

CROSSTALK

Spring 2017



CONGREGATION NO. 161054
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SCO15579



“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.”
Matthew 5: 4

Musings from the manse

Dear friends,
As we approach the season of
Lent, we are very aware of it as a
time of prayer and self -

examination, in the lead up to Easter. In order to fully appreciate the Easter message, that God's Son, our Saviour, died and rose again, we need to have a time to prepare. Sometimes people observe the time of Lent by giving up chocolate or smoking. Yet I think God often asks us not just to make space for him, but also to actively choose to seek him out. It could be that we choose to use a Lent devotional book, or to follow some on-line spiritual resource, or to begin each day by listening to a hymn or praise music. Let us use this period, to ask God to show us how we can walk more closely with Him.

Psalm 42 helps us to articulate that longing we have to know God better:

“As the deer pants for streams of water,
So my soul pants after you.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God,
Where can I go and meet with God? ”

To meet God, we do not have to go to a specific place - although being in the church, a place of worship where people have prayed for many years, can be a

particular blessing. We can experience the presence of God with us, through His Holy Spirit, wherever we are, and this is a wonderful thing. Yet we need to start with a **longing** for God, and to pray for eyes to discern His presence, ears to hear His voice, a heart, open to loving God more. May we all be inspired by God's Spirit in this period of Lent.

Preparing for Easter has taken on a whole new meaning this year, after the very sudden and unexpected death of our Church Treasurer, Mr Fergus Platt, on Sunday 8th of January. We were all shocked and greatly saddened by the news of Fergus's death, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with Fay and Ramsay and the family. Fergus had been church Treasurer for over thirty years, firstly in Temple church, and then for Temple Anniesland church. He had an amazing gift with figures, and kept the accounts in great order. He was incredibly faithful to His church, always willing to help, and usually with a keen sense of humour, that was truly unique. His compèring of the church Celebration concerts, along with Alison Brien, was something he enjoyed and was so good at. Fergus's singing was also very distinctive, and you always knew when he was in the church. Fergus was very kind - and often gave people lifts to the Guild and to the church, and assisted in so many ways behind the scenes, whether dealing with insurance companies, or conducting a Thursday morning service. His cheerful ways, and willingness to help, are much missed.

Yet in the midst of our deep sense of loss and sadness, this is the time when, as Christians, we realise once more the importance of our faith; for Jesus died and rose again, to tell us that death is not the end, and that there is a life to come for all who believe in Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 Paul speaks powerfully about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and what it means for us. He reminds us of the physicality of Jesus' resurrection - of the many people who saw the Risen Christ, and their worship of Him. And he goes on to remind his readers that if Christ has been raised, then he is the first



(Continued on page 3)

fruits of a new generation who will be raised to new life. And in verse 51 onwards he writes:

“ Listen, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed..... then the saying that is written will come true:

“ Death, has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ”

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, means that we do not need to fear death, for Jesus has shown us that there is a life beyond this one, in God’s nearer presence. And this gives us hope, that while we grieve the death of Fergus, and of Betty McLachlan, and others in our church family, we also know that they are safe in the arms of Jesus, that they are at peace. And this brings us comfort, and helps us find peace also.

For this season of Lent, may we let go of the things that clutter our lives and hold us back, and may God’s Holy Spirit enable us to find assurance of resurrection in a very real way.

Wishing you Easter blessings,

Fiona Gardner

As part of our theme of Celtic pilgrimage this year, we have two visits coming up on Saturday mornings in the better weather. These visits are provisionally scheduled for:

Saturday morning - **13th of May** - visiting the Celtic stones in Govan

Saturday morning - **10th of June** - visiting Glasgow cathedral.

The deadline for the Summer 2017 edition of Crosstalk is

7th May 2017

Articles can be handed to the AV desk in the church on Sunday or to the Church Office or emailed to: office@tachurch.org.uk or any other way you can think to get the information to the editor!

Congregational Register

Deaths - "blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"

November	- Forbes Halliday	Church Family
November	- Grace Scott	Nursing Home
December	- Margaret McCartney	Nursing Home
January	- Fergus Platt	Postal
January	- Margaret Chalmers	Nursing Home
January	- Elizabeth McLachlan	District 02



Disjunctions - We wish every blessing to:

Richard Gray

Our visitors from Pakistan

We are delighted to have been able to welcome to Glasgow Presbytery a group from the Diocese of Hyderabad - Bishop Kaleem John and his wife Rebecca, Rev Waris Emmanuel and Mr Ashley Farooq. I had the privilege, along with other members of Glasgow presbytery, of visiting Hyderabad in October 2015, and now four representatives from Hyderabad came over to Glasgow, after their visa applications were accepted.

It was great to see them - and Bill Gray, convener of the World Mission committee, organised an amazing

programme for them - visiting various churches and projects in the city. On Sunday the 12th February, Rev Waris Emmanuel and My Ashley Farooq came to Temple Anniesland to lead worship, and this was a special privilege.

It is hoped that after this visit, there might be the possibility of arranging a twinning between the Diocese and the presbytery, and to build on the links and the friendships which have been made. Please pray for this new relationship between two parts of Christ's church, and that this might grow and bear much fruit. And thank you for being such welcoming hosts.

Fiona

Our New Student

We are delighted to be welcoming our new student, Lynsey Brennan, for a ten week placement here at Temple Anniesland church, from the 1st of May through till the middle of July. We look forward to her coming and ministering amongst us, and we pray for Lynsey and her family in the weeks and months ahead.

Fiona

Hello! My name is Lynsey Brennan and I'm a 3rd year student training to become a minister of Word and Sacrament ministry. I will soon be coming to your church (May 2017) for a 10-week fulltime placement and look forward to meeting many of you soon to hear your stories of faith and to join in with your worship and fellowship. Before then I thought you might want to hear a little about my journey to ministry and sense of call.

Three years ago I handed in my notice at work after a 16-year career in the NHS working as a Speech and Language Therapist. Giving up a job I loved, a salary and the stability and perks of a professional career to many people seemed reckless, especially because I was a mother to two young boys and married to Stephen (who had just survived cancer 4-years previously). But, in placing my trust in Jesus I no longer saw barriers but only opportunities to serve God to the full. My sense of call to ministry first came 10 years ago when I first became a Christian. A friend invited me on an Alpha course and this completely turned my life around. I will never forget this same friend telling me that she had been praying for over 10-years that I would come to know Jesus. Wow...the power of prayer!!

Training in the ministry meant going back to academic study after a 15-year gap. It was a challenging prospect to take up a full-time theological degree in addition to church placements and training conferences with the demands of looking after a young family. However, I can hand on heart say that the joys have outweighed the difficulties.

God has given me a heart for those that have found themselves on the fringes of society; people that I know Jesus wants to walk beside. People whom, for a variety of reasons (unemployment, disability, homelessness, alcohol depend-

(Continued on page 7)

In case of Fire!

Murdo MacDonald

I will introduce myself for those church members who I have not had the pleasure to meet and hopefully from this intro, will make myself open to conversation and openness to all visitors, church members and all that are considering a passage within spiritual belief of a Christian faith.

I am Murdo, but will answer to the name of Mac and am sure even worse terminology from my apprenticeship in the 70s within the shipyard of Yar-row Shipbuilders. But let's not go there as I am sure the swear box would be full to overflowing!

I have had the pleasure of being asked to do the AV (audio /visual) for the sermons on the Sunday, along with Audrey Spence, Tom Griffiths and John Forbes, but will take an opportunity to apologise for any errors that may have occurred when I have been at the decks.

My background has taken me around the world, where I have been involved in major projects, responsible for the health and safety of those projects. Thankfully I'm glad to report that the



injuries and incidents have been kept to a minimum throughout my time with those major projects.

I have now been asked to look at ensuring that there are adequate measures in place to protect all members and visitors to Temple Anniesland Church, and have taken a look at the measures that are in place in case of a fire within the church.

I am sure that everyone is aware that the **first thing to do** if you discover a fire is to **raise the alarm**.....Now, this may be by shouting, screaming, banging on a big bass drum, but ensure that everyone within the church and the halls are aware of a potential fire. There will be new notices going up in the halls and other rooms; this will be the "fire plan" and will give you information on what to do if you firstly dis-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5) **Our New Student**

ency, mental health problems, single parenthood....) have found themselves not included, isolated and vulnerable. But these are the very people that would feel most alienated coming into our church buildings. I strongly believe we cannot wait or expect people to find us. Jesus went out to where the people were. We too need to reach out-with the walls of the church to spread the gospel message. A message that we know is full of hope, Inclusion, fulfillment and love. Being a follower of Jesus is my passion and I'm very much looking forward to sharing my stories of faith and joining in with the life and service of your church.

On a personal note, my husband (Stephen) and I became parents again on the 15th of August 2016. Malachi is our 3rd boy and is a contented wee soul and greatly loved by his big brothers: Ciaran (6) and Samuel (8). Having Malachi meant I went back to university 4-weeks after giving birth and some how God has provided the strength and sleep for me to progress with my training. I am sure Malachi and his big brothers will be coming a long with me on placement at times and Malachi loves cuddles!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Lynsey

cover a fire, or secondly are made aware of a fire within the church. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this information, but please also bear in mind that the muster point in the event of a fire is at **Anniesland Library which is to the south of the church building on Crow Rd North.**

The church will be looking further at where we can strengthen the measures to ensure that the health and safety of people visiting and using the church premises is robust, so I welcome any input from any observations you may have. After all, if we are not aware of any shortcomings, we cannot fix them.

Lastly, please feel free to chat with me if you have any concerns regarding your health and safety within your own home, as I would be happy to visit and give a few pointers.

Here's looking at improving the health and safety of all.

Kind regards

Murdo

Looking towards Easter

John Brown

I always start the New Year on an optimistic note, filled with hope for the future and for a more settled world landscape, with less tensions between nations. This may be seen as aiming high but we all live in hope don't we?

In light of the changes the world is going through at the moment, now more than ever humankind needs guidance. Being a Christian, there is only one place I go for guidance; I look to our Lord. This leads us inevitably towards Easter; for me the high point of our Christian calendar and the foundation of our faith.

Preceding Easter is the important period of Lent. This allows us to prepare, take stock of our life, reassess priorities and map out a course for the rest of the year, in the light of experience and renewed guidance through prayer. As individuals and as a community, we all perform better when we have a direction and a goal.

When I look at the cross, I think of the suffering and anguish that our Lord bore for us. Yet, on the brink of death, Jesus asked his father God. "**Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**" I realise that I can never repay that debt. It has and will continue to have a pivotal bearing on the rest of my life. The challenge of the "**Empty Tomb**" tells it's own story - the **Resurrection**, the victory that Jesus had over death.

Knowing Jesus has given me a new perspective and richness in my life and made me focus on people and their needs rather than material things. Looking at the way Jesus went about the Lord's business has made me realise that we have to meet people as individuals at their point of need. This is where we will have the most impact.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have to spread the word, tell the people the "**Good News.**" Jesus lives in the hearts and minds of his followers throughout the world.

I enjoy (if I remember to get up in time), the dawn service we have held over many years on Easter Sunday

(Continued on page 15)

Youth work update March 2017

With Ellen Griffiths

Whilst Spring is in the air and Christmas seems like a long-distant memory, the joy and fun of our 2016 Nativity Service is still fresh in my mind. Thank you all so much for entering into the spirit of that morning so readily. Experiencing the whole congregation re-enacting the events of the first Christmas together was truly wonderful and is, without doubt, one of the highlights of my time at Temple Anniesland so far. You really are a talented (and willing!) bunch!

to be working well and it has been very heartening to see new young people joining. The team and I are so excited about the opportunities this new arrangement affords to better invest in, encourage and equip our young people. We look forward to continuing to journey with the children and their families. Please join us in giving thanks to God for all he is doing in this area and in praying for the groups as they continue to settle and develop.

Now that we're well into the new term, we have some very exciting news to share regarding Sunday Club. As you may know, since I took on the role of youth worker we have been running just one, all-age group on a Sunday morning. This has had its benefits but has also not been ideal for being able to meet the diverse needs of the different ages and stages. After much praying, re-jigging and commitment from our wonderful volunteers we have finally been able to launch three separate groups; a crèche for pre-school children, a group for those in P1-P6 and another for those in P7-S6. So far these seem

We continue to support our young friend Karlho, in Honduras, whose birthday it is this month (along with many of our own young people!). He is very grateful for our prayers for him and his family. We are also hoping to work with the group from Hyderabad in Pakistan who are visiting through Glasgow Presbytery this month to strengthen links between our young people and theirs.

Our second joint youth organisation evening is almost upon us. After the success of last term's event we are excited to get together again, this time to explore our Christian roots as

(Continued on page 11)

Treasurer's Report

Tom Griffiths

Our minister Fiona has already paid a sincere and heartfelt tribute to Fergus Platt and I can only add particular emphasis in saying that his wisdom and skill in managing the congregation's finances is already sorely missed. So you will understand that this is a somewhat unusual treasurer's report.

However, I'm pleased to tell you that Elisabeth Robertson, our experienced gift aid convenor, and a number of other helpers including 2 treasurers from other congregations have volunteered their skills and worked very hard not only to keep the Sunday by Sunday collections well-managed and securely banked but also to learn the accounting systems and software sufficiently to keep careful track of all the financial affairs at the present time. We are also very grateful to the staff at our local Bank of Scotland who have been unfailingly helpful in arranging for access to the information and documentation needed to do this work.

While we continue to look for a new Treasurer, the Kirk Session on

Wednesday 1st March appointed Elisabeth to be Assistant Treasurer and she will be responsible, with the Finance Committee, for the stewardship of the church's financial resources in the interim.

As you would expect, Fergus had carefully looked after the accounts right to the end so it has been possible to put together the annual 2016 financial report which is now required by both the Presbytery and the Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh. After review by the Congregational Board, the figures will be independently examined and the accounts filed with Presbytery and Edinburgh and presented to the congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting on the 19th of March. I would have been very pleased to give you an overview of last year's finances here, but as the accounts are being presented to the Congregation Board a little later than normal this year, as Fergus would probably have said, you'll have to wait with bated breath to see the final figures at the ASM. If you want to see a set of accounts after they have been signed off by the examiner, please speak to Elisabeth and she'll be pleased to give you a copy.

In the meantime, it has been wonderful to hear of your continued support and

(Continued from page 9)

Youth Work Update

part of the whole church's theme for the year of pilgrimage. Please pray for this evening that we would have fun and encounter something of Jesus' transforming and radical love.

There continue to be many wonderful opportunities for work with our local schools and it has been brilliant to see the Primary SU group re-start this term with lots of new and excited faces!

Thank you again for your faithful prayer, encouragement and support. It makes all the difference and brings so much joy to my heart when I get to be part of events like the Nativity

which bring us all together. I pray there may be many more times like this, both small and large, where we can continue to build meaningful and fruitful relationships with each other, no matter what our age.

Ellen

Please keep checking the intimations sheets and website for further details of events. If you would like to know more about any of our youth, children's and families' work or would like to explore getting involved I would be delighted to speak to you. Please do grab me after the service on a Sunday or contact me by phone (0141 954 9098) or email (youthworker.ellen@gmail.com).

(Continued from page 10) **Treasurer's Report**

generosity, and in particular the collection in support of the Church's HIV/Aids programme on Souper Sunday at the beginning of February which raised an outstanding amount of over £550; and we expect to be able to add 20% Gift Aid to much of that. So No treasurer's report would be complete without Fergus's usual plea - **If you pay tax and have not yet signed a tax gift aid form please contact Elisabeth Robertson**

(Tel No. 959 0498) and she will be delighted to give you one.

With the potential revival of the Gatehouse and other plans that are beginning to be developed within the church to support older and disadvantaged folk in our community, your office-bearers continue to be extremely grateful for your support and encouragement which will be very important this year if the church is to give practical expression to our vision of being a caring, Christ-centred family for our community. Thank you.

Extracts from Presbytery Meetings

Anne Weir (Presbytery Elder)

8th Nov 2016 - The meeting took place in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Church and was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Jeanne Roddick .

Vacancy Business: Rev Bruce Sinclair (Jordanhill) has been appointed Interim Moderator at Renfield St Stephen's church.

Speaker: The director of Tearfund Scotland, Lynne Paterson, spoke on the theme "What is poverty?" She referred to poverty in a holistic sense, e.g. the poverty of our response to injustices, disasters, to chronic material poverty and environmental issues. Also outlined was the work of Tearfund in Uganda.

Business Committee:

1. The Moderator of the General Assembly will be visiting Glasgow Presbytery next year.
2. With reference to the twinning between Glasgow Presbytery and the Diocese of Hyderabad, applications for visas by two of the representatives of the Diocese have twice been rejected by the UK Government. Appeals are to

be made to the UK Government.

Community Responsibility:

1. Glasgow Care Foundation(GCF) is one of Glasgow's oldest charities and provides monetary grants, and often household goods, to individuals and organizations within the city boundary.

Congregations who are aware of people in difficult circumstances might consider an approach to GCF.

2. Interfaith Glasgow Week-end Club: is run by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. The funding gap recently reported has been partially solved by a gift from Wellington Church, allowing week-end activities to continue, providing friendship and support to refugees.

Ecumenical Relations and Interfaith Matters:

1.Interfaith stories - The Interfaith Programme Officer at the Church of Scotland department of the General Assembly is seeking Interfaith stories from church members; e.g. personal experience of interfaith work in joint events.

2.Education - Notice is given of a new Non-Denominational Primary School and catchment area in the North of the city, including Kelvindale.

A public consultation took place in November/ December 2016, including

public meetings.

Learning and Nurture: 2018 is the Scottish Government's "Year of the Young Person". Karen Wallace, Youth Development Coordinator at the Presbytery office would like to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in the planning process for this event.

World Mission:

1. Traidcraft - Over the past 6 years Traidcraft has given £500,000 from the sale of Christmas cards and other seasonal products to the work of Christian Aid, Cafod, and Sciaf. The World Mission Committee wishes to encourage all congregations to support the work of Traidcraft.

2. Care for Creation: All congregations are encouraged to support Christian Aid, especially in Care for Creation, and to register as Eco-congregations as well as to discover how to take practical action to care for creation.

13th December 2016

The meeting took place in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Church and was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Jeanne Roddick .

Speaker: Rhona Gilfillan, manager at the Well - Multicultural Resource Centre on the south side of Glasgow, gave a very comprehensive report on all the work done there among 52

different nationalities speaking 32 languages. The G41 and G42 postcodes have the highest density of differing nationalities in Scotland.

World Mission: World Mission 2016 Stamp Appeal - So far this year's project has raised £2,011.

Congregations are encouraged to continue collecting used stamps.

Community Responsibility:

1. An Aging Well event on the provision of continuing spiritual care was planned for Wednesday 22nd February 2017 from 1;30 - 3:30pm at Drumchapel St Mark's Church, 153 Garscadden Rd. Among the speakers was our own minister, Rev Fiona Gardner and Rev Karen Hendry (Yoker).

2. Glasgow City Mission and the Lodging House Mission are again collaborating to organize the Winter Night Shelter, with accommodation provided in the LHM premises. They hope to give each client a clothing voucher.

Congregations may wish to give a retiring collection.

Advanced Notice was given of a Children's, Youth and Family conference on **Saturday 6th May** - taking place at the "Experience" in Hillington. More details to follow at a later date.

Friday Night Fun

It's Friday morning, a grey wet start to the day. As I get ready for work I realise this Friday is a little different from most, as it is Messy Church Friday and the thought cheers me up. After work I head straight to the church; the halls are already set up and I join the rest of the team. Some are busy in the kitchen and the rest of us make sure everything is in place.

At 5:30 pm everyone starts to arrive. We are never sure how many people will come along. There is great excitement as the children sort out their name badges and meet their friends. The adults fill in the register and then sit to chat. It is nice to catch up with everyone and meet new comers. While we wait for everyone to arrive and settle there are some table games and an activity to do. Tonight's theme is prayer so we have a 5 fingered prayer which helps focus on different people we should pray for. Everyone draws round their hand and fills in each finger with their own personal prayer list.

Fiona welcomes us all and calls everyone to form a line and we make our way singing and dancing into the next

hall. Here there are games and craft activities. We often have the sand pit out which is always very popular. Everyone settles as they chose the activity they want to start with, as time goes on they move from activity to activity as they wish. Tonight we have prayer cubes and mobiles to make and a paper chain of the Lord's Prayer which we need to work on as a group to complete. I am always surprised how many of the adults get as excited as the children, when they get into the crafts, and everyone helps each other out. It is such fun and there is a real opportunity to spend time talking and sharing thoughts and ideas. It is wonderful to see the children who are so imaginative exploring and questioning and putting their own interpretation on the crafts.

Fiona calls us to form another line and we sing our way into the sanctuary. Here Fiona and Ellen lead discussion, stories and singing which ties up the theme of the night and brings it to life. Finally we sit down together to share food. It is a lovely sociable way to end the evening giving the opportunity to talk, share and get to know each other better.

I enjoy being part of the Messy Church team. I am mostly involved in the crafts but there are lots of different roles from planning, setting up on the

... Looking Towards Easter

morning. It is very moving and sincere, possibly due to it's simplicity; and for a brief moment we may capture the essence of what it must have been like on that special day so long ago. I must admit that seeing the sun rise heralding a new day over the sleeping city and our church is a good way to start our day of worship. It says to me, in a very graphic way, that we come home to "God our father" through our "Risen Lord Jesus Christ".

Beatitudes - (more in the June Crosstalk)

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the one dearest to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are-no more, no less. At that moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being care-full, you find yourselves cared for.

day, making food and coming along on the night to help or just enjoy. Our wonderful varied team with their different skills are what make it possible. The evenings are always great fun and I enjoy the opportunity to share my faith and explore it with others in a very accessible way.

So come along some Friday and give it a try all ages are welcome it's not just for the children. The mix of ages is one of the things that make it so interesting. You don't even need to bring a



child with you; just come and have some fun.

Louise Reid



Spring and Easter Church Calendar



Sunday	5 th March	11am	Worship
		6.30pm	Knightswood Fellowship of Churches service - Yoker PC
Sunday	12 th March	11am	Worship.
Sunday	19 th March	11am	The sacrament of communion will be celebrated, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting .
		6.30pm	The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
Sunday	26 th March	11am	Worship
Sunday	2 nd April	11am	Family Lent worship
		7.30pm	Youth Development meeting.
Wed	5 th April	7.30pm	Congregational Board meeting
Sunday	9 th April	11am	Psalm Sunday worship
		6.30pm	Knightswood Fellowship of Churches service.
Mon	10 th April	12noon	Easter meditation
Tuesday	11 th April	12 noon	Easter meditation
Wed	12 th April	12 noon	Easter meditation
Thurs	13 th April	12 noon	Easter meditation and
		7.30pm	Joint service with the Methodist Church at Temple Anniesland
Friday	14 th April	12 noon	Good Friday meditation and
		7.30pm	Joint service with Methodist Church at Anniesland Methodist church.
Easter	16 th April	7am	Dawn service at Dawsholm Park
		11am	Easter Communion service.
Sunday	23 rd April	11am	Worship and
		6.30pm	Evening service
Sunday	30 th April	11am	Worship
Wed	3 rd May	7.30pm	Kirk Session meeting
Sunday	7 th May	11am	Worship

