

Pollokshields Church of Scotland Glasgow

VISION

**May
2010**

Minister: The Rev. David Black 423 4000

Session Clerk: Mrs. Mary Morrison 632 1659



🎵 “Jesus loves the little children” 🎵

Cover Comment is on page

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Forthcoming Services

Services are as noted below:

2nd May – 11am Morning Worship
and Scottish Asian Christian fellowship at 3.30pm

9th May - 11am Morning Worship
(note this is the 10K Sunday so take extra time coming to church in the morning.)

16th May – 11am Morning Worship Christian Aid Week Theme.

23rd May- 11am Morning Worship.
with Holy Communion for Pentecost Sunday.

30th May - 11am Morning Worship

“Hear: IAM”

Listening to God in 2010

“Women of the Bible/ Women Missionaries” is the theme for May’s series of meetings.

They will be held on Wednesdays 11-11.45am in the Session Room led by elders and friends.

All welcome.

The minister writes: “It is good to see our series take another new direction. I will be spending some time this month reviewing all the comments, and there have been plenty, put in the box following our April Series of individual readings. Watch this space for the follow up this generates for our worship together.”

Copy date for the June issue of VISION is Sunday 23rd May

Minister's Message

Whilst I write this members of the congregation, like thousands of others, are 'stranded' in various airport and holiday destinations thanks to the cloud of volcanic ash which has grounded all aircraft. Tales of trauma and upset are offset by the adventurous and sometimes epic effort some people have made to be back at work or school on time, proving once again that there is nothing which can daunt the human spirit.

Here, we have found the same true as our heating crisis left us with no option but to move into the Hall with hired heaters. Everyone who has shared in our worship has made an effort to accept that things are different and many have even noted the singing, the fellowship and the whole sense of being church together has improved.

We take that sense of togetherness with us as we return to the church for our services this month.

Equally, it was in such a spirit that the Annual Stated Meeting voted to accept the Kirk Session's recommendation that we look to sell Church House in the coming year, but to do so with a view to upgrading the rest of our facilities including the Sanctuary. The Church House Team will now meet to shape more concrete proposals re how we make this happen in a way that enhances the use of our buildings both for ourselves and the community around us. You will be asked to vote on such proposals in due course.

And talking of voting, the General Election to Parliament is now underway, and though we have not been able to hold hustings as we'd hoped, we do plan to have the Church open on Polling Day to offer a place of respite for those voting nearby. Our parish is bisected by two political wards, Glasgow South and Glasgow Central, and whatever party or politician you support do make sure you cast your vote.

As with all that goes on in church and the world, it is only by participating that you can have your voice heard and enable the changes you wish to see happen.

With all good wishes,

DAVID

Goodbye and Thank You.

My departure from Pollokshields Church was very speedy and I was given no opportunity to say goodbye to you all.

Accordingly, I have been writing to the folk that I had visited or had been visiting so that they would know that I would not be visiting them again as part of the pastoral outreach of the church to its members. As you can imagine, this was not easy because I had got to know them well during my visits.

Many of you have welcomed me into your homes; others have made me welcome at their bedside either in hospital or care home over the last six years. It has been a privilege to be with you and share experiences also concerns as well as happy memories and the occasional laugh.

I would like to say a special Goodbye and Thank You to everyone in Junior Church. I enjoyed being with you and while I will miss you all, I wish you well for your futures.

It has been a privilege to work with you all and we must all look to the future. Many have asked me to keep in touch and I will not let you down in this. However new challenges await me and I must put my main energies into them. You will be happy if you share God's compassion and you will know nothing of despair. God be with each one of you.

Hector

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Hector

Cover Comment

BABIES

“When the first baby laughed for the first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies.”

J.M. Barrie

Who does not delight in a baby’s laugh, or even its smile (even though it may be only wind!)? One could almost wish that babies, like kittens, would never grow up but stay that way for ever. But God, having performed the miracles of conception, development of the foetus in the womb and birth itself, then works further non-stop miracles as a mewling and puking bundle in no time becomes the baby, the toddler, the child and the young man or woman.

Moreover one of the most miraculous parts of a baby is its brain. From the moment of birth (and some would say even before that), every sight, every sound, every touch, every smell and every taste is absorbed into that extraordinary brain and stored, sorted and treasured until it is ready to become an integrated part of the growing child.

That leaves us with a frightening responsibility. Unknown to us, whatever we say or do, a harsh word to a friend, a small act of kindness, a polite manner, a cry of joy or a bellow of anger, a loving gesture, all these are registered, and taken in to become part of what the child will become. Wordsworth hit the nail on the head when he wrote, “The child is father of the man.” Thus we are always ‘on parade’, with an awesome responsibility. Yet for all our rough hewing it is God who shapes our ends. We are only acting as God’s agents in the miracle of growth (as in so many of God’s other miracles). In all his creations God “saw that it was good”. Let us all as God’s agents work to keep it that way.

D.D.M.

Annual Stated Meeting 2010

BEFORE the meeting the Minister had written to every member stressing the importance of attendance at the A.S.M. Enclosed were notes on “Achievement and Performance 2009”, the Financial Review 2009 and a copy of the simplified Accounts for 2009 and the Budget for 2010.

The A.S.M. was held after the morning service on 28th March. 82 members were present. This was better than the 65 last year, but still represented only a third of those entitled to make decisions on the future of our Church.

The minutes of the 2009 meeting were approved.

Chairing the meeting the Minister referred to the benefits resulting from the changes made the previous year.

Hector Dickson’s decision to move on to other forms of service left a big gap in our pastoral ministry. Hector has been a pillar of support, both pastorally and with the practical and technical work in so many areas of our church, the latest being the designing and supervision of the new brighter and more economical lighting system in the sanctuary.

Repairs to the heating system in the sanctuary had been authorised and the hope was that work would be completed by the end of May.

Accounts: Ken Symon presented the simplified version of the →

Biblical Connections

What connects the following ?

Abana

Pharpar

Jabbok

Arnon

Answers are on page 6

HOLIDAY

ON?



or OFF?

This year the Holiday Club is short of leaders and sadly will not go ahead without some volunteers. Can you volunteer some time or help in any capacity (kitchen/door/play/helpers/leaders)?

If you are able to help contact Paul Jupp on: 0797 467 4034.

- Church Accounts. He explained the differences from the 2008 accounts and described how the budget for 2010 had been prepared. This included an expected deficit of £36,300 (£23,000 in 2009). The budget was approved unanimously.

Church Property. The Minister summed up the outcome of much research and discussion by saying that we had more property than we needed or than we could afford. Church House was a liability, rather than an asset.

He proposed that the meeting authorise in principle the sale of Church House as an entity. This was agreed with 72 votes for and 2 against. It was further agreed that money from the sale of Church House be used to remodel both Hall and Sanctuary. This was approved unanimously.

D.D.M.

The Guild

THE GUILD is now on its summer break until Monday 6th September, when our new session will commence.



The Coffee Morning held on Saturday 13th March raised a total of £346. Many thanks to all who contributed to this in any way. This has enabled us to donate £200 to each of our Guild Projects; **'ON THE OTHER SIDE'**, Church of Scotland Social Care Council's project to provide Visitor Centres and support families visiting relatives in prison, and **'INTERFAITH SUPPORT'**, World Mission Council's reconciliation project in Israel/Palestine.

Through our weekly offerings we have also donated £100 each to the Lodging House Mission and Church House Bridgeton.

Many thanks to our members for their generosity over the past session.

Marjory Swan
President

Biblical Connections

Answers to quiz on page 4

All are rivers.

Naaman asked "Are not **Abana** and **Pharpar**, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?" (2 Kings 5.12)

Jabbok was the river (stream?) where Jacob wrestled with "a man". (Genesis 32. 23,24)

Arnon was a river crossed by the Israelites during the exodus. It flows into the Dead Sea. (Deut 2.24)

Christian Aid

ChristianAid Week is coming up and will be running from 9th-15th May.

Christian Aid helps some of the world's poorest people in countries across the world such as Zimbabwe, Peru, Haiti, India and Sudan. They also work on issues like climate change, HIV and Justice.

Last year ChristianAid raised £9 million. This year the aim is £14 million, but they cannot do it without us! In all our fundraising as a congregation for ChristianAid the door to door collections have always helped to raise the most money. I am aware that there are some issues with secure door entry etc, but there are a number of streets that we can cover that don't have these issues. We will be asking anybody who cannot complete the door to door collections themselves to distribute a small number of envelopes to friends and family.

I have been doing work with ChristianAid directly over the past few months and have seen the real difference they are making to people's lives.

Don't leave it to someone else. Please donate the time you can. Please contact Shona Morrison on 0141 632 1659 or shonahmorrison@hotmail.com for more information.

Prior to the ChristianAid service on 16th May, we cordially invite all male congregation members to celebrate a coffee morning free from the oppression of the women folk! Donations of home baking would be appreciated and left overs will be sold after the service with proceeds going to ChristianAid

There will be a ChristianAid service on 16th May, and a number of other events related to the charity over the next few months.

*Shona Morrison or
Yvonne Sandlan (01355521416 or 0783 5621900)*

from page 9

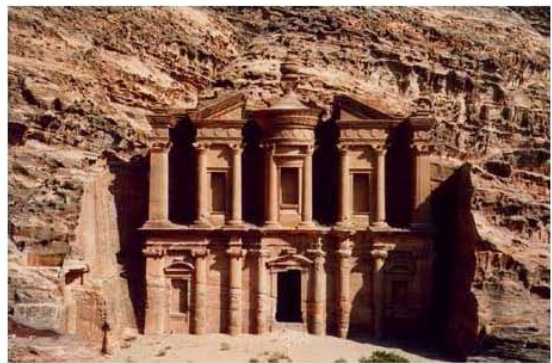


Sela - once capital of Edom

when Edom was in Moabite hands Amaziah re-conquered it and slew 10,000 in the Valley of Salt, and then sent another 10,000 to their death by casting them off Sela, a massive rocky plateau 1,000 feet above Petra.

After the fall of Judah Edom was overrun by the Nabataeans.

By the way, Saul's huntsman Doeg, who betrayed David's friend Abimelech the priest of Nob, was an Edomite. The Herods also came from Edomite stock.



Petra - the "Rose-red city half as old as time"

Places in the Bible

EDOM

‘EDOM’ means ‘RED’

Red for pottage

Red for Esau

Red for Edom

Red for Petra

Esau sold his birthright for “a mess of pottage” (*Geneva Bible*) or “red stew” (*N.I.V.*) That was how he acquired the name ‘Edom’, which just means ‘red’.

After splitting with his brother Jacob he eventually settled in the land called Seir, just south of the Dead Sea, and that land came to be called Edom. It was just a coincidence that it was a red, rocky mountainous land.

And in the middle of this red land was the ‘rose-red city’ of Petra.

Edom was a great depression stretching from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqabah. (the Red Sea). It was rugged, with mountains up to 3,500 feet; not fertile but with some cultivatable areas.

At the exodus Israel made their way up ‘The King’s Highway’, which runs from the foot of the Dead Sea north towards Syria. When this route crossed Edom Israel asked permission to go through it but was refused. Israel however was forbidden to abhor his Edomite brother Esau.

Centuries later Saul fought the Edomites and David conquered them. This enabled Solomon to built a port at Ezion-Geber on the Gulf of Aqabah, and to exploit the local copper mines and help his commercial activities.

Are we Laodiceans?

The Laodiceans were criticised for being neither hot nor cold.

Recently, following the breakdown of the church heating system we have been worshipping in the Hall. Thanks to great efforts by the Property Convener and many helpers we have been neither too hot nor too cold. In the present circumstances this is not a criticism - it is thanks and commendation!

We lost the opportunity to wait behind after the service for coffee and chat but we gained an atmosphere of unity and fellowship during worship. If the heating system shut down was a cloud, the increased sense of togetherness was a silver lining.

Worship in the Sanctuary has many benefits, and we hope to start enjoying them again by the time these words are read.

D.D.M.

“The Way”

Pollokshields Churches Together’s Youth Fellowship

The spring and summer programme has already started. “The Way” meet on a Sunday evening, once a month.

The Rev. Paul Jupp says, “The Way” is an opportunity to explore how drama and the performing arts can help us to learn about important issues and share the stories that make a big impact on our lives.

“The Way’s” big occasion is **SHOW TIME** on Sunday 20th June.

Obadiah

It was never a good idea to cross King Ahab - far less his dragon of a wife Jezebel. We should therefore take our hats off in humble admiration to Obadiah, one of the most devout and brave men in the Old Testament.

Jezebel's blood was up. She was systematically killing off the Lord's prophets. Obadiah, with incredible courage, had taken a hundred of them and hidden them in two caves. Not only that but she had provided them with food and water.

Obadiah was in charge of Ahab's palace, a sort of major domo. If a whiff of what he had done had reached Ahab, or worse Jezebel, his life would have been worth nothing. He was well aware of the precariousness of his position. On another occasion Elijah told Obadiah to tell the King that he had seen the great man. Obadiah was terrified. If I tell Ahab where you are, and before he looks for you the Spirit of God whisks you away so that he cannot find you, the King will kill me.

Obadiah risked everything, and his name on God's Roll of Honour has come down to us through the centuries.
(He should not be confused with the prophet Obadiah, who tore Edom to shreds, not least because of the latter's gloating attitude to Israel in the time of her misfortune.)

D.D.M.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry - two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. We cannot undo a single act we performed. We cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise or poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise, whether it is in splendour or behind a mask of clouds... but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day... TODAY. Any person can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when we add the burdens of those two awful eternities, yesterday and tomorrow, that we break down.

It is not the experience of today that drives people mad - it is the remorse or bitterness of something that happened yesterday or the dread of what tomorrow may bring.

LET US THEREFORE LIVE BUT ONE DAY AT A TIME.

Points for Prayer

- For the world** Pray that the recent nuclear arms reduction pact between Russia and USA may be a symbol of a more peaceful world to come..
- For our country** Pray that the results of the forthcoming General Election may reflect the true needs and aspirations of the people.
- For our church** Pray that we may overcome the problems of finance and property.
- For ourselves** Pray that we may become more understanding and forgiving.
- For Colin Johnston, our Missionary Partner** Pray for his language study and for increased understanding and fluency in speech.
- Give thanks** for the work of all who made worship and fellowship in our new circumstances so acceptable.

Be bold, be strong,
For the Lord your God is with you,
Be bold, be strong'
For the Lord your God is with you.
I am not afraid,
I am not dismayed,
For I'm walking in faith and victory;
Come on and walk in faith and victory,
For the Lord your God is with you.

*Morris Chapman
after Joshua 31.6*

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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