



Congregation No. 161067
Scottish Charity No. SCO15579



A time of preparation.

John the Baptist quotes old testament prophets, when he spoke about his excitement about preparing the way for Jesus. He wants to prepare a way for Jesus to come, and he baptises people in the river Jordan, a baptism of repentance, and turning away from the old ways to the new. People are baptised in the river Jordan, and they are cleansed and made new, so they are ready to welcome the Messiah into their lives.

I wonder how we prepare for Christmas? We might put up some lights, hopefully have some Christmas dinner, do some cards, or give some presents. In these days of economic challenge, we are grateful for all that we have.

However more than our outward preparation, we also need to prepare our hearts. We have had so much going on in recent years, the pandemic and its effects, the war in the Ukraine, the cost of living, we have often been worried and anxious, and that has taken its toll on our spirits. We can be worried and grumpy, with a feeling that the cares of the world are overwhelming.

TRINITY CHAT WINTER 2022

Musings from the manse **Advent 2022.**

“ I will send a messenger ahead of you,
Who will prepare your way,
A voice of one calling in the desert,
Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make straight paths for him. “



The Christmas message has never been more relevant, as it says that In the midst of the darkness, a light shines, as the Saviour of the world has come. Jesus is the Word made flesh, the light that has come into the world, to bring hope and love and guidance.

So how to we prepare our hearts to worship this baby King? Well it is good in the season of Advent, to spend time each day in prayer - we might pray for the darkness in our life to become less, and the light in our life to get stronger. We might just pray the words “ maranatha, come Lord Jesus” each morning, and watch what happens in our lives. It could be an unexpected phone call, or a kind act of a friend, that is a blessing. It might be reconciliation with a family member, or a greater sense of peace. When we commit a little piece of our day, asking Jesus to come into our lives, and for His guidance and blessing, this can be transformative. Our Christian faith makes a very practical difference in our lives, reminding us that the coming of our Saviour changed the world, and still has the power to change our lives also. When we leave behind bad habits of the past, and instead ask for God’s holy spirit to guide us, the light becomes brighter, and we feel closer to God. It is a such a beautiful thing. Whatever our circumstances, we find courage to leave behind the doubts and worries of the past, and we trust more fully in Jesus, which brings freedom, hope and even joy.

Over this time of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may we spend time preparing our hearts, asking God to cleanse us, and then fill us with the light of his hope and love. May we seek to share that light with all through times of prayer and worship, love and sharing. There are so many beautiful services over Advent, please come along and enjoy the wonderful story of the birth of our Saviour .

I was reading a wee thing that is attributed to Anne Frank “ how wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

I love this. May Advent be a time, when the holy spirit inspires us to know Jesus love more deeply, and then be inspired to make a difference, and to reflect His light even in this world of shadows and dark.

With love and prayers at Christmas,

Fiona Gardner



Benevolent/pastoral fund.

The church has a small discretionary fund, for those who might be struggling. We are conscious of the financial pressures that people are under. If you would like to speak to Fiona confidentially if you are finding life tough just now, please phone her on 0141 959 5647.

First year of union – Knightswood Aniesland Trinity church.

“ be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5; 16-18

This is a time of **deep thanksgiving** for the life of our new church family. We are still all getting to know each other, and we are still using two buildings for our Sunday worship, but we have made a good beginning. There has been so much to learn about both congregations, and we seek to honour traditions, whenever possible, and to continue to pray that God would build his church here in this place, and help us to make new links with our community.

We also give thanks for our parish grouping with St David’s, and we pray for Rev Graham Thain and our sister church, in the midst of our readjustment process.

We give thanks for the life of two long standing elders who died recently - Laura Allan, formerly from Temple Anniesland church, who had a long history of supporting the Guides and the Health and healing group especially. She is much missed.

And then in November we gave thanks for the life of Audrey Kirk, who was an elder at the former St Margaret’s church. She served faithfully, was involved with the magazine and visiting, and had a great sense of humour.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of both these ladies - they are much missed. We pray for their family and friends as they grieve.

We want to build on the legacy from the past, and ask God to lead us forward through His holy spirit, to see His church thrive in the days ahead.



An update on buildings process.

Many people have been asking what is happening, and so I thought it would be useful to give you an update, after a meeting of the Parish Grouping Council took place on Wednesday 23rd November, looking at the options in a paper by Dr. Gary McFarlane.

Gary and his colleagues at *Designed to Succeed* believe that the difficulty of maintaining the two larger buildings (St. Margaret's and Temple Anniesland) is too great and that one of these should be disposed of, the other being refurbished. The proposal therefore is that one of these buildings be retained and developed, with the St David's building being retained, at least in the short term, as a secondary space for mission activities. At the moment they are speaking of the Anniesland building having a stronger chance of redevelopment, but the final choice will be made when more intensive surveys have been completed. (The formation of a community SCIO for the St David's building is being considered.)

Accordingly, Gary will approach an architect with whom he has worked for **outline designs for both of those buildings, including the factors which the parish council have identified as desirable.** The Parish Grouping Council authorised that design work, providing it does not exceed £10,000, that cost being shared between the two congregations.

The factors which the Council have identified as desirable for future outreach activities in a refurbished building are:

- A flexible sanctuary space – useable seven days a week – both for worship and other large meetings such as exercise groups, school activities, seminars or concerts.
- A 'robust space' for parties, dancing, sports and more vigorous games,
- A space suitable for e.g. a thrift shop or clothes or toy exchange.
- A smaller room for group meetings, contemplation, Bible Study and prayer,
- A room suitable for counselling,
- A café space for serving teas or meals with an appropriate kitchen,
- A youth space including a chill out room and facilities for music, games consoles or for toddlers, A Space for drama,

Generous storage for equipment and for tenant groups. Office and administration space,
Disabled access to all areas and attractive frontage.

Our expectation is that **alternative outline designs, for both the Anniesland and St. Margaret's buildings, meeting the above requirements, will be available to us by the end of January,** leading to a decision by March.

Please pray for all the different factors to be wisely considered, so the best decision can be reached. We realise that this is a very emotional and unsettling time, but we pray for a new season of growth and vision to come from this, a congregation and building or buildings fit for the generation to come.

Warm welcoming spaces.

Just a wee reminder that there is a Friendship café each Tuesday in the St Margaret's building, from 10am till 11.30am for tea and toast!

And on a Thursday in the Anniesland building at 11am, there is a short service and a cup of tea.

On Friday at the Anniesland building, from 1-3pm there is Annie's café, with teas, coffees and different activities each week.
Please come and join us at any of these welcoming spaces!



"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Matthew 25:35

Fantastic news!

Two great Christmas fairs - a heartfelt thankyou to all who supported our Christmas activities. In the St Margaret's building, the sum of £1100 was raised for the church at their **Christmas coffee morning!** It was so well attended and there was a lot of fun. Thank you to Janet for organising this, and to all who supported this!

At the **Anniesland Christmas Fair**, over £2000 was raised, to be split between our Youth Development Fund and the charity **Action for Children**. Thank you to Gail for organising this, and for all our young people who helped. You have been amazing! We were grateful for Julie coming along from Action for Children, and for telling us about their work. The late Stuart Laurie worked for Action for Children for many years, and it was so good to be able to show our appreciation for all that he was involved in.

OUR TREASURER

We are coming to the end of what has been a very busy year in the life of our church. At this time Beatrice and I are starting to prepare the end of year accounts and will shortly be meeting with the examiner of the accounts to discuss things with him.

I want to thank everyone for their generosity over the past few months when we have had several collections for charities. The money donated by our members has been exceptional. Regular givings to the church have remained constant, but despite this we will have a deficit at the end of the year. This is partly because we are paying the running costs for 2 buildings. At this time of year, as we have now paid the full amount for Ministries and Mission, our main expense is our energy bills and so I would once again ask that everyone is diligent when it comes to the use of heating etc.

I wish everyone a happy, peaceful festive season and best wishes for 2023.

Nancy Quinn Treasurer

OUR JOINT SESSION CLERKS

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds you all well and you are managing to keep warm in these colder days. I can't believe how close it is to Christmas already Where has the year gone?

It doesn't seem that long ago when we had our first service together as Knightswood Anniesland Trinity and now we will soon be celebrating our first year together. We have come such a long way Getting to know each other, from learning each others names (which I am terrible at !) to working and making decisions together. New friendships have formed and we have all got used to worshipping in each building on alternate months. The difficult decision regarding buildings has still to come. The Kirk Sessions in the Parish Grouping have met to discuss this at length and there will be many more meetings in the New Year. Please continue to pray for all those concerned as we seek to find the way forward.

On a personal note, I thought I would share some nice news with you. I am delighted to say that became a great auntie again last Sunday when baby Aidan Stuart Laurie was born. I have just spent a lovely afternoon meeting him for the first time and enjoying lots of snuggles with him. A true blessing for our family.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Gail Grieve
Joint Session Clerk

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6

It won't be long until the anniversary of the coming together of the former congregations of Knightswood St Margaret's and Temple Anniesland and it seems no time at all since that service of union in January. I feel it's going very well and I use for my yardstick the familiarity which we talk to each other. I have learned a whole new string of terms used to describe me as a wee pain in the neck.

Over the last couple of months, in an effort to see what's going on elsewhere a small group of office-bearers (myself included) have been visiting other churches to see how they have adapted to fulfil their roles in the new circumstances in which we find ourselves.

I missed out on Chryston Church but managed a visit to St Rollox and Fullarton Church in Irvine. St Rollox is a completely new build which is something we would find hard to do but the result is quite special. At Fullarton they have adapted two standing buildings to create an amazing café between them by roofing over the space between the buildings and constructing a large kitchen at one end and a mammoth glass wall at the other. It is proving very popular with the locals as a coffee/lunch and get-together space with friends. Lots of things to ponder for us as we work on deciding which buildings will serve us best for the future.

Some things have carried on as usual, especially in the month of November. We ended up doing two Christmas fundraisers which resulted in two events which highlighted the co-operation between the volunteers of former separate congregations, working together as a team and, in the meantime, producing some exceptional treats in the way of food to make one's mouth water. It has done nothing for my waistline ("What waistline?" I hear you ask) but it has been nothing short of smashing.

Now we look forward to Christmas together, not the TV Christmas of Santa, presents and food but the real Christmas, celebrating the coming of Jesus. I'm looking forward to it.

Eh, there **will** be cake, won't there?

David Adams Joint Session Clerk.



Family and Youth worker

It has been a busy time for our young people. They are so creative and always thinking of others. **At Sunday club** they made cards to send prayers to the children in Pakistan to let them know we are thinking about them and praying for them as they recover and rebuild after the terrible flooding. They were delighted to hear back from Pakistan that we are in their prayers also.

Our youth food and chat group also are exploring a project to find out more about the lodging house mission and how they might help homeless people this winter.

All our youth groups are currently learning some new Christmas songs in preparation for the Community Christmas Carol Service on Sunday the 11th of December. We are also working on our nativity for Sunday the 18th of December.

Messy church has been going well with our numbers gradually increasing. We have new families joining us and have welcomed back some families we have not seen for a while. There is always so much fun and laughter as we share God's love together. Everyone is welcome at Messy Church so come along sometime and join in the fun. Our next one is Saturday the 17th of December 4-6pm.

I am grateful to all my Sunday club leaders and volunteers who make our youth projects possible. Thanks particularly to Clare Sinclair for all her support this last year. She brings such fun and energy to Sunday club. I am inspired by

our young people and families their resilience, creativity, and caring attitude. I look forward to what the next year will bring.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas

Louise Reid Family and youth worker

Communications

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine. It is always good to hear what our church family and the different groups have been doing. It is also interesting to read peoples thoughts and ideas.

Our communications team share information through the church magazine, posters, banners, Facebook, and the website. So much effort goes into producing these I sometimes wonder if anyone sees them or pays attention to them, particularly outside the church family. I think the great success of the Christmas coffee morning in the St Margaret's building and the Christmas fair in the Anniesland building confirms that people do. I had many conversations with people who live locally but have no connection to the church who found out about the events through banners or posters.

If you would be interested in helping the communications team continue this important task please get in touch even if you can only offer a few hours this would be very helpful. Louise Reid

I can be contacted by email louise.reid@katchurch.org.uk or on 07747664318

Blythswood Shoeboxes



This year I filled 119 shoeboxes mostly for elderly ladies, teenage boys and children 0-3years. The boxes will go to very deprived people in Eastern Europe, many of whom have no running water or electricity in their homes.

Many thanks to all who gave money or goods to help fill the boxes.

£355 was received from friends in and out with the church, to help fill boxes, and £103 towards transporting the boxes. Blythswood ask for £3 a box as it costs about £6000 to send a van to Eastern Europe.

Morrisons donated £26.65 of goods mostly soap and toothpaste.

Every donation is much appreciated. For more information you can go to their website www.blythswood.org.

Alison Gray

The Church choir

As I sit and write this I cannot believe that we are now in the Season of Advent which is the start of the Church Year and the period which helps us prepare for Christmas.

The Choir restarted its Thursday evening rehearsals at the end of October and we are now practising choral music for the Church services and Christmas events, the first of which takes place in the St. Margaret's large hall on Saturday 10th December from 10-12noon. Please do come along and enjoy tea/coffee, mince pies, shortbread etc and the singing of your favourite carols and Christmas songs in which everyone can participate. There may also be a stall where you can buy last minute Christmas presents. In the past this has been a happy start to the Christmas festivities and raised money for Church funds.

On Sunday 11th December in the Anniesland Sanctuary at 3pm The Community Carol service takes place and the Choir have been asked to sing a piece of seasonal music.

On Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm in the St. Margaret Sanctuary the Choir from St. Ninian's Church are joining us in a service of Christmas music and readings followed by tea/coffee cakes etc. and much chat...

On Saturday 24th December at 7pm the Christingle Service takes place in the Temple/Anniesland Sanctuary followed by the Watchnight Service at 11.30pm. The Christmas Day Service is then at 11am on Sunday 25th December. Phew!!

I wish to thank the members of the Choir for their support and for putting up with me and all that I ask of them.

Christine Furnish



Friendship Café

The Café meets every Tuesday from 10-11.30am in the small hall of the St. Margaret site and everyone is welcome. Each week we have around 30-40 guests which creates a lively atmosphere.

In September we had a harvest event when members brought donations for the Blawarthill Food Bank. People were very generous and the food bank was grateful for our gifts.

In October we brought back our childhood memories of Halloween by looking for apples and eating Hallowe'en cupcakes.

On 29th November we remember St. Andrew, the Patron Saint of Scotland and then on 20th December we have our Christmas Party.

Many thanks to all who support the Café and to all the helpers who generously give of their time and energy. This is all very much appreciated.

Christine Furnish



Annie's Place drop in café

Our volunteers offer a warm welcome, with someone to chat to, and time to catch your breath on Fridays 1pm-3pm. In the Anniesland building Each session has tea and chat from 1pm-2pm followed by an activity from 2pm-3pm the café is open to anyone whether looking for a cuppa and cake, a friendly chat or to join in our activity sessions. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

The programme for December is

2nd December Christmas crafts

9th December line dancing Christmas party

16th December Christmas sing along With Jane and some pupils from the High school of Glasgow for fun no singing experience required.

Annie's place will then have a short break before restarting in the new year.

Check out the church website for more details. www.katchurch.org.uk

Louise Reid

**So many thankyou's -
Love Songs for Healing and hope.**

I am so grateful to everyone who has been so supportive about this new book, just out this year.

It is a book of resources and meditations about navigating through complex grief and sorrow. There are meditations, blogs, and stories from people who have found strength in the midst of life changing situations of illness and loss.

The book is £15, and all proceeds go to two charities, Quiet Waters, a Counselling charity in Falkirk, and Richmond's Hope, a charity to support children who have been bereaved.

Thank you to everyone who has bought the book or given a donation. So far over £1350 has been raised.

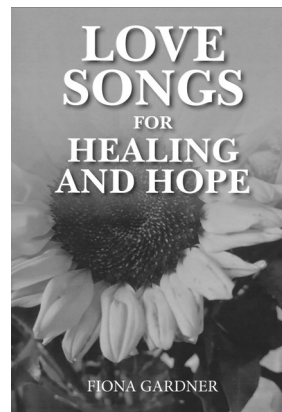
The book has been reviewed in the December edition of **Life and Work** this month. To follow Fiona's blogs please go to

<https://anumbrellaofhealinglove.blog>

My prayer is that the love songs of God, expressing such tender care even for the tiniest sparrow, might soothe our bodies, minds and souls, give us strength and renew our hope.

If you would like to purchase a book, please contact me on woundedwarriorfg@gmail.com

Thankyou.



Congregational Roll

The St Margaret's portion of the Roll has taken a beating, it's been quite a sad year with the loss of so many well-known and loved members and friends. Even more distressing is the fact that we have found out that some members had died, and no communication with the church meant that we could not acknowledge the deceased's contribution to the life of our church. While restrictions have eased we are still limited by fears around covid and it will be great when we get back to former freedoms.

For the record the St Margaret's portion of the roll stood at 113 as of the last issue of the magazine. It is now 107 and those lost to us are named here:

David Adams,
Joint Roll Keeper.

Congregational Register

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

Helen Gray, Pre 2022
Charles Kent, October
Reena Tosh, October
Audrey Kirk, November .

Youth Development Team Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 26th November was a great success. On behalf of all the youth leaders in Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Sunday Club and Boys Brigade, I would like to thank everyone who came along to support us.

As always, half of the proceeds raised goes to the Youth Development fund, which is used to support any of the youth groups who need funding for training, to help with the cost of outings or to buy specific equipment or uniforms. The other half of the proceeds are donated to a charity. This year the charity was Action For Children who support children and families in Glasgow and around the UK.

This is a charity that is very close to my heart as my late nephew, Stuart was a fundraiser for them. Stuart's colleague, Julie came along and opened the Fair and explained a little about how they will use the funds to protect and support children and young people, providing them with practical and emotional care and support. A huge thank you to Julie for taking the time to come along on Saturday. Our donation will help so many families this Christmas.

So far, the total raised is around £2000, which is just incredible!

This sum was raised through various different means,

from the ticket sales, from the rolls and sausage, the stalls and from our Time and Talents and Treats Silent Auction. I hope you agree we had varied range of options available for you to bid on. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who offered their time or their talent to make this Fair a success. Thanks also goes to various companies who donated treats – Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, 1051GWR, Mar Hall and not forgetting Mortons Rolls who kindly donated rolls and cakes !

I know I have thanked so many people already but the biggest thanks goes to you for supporting the Youth Development Team and making the day a success.

Gail Grieve



Here are the answers to the Cryptic Confections quiz

Which was sold at the Christmas fair.

How many did you get right?

Can you find the more usual names for these Sweets?

Wobbly infants	Jelly babies
Wise Guys	Smarties
Edible Fasteners	Chocolate Buttons
Nine ten eleven	After Eights
Occult perhaps	Black Magic
Home of alcoholic dentures	Wine Gums
Fallen fruits	Pear drops
Sport for a prince	Polo
100% metal	All Gold
Tartan granite	Edinburgh Rock
Group of stars	Galaxy
Miscellaneous blacks	Liquorice Allsorts
Royal Herbs	Imperial Mints
Cow juice Road	Milky Way
Musical men	Minstrals
Nearly between two	Twix
Pirates loot	Chocolate coins/ Bounty
Bovine Peepers	Bulls eye
Belly dancers perhaps	Turkish delights
All sorts of girls	Dolly Mixtures



247 Boys Brigade



The boys in all sections are enjoying coming along each week and learning new skills, including morse code. We have been thinking about the environment and how to stop so much waste ending up in our oceans.

Unfortunately, our trip to Dalguise was postponed until next year. However we did manage to have a sleepover in the halls in the Anniesland building on Saturday 19th November for all boy in P4 and above. They had lots of fun choosing which games to play before settling down to have their midnight feasts (at 9:30!) I have to say that the boys behaviours were amazing and particularly touching when they all decided to share their snacks with each other. We did manage to get some sleep which gave them energy for a pillow fight in the morning. A great time was had by all.

We are currently about to start the BB Christmas Challenge. The boys will be tasked to complete a number of festive challenges in order to be awarded with a special Christmas Challenge bauble. Some challenges will be completed in the halls together and some at home. There are 25 different challenges altogether that the boys can choose from.

Boys Brigade is open to any boy from age 5 or who has started Primary 1 in August this year. If you know of anyone who would like to come along to learn new skills and have lots of fun, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gail Grieve
Officer In Charge

1st Kelvinside Rainbows

This term the Rainbows have been very busy working towards their *Pencil Express* badge. The girls drew themselves as superheroes for our comic book inspired collage which went on display as part of a Girl Guiding Glasgow exhibition at Glasgow Central train station. Doesn't it look great?!

Other activities we've been up too have included making hand puppets, balloon games and our Halloween party.

We have also been joined this term by two enthusiastic young leaders, Caroline and Sylvie, who are helping out at our weekly meetings as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Finally, we'd like to welcome Hannah who has joined us as a leader after moving to Glasgow from Derby.



Merry Christmas!

Claire, Fiona, Natasha, Hannah, Sylvie and Caroline

201st Brownies

The 201st Brownies have been busy completing a science and engineering challenge over 4 weeks. Great fun was had by all making rain gauges, a lemon powered battery as well as building mini bridges to roll a ping pong ball across. 2 Girls also came to a county tennis event where they learnt tennis skills and at the end were presented with medals, a certificate, and a tennis racket to practice at home.

Lesley Murray
Brown Owl



Words about the Naval career of Fred Bowles for the Remembrance service November 2022 - we give thanks for him!

Fred Bowles joined the Navy when he was 16, and he did a 6-year apprenticeship to become an engineer. He served in the Navy for 25 years, and loved his time of service. In his career, Fred served in over 21 different Navy ships, from large craft like the Ark Royal, to smaller vessels like the HMS Surprise, which he preferred. Fred is very conscious of how the Navy serve all over the world, and all the different things they are involved in.

Fred remembers serving on the previous Royal yacht before the Britannia, and bringing Prince Philip and his family to visit his mum in Greece. He shook hands with the Queen, met Winston Churchill, and remembers Gracie Fields giving a concert at her home on the island of Capri.

Fred served as an engineer and an Artificer, that is a skilled mechanic in the armed forces. He had a gift for working things out, and worked as part of a team, to keep the ships in good mechanical order. He was known as Chiefy! Fred was involved in cleaning the war graves at the Dardanelles, and also served with Lord Mountbatten. Later in his life when he worked for Yarrows, Fred was involved in the setting of the machinery in the building of new ships, sometimes in liaison with the Navy.

Fred has many good memories of travelling all over the world, and of the interesting people he met. He talks of his most challenging times as being on very rough seas, and that in some of the bigger ships like the HMS Ark Royal, that you could be thrown very long distances. It was quite terrifying. Fred trusted that God was with him, and that his Christian faith made a difference. He feels like an old sea dog now, but his memories give him much joy.



He and his wife Liz aren't able to get to church just now but send their greetings and love to everyone.