



Congregation No. 161067  
Scottish Charity No. SCO15579



## Musings from the manse

**The star shines for everyone!** Advent seems to have come round so quickly. Recent months have been so hard, with the conflict in Israel/ Palestine dominating our consciousness and the news feed. The pictures of human suffering - those desperate for hostages back, those whose houses have been bombed, those who have lost loved ones and whose children are suffering. It is harrowing and deeply worrying.

Our personal stories are often challenging too. The stresses of living in the precarious post pandemic world seem never ending, people are so worried and often bad tempered. There is less slack in life, and everything seems different. We easily become disorientated and unsettled.

I am so grateful for the verse from Hebrews chapter 13 “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever**” as we are reminded that His strength and love, His grace and compassion are unfailing. This is such good news - if we are looking to God for reassurance - He is there!

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Knightswood Anniesland Trinity Church

And so Advent, the time of waiting and preparation before Christmas takes on a deeper meaning. Our appreciation of our Generous and Forgiving God sending us a Saviour for all the world should be unsurpassed. We need to be rescued from our sin, from the darkness in the world and within. It is such an answer to prayer.

And so when I think of the Christmas story, I think of the star shining in the sky. It was there for all to see, but only the wise men chose to follow it. They had the longest of journeys, and gave so much up to get there, but they persevered and kept on going. And then they found the Christ child and worshipped Him. The thought that struck me was that the star was for everyone, but not everyone recognized its meaning.

The birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem was a miracle of God, the Word made flesh and dwelling amongst us. If we want to know what God looks like, then we look to the character of His precious Son Jesus. And the light of God shines also in Jesus' life - in His patience and care, in His anger at hypocrisy and injustice, in His wisdom and self sacrifice. The light of God shines, and all we need to do is to recognize it and receive His love. May God's holy spirit guide our hearts, minds and feet in His path this Christmas, to know that there is still hope even in despair, and light in the deepest darkness. May we experience the warmth of Christ's love this Christmas, may we catch a glimpse of the light of His glory, and may this indeed bring us hope.

Every blessing for this season of Advent and Christmas,

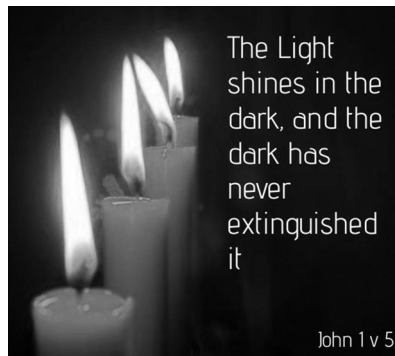
Love and blessings,

Fiona

**A personal word** On a personal note, an enormous thank you to all of you who prayed and sent kind messages on the death of my mum in September. Your support has been much appreciated. These have been difficult months, but I am grateful for God holding me up, and giving me strength. Thank you to everyone, and especially to my two Session Clerks David and Gail for their practical help and tireless organizational gymnastics in the time when I was off.

I am also grateful to people who supported my book promotion for “ Love songs for healing and hope”. I am hoping that this book might bless many, and also raise much money for the counselling service Quiet Waters and Richmond’s Hope - a charity which provides bereavement support for children.

Fiona



### **Our Treasurer**

We are very grateful to Nancy Quinn for her dedicated work as our church Treasurer in recent years. Her work load was heavy, as she coped with the finances during covid, and as we bought two charities into being one church. She has gone beyond what could have been asked of her. We wish you some refreshing time off!

At the moment, we are trying to assemble a new team of people to assist with different aspects of finance. If you feel that you could help, please speak to Fiona. It could well be that we need to pay for some a professional company to help with some aspects of this work in the new year. We are prayerful that God will help us form a new team for the year ahead.

Hello everyone,

As I write this it is a beautiful sunny, but cold, Autumn day. I love to see the changes in the trees at this time of year as they shed their beautiful autumn leaves. The different and changing colours make my drive to work much more pleasurable.

There has been so much happening within the church family. We had the congregational vote in September, where it was decided that the Presbytery Scheme of Delegation would be put in place to decide which building or configuration of buildings we would need for our future. We will know the outcome of this before the Presbytery meeting in May 2024.

The elders have continued to meet as part of the Parish Grouping Council with the elders from St David's to chat about how we can work more closely together in preparation for the St David's congregation joining us next year.

We had a very successful concert in memory of one of our late elders, Jean Findlater, at the end of October, entitled "The Four Seasons". This was brought together by Crossrock, a group that Jean worked very closely with "back in the day". I have to say that I felt extremely privileged to be part of this and being able to honour Jean's memory in this way. It was a very special night and we all felt Jean's presence around us.

We have had a successful Christmas Market in the Knightswood building and looking forward to the Youth Development Team Christmas Fair in the Anniesland building at the end of the month.

All this on top of what everyone does week in week out. I am very grateful for all the hard work and dedication that the office bearers, elders and volunteers in all our various teams have, as this is what keeps our church running. We are always on the look out for other team

members, so if you would like to volunteer to make tea, sing in the choir, be part of the finance or welcome teams (to name but a few), then please do not hesitate to speak to me, David or Fiona.

Christmas is fast approaching. We are bombarded in the shops with twinkly lights, wrapping paper and gifts that we are encouraged to buy. Everyone seems to be in a rush at this time of year. As we approach the season of advent, may we all take time in our busy lives to slow down and take the time we need to prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Gail Grieve

Joint Session Clerk



On Sunday, 12th November, as I sat in my usual place in church, I heard the minister say that the deadline for the magazine was 'today.' "Ah," I thought, "that time again. Oh well, now I know what I'm doing the rest of Sunday."

I got home, had lunch and spent the rest of the day trying to remember what it was that I had decided I must do but in the meantime I could finish the sudoku, the codeword and the other wee puzzles in Saturday's paper and maybe catch up on Saturday's recorded football.

This morning (Monday) I received an email from our magazine editor, Louise asking me if I intended to do an article for the magazine.

'Sno' real, is it? Here's my report:

At our Kirk Session meeting on November 1st we heard that we have still to be contacted by the group of 3 nominated by Presbytery to reach a decision on which buildings would be retained by the united congregation.

Fiona reported that sisters Christine and Fiona Hay who joined us from Balshagray Victoria Park Church in May were keen to join the Kirk Session. They had been members of their previous Kirk Session and we were very pleased to add them to our number. It remains to go through the wee hoops set by the General Assembly for admission of elders to Kirk Sessions and I know they will be an asset to the Kirk Session and the congregation.

Also, there was good news of another addition to our roll. Olive Duncan, who has been attending services for some time had voiced a desire to join us. Kirk Session agreed and her name will go on the roll by resolution of Kirk Session.

Lots of plans for Christmas were also made which will be appearing in print for you to keep track of but for now what remains for me is to remember to email this to Louise before the final deadline which is fast approaching.

David Adams  
Joint Session Clerk.



### **Treasurer's Report**

This is my last magazine contribution as treasurer of our Church. Back in June when I informed Fiona that I would be stepping down as treasurer at the end of the year, December seemed to be a long way off but suddenly here it is!

We will end the year with a deficit which is not surprising as we are paying the running costs of 2 buildings. The cost of gas, electricity and insurance have all risen considerably this year and at the same time offerings have reduced. Some of our members have passed and this evidently has a negative impact on our income. On a brighter note we have had some new members joining or transferring from other churches and it is heartening to see them mixing and becoming a part of our Church family. We are also seeing an increase in hall lets and this helps our income.

As we come to the end of what has been a difficult financial year for many people, I would ask that members look at their giving to the Church and, if possible, consider increasing their offerings to help offset the increase in our running costs.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time as treasurer. A special thanks goes to Beatrice as without her assistance, I would have been unable to carry out my duties effectively. I also thank the Sunday count teams in both buildings and the many other people who have helped over the last few years.

I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a peaceful 2024.

Nancy

## **Family and youth worker**

At Sunday Club we have been exploring the theme of prayer. Thinking about where, and when we pray. Prayer can be a difficult topic for our young people as they often worry what to say and struggle to express how they are feeling. I think we as adults can also struggle with prayer sometimes. We have been using different ideas to help equip our young people with tools they can use every day. For example, our prayer box. Where we choose a symbol from the box that represents what we want to bring to Jesus in prayer. This might be a particular person, or our world, or a situation we are worried about. We then pray together whether out loud or quietly in the silence. Tools like this over time will help our young people feel more confident in praying.

Our young people don't always come to Sunday Club every week for a variety of reasons. Modern family life's challenges are so different from previous generations. The speed at which we all live and what is expected as normal has changed dramatically. Also dealing with our post pandemic world. Which can be difficult for everyone including our families. Often just getting through normal daily life, work, and school and all the other demands on our time is an achievement.

Offering varied worship activities at different times like our Holiday club, Messy Church, and our youth group gives families different opportunities to engage in church life and build their faith.

We are currently preparing for our advent activities which offer so many ways for families and young people to participate in worship beyond our usual weekly services and Sunday Club. There is the Nativity service, Christingle, Christmas Messy Church, and the Christmas community service. An open invitation is given to all our uniform organisations, groups who use the church building and the wider community to join us.

You are welcome to invite your families, young people or friends to come along and share in worship with us. Details of all the activities can be found on the church website and the fliers in the church please share them with anyone you think might be interested.



We also have the opportunity to work with young people in the schools in December and I am looking forward to taking part in this.

Christmas and the run up to it are always very busy in the church. It is one of my favourite times of year, a time of wonder, anticipation and bringing people together.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas filled with love and kindness.

Louise Reid (family and youth worker)



“Behold, a virgin shall be with child,  
and shall bring forth a son, and they  
shall call his name Emmanuel, which  
being interpreted is, God with us.”

**Matthew 1:23**

### **Communications**

Our communications team work very hard trying to ensure the publicity for all our church events is kept up to date and shared with as many people as we can. Things can sometimes be missed. Sometimes the difficulty is getting the correct information to the right people in good time. You will find contact details in the pull-out pages of this magazine for our team. We are as always looking for anyone who is interested in helping with our communications team as the more people we have, then the easier it is to share the workload.

In the new year we are hoping to have another AV training day for anyone who might be interested in helping with our AV systems in both buildings.

If you would be interested in this or have any questions please get in touch. [louise.reid@katchurch.org.uk](mailto:louise.reid@katchurch.org.uk)

Louise Reid (communications team)

## Church Choir

The Choir is already preparing for Christmas and we hope you will enjoy singing the Christmas carols with us. We meet every Thursday evening at 7pm until around 8pm and we always welcome new members. You don't need to be an opera diva, all you require is an enjoyment of singing which is of course very good for your physical and mental health. We would love to see you at our Choir Carol and Coffee morning on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December between 10am and 12noon in the St. Margaret Building. If we are very lucky there may even be a visit from Santa Claus himself. Tickets will be available nearer the time but you can also just turn up.

In the meantime, I wish you a happy and healthy festive period and every good wish for 2024.

Christine Furnish.



### **Our Daily Bread**

I would encourage more people to receive copies of this little booklet which comes out quarterly. Just a short bible verse and a passage explaining it.

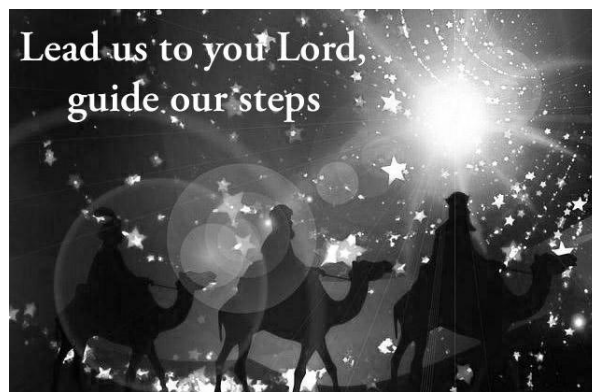
They are free – I send a donation twice a year.

If you are interested, please speak to me at church

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”

A large print version is available.

Alison Gray



### **Bible Study**

About 8 of us from the 3 former congregations, meet on Monday afternoons from 1:45pm– 2:45pm in the new hall in the Anniesland building. At present we are looking at Women of the Old Testament.

Please think about joining us – it is very informal.

For more information, please speak to me at church

Alison Gray

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE HELD ON SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**AT THE ST.MARGARET'S BUILDING.**

The Fayre was well attended and I would like to thank those who donated Home Baking, Jewellery , Toiletries and gifts which were much appreciated.

The sum raised was £1248 this is going to Church funds.

A big thank you also to all the helpers who made this possible.

Janet Hall



**Retreat Day**

On a sunny September Saturday KAT hosted a Women’s Day led by Sharon Garlough Brown, author of the much-loved ‘Sensible Shoes’ series. We welcomed women from as far afield as Stonehaven, Edinburgh and Stirling and it was good to share fellowship with them throughout the day.

Sharon is an American Pastor, currently living in Dundee and working alongside her husband, who is also a Pastor. She is an engaging speaker and we enjoyed and appreciated her ministry. There were teaching sessions, using illustrations from the books, and times for reflection, individually and in groups. It was a successful day with lots of positive feedback.

## Blythswood Shoeboxes

In the last 30 years since Blythswood Care started sending filled shoeboxes to very deprived people in Eastern Europe, 2.5 million boxes have been sent.

This year I filled 107 boxes and 11 boxes were given by church members and their friends. Total 118 boxes Blythswood ask for £3 for each box to help with transport, so I have sent £355.

I was very fortunate this year when the kind ladies who run the coffee mornings/afternoons in the St Margaret's building, said I could have the proceeds from the July coffee afternoon £480 and a donation of £100. Some of this went towards the transport costs and the rest to buying things for the shoeboxes.

A lady gave me £10 and with this I bought £55 of children's clothes – 1 jacket, 2 T-shirts and 14 pairs of shorts!

Thanks to those donated boxes, money and goods to fill the boxes.

Everything will be greatly appreciated by those who receive the shoeboxes at Christmas.

You can find more information by going on their website - [blythswood.org](http://blythswood.org) and following the link to shoebox appeal.

Thank you  
Alison Gray

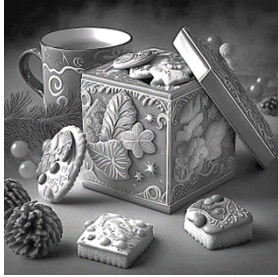


## Glasgow Doors Open Day

**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS 2023**

Many thanks to all those who attended or helped in any way with the Glasgow Doors Open Day event in the St. Margaret's building in September. Our visitors hailing from many different 'airts' and numbering around 43, were very complimentary about the building and said they enjoyed their visit and the welcome they received.

Christine Furnish



## **The Friendship Café**

The Friendship Café meets every Tuesday between 10 and 11.30am when around 35 visitors enjoy tea/coffee, toast, biscuits (sometimes cake!), chat and puzzles. The library is now up and running and there are jigsaws as well as books which can be borrowed.

At the beginning of October we had a special harvest morning when visitors brought harvest gifts which were later taken to Blawarthill Foodbank. We also enjoyed apple pies and apple cake on that day.

On 10th October we celebrated receiving the Certificate of Nomination from Age Scotland with more cake!

On 31st October we had a Hallowe'en morning which brought back childhood memories by dooking for apples and playing a game of pass the ghost.

Future events planned are a celebration of St. Andrew's Day on 28th November and a Christmas Party on 19th December.

We shall be open as usual on Tuesday 26th December and Tuesday 2nd January for anyone who wants a chat and maybe a break from the Christmas and New Year Festivities!

In the meantime I want to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming you to the café in 2024.

Christine Furnish

## **Annie's place café**

Each Friday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm we continue to welcome everyone to drop in for tea/coffee, cake and chat followed by a variety of activities. These include line dancing, crafts, quizzes, and gardening tips. Recently more of our regulars have been leading these activities. It is great to have different people sharing their skills and knowledge. We have also been fortunate to welcome the Partick Pluckers ukulele players to lead us in a sing along. It was lots of fun and we look forward to welcoming them back in the new year.

We have some people who come along every week and others who come when there is a specific activity on. Our programme is advertised on the church website and there are fliers in the church buildings.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who make Annie's possible.

On December the 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas fun afternoon. We then have a break for a few weeks to allow our volunteers a much-needed rest. We start back on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January.

If you have never been before drop by one Friday and say hello you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Louise and the Annie's café team





## 247 The Boys Brigade



The Boys Brigade was founded on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith. To celebrate this 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary we had a party with games and challenges to commemorate 140 years ..... we also had chocolate cake! Well, you can't have a party without cake, can you? We also have a sleepover planned for January with lots more challenges that have been provided by the Brigade, all with the 140<sup>th</sup> theme.

This session we have been practising our gymnastic skills using the trampette and learning how to land on the crash mat safely. We have also been learning about children being evacuated during world war two and how they must have felt being away from home. The boys enjoy playing games and doing craft work. We are very grateful that we now have two young leaders who help with these activities.

We have a busy few weeks planned in the run up to Christmas, including a Christmas party on 13<sup>th</sup> December and a trip to the Mask and Puppet Theatre on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December to see Gary Dunn's Amazing Christmassy Magic Show. We also hope that the boys will be able to come along to the Carol Service on 10<sup>th</sup> December and to the Nativity service on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Boys Brigade is open to all boys from Primary 1 and above. If you know of anyone who would be interested in coming along, then please do get in touch.

On behalf of the boys and leaders of the 247 BB, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Gail Grieve







## 1<sup>st</sup> Kelvinside Rainbows

This year, 1<sup>st</sup> Kelvinside Rainbows turn 30! The unit first met together on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1993. As part of the celebrations, we are throwing ourselves a birthday party in the church hall during which some of our newest Rainbows will say their promise and officially join the unit. We have 10 girls at the moment and they have been enjoying working on their 'story telling' badge. They have been making puppets, story boards and decorating pet rocks.

We will finish off the term with a trip to the Panto to see Cinderella at the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre. We can't wait!

Claire Donald

Guider in Charge





“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Romans 15:13**

**An inspirational evening - Concert in memory of the late Jean Findlater!**

My goodness - an enormous congratulations to Crossrock and friends for an inspirational evening of music, poems and songs to give thanks for the life of the late Jean Findlater on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. It took months of meetings and planning, and it came together beautifully on the night. Thank you to David Buchan for his vision, to Barbara Montgomery for bringing together all the material for “The four seasons” and to everyone for their team spirit and hard work and talents.

It was just a lovely combination of material, and with brilliant songs and musicianship, interspersed with anecdotes and photos of Jean. Well done everyone! Jean’s sister Ann Green and niece Alison were present, and many of Jean’s friends came together for the first time since the pandemic, so it was a time of reunions. A total of £520 was raised for 3 D Drumchapel. Well done everyone!



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

