left, I will be sorry to leave such a warm and friendly congregation, who look out for each other and know how to have fun! However, I have learnt so much from my time here that I know will shape and inspire my ministry as I go forward.

It is an exciting time for Govan and Linthouse Parish Church and I am looking forward to see where Jesus takes you next!

With fond wishes,

Fiona

Well what can I say we've had a very busy year! Since opening up the building we have seen a range of activities from Narnia to community cinema nights, to NSPCC events, to dance groups, to performances from the Royal Conservatoire, not forgetting our very own GB display. It has been wonderful to see the building used for such a great range of activities and seeing how the space can be transformed into whatever it needs to be...it really is a very versatile space and we hope that the range of activities will continue to grow and change.

I for one am delighted that we have had all the help and support that we have had from Tony and Eleanor, from Frank and the Finance team and from the Development Group all of whom make decisions and (I'm sure sometimes it feels like it) work endlessly on our behalf.

We have been working closely with Govan Housing and the NSPCC for our community cinema nights and so far they have been a great success with us seeing families we haven't been in contact with before and a big range of ages so, it's proving that this is the kind of thing people want to attend. We all know how expensive it is nowadays to go the cinema and these are totally free events and we wouldn't be able to run them without the support of the congregation who turn up to help.

I hope you have all been online and visited our new website. This was a piece of work that was very close to my heart as our previous website and the company running it were just not delivering for us. The information was out of date, they didn't respond to e-mails, then once they finally actioned something, they then didn't remove it. I had been at a Priority Area's training event and happened to mention how bad our site was and that it was really grinding on me when I was offered help from Naomi Dornan who works at Priority Areas. She basically said, 'Don't worry I'll help you build a new one! It's easy! We'll do it together!' Well the long and short of it is that over a period of a few months we have built a new website and I am so proud of it. If you haven't visited it yet then please do: [www.govanlinthouseparish.org](http://www.govanlinthouseparish.org) It has been a huge amount of work and I hope you like it as much as I do. The main bulk of our notices and photos will still be on our Facebook page so please keep checking that but if you're not on Facebook then you can click on the 'calendar' tab on the website for upcoming events.

Over the Summer we have been visiting some places with our 'Wee Jaunt' group who meet on Mondays at 12pm, we have a few more weeks to run but we have found some golden nuggets within our parish. So far we have visited: Elder park and the Library, The Pearce Institute, Starter Packs, Sunny Govan, The HUB, but of them all The Govan Men's Shed was by far my favourite. This is a group of men who meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am-2pm. It's a drop-in thing so you don't need to commit to anything or be there all the time but the core group are. They have such wonderful energy and have created a great space for men to just go and be...if you want to get involved you can and if you just want to sit and have a cuppa and read a paper you can do that too. There's no pressure from anyone but I'm sure this has been a lifeline for many. We are very aware nowadays of mental health issues and that 'it's okay to not be okay'. I feel like people are talking more and more about their past experiences and what has shaped them or indeed what has broken them. We are all on a journey and a kind word or a smile or a bit of help goes a long way. I saw a thing on face book, as I do, which said, *'if you replace the 'I' in illness with 'we' illness becomes wellness'* this really struck me as something that makes total sense...why are we waiting until it's too late to be kind to each other? Yes we don't have control over someone's past but we can help shape the future, kindness is free so let's all please use it as much as possible.

The Meeting Place is on each Thursday from 12-1.30pm in Linthouse small hall if you ever want to pop along and join in the chat you would be most welcome, just bring your lunch and the kettle will be on.

On a last note I would like to say thank you to all who help out with the running of the church. As you know, we no longer have a church officer and it has been difficult at times to get everything done. I thank the people who have taken a turn of opening up the building and we are always looking for more helpers, so if you think you could have a turn at opening up and closing down the building for church on a Sunday please let me know. You would need to be at church for around 10.30am, unlock all the doors, pop the lights on and put the flowers in the church then wait for the masses to arrive! It would be great to have more people to help with this so it's not always the same ones...many hands make light work ☺

Gillian x



### The Guild

My, doesn't the Summer pass quickly? We are now into August; the schools will soon be back and our autumn and winter activities will be returning.

The Guild started our holiday with our St Andrews via Tillicoultry on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. We had good weather, good food and plenty to buy so we all enjoyed the day. The meal was so good that the group going to St Andrews booked it for their weekend away too and I hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

Betty and myself are busy preparing the new syllabus and are working hard to bring new ideas. We will have our usual friends with a new project to learn about and new staff for us to learn from, of course we will introduce them to our Guild.

This year Guild week is earlier so the service in the church will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September so please come along and support us, we might encourage some new members.

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are raring to go onwards and upwards in the future.

Our Guild resumes on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** in the church and I do hope to see you all there, if you haven't been before then please do come along, you will be most welcome.

Every Blessing

Elspeth

### God's Gang

**We do hope you had an enjoyable summer. It was a summer of sunny days and spectacular thunderstorms! Why do January and February seem to drag by and the summer months are here and gone in a flash?!**

**We would like to thank Andrew for presenting our prizes in June. We wish him a relaxing retirement with days of leisure, holidays and family time.**

**This year our trip to Wellsfield Activity Farm was wet – very wet (as you will see). We still had lots of fun with pony rides, bouncy pillows and indoor soft play. It was Stanley's birthday and we, of course, had a big birthday cake. There always has to be food!**

**We wish all our children well in their studies as they return to school. For those starting school, Adam, and James starting secondary school, and to all the others as they move up a school year and to new teachers. You are all in our thoughts and prayers for an enjoyable and successful year.**

Karen Stevely



## 34<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW GIRLS' BRIGADE



On 31<sup>st</sup> May we went to the Compass Christian Centre at Glenshee for an activity weekend. On our way up we stopped at Perth for dinner which was enjoyed by all.

At Glenshee, the girls had lots of fun doing wall climbing, kayaking, crate climbing and challenges. Between the activities and the fresh air, the girls (and leaders!) were exhausted.

On the way home to Glasgow, we stopped off at Perth to eat again. The girls all made their own pizza at Pizza Express. We all had a great weekend.

The leaders will be meeting soon to plan our next session and will be attending the Specialised Training day at Renfield St Stephens organised by the Greater Glasgow Division. We look forward to that!

Our new session begins on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6.30pm. in the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing our great group of girls from last session. Of course, we will welcome any school age girls who wish to join us. If you know of any girls, please send them along on a Wednesday night.

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our company.

Sandra MacDonald

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Hi All,

We are looking forward to the new session starting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019, when we will be once again looking to take part in both Glasgow Battalion and Partick District events including Sports Nights, Subway Adventure and Unknown Factor for the Junior Section and Lego Days, Panto and Colouring In competitions for the Anchor Section.

We are also starting new badge work in both the Anchor and Junior Sections and look forward to exploring the new challenges that these will bring.

The Anchor Section runs from 6pm to 7.15pm and is open to Primary 1 to Primary 3.

The Junior Section runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and is open to Primary 3 to Primary 6.

Thanks as always for your continued interest and support for 119<sup>th</sup> Company.

Marion MacKinnon

Captain, 119<sup>th</sup>.

# Shoebox Appeal.

It's that time again when we start thinking about shoeboxes! Can't believe it is a year since we last filled our shoeboxes.



The Girls' Brigade are relying on the continued generosity of the congregation to help fill the boxes. We are looking for – toiletries, stationery, hats, gloves, scarves, underwear, small toys, jewellery, makeup etc. All items must be new and no talcum powder or chocolate.

If you're unsure what is needed just ask.

We will accept any items, and empty shoeboxes, from now until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. If the shoeboxes are wrapped that's even better!!

Let's see if we can beat last year's total.

Many thanks in advance.

Karen Stevely

## Members Deaths

It's with a heavy heart that we announce the deaths of the following Member and Elder:

Betty Buchanan - Member

Alison MacDonald – Elder

*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



Opening Doors to a brighter future for Glasgow's Homeless



Lodging House Mission

35 East Campbell Street,  
Glasgow G1 5DT  
t: 0141 552 0285  
e: [enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk)  
[www.lhmglasgow.org.uk](http://www.lhmglasgow.org.uk)

Mr F Brown  
62 Cardonald Place Road  
Glasgow  
G52 3JR

28 July 2019

Dear Mr Brown,

**HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

I am writing to acknowledge and thank your congregation at Govan and Linthouse Parish Church for its continuing goodness to us through your generous donation of £161.44 (from your last Communion service) to assist us in our work with the homeless and underprivileged in Glasgow. Be assured that this will help to improve the lives of those we strive to help.

At the start of this month, we were pleased to welcome our new Chaplain, Claire Herbert, who fills this lengthy vacancy at LHM. Already Claire has made inroads in bringing the love and compassion of Christ to our service users and in the coming months she will be getting to know our supporting churches including your own at Govan and Linthouse.

Sincere thanks to all for your faithful support.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Ashmole  
Director & Trustee



Mr F Brown  
796 Govan Road  
GLASGOW  
G51 2YL

**Thank you for celebrating Christian Aid Week at the Erskine Bridge Cross 2019!**

Dear Frank

This year we had over 100 participants who, together, helped us to celebrate the launch of Christian Aid Week 2019. Everyone at **Govan and Linthouse Parish Church** raised **£182** and we cannot thank you enough for taking part and standing together so that mums and babies in places like Sierra Leone can live.

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. With your support, Christian Aid can work alongside Judith's community to build a bigger, better health centre. Your support will help to provide more delivery beds and solar lighting so that mums can give birth safely.

Judith says: 'I know that for women here, thanks to Christian Aid and by the grace of God, our situation is going to change.'

We have many exciting events happening throughout the year. So we hope to see you again soon!  
To find out more visit [caid.org.uk/walks](http://caid.org.uk/walks).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Val Brown".

Val Brown

Church and Community Action Manager

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**BY THE PEOPLE OF GOVAN**

Memories of GOVAN, told in verse, drama,  
music and images

Featuring a selection of scenes from THE GOVAN TRILOGY

**The Daphne Disaster   Rent Strikes; Battle of Govan   Work-In**

**Govan and Linthouse Parish Church**



20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7.30 & 21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 2.30

FREE ENTRY



CRAN Theatre Co is mounting a production of their performance piece "WE Together". This is a multi-media celebration of Govan people's sense of belonging and was written with the assistance of Govan folk. We are looking for folk who'd like to participate in the retelling of this story. All chorus narration is read from script so no need to learn lots of lines. Or, if you'd rather just be part of background scenes, we'd like to hear from you too. The production will take place at Govan and Linthouse Parish Church, in their beautiful new sanctuary. Rehearsals would be there too and will be held in evenings and weekends to suit. It will be fun and you'll get to meet our professional team and cast to bring together a joyful production telling the story of one of the most historic parts of Scotland.

An elephant and a dog became pregnant at the same time. Three months down the line, the dog gave birth to six puppies. Six months later, the dog was pregnant again, and nine months on it gave birth to another dozen puppies. The pattern continued.

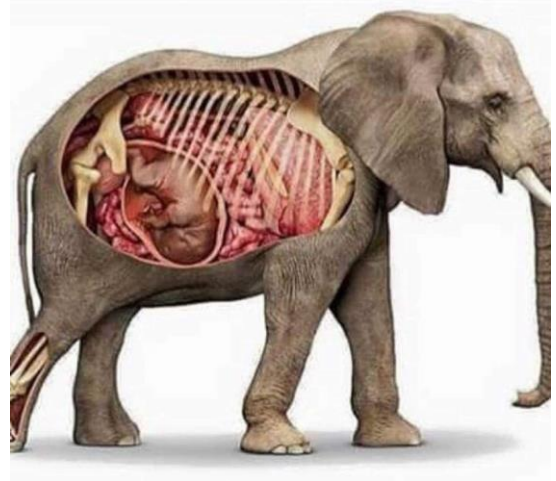
On the eighteenth month the dog approached the elephant questioning, "Are you sure that you are pregnant? We became pregnant on the same date. I have given birth three times to a dozen puppies and they are now grown to become big dogs, yet you are still pregnant. What's going on?"

The elephant replied, "There is something I want you to understand. What I am carrying is not a puppy but an elephant. I only give birth to one in two years. When my baby hits the ground, the earth feels it. When my baby crosses the road, human beings stop and watch in admiration, what I carry draws attention. So what I'm carrying is mighty and great."

Don't lose faith when you see others receive answers to their prayers in what seems like record time.

Don't be envious of others' testimony. If you haven't received your own blessings, don't despair. Say to yourself "My time is coming, and when it hits the surface of the earth, people shall yield in admiration."

Don't compare your journey to anyone else's.



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or our social media @govanlinthousep