

# CROSSTALK

## Winter 2017



CONGREGATION NO. 161054  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC015579



## Musings from the manse

In recent months I have become particularly aware of the plight of people who are homeless in our city, people living in doorways of shops on the streets, people in hostels and emergency accommodation. When you stop and listen to these people, they are someone's son or daughter. They often have a difficult or tragic story which took them to this place; young people kicked out of their home; or someone losing their job and not able to pay the bills. Living on the streets is hard, it is cold, you are vulnerable and alone, and it is easy to feel that there is no hope of your situation ever changing. Our society seems to have such a hard heart, where leaving people to rely on food banks for their food is now thought by many to be acceptable.

One of the things I always love about the Christian message, is that it is not sentimental and superficial, but practical and real. At Christmas, we remember

that Jesus was born to Mary, round the back of the inn with the animals, with Joseph in attendance, far from home. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, was not born into privilege and comfort, but in obscurity and poverty. And the holy family had to flee to Egypt as refugees, during



Jesus' early years, as King Herod ordered all the baby boys in the area to be killed. They had to journey far from home, to a foreign land in fear for their life.

Today, so many are refugees - fleeing famine and conflict and persecution. The world is in turmoil, and many are journeying, hoping for a better life for them and their families.

In the midst of all this, God watched over Jesus and his family, as Jesus' birth was about to change the world. Now the Messiah was born, the One who would save the people from their sins, and give His life, for the forgiveness of many. And I believe



that God still has a special place in his heart from those living on the margins - those who are going through difficult and sad days, because of conflict, or heartbreak, loneliness or bereavement. Often He sends His angels, to show kindness, to display acts of mercy and grace, which lift us up from the shadows, into His light. For Jesus Christ, the One whose birth we celebrate - is the Prince of Peace. As it says in Luke's gospel:

**" And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation**

through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.'

In today's world, with so much turmoil, uncertainty and injustice, surely we all long for mercy and forgiveness, hope and peace. And these are God's gifts to us, if only we will receive them. Trusting in Jesus brings a release from worry and fear, because we know that nothing can ever separate us from His love. And by this we are set free, to help others, to pray, to offer practical support and encourage, to love.

This Christmas, whenever our journey takes us, may all of us know the wonder of God's protection and love, and may we learn to show hospitality and grace to all, as God has revealed to us in Jesus Christ. May this grace touch all our lives, in this season especially.

Wishing you a peaceful and hope filled Christmas,

*Fiona Gardner*



The deadline for the Spring 2018 edition of Crosstalk is

**18th February 2018**

Articles, letters, notes, etc 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!

**Publication date: 11th March**

# Congregational Register

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

October - William Hutchison (District 07)  
November - Maye McIntee (Nursing Home)  
November - Jenny McWhinnie (Nursing Home)

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

Nancy Quinn  
Fred Quinn



**Messy church** - resumes in the New Year, and the dates arranged are **2nd February, 16th March, 27th April and the 18th May.**

Messy church is a relaxed meeting, which includes themed crafts, songs, bible stories and food. It is for people of every age, from babies to people 100 years old.

Please, if you have not come along before, do pop in and enjoy the atmosphere and the meal! 5:30 - 7:30 on Friday's on the above dates.



**Messy Church Christmas Party with the Sunday Club 23rd  
December 4-6pm!**

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**Twixmas Community Lunch**  
**Thursday 28th December 2:00 pm**  
Tickets from Evelyn Greechan

Are you remembering?

## The Christmas Choral Carol service

Sunday 17th December 4 pm

20-strong Choir

Readings, carol favourites and

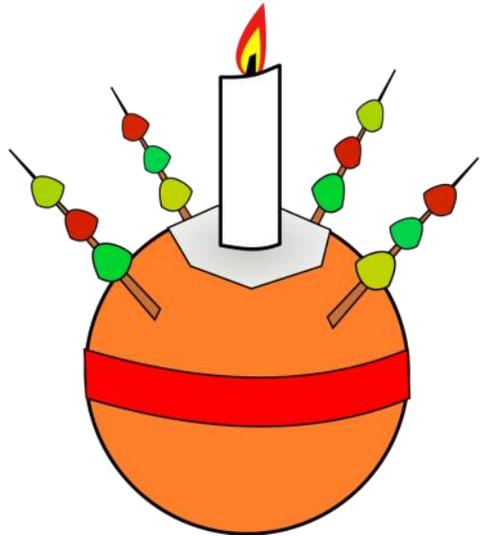
Specially selected carols sung by the choir



## Our Christingle Service

Christmas Eve 7:00pm

Bringing Christmas joy to all ages.



### Organisation holiday times;

Tuesday Brownies: last meeting 12th December. Start again 9th January

Guides: now finished for the holidays. Start again 9th January

Rainbows: last meeting 11th December. Start again 15th January

Buggy Brigade: last day 14th December. Start again 9th January

Boys Brigade: last meeting 20th December. Start again 10th January.

Thursday Brownies: last meeting 14th December. Start again 4th January.



2018 - is the Year of the Young Person in Scotland. In our congregation, we want to honour people of every age, but we remember also that next year is the year of the young person, and so we want to encourage the young people in our midst especially. Please pray for them!

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## Extracts from Presbytery Meetings

Anne Weir (Presbytery Elder)

September and October 2017

Both meetings were held at Springburn Parish Church, opened with prayer, and were constituted by the Moderator – Rev Ian Galloway(Gorbals Church).

### **Extracts from Presbytery meeting held on 12th September 2017**

Tribute was paid to the late Rev William Bryden (retired), and also to Rev Fred Muir (retired), and Mr Edwin Birchall (retired Reader).

The new Presbytery Clerk - the Rev George S Cowie was installed.

### Vacancy Business:

The demission of Rev Graeme Bell, and the Rev Dr David Sinclair was announced.

### World Mission:

Presbytery was asked to note that the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel would take place from 17-23 September 2017. Prayer was requested for a peace process to end the 50 years of Israeli occupation of Palestine.

### Property:

- a) The appointment of a Health and Safety Administrator in all congregations - this follows on the launch of the Health and Safety Resource at the General Assembly 2017.
- b) Notice was given of a General Trustees Seminar on "How to Make your

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Church Buildings Work for You” – on 30 November 2017 at the Renfield Centre. Further details on website.

#### Community Responsibility:

- a) Using information gained at recent “Ageing Well” conferences, a document is being prepared, relating to a Spiritual Care Plan, and matters in connection with chaplaincy concerns in Care Homes.
- b) The Lodging House Mission is appealing at this time for Men’s Boxer Shorts and warm socks.

#### Ecumenical Relations and Interfaith Matters:

During the coming year, the Committee are looking forward to working with Dr John L McPake, Ecumenical Officer for Church of Scotland, and Mirella Yandali, Interfaith Programme Officer at the Department of General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Committee will also be working with Glasgow Churches Together, Interfaith Glasgow, and other Ecumenical and Interfaith groups within the boundaries of the Presbytery.

#### Learning and Nurture:

- a) A training programme is available to support local congregations to recruit volunteers. Details are available

from Dawn Barrett (Presbytery Volunteering Co-ordinator) at Presbytery office.

- b) A “Core Skills” training in Children’s Ministry is also available – contact Karen Wallace at the Presbytery office.

#### Ministry:

A Glasgow Presbytery Book Discussion Group has been set up by Rev Ruth Forsythe (Presbytery Spiritual Advisor). The meetings held at St George’s Tron Church of Scotland, on one day per month, during September, October and November. More details on website.

#### Strategic Planning:

Approval has been given for the attachment of Katie Morrison (Knightswood St Margaret’s), as Reader to Possilpark for 1 year, under the supervision of the Minister Rev Linda Pollock.

#### Notice of Events:

- 1) 28 September 10.30am-2pm at Pollockshaws Parish Church. “Show and Tell Event” - sharing ways in which congregations are working in their local communities
- 2) “Understanding our Faith” Conference - Saturday 4 November at St Matthew’s Church Perth – to help people be more confident in understand-

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ing and sharing faith. Cost is £20. Booking is necessary and further details available from Presbytery Office.

### **Extracts from Presbytery meeting held on 10th October**

It was noted from the Minutes of the September Presbytery Meeting that a Service of Union of Broomhill Parish Church and Hyndland Parish Church was held in Broomhill Church on 7 September 2017.

The 2 congregations are now united under the name of Broomhill Hyndland Parish Church, with Rev George Mackay as Minister of the united charge.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev Dr Derek Browning was visiting Glasgow Presbytery during October, and addressed the Presbytery meeting on the importance of "bridge-building", in church and community.

### Year of the Young Person 2018:

The Church of Scotland together with Urban Faith are planning a trip to Johannesburg, South Africa for 22 young people and 7 adults during July 2018. Karen Wallace - the Presbytery Youth Development Officer is co-ordinating the project.

### Ecumenical Relations and Interfaith Matters:

1) The Installation of the Homeless Je-

sus Sculpture at the rear of St George's Tron Church. This sculpture comprises a life-size figure in bronze, sleeping on a park bench, and with the permission of Glasgow City Council will be installed before Christmas, and will highlight the plight of homeless people in Glasgow.



2) Glasgow Churches Together (GCT) The AGM and Lecture marking the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be delivered by Rev Professor Charlotte Methuen (Glasgow University) on 30 October at Christ the King, Roman Catholic Church, Carmunnock Road, Glasgow.

### Strategic Planning:

The Ministries Council has offered an extension of 2 years enhanced support to the Minister of St George's Tron. Also representatives of the Strategic Planning Committee will attend 6 monthly reviews in conjunction with the Ministries Council, and the Minister of St George's Tron.

# It's Christmas Time!

Some thoughts from John Brown

We are into the Christmas season once more! The celebration of the Christmas festival reminds us of our cultural heritage and the Christian values on which our society is based, like helping the less fortunate among us who have no one to turn to when life's a struggle. When we spend time with them and offer the hand of friendship, we are following a well trodden path...

Something wonderful happens to many people during the Christmas season - they become more pleasant, and often rediscover their humanity and goodness. This is the effect that Christmas can have. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could bottle this "Christmas Spirit" and dispense it throughout the year? What a difference that would make!

Christmas helps us remember God's love for us in sending his only son, Jesus Christ, to live among us, as a tangible demonstration of the fullness of that love. Most Christians I know are of a cheery disposition, living their lives under God's grace. Every day, knowing Jesus and living within his love and guidance gives us a fresh impetus for making each new day a wholly positive experience.

Do you sometimes say to yourself, "If only I could open my inner self more easily to God and bask in the warmth of that love, so that I can offer it in return". Well, why not spend time with that thought? God sees us as we really are, without the layers we place on top to protect us from the hurts life throws at us. Doesn't this tell us something? Love helps us to see people differently, do things differently. Doesn't even human love do new things in our lives? What can really knowing that we are loved by God change?

We may find a new direction through that love as Jesus shows us; and live a richer, fuller and more satisfying life in the service of him and others. I believe that Christ can and does transcend cultural boundaries and get us out of living our lives in familiar patterns with familiar people. I feel a sign of this is that at Christmas time we all act a little more like Jesus and display to others the good qualities that are inherent in all of us.

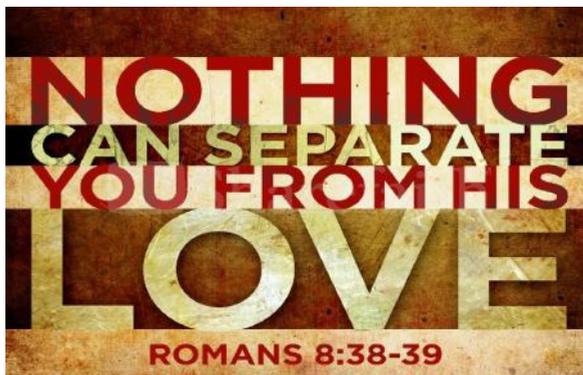
Some people do not go to church regularly but do turn up for the Christmas Watch night service. Perhaps it brings back happy family memories of bygone days. Sometimes there is part of them that wants to get away from the rather too obvious razzmatazz of the season and spend time again with the love that brings light into the dark places in our soul.

Although an annual event, I never tire of hearing the Christmas story. A good few years ago, we had a life size Tableau Nativity Scene setting in the New Hall at church. This was for me a very emotive event, even though it was in essence "Still Life". It said many things to me but especially that God wants to be lovingly close to the part of his creation that I am.

Jesus Christ came into our world to show us how to live, in peace and love with our neighbours. Our Christmas Eve Watch night service, telling of the birth of Jesus, can be a very personal and intimate experience, one to remind us how we must come to Christ, 'to be born again' into a new life. It's also a time when we can discover the full thankfulness that can well up in our hearts and realise again that we can be the bottles that dispense the 'Christmas Spirit' every day of the year, bringing love to others because we have opened our inner selves to God's love.

What gift can we give Jesus on his birthday? Perhaps we can all allow some the love in us to glow and follow Jesus example and spread the "Good News" by reflecting him in our in words and action. The birth of Jesus should be recognised for what it was and is, a life changing event for some. Will you let love do things differently in you?

May you all know peace, happiness, hope - and Jesus in this festive season.



## Winter Church Calendar



10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:00am	<b>The Sacrament of Communion</b>
	2:30pm	Castlebank Gardens service
	5:00pm	Lighting of the Christmas tree at Anniesland Cross - tea/coffee afterwards
	6.30pm	<b>The Sacrament of Communion</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Third Sunday in Advent - Youth service and the sacrament of baptism.
	4:00pm	<b>Choral Christmas Carol service</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	4:00 to 6:00pm	<b>Messy Church and Sunday Club Party!</b>
24 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	<b>Christmas Family Service</b>
	7pm	<b>Christingle service</b>
	11:30 pm	<u><b>Watchnight service</b></u> with carols from 11:15 pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Christmas Day Family service - bring your toys!
28 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Twixmas(Community) Lunch
31 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am	Worship
2018		
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11:00 am	Worship with informal communion

