



# **Shettleston New Church**

**Church of Scotland**

**Messenger - online version**



**April 2022**



## APRIL 2022

Dear Friends

It's been a long road, but, after a little over 2 years, we are finally able to return to having worship services that are similar to those we had pre-COVID, with most restrictions, especially the requirement to wear face masks, having now been relaxed.

That's not to say that COVID -19 has disappeared. Indeed, cases now seem more prevalent than ever and continue to impose pressure on the NHS. Thankfully however, in the vast majority of cases, they are far less serious than they were 2 years ago. And though isolated tragedies still occur, it seems that, as a society, we have largely taken the sting out of this horrible disease.

I think there is a parallel here with the events of Easter. After Jesus rose from the grave, death remained a reality for his followers. Indeed, due to brutal persecution, life could be very challenging and death was perhaps more 'prevalent' than it was before. But, for those who had put their faith in Jesus, the grave no longer held the terror that it did previously. As the Apostle Paul puts it, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Through his resurrection and subsequent ascension, Jesus had shown that death was not the end of story, and that those who follow him in this life could continue to follow him through death and into eternal life in God's presence. So, as Easter Sunday arrives, let's make the most of our newly-reclaimed freedoms to celebrate that wonderful truth. As my favourite Easter hymn puts it:

Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.  
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.*

Wishing you all a very happy Easter,  
Louis

### ENDING THE REQUIREMENT TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH

There is no longer any legal requirement to wear face coverings to services of worship. However, we are conscious that members of the congregation will have a range of different views on this and we are therefore requesting that people adhere to the following guidance:

1. Everyone should wear a mask when arriving at church or moving around in the building. However, those who are downstairs in the sanctuary can remove their masks once seated.
2. Social distancing is no longer a requirement but we would ask people to be respectful of other worshippers (who may be more risk averse than you are).
3. The balcony will remain as an area where face masks are required and where 2m distancing will continue to be observed – please sit only in designated seats.
4. Folk intending to sit downstairs should continue to arrive via the back door, although there is no longer any need to sign-in for Test and Protect purposes. Folk intending to sit upstairs may prefer to use the front door to provide easier access to the balcony.

Please note that these changes apply only to worship services. Midweek activities at church are subject to the same restrictions as before (including the need for face coverings) until 18 April. Tea and coffee are now being served after the Sunday morning service.

Please note that, with the lifting of face mask restrictions, we will be returning to a slightly longer service including a Learning Together section, so children should come through to the sanctuary initially before heading out to their own activities after Learning Together.

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

10 April 2022 – Palm Sunday Service at 11 am

14 April 2022 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7.30 pm

15 April 2022 - Good Friday Service at 7.30 pm

17 April 2022 - Easter Sunday Service at 11 am

### **PRAYER WALK THRU EXPERIENCE**

Prayer is fundamental in our journey as Christians. Holy Week gives us an opportunity to speak with God and listen to what He has to say. On Maundy Thursday (14 April) and Good Friday (15 April) between 1 pm and 4 pm we will have a Walk Thru Prayer Experience in the church. The church will be open between these times and you can come and participate in prayer. There are 8 prayer stations to help reflect on different areas of prayer. Entry will be through the double doors on the Old Shettleston Road side of the building, and you will walk through a path in the church hall, exiting through the cafe door. It will be self led, meaning you walk through the experience at your own pace. You can come at any time during 1-4 pm on these 2 days. Should you wish some personal prayer, then space is available for this too. We hope to see you for this Walk Thru Prayer Experience during Holy Week.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations and best wishes to

- Amy and David B on the birth of baby Sophie.
- Douglas R on his recent engagement to Kim H.

### **CHURCH CAFE AREA**

Thank you very much to all the members of the congregation who have volunteered to help with any of the "cafe" ventures.

We are short of one person for the Sunday teas to allow us to be on a 4 weekly rota. We have made the Sunday teas much easier at the moment by using good quality recyclable disposable cups.

We shall be guided by Covid restrictions and by consultation with the volunteers, as to the future service.

The New Place (Friday 10.30 am till 12 noon) and the Wednesday lunches (12 noon) are both running well. Numbers are not yet at pre-Covid levels but we are sure that will happen in time.

## **DISCIPLESHIP FACILITATOR**

Spring has truly sprung and the signs are all around us! The weather is warmer and the sun is in the sky. (Ok, as I write this I am looking out my window to grey clouds, wet pavements and trees bending in a stiff breeze!) There are other signs though of flowers blooming and the bird song. There is also the encouragement of groups and activities coming back to the church. The Guild was one such group that was back for eight weeks before their summer recess. At their first session folks were asked to share their stories and experiences of the lockdown. Inevitably there were tales of sadness and frustration, but there were also tales of joy. Signs of where God had been at work in the lives.

Often it is said that it is so much easier to talk the talk than walk the walk. Well, in the Church of Scotland, we do things a little backwards! We are great at walking the walk. No seriously, we are! Look at the money that was collected for the Ukraine crisis recently. Look at the volunteering hours that are given to serve the church in cleaning; cooking; serving on committees; running organisations like the Guild, Men's Fellowship, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, BB, X-Zone and Y-Zone; the number of pastoral visits and phone calls that take place during a week – and that's just the tip of the iceberg! No, we do walking the walk in Faith quite well at Shettleston New, though there is always room for more! What we struggle with (and I include myself) is talking the talk. We don't include God in our conversations. We don't say why we do what we do. So, friends, I encourage you as the weather improves and groups like the New Place and Wednesday lunches get back and you meet more people, let your conversation go beyond what you have done and what your plans are. Share where God has led you. Share the good God has brought into your life.

As we journey towards Easter and on into Spring, I wish you all blessings

*Douglas*

## **FASHION SALE – TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

Back by popular demand, just 2 years later than originally planned! Our fashion sale by Taylor Fashions is booked for Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.30 pm. We are informed that they have an excellent stock of ladies fashions, all at bargain prices. Even if you don't buy anything it is worth the ticket money just for the patter. Feedback from previous shows has been really good – customers were delighted with their purchases. Covid restrictions permitting, a dressing room will be provided so that clothes can be tried on. Payment can be by cash, cheque or bank card.

Tickets are now on sale priced £3 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits and can be obtained from Grace D and Margaret S. Hope to see you there. Even better – bring a friend.

## **COMMUNITY CHOIR**

The Community Choir meets on Thursday evenings from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm, although it is currently on its Easter break. The cost is £5 per session. Last term, our theme was 'Music from the Movies' and we'd like to express our thanks to everyone who came out to support us at the Gala Night at Cathcart Trinity last month.

The choir will restart on Thursday 21 April with a welcome event which will be free to new members. In the following weeks, we will be practising for a Musical Supper event to be held on the 24 June. More details to follow nearer the time.

## **THANKS**

The McNider Family would like to thank Louis for his spiritual comfort on the passing of Ian. We would also like to thank everyone for prayers, cards and lovely letters. They were of great comfort to us. Thank you all who attended or watched Ian's funeral online. We would like to thank you for the Church Flowers on Sunday 12 December and also for the beautiful Christmas Flower arrangements on the day of the funeral.

God Bless you all.

*Janice, Gordon, Kelly-Ann and Sister-in-Law Elizabeth*

We would like to thank the Church family for all their prayers and good wishes upon the arrival of the newest addition to our family. We are very grateful for all the lovely gifts and cards that we have received for Holly and look forward to being able to rejoin Sunday worship and introducing her to everyone.

*Jemma, Iain, Grace and Holly K*

Thank you for the church flowers I received recently. They were greatly appreciated.

*Denise B*

## OFFERING AT BETTY WAUGH'S THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We thought it would be good to send you all one last email. We trust that you are well, and that if you did not manage to come to the Thanksgiving Service for Betty you were able to see it on-line.

You will remember that we took a special offering for Raising Futures Kenya (formerly Vision Africa), the charity which was so close to Betty's heart and which she helped and supported in a variety of ways. You will be pleased to know that the sum of £600 was raised at the service - a truly amazing amount. What is even more wonderful is that, because we waited until the first week of November to transfer the money, the amount was doubled because of the Big Give Christmas Challenge. Along with a separate gift of £500 donated at the same time, this meant that in total £2,200 was raised!

The money raised will be put towards a new business hub in Kitui for graduates to use when they start their business. A plaque will be put there with the wording ***"In loving memory of Betty Waugh, from Glasgow, who kindly supported Raising Futures Kenya for over 20 years"***. We are so pleased to be able to give you this news - a truly fitting tribute to our lovely friend.

Thank you once again for support over the past months. It has been good to meet up with so many of Betty's and our own friends over this past year. May we take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing.

*Hazel and Irene*

## JUNE COMMUNION

This has been brought forward to 5 June.

Craig, Amanda and Sam C will be at the service on 12 June. Louis will be on holiday that Sunday but Douglas will be leading, while Craig will be preaching.

## "In Sweet Remembrance and with Grateful Thanks"

The list for flower donors in 2022 is now in operation. During lockdown and in the months following it, we have lost several people who regularly donated the flowers, while it has been difficult to contact others. If you would like to provide the flowers on a specific date please see Margaret S after the service and add your name to the list or confirm that your date is booked.



Flowers are distributed after the morning service. We would like a volunteer to organise this, hopefully with a small team of people to assist. Can you help? Details of what is involved can be had from Margaret.

## ALTERATIONS 4U

If you would like to have clothes altered to fit, and help our Building Fund at the same time, then Alterations 4U is just what you need. Just bring the garment/s to church with a note of the change you wish. See Christine H.

## **TEDDY AND DOLLY OUTFITS/BABY AND CHILDREN'S JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS**

In the many months since the first lockdown began we have been building up stock. Thanks to people who have requested goods, and sales at the re-opened Tots' Group, Wednesday Lunches and New Place, we have started raising a little towards our Building Fund. As well as cardigans, hats, etc for babies and children, we have crocheted pram rugs/knee blankets, not to mention outfits to keep dollies and teddies smart. If you would like something, please ask Margaret S.

## **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

If you have an email address and did not receive this edition of the Messenger by email, could you please confirm your email address to Louis so that you can get the church news as quickly as possible. ([LReddick@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:LReddick@churchofscotland.org.uk)). We hope as many as possible will get the Messenger this way, enabling us to be more eco-friendly by reducing the amount of paper, ink and electricity we use, cutting down our printing costs, and saving man/woman power in the production of paper copies. A few extra paper copies are available for people who prefer the printed word to the electronic version.

## **RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES**

### **240th Rainbows**

We currently have 11 Rainbows and continue to enjoy meeting in person. The girls have just completed their Stage 1 Reflect badge in which they explored their community, culture, beliefs and values - and deepened their understanding of others too. When we return from Easter break we will start the Stage 1 Feel Good badge which is all about staying healthy and happy. Girlguiding recently lowered the age of starting Rainbows from 5 to 4 years old and in recent weeks we have welcomed two 4-year-old girls to our unit who are settling in well.

### **240th Brownies**

The Brownies have had a great return to face-to-face meetings this year. Our numbers have steadily increased and we now have around 27 girls. We are enjoying a varied programme of games, crafts and badge activities. Just before Easter break we had 8 girls take part in their promise ceremony in the church and in January we were incredibly proud to be able to present our highest achievements, a bronze award, a silver award and 2 gold awards to 4 of our girls before they moved on to Guides! We are incredibly lucky to have a great team and are particularly grateful to our younger helpers who give us so much support on a Wednesday night.

### **240th Guides**

Our Guide Unit has around 10 members, led by Jessica and Anneka. We play lots of games and we do lots of badge work to develop our skills for the future. The whole unit made our promise recently, and some of us have been helping at the Rainbow and Brownie Units to hopefully become part of the team as Young Leaders.

As always, thank you to the church for the continued interest and support given to our units.

*240th Glasgow Rainbows, Brownies & Guides*



## **94<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW (1<sup>st</sup> SHETTLESTON) COMPANY THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

Anchors/Juniors (P1 to P6) [the94th1st\\_jrsbb@hotmail.com](mailto:the94th1st_jrsbb@hotmail.com)  
Company/Seniors (P7, S1 to S6) [cs94thglasgow@hotmail.com](mailto:cs94thglasgow@hotmail.com)

### **ANCHOR BOYS AND JUNIOR SECTION**

Junior Section and Anchor Boys, have grown over the last few months, with some new boys joining.

We have had a lot of fun, which has included making lava lamps, making bird feeders and making empire biscuits. We also made pancakes, which the boys enjoyed eating with syrup and jam. We have been playing lots of new games, which the boys have really enjoyed. Louis even joined in with the boys on his visit and I'm not entirely sure who had the most fun. We also had a glowstick hunt with torches and the boys absolutely loved this. They took the glow sticks home at the end.

We recently had our Easter party, which saw the boys making Easter baskets, learning about Easter and completing an Easter egg hunt in the church. We ended the night with some sweet treats and giving out Easter eggs.

Congratulations to all of the Junior Section boys on receiving their first badges of the session. Well done boys for achieving your badges and for all your hard work.

### **STAMPS, COINS, SPECTACLES, MOBILE PHONES AND WOOL**

- | Used Postage Stamps (British or foreign) for Marie Curie Huntershill Hospice, preferably with about 1 cm/1/2" envelope round them. Stamps already off the paper are also accepted but do not make any more money.
- | Foreign or obsolete British coins and banknotes for Marie Curie Huntershill Hospice
- | Spectacles for third world countries
- | Wool for knitting blankets and for knitting goods for sale for our own Building Fund. Blythswood are now unable to accept knitted/crocheted blankets, so the most recent ones were given to the Halliday Foundation, a charity based in the East End.
- | Old mobile phones for Oxfam

Our collection boxes are back in place in the large hall and on the shelf in the cafe. Please don't discard anything which might be of use.



## **TEARFUND**

When faced with a crisis like the conflict in Ukraine, it can be hard to know how to pray.

### **What to pray for...**

#### **Pray for people affected by the violence**

- That people still in Ukraine will be protected from the violence; that there will be provision of essential supplies, such as food and clean water. Pray for vulnerable people who cannot flee, for example those with disabilities or the elderly.
- That refugees will find safe places to stay. There are reports that some people are being discriminated against on racial grounds – pray that there will be compassion and support for all.
- For healing for people who are wounded or have experienced trauma; and comfort for those who are grieving.

#### **Pray for those in positions of leadership**

- That leaders on both sides will be filled with compassion, wisdom, calm and a desire for peace.
- That world leaders will balance responding to the injustice of the invasion with seeking ways to build bridges, de-escalate tensions, and restore global security.

#### **Pray for the church**

- That the church in the Ukraine, Russia and across the wider region will be a voice for peace; and that they will have the resources they need to help people who are vulnerable.
- That the church and other organisations around the world will have the courage and conviction to speak out against aggression and injustice.
- That God's power will be revealed through the church in this situation – bringing a message of love and hope in the midst of the darkness.

#### **Pray for the global impact**

- The crisis in Ukraine is already leading to a significant rise in the price of food and fuel. It is likely that this will get worse. Economically poorer countries are disproportionately affected by shocks such as this. Pray that food and fuel prices will stabilise, and that provision will be made for countries in a vulnerable position.

#### **Pray for peace**

- That there will be an immediate end to the violence – that peace will come sooner than anyone could have expected or hoped for.
- That diplomatic solutions will be found that will lead to lasting peace in the region.
- That people who have fled will be able to return home, and that what has been destroyed will be rebuilt.
- For strength for individuals and organisations in Ukraine, Russia and the region who are working for peace at local, national and regional levels

*Christine W (Tearfund Church Representative)*

## **PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN**

As you may be aware, the whole of the Church of Scotland is experiencing a shortage of ministers, with a third of current ministers likely to retire in the next 5 years. Furthermore, many congregations have experienced a significant fall in membership and are struggling to remain viable on their own. Glasgow Presbytery is working on a plan to bring congregations together to cope with this new reality. This plan will include looking at how we reach out to the communities around us – hence its name: the Presbytery Mission Plan. The working assumption is that every existing congregation will need to work together ('form a cluster') with at least one other congregation going forward.

Rev Roy Henderson is the convener of the group tasked with drawing up this plan and has issued the following letter to congregations.

*Dear Friends*

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"*

*What is our purpose to be in these times? That is the question which the Presbytery Plan Creation Group is now dealing with.*

*I think this is a time to face facts, to pull up and to plant, to build on what has been done and to continue that work urgently.*

- Time to face facts: The 2021 General Assembly instructed all presbyteries to review and update their mission plans by the end of 2022.*
- Time to pull-up and plant: The Presbytery of Glasgow has been allocated a total of 84 'ministry' posts. We currently have 123 charges, and many church buildings*
- Time to complete work already begun: The Presbytery Mission Plan Review Group and last year's local focus groups have given us 21 principles to abide by.*

*Now, we all have work to do: The PPCG has to bring a draft Mission Plan before Presbytery for approval by September and the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees by December.*

*It is important to us that we consult with local churches and take their comments and concerns into consideration. We are a diverse Presbytery; we are coming from different starting places and our congregations each have their own characters and histories. There will be change. Change both excites and threatens us and I can relate to both reactions.*

*We face hard choices. No parish or post is 'immune'. As in bereavement, when we feel shock, numbness, anxiety or denial, we react with denial, defensively, even angrily. After all, we are experiencing loss shared, personal and cultural.*

*However, I do wonder where will defensiveness lead? Denial might deliver a short-term pay off; a committee given a bloody nose; a hard choice left for another day; the illusion of business as usual. We could split into parties 'for and against' or argue over the inheritance. All very understandable and very human, but is there another way?*

*What if we own these feelings? What if we say, "Yes, I do feel threatened. We are angry and resentful" and go on to say, "Alright, we won't pretend that this is what we'd choose normally, but we have to deal with it. This is the time." This cannot be wished away. Much has already been done and now we have to see it through.*

*Your PPCG will work conscientiously to bring a draft plan before Presbytery. Then Presbytery will decide. Over the coming weeks and months we will make every*

*effort to maintain regular contact with you. It is important that you know how we are progressing and it is equally important to us that we know about your comments and concerns. What can you offer in this shared effort?*

*Yours in Christ  
Roy Henderson*

*Convener, Presbytery Plan Creation Group*

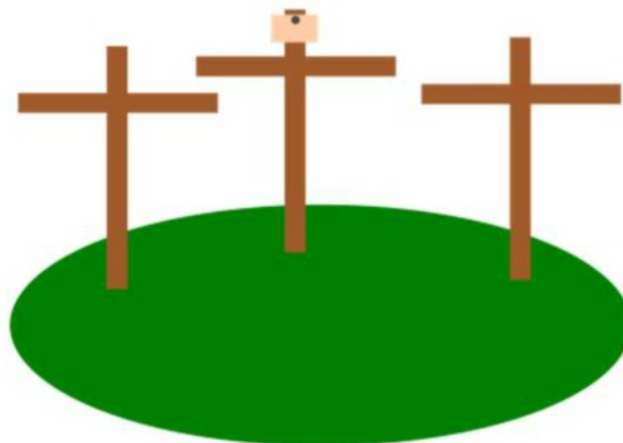
Work has been progressing with the Presbytery Mission Plan since this letter was written. There has been a strong emphasis on trying to develop plans at a local level rather than having them imposed 'top-down' by Presbytery. We are currently in discussions with another local church about forming a 'cluster'. We should be able to say a little more about this shortly. Discussions will then continue with the aim of having a clearer idea of how we will be working together by the end of June. We'll keep you posted!

*Louis*

## **POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTION**

With the increasing use of social media, email, etc, not to mention COVID, there has been a marked drop in the number of stamps being received, so can we offset this by getting more people to donate their stamps? Please keep spreading the word that used postage stamps, British or foreign, can help to fund the work at Marie Curie Huntershill Hospice at no monetary cost to ourselves. As they are sold for stamp collections, it is important that we try not to damage the stamps, so if possible leave approximately ½ inch (1 cm) of envelope round them. If you get too many envelopes to cut off the stamps, eg from an office, just bring them in and we'll see to the stamps being trimmed. Stamps already removed from envelopes are also accepted but it does not increase the value.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**



# HE IS RISEN

