

Pollokshields Church of Scotland Glasgow

VISION

November 2009

Minister: The Rev. David Black 423 4000
Session Clerk: Mrs. Mary Morrison 632 1659

Remember,
remember
the fifth of
November,
gunpowder,
treason and
plot;



I see no
reason
why gun-
powder
treason
should
ever be
forgot.

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Congregational Register

Baptism Greer Valery Charlotte SANDLAN

Forthcoming Services:

1st November Morning Worship
8th November Remembrance Sunday (10.50 am start)
15th November Morning Worship
23rd November All Age Remembering Service
30th November Guild Week and Advent Service

6th December 11 am Holy Communion
13th December Gift Service
20th December Junior Church Christmas Nativity Service
24th December 6.30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
11.15 for 11.30 pm Watchnight Service
25th December Christmas Day Family Celebration
27th December Service of Lessons and Carols

Copy date for the December/January issue
of VISION is Sunday 15th November

The Minister's Message

Thanks to the crackdown by police and other services on the import of fireworks, we no longer spend the darkening evenings from September onwards cringing at the constant barrage of loud bangs around our community.

Yet, ironically it is the use of fireworks on other occasions, at the end of Festivals and at wedding and other celebrations throughout the year which remind us that they don't have to be associated solely with the events of November 5th.

Similarly there are lots of reasons to be 'remembering' this month, from 'All Saints' on the 1st through the 5th and on to the 30th when we remember our patron saint Andrew.

With war continuing in Afghanistan, there is fresh focus again for our thinking on Remembrance Sunday on the 8th too.

This year, however, we want to widen our remembering to include a chance to share memories of times gone by so that we might celebrate the history of the church in our community.

Members of the Junior Church are inviting us all to share with them our remembrance of what life was like and how we felt as being part of it.

We will share these thoughts in a special service on 22nd November, one of three special services this month - on the 8th when we share in the National two minute silence, on the 29th when we celebrate The Guild, and at the beginning of Advent.

I look forward to sharing with you on all these occasions.

With all good wishes,

David R. Black

Laura Steven
7th April 1909 - 14th September 2009

Laura was born in Edinburgh and was christened Laura Lucy MacLeod.

Hers was a family with a strong Christian faith and she ever had the highest regard for her parents.

Her childhood she greatly enjoyed, playing in the street with her best and life-long friend Betty Hendry, and holidaying in Caithness, where for days she could run around in bare feet! After leaving Boroughmuir Secondary School she trained as a comptometer operator and worked for the Gas Board. Leisure activities included stravaiging on the Pentlands, a love of walking that she never lost.

Active in the church, she became leader of the Primary Sunday School at Braid Church of Scotland.

Meeting William Steven in her early twenties, she was engaged for seven years while her husband-to-be trained for the ministry. They were married in 1938. Following her husband's death in 1964, she returned to work as a school matron, first at Laurel Bank School and then at Craigholme. Following retirement she was active in the church and community Woman's Guild at Pollokshields Church, Titwood Bowling Club, playing bridge and enjoying music by playing the piano and attending concerts.

How could one describe her? Very giving and caring. Concerned for others' happiness and well-being, and part of that was thriftiness in respect of herself and generosity towards others. Warm and hospitable - outstanding treacle scones! Alert, virtually to the end. She declared "I'm not away with the fairies; I'm not losing my marbles - I might even have gained a few." She lived to her 100 years to the full with great energy, enthusiasm and a sense of fun - but always putting →

Harvest Thanksgiving

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the distribution of the Harvest Gifts after the service on Sunday 4th October. About 40 gifts were delivered and the Flower team appreciated your assistance.



Lilias Campbell

Donations for Harvest Thanksgiving totalled £778-50 (plus tax recovered through Gift Aid) and this has been sent to
The Lodging House Mission

from previous page

Laura Steven

the needs of others before herself.

Family and friends give thanks to God for a remarkable woman, whom we loved dearly and will miss greatly. I found in her Bible, presented to her on her wedding day by her minister, these words in her own hand, "God is love. God is in everyone - but to a greater or lesser degree - the more love the more of God."

Keith M Steven

Shona at Risk

Recent issues of Vision have told how Shona Morrison, one of our members, set off on a year out, and landed up at a mission run orphanage in southern India. She seems to have got more than she bargained for.

"The Krishna River close to us had been flooded and the water level keeps rising. It is a big disaster" (writes the Pastor there). Millions of people have lost their homes and 40 people have died.

"There is a bank between us and the flooded areas, but only three feet stands between us at Vellatur and the water.

"We are safe here at the orphanage, but if the water rises we will have to seek refuge in the roof. Food and water are already there.

"Even when the flood waters disappear it may take months before people can go back to their homes. Since fields and crops have been destroyed food prices will go up and starvation will be a reality."

THE LOCAL
CHARITY SHOP

As usual at this time of year we are planning ahead for Christmas.

We have cards and calendars in the shop and they are all reasonably priced, and sold on behalf of our main charity Enable.

We also have our raffle tickets in sale in the shop for fl. The draw will be on Saturday 5th December.

We sent a letter of sympathy to the Asian Charity Shop on Albert Drive when it was vandalised earlier this year.

On a personal note may I say "Thank you" to everyone who sent me cards and brought me plants, flowers and treats to eat when I has a recent fall.

J Provan

THE GUILD

Presents

Music for St. Andrew's Day

Monday 30 November

7.30pm

Liam Devlin – Organist

Pupils of St. Aloysius' College

Guild members

Calum and Lewis Morrison – Pipers

Refreshments will follow

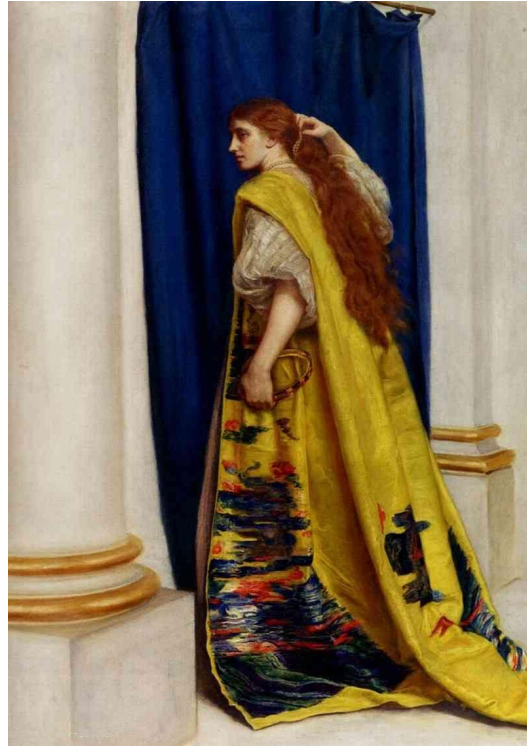
OFFERING IN AID OF
NAIROBI SCHOOL FOR AID ORPHANS

People of the Bible

Esther

Take... one beautiful Jewish girl, enter her in a beauty contest organised by the high officials of the Persian court, and what do you get? **Answer** - a new queen for King Xerxes.

The story began when at a banquet (where the wine was flowing perhaps too freely) Xerxes ordered his Queen, Vashti, to leave her own banquet and attend his, to display her beauty to the assembled guests. Not surprisingly she refused and not surprisingly the King was furious. Vashti was expelled and a search for a successor was made among all the provinces of the King's realm for beautiful young virgins. The girl that most pleased the King was Hadassa, a cousin of the exiled Mordecai. Thus Hadassa, also known as Esther, became the new Queen of Persia.



Esther by J.E. Millais

Another piece of the background to one of the most inspiring stories of female courage in the Old Testament - Mordecai was sitting at the King's gate when he overheard two of the guards there conspiring to assassinate the King. He reported this, and his act was recorded in the book of the royal annals.

Enter the villain of the piece, Haman. He had been elevated to the
➔

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place of highest honour in the kingdom. All the royal officials had to kneel down and pay him honour. Mordecai refused. Now Haman hated all Jews. He could have killed Mordecai, but for greater revenge he bribed the King with 10,000 talents (about 300 tons) of silver to issue an edict to destroy all the Jews.

Mordecai heard of this edict, and persuaded Esther to intercede with the King on their behalf. The King had a protocol that no-one could enter his presence uninvited, on pain of to death. Here was Esther's finest hour. She courageously entered the inner court of the King's palace uninvited. By the grace of God Xerxes extended his royal sceptre to her and allowed her to speak. Mordecai's good work in saving the King from assassination was recalled, and Haman was eventually hanged from the very gallows he had built for Mordecai.

However merciful the King might have felt towards his Queen's people, the Laws of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked, so He issued another edict permitting the Jews to defend themselves and to kill and destroy any armed force that might attack them. Thus the lives of thousands of Jews were saved, and they enriched themselves with plunder from their foes.

To this day the Jews remember their heroine's bravery on the Feast of Purim.

Odd Man Out

In each of the following groups, which is the 'Odd Man Out'?

1. Nehemiah, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Hezekiah
2. Corinthians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Jude

Answers are on page 13

THE GUILD

**CHRISTMAS
FAIRE**



Saturday 5th December

10.am - 12noon

**Stalls
Tearoom**

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Monday 2nd at 7.30 pm - Speaker to be advised

Monday 9th at 2.m pm - "ON THE OTHER SIDE"

Guild Project

Monday 16th- 7.30 pm - KESSINGTON MUSIC GROUP

Guest Night

Monday 23rd - 2.00 pm - SENSE SCOTLAND

Deaf Blind Association

Monday 30th- 7.30 pm- MUSIC FOR ST. ANDREW'S DAY

See separate notice

All our meetings are open to visitors, but a special invitation is extended to all members of the Congregation and friends to join us on 30th November for our St Andrew's Day Concert.



**"THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN"
MALE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD**

Cover Comment

Ways and Means

Nowadays if we want a change of government we wait for the next election. We may even agitate for the election to be held before the five-year deadline. We do not (in this country) resort to direct action by bombing the members of the ruling party or by assassinating the prime minister or the head of state.

In 1605 however we (or some of us) did take violent action. Many Roman Catholics were unhappy with the regime headed by the Protestant James VI and I, and a group, led by Robert Cates by, plotted to kill the king, his family and most of the Protestant aristocracy by blowing up the Houses of Parliament during the State Opening on 5th November 1605. (Whether the plot even if undiscovered would have been effective has been debated.)

*Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, 'twas his intent
to blow up the King and his Parliament.
Three score barrels of powder below,
poor old England to overthrow.
By God's providence he was caught
With a dark lantern and a burning match.
(Other verses are too bigoted to reprint here!)*

The venture led by Guido Fawkes failed.

In the Bible violent uprisings and regicides were not unknown. Two thousand years ago a King entered Jerusalem with an enthusiastic following. Many, probably most, saw Jesus as a warrior king who would overthrow the Roman rulers. The party of the Zealots presumably saw this as an opportunity to strike at the occupying powers. There were no cellars under Pilate's Praetorium, and Gunpowder was unknown except by the Chinese makers and users of firecrackers. Nevertheless direct action by the Zealots could have been a blow to Christ's purpose of establishing HIS kingdom. Praise God for a different outcome.

Caesarea Philippi



This is a photo of Baniyas, an ancient site of pagan worship. In the background is Pan's cave, Panias, which over the years became the Baniyas it is now. Philip the Tetrarch founded a city there, and made it his administrative capital. He renamed it Caesarea, to honour the emperor Tiberias (some authorities say Augustus) Caesar. (The 'Philippi' was added to distinguish it from the Caesarea on the west coast of Palestine, south west of the Sea of Galilee.)

Caesarea is beautifully situated in the far north of Palestine, north of the Sea of Galilee and in the foothills of Mount Hermon. From those rugged heights flow streams which water the lush plains around and feed the River Jordan. There are rock carvings in

Continued on page 13

Church Magazines

This is the time of year when you are asked to place an order for church magazines, Life and Work and VISION. The order form is in the middle pages of this magazine.

If you have never ordered Life and Work before then please consider ordering a copy this year. I am sure that you will find it a very interesting read. It has been the Church of Scotland's magazine for 128 years. It not only contains articles about the Church of Scotland but also covers a broad range of subjects, political and social, ethics and the arts.

This is the fifth year that the magazine has been kept at £1.60 per copy, but it relies on Church members placing orders. Many churches of other faiths' magazines have ceased publications because their members have stopped reading and ordering them. Please do not let this happen to Life and Work.

Orders for Life and Work should be in for 16th November

Ceilidh

There will be a ceilidh in the Church Hall on Saturday 14th November. Keep an eye on the Church Intimation Sheets for further details.

The Fotheringay Players

Neil Black will perform Richard Strauss' Oboe Concerto at a concert in the Fotheringay Centre on Sunday 22nd November.

The concert will start at 6 pm and will be in aid of Christian Aid's Emergency Appeal for S.E. Asia.

Caesarea Philippi

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the cliff and temples which give it an uncanny resemblance to Petra, and even in Jesus' time it was the centre of many forms of pagan worship.

Today Caesarea Philippi has political more than religious significance, as Syria and Israel each claim an interest in both the land and the water.

Odd Man Out

Answers to the questions on page 7: -

1. **Hezekiah.** All the others are books in the Old Testament. Hezekiah was a king.
 2. **Jude.** All the other were epistles written by St. Paul.
-

A Personal Note:

"Sadly after 29 years I will be made redundant when my store closes on 7th November. This ends what has been a hard year for me, as I have been recovering from ill health.

"I am currently looking for a new job. I would like to thank everyone in the Church for their support this year.

"I will keep you updated with my job hunting."

Alan Clark

A Harvest of Memories

At our harvest Thanksgiving Service on 4th October the Minister made the point that although few of us harvest our own crops we can all have a harvest of memories.

*Here is one person's harvest. **We hope other readers will contribute memories of their own childhood - schools, playing, holidays or whatever.** Perhaps these could constitute a regular feature of VISION.*

When we first moved into the area we were warmly welcomed and advised to go to Kenmure Church, as being the one best suited for children. Our three boys soon settled there, and before long Douglas was invited to fill the post of Sunday School Superintendent.

After the move into our present buildings, one of my earliest impressions was the sheer size of the congregation. Both doors were used in those days, and the aisles were full of a slow moving queue of people making their way out, and taking the chance of chatting to one another.

During a time for repairs in the church, services were held in the Hall. A short informal service planned and led by members of the congregation preceded the more traditional worship at 11 0'clock. Newcomers felt more comfortable in the relaxed atmosphere, and informal worship. Favourite hymns could be chosen, family news exchanged - like birthdays, or people in hospital - music could be a piano, a group of singers, hidden talent on instruments; drama was a popular teaching method, or just a simple talk.

Bible Study groups were popular and very well attended - several met during the day, other in the evening, and many used the material 'Geared for Growth', produced by WEC.

For young people there was the 'Manse Group', a Bible Study and Fellowship hosted by Harry and Moira Thomson in their manse. This in time became the '525 Group', which met (surprisingly!) in 525 →

The End (not quite!) of U.R.C. in Pollokshields

On Sunday 24th November there will be a Service of Celebration in the Fotheringay Centre to mark the end of the U.R.C. presence in Pollokshields. The U.R.C. here will continue for a year or two as an organisation, using its resources in support of the local Pollokshields churches.

the retirement of the Rev. Paul Jupp

It will be managed by a Board of Trustees, of whom John Park, known to many, will be a member.

We are sad to report the retirement of the Rev. Paul Jupp, but glad to know that he will be around in one role or another. These will include looking after 'The Way' and helping to set up, but not alas to lead, The Holiday Club.

We are grateful for all that Paul has done in so many ways over the past years for the Pollokshields community.

A Harvest of Memories

from page 14

Shields Road. It was led by a young Donald Scott (not a minister).

These are all comparatively recent memories. Much older than these are of being evacuated during the war to a boarding school, 'Clarendon', in Malvern. This was a Christian school whose staff and general ethos have been a wonderful foundation for my own life. But that's another story!

Betty Miller

Points for Prayer

- For the World* Pray for all those devastated by earthquakes, hurricanes or other natural disasters.
- For our Country* Pray for an end to all anti-social behaviour.
- For our Church* Pray for the Session 'Groups' that they may help us to be truly Christ's Church.
- For ourselves* Pray that we respond to the **Challenges** and **Changes** that lie ahead and that we may see them as **Chances**.
- For our Minister* Pray that he may not be over-stressed by the disruptions in the Manse.
- For our Missionary Partner* Pray that the Rev. Colin Johnston may quickly settle down in his new job.
- Give Thanks* for all who work 'behind the scenes' to help us in all aspects of our church life, from our worship to our reaching out in mission.

"This is what the Lord says,
'Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. '"

Jeremiah 6.16

Views expressed by contributors are their own
and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors
nor of The Church of Scotland.

The purpose of VISION is to record the life and work of the
congregation. No editors on their own can know all that people do
and feel and want, so it is up to you, whether you are an office
bearer, the leader of an organisation or an ordinary member, to
keep us informed.

Be in touch!

***Send us original articles, views, snippets of news anything you
would like to share with other people.***

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