

# CROSSTALK

Summer 2017



CONGREGATION NO. 161054  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SCO15579



## Musings from the manse

Dear friends,

What a glorious time of beautiful weather we have enjoyed in recent weeks! -

days of brightness and sunshine and blue skies. What has been particularly stunning are the gardens, with an amazing variety of colour and shape, leaf and flower. It has been truly breathtaking just to walk around the park. I also had the privilege of having two good friends who tackled a bit of the manse garden on my behalf, and who made it look gorgeous too - a wonderful transformation indeed!

Our theme for 2016-17 in our church family has been pilgrimage, and we have been thinking about the Celtic saints St Kessog, St Mungo and St Columba, and the impact that their early life and Christian witness has had on the history of Glasgow and of Scotland. We visited Luss, and then the Govan Stones, and are going to Glasgow Cathedral, to remind ourselves of the rich Christian heritage that we are so privileged to have. There is a wee picture of us all at the entrance to Govan Old church, elsewhere in the magazine!

Pilgrimage is a sacred journey, walking with God, and asking for the grace of seeing the world through the eyes of Christ. And we need to know where we have come from - our history, our roots, and part of this will be remembered this year in the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation in the autumn of this year.

Yet the next question is always, if we know where we have come from, where are we going? Where is God leading us next? So, in this season of Pentecost, it seems that **our theme for 2017-18 is going to be one of transformation.** God is leading us on a journey which will bring transformation to our souls, to our church, to our community.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to encourage them, and in 2nd Corinthians chapter 3, he talks of the power of the Holy Spirit:

“ where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with an ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, which is the Spirit.”  
(2 Corinthians 3: 17b-18)

This is God’s gift to us, which can encourage us greatly, that He gives us His Holy Spirit, who helps us to become more like Jesus - to think more ethically, to love more selflessly, to be more godly. And this is not boring, for through the Spirit God gives to us life in abundance, so we can love others, as He loves us.

One preacher, Adrian Rodgers, said:

"The same Jesus who turned water into wine can transform your home, your life, your family, and your future. He is still in the miracle-working business, and His business is the business of transformation."

So our prayer for the year ahead is that God would continue to transform us, through His Holy Spirit; and that He would help us to blossom in our spiritual lives - just like the most beautiful garden.

May God’s Holy Spirit bless us, and transform us now and in the year ahead,

Every blessing,

Fiona Gardner



## Thank You

*To my Temple Annesland Church Family*

*I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, flowers and cards sent to me following my recent heart operation. I would also like to thank Fiona, our minister, for keeping in touch and visiting me during my stay in the Golden Jubilee Hospital. I am feeling the better of all of this.*

*Your kindness was much appreciated. Thanks again,  
Moira Moore*

## Letters and Notice Board



**Stop press!!!!** - there are plans for a **new drop in café** on a Friday afternoon from September onwards, from 1-3pm. More details will be given nearer the time!

As part of our theme of Celtic pilgrimage this year, we have one more visit coming up very soon. This will be on

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

This final visit will really help us be more familiar with the Christian heritage of our city and help us build on this in our own church life.

The deadline for the Autumn 2017 edition of Crosstalk is

**20th August 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](mailto:office@tachurch.org.uk) or any other way you can think to get the information to the editor!

# Congregational Register

**Baptism** - we give thanks for the baptism of:

April - Ali Khajeh

**Deaths** - “blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”

February - Robert Somerville (District 18)

February - Isa Watson (Nursing Home)

February - Ellen Dunn (District 10)

March - Nancy Clark (Nursing Home)

April - Peter Campbell (District 15)

**Disjunctions** - We wish every blessing to:

Ramsay Platt

**New Members** – we extend a warm welcome to:

Debbie Lea-Young

Ali Khajeh



## Prayers

There are many changes coming up in the new session - for our Youth and Family worker - Ellen Griffiths - will be getting married, and moving on to a new chapter in her life. We wish her and Al every blessing on their wedding in August, and on their married life together.

Ellen has been working with us as part time youth and family worker for the last three years, and it has been a privilege to have her about. She has her own distinctive style, and has worked tirelessly in the Sunday club, at messy church, in the Guides, in school chaplaincy, and in many other ways, bringing the love of Christ to others. She is always thoughtful in her approach, creative, and attentive to detail, and we are really going to miss Ellen, and her signature catch phrase “It’s all good!”. Please pray for Ellen and Al in this time of transition.

## Prayers

We would also value your prayers, as we look for a new youth and family worker! We applied for some additional funding, and are very thankful to have received this, which means that this will be a 20 hour post for 3 years.

We are also delighted to have Lynsey Brennan, our student with us, and we pray for God's guidance and blessing on her and her family, as she seeks to grow in her understanding and practice of ministry .

Our holiday club, is from 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> July. It is called " Waste Watchers" and our theme for it is transformation. Please pray for our team and for all those who come along!

## Thanks

Thanks very much to the Junior Wind Band and Brass Ensemble from the High school of Glasgow, that brought us such a great selection of music at a lunchtime concert at the church on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. It was a very enjoyable and uplifting experience for everyone present - well done to all the young people who participated!

### Blythswood Shoeboxes

Thank you all for supporting our shoebox appeal so generously last year. This year we are concentrating on boxes for teenage boys, as not many boxes are handed in for them. We hope to do 100 boxes for them, 10 for elderly ladies and 10 for children. We have quite a lot of hats, scarves and gloves, though more are always welcome but what we really need are socks for teenage boys and toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant and shower gel. Also sweets, but not chocolate. We'll start collecting around mid-September. Our coffee morning will also take place on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** so please put this date in your diary.



Many thanks, Alison and Blythswood Group

# Youth work update

## Summer 2017

With Ellen Griffiths

I am very thankful for the opportunity to have shared the updates with you, particularly this month in light of the recent announcement that I will, sadly, be moving on from Temple Annesland after the summer holidays. The preparations for my wedding in August have made the recent months pretty busy and the year seems to have flown past!

My reflection on the last term is that it has been an important one of consolidation, particularly in Sunday Club following the changes we made after Christmas to introduce groups for different ages. Relationships have deepened and strengthened and the young people seem to have responded very positively to the smaller groups with better-tailored material. I have certainly enjoyed working with them in these contexts and it's been wonderful to see them flourish as we've engaged more closely with God's Word. It is especially wonderful to be able to look forward to celebrating the choice that some of our older young people have made to be baptised this summer. Please pray for them, and all the children and young people, particularly in this time of change and transition, that they would continue to know God better and know the love and encouragement of God's family, of which they are such an important part.

Later this summer, from 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July, I will enjoy taking part in our annual Holiday Club which this year is based around the theme of transformations, thinking about the amazing things God can do and how we can be a part of that, especially when it comes to looking after God's incredible creation. Please keep an eye on our website for details of how to book a place for your children. Please also pray for the week; for the team and the preparations already in progress, and that God would be transforming the lives of the children, their families and our community. If you have any queries about Holiday Club, please speak to Fiona or me.

As the school term comes to a close, the youth organisations prepare to take a well-deserved break for the summer and, as I reflect on all that has happened over the last (three!) year(s), I realise that I have so many people to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. From the wonderful, dedicated and hard-working volunteers at Sunday Club for whom nothing is too much trouble, to the fantastic and inspiring leaders in the Youth Organisations, the brilliant and creative folk who make Messy Church such a joyful community, to being part of to the amazing school chaplaincy team; and to teachers whom I've had the privilege to work alongside in so many different contexts in the local schools; from my faithful support group to every member of the congregation and community who have all been so overwhelmingly encouraging... I can't even begin to express here how thankful I am for you all. To Fiona especially, through whom God has made these last years such an important and transformative part of my life, filled with so much laughter, learning and gratitude. And, of course, to all the young people who have filled my days with wonder, joy, inspiration, energy and so much love. As we look forward to all God has in store for the future, I give thanks for the many ways in which he has been at work in our midst over the last three years and pray that you would know His bountiful blessings as you move on together into this new season.

*Ellen*

*You are warmly invited to join Al and myself as we celebrate the occasion of our marriage at Temple-Anniesland Church on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 12:30pm. We are very grateful for your prayers as we continue to prepare for this and our subsequent move to Shetland.*

# Retail Therapy

John Brown

*The bargain I'm talking about is the redemption from sin and guilt paid for us by Jesus Christ on the cross.*

With the snap election and Brexit negotiations just around the corner, there is an air of uncertainty of what the future may hold for us all. Some of us may occasionally resort to retail therapy for a bit of light relief; and worry about the hit to the finances later. In these difficult times, for some people news of a bargain can become big news. Yet it would appear there is a bargain that is being ignored, perhaps because it is not a physical object, although on the face of it, you can't lose.

How is this for a headline?

**'The greatest bargain of all time!  
Absolutely Free!  
No Strings Attached! No Hidden  
Agenda!'**

Sometimes in our rush to find that elusive bargain, perhaps during sale time in the shopping malls, we can walk past the best bargain you are ever likely to be offered; and it is free, it has already been paid for.

We all like to get value for the things we buy. BUT ... what about that unread book on the shelf? or those unworn clothes in the wardrobe? You don't need me to tell you that your bargain isn't a bargain if you don't use it; and the same goes for the greatest bargain of all time. You can say you are a Christian but if you do not show any of the influence of Jesus' teachings in your life then you'll probably find that you are not getting full value from your life. And you know you cannot ask for your money back because you did not pay anything. So for those of us who like a bargain - and who doesn't? - the only way to get full value is to believe in Jesus and follow his teachings. When we follow Jesus' teachings we tend to see the world and our surrounding environment in a different way. Our perspectives change for the better.

We are all God's creations so the potential for that change of perspective and relationship with God and the people we live with already

*(Continued on page 9)*

Remember Easter?

exists in all of us. It just needs to be awakened. Jesus loves each one of us. We are free to make choices in our lives and once you have made the choice for Jesus Christ you are on your way.

This voyage of discovery about Jesus will awaken a thirst in you for the real water of life, the word of God. The more you learn about Jesus, the good news of the gospels and his life here on earth, the more you will want to know. It's a lifelong journey, an affirming experience and the only way to go is forward.

When you are involved in a relationship with Jesus, your life is anything but dull. You live life in a more grounded perspective and experience it in a more meaningful and outgoing way, a way that brings true joy and inner peace in giving to and helping our fellow travellers on

A Sunday  
We'll spend  
brings a week  
of Content.

this voyage through this life.

Whether we admit it or not, all through our lives we are keeping an eye out for true bargains. Personally, I have found there are no absolute guaranteed bargains in life, with one exception. I believe that living your life with Jesus Christ as your guide and companion is the best guarantee, and the only true bargain we have in life.

Create in me  
a clean heart,  
O God,  
and renew  
a right spirit  
within me.  
— Psalms 51:10

Every GOOD  
and PERFECT gift  
is from above.  
JAMES 1:17

# Treasurer's Report

Tom Griffiths

I should really call this the 'Not the Treasurer's Report' as all the church's financial hard work is done by others, but when you are in the office regularly, as I am, somehow the easy jobs end up in my inbox! So while I scribble, Elisabeth Robertson, our Assistant Treasurer and a group of very capable people from the congregation as well as two treasurers from other congregations have been working hard over that last three months to co-operate in keeping the management of our church's finances in good shape.

It's been great to see how the Sunday count has been developing with new ways of doing things that don't rely on the capabilities and experience of just one person for getting it right. With nearly 30 years as treasurer of our church and years of financial experience before that working for the bank, Fergus has been a hard act to follow. But now I'm regularly hearing cheers from the team as the figures in the accounting system are adding up and tallying with the bank statements.

There is a lot of concentration that goes on in the quiet room after the Sunday morning service!

We have also been blessed recently with some very generous donations for various aspects of the church's work, with the consequence that these donations and all your Gift-Aided Weekly Freewill Offerings and even small donations in the open plate have been added to by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Elisabeth mentioned a couple of days ago that the most recent claim for Gift Aid in April had just been approved - for about £6,300!, comfortably above the figure for this time last year.

So .... No treasurer's report would be complete without the 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.**

We do get a lot of money back from the taxman and it certainly helps to keep the books in balance. Aside from the one-off donations we have received, our weekly offerings to the end of April are a little bit down on last year. Some expenses too are down - Ministry and Mission, for example - but some are up, with the increase in

the minimum wage in April being one example. As Fergus said last year at this time, the good news is that all the bills have been paid and there is money in the bank.

With a certain close relative of mine soon to move on after some years as youth worker, we have been very grateful for the receipt of a generous grant which will allow us to advertise the post of Youth and Family worker on terms which we hope will attract a high calibre of applicant as her replacement. The application for this grant was a rigorous process with a lot of hard work put in by both Ellen and our minister Fiona. It will still be a part time (20hrs per week, up from 16hrs) post but will be invaluable in continuing all the different areas of

work with young people that the church has been developing in the last few years. It also puts us in the position of being able to expand the work by being able to apply for matching grant funding to make this a full time job if the opportunity arises.

And speaking of young people, the silent auction and coffee morning on Saturday 27th May raised the excellent sum of nearly £330 for our youth development fund. Thank you to all those who supported the event.

I know all in the finance team thank all of you for your giving. It's a wonderful sign of your commitment to the work of the church in making the gospel a vital reality in our community.

### ***Beatitudes - (continued from the Spring Crosstalk)***

*You're blessed when you get your inside world -your mind and heart- put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.*

*You're blessed when you can show people how to co-operate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.*

*You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's Kingdom.*

# Extracts from Presbytery Meetings

## Anne Weir (Presbytery Elder)

Presbytery met in Springburn Parish Church on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting opened with worship and was constituted by the Moderator - Rev Jean Roddick.

A welcome was given to 4 new members of Pres; Rev Stuart Fulton (Newlands South), Mr Paul Cathcart DCS (Castlemilk); Rev Sally Foster-Fulton (Christian Aid), Rev John McGregor (Cadder).

Leave-taking was granted to: Dot Getliffe DCS, who is relocating to serve in a church in Aberdeen; Rev John Wilson (retired minister), who is transferring to Dumbarton Presbytery.

Speakers: Angela Malloy and Graham Hyndman, both staff members at Church House and involved in all the management of activities for children and young people, gave a very enthusiastic account of all the work done there.

Vacancy Business: An Ordained Local Minister(OLM), Rev Roger Sturrock, has been appointed Interim Moderator at St John's Renfield church.

## Business Committee:

1. A twinning agreement between the Presbytery and the Diocese of Hyderabad is currently being prepared following the recent visit of the delegation from Hyderabad, Pakistan.
2. Training events in connection with the arrival in Glasgow of the 'Unaccompanied Asylum seeking Children' were attended by approximately 250 people. 85 families made further enquiries about hosting a young person. Many different Faith Communities took part and Glasgow City Council was pleased with the result.

Superintendence: A Local Church Review for Pollockshaws church was given and approved by Presbytery.

## World Mission:

1. Congregations were encouraged to support Christian Aid Week
2. The Fairtrade Foundation has concerns about what will happen when the UK leaves the E.U. Traidcraft and

Fairtrade are working with other organisations to highlight the issue. It is suggested that individuals contact their MPs to ask them to raise the issue with the Trade Secretary.

Community responsibility: A report was given of the 'Ageing Well' event held in Drumchapel St Mark's church on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Approximately 30 people attended and contributions were made by Ministers (including our own Minister, Fiona), Deacons, as well as representatives from a BUPA care home, Crossreach and Faith in Older People (Scotland).

Learning and Nurture: An international trip to South Africa in July 2018 for young people is being organised by Urban Saints: Rebuild Programme, as part of celebrations for the Year of the Young Person 2018. More details from Karen Wallace at the Presbytery Office.

**Presbytery Regional Meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.** Under the title of 'Living and Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century', Presbytery met at 5 different venues across the city to discuss 5 separate topics.

Venue 1 At Garthamlock and Craigend East church - on the theme of enabling a journey of faith; i.e. how do we create stepping stones for people to journey into a relationship with Jesus?

Venue 2 At Eastwood church, 'An Interfaith Dialogue and the people of the way'; i.e. how are local churches to connect with neighbours of different faiths?

Venue 3 At Springburn Church, - 'how do we make the church relevant to children and young people?'; i.e. in the last 10 years patterns of life and how children learn have changed. How can we respond effectively as a church?

Venue 4 At Gorbals church - the theme was Media and Communication; i.e. how can social media be used to help the church achieve its aims?

Venue 5 At Knightswood St Margaret's church, the theme was 'Finding and Nurturing Volunteers'; i.e. how do we encourage people to volunteer; and how do we support them in that role?



## 201<sup>st</sup> Brownie Pack

This years' programme has been based around the theme of 'We Discover, We Grow.' The Brownies have had a busy session since Christmas, with activities to celebrate our culture with learning about the Glasgow motto, a Burns night learning Scottish dance and making traditional flapjacks. As part of the County thinking day celebrations we visited the Gurwarda seikh temple and learned about this religion, tried traditional indian musical instruments and tasted authentic indian food. We then spent rest of afternoon taking part in a world thinking day video shoot to try and beat the record for the number of people singing one song. Results to be announced and we are still to see if we beat the record. All this and planting seeds in pots.

We have also been learning about the different British birds by trying to identify them. Some were easy and some were quite challenging. There were lots of pictures but their names were muddled up so the Brownies had to try and work out the names.

We have also been to Pack holiday

where our theme was 'Under the Sea' and included a visit to Loch Lomond aquarium. We had great fun with lots of water based crafts, activities and games. Including a water fight back at the Brownie house. We then made bird feeders to hang in the garden.

*Lesley Murray.*



## 1st Kelvinside Rainbows



This year has been a busy term for the Rainbows. We started the term by welcoming new members. We now have 12 girls and 9 of the Rainbows made their promise and received their promise badges.

We have also been working on the Rainbow Roundabout which teaches the Rainbows about the four "L's" of being a Rainbow, Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. We had exciting things planned over the last session including a Science evening, learned about Children in Ghana, and you will see from our part of the Old Hall the Rainbows just love their crafts.

*Fiona MacIntyre*



Some of the Erskine Bridge Cross walkers on a great day for a walk. The walkers were sponsored to the tune of well over £660. And with the totals from the Christian Aid lunch and a neighbourhood collection by Mabel Waddell altogether totalling at least £700, with Gift Aid the collection total should be close to £1500. Well done everybody!



The pilgrimage visit to The Govan Stones

Thanks to our minister Fiona for both pictures.



## Summer Church Calendar

- 4<sup>th</sup> June - 11:00am Pentecost service
- 6<sup>th</sup> June - 2:00pm World Mission team.
- 7<sup>th</sup> June - 7:30pm Congregational Board meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> June - 10:00am Congregational visit to Glasgow cathedral.
- 11<sup>th</sup> June - 11:00 am Celebration of the sacrament of communion
- 2:30pm Castlebank service
- 6:30pm Celebration of the sacrament of communion
- 16<sup>th</sup> June - 5.30pm Messy church! (finishes 7:30pm)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June - 11:30am Celebration service with Sunday club.
- 6.30pm Prayer for healing.

All morning services are as "normal" over the summer, and additional events are as follows:

- 13<sup>th</sup> July – Film night "The war room" - venue tbc
- 24-28<sup>th</sup> July 10:00am Waste Watchers Holiday club!!!!!!!  
10am till 11.55 each day!
- 26<sup>th</sup> Aug - 10:00am Time of prayer in the church.(til 11:30)  
All welcome.