

Pollokshields Church of Scotland Glasgow

VISION

June
2010

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



Loaves and Fishes

Cover Comment is on page 4

	Page		Page
Christian Aid Week	2	A different kind of journey	9
Doing things differently	3	Holiday Club	10
Loaves and fishes	4	Local Charity Shop Biblical	11
Rainbows and Brownies	5	connections	12
Colossae	6	Odds and ends	14
Jephtha	8	Points for Prayer	Cover

Forthcoming Services

Services and Pastoral Arrangements for Summer 2010.

6th June	11am	Morning Worship, Creche and Junior Church.
13th June	11am	Holy Communion
20th June	11am	Morning Worship, Creche and Junior Church. Guest Preacher Rev Ainslie Walton
27th June	11am	Morning Worship, Crèche and Junior Church.

Throughout July and August there will be a single morning service and Junior Church Club as well as a Crèche each week at 11 am.

Guest Preachers in August when David Black is on holiday will be the Rev Ada McLeod who will be preaching here for the first time and Miss Anne MacDonald, Deacon and Hospital Chaplain who is well known to us.

Pastoral cover for the period of the minister's holidays will be detailed in the weekly notices sheet in due course.

VISION will not be published in July or August. The next issue will be that for September 2010

Minister's Message

Last year I wrote "The General Assembly of 2009 may well prove to be a watershed in the annals of church history."

Well maybe it was the beginning of the end or perhaps even the end of the beginning.

Certainly what I can say is that after all the talk of splits last year, the 2010 Assembly was marked with good humour and cohesion and a remarkable degree of openness and tolerance.

Some previously unspoken issues were named and tackled, such as the unacceptable practice of some congregations in failing to take seriously the church's position on the ordination of women.

The foundations of the future shape of ministry were laid, not so much on the decision to cut the number of fulltime posts, but in the reaffirmation of the 3m Article Declaratory which states we will be a national church with a territorial presence in every part of Scotland. This means a deliberate giving up by city and central belt churches of ministers to serve in the rural parts of our nation.

Yes there will be painful times ahead, yes there will be fresh demands for more sacrificial giving and for more activity on the part of church elders and members to live and share the gospel and not leave the work to the professionals who are ordained to ministry of word and sacrament. But I believe this Assembly has shown the church has a new sense of belief in itself and in the message it has to proclaim, and in its ability to find new ways to make the Good News of Jesus Christ relevant to the world in which we live.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to put poverty at the heart of the church's engagement with the community of Scotland around us; a very relevant concept for us as we seek to work with the *faithincommunities scotland* team to engage with the issues of poverty in our own community.

With all good wishes
David R Black

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.

The total raised from all of the Christian Aid Week fundraising is a fantastic £1615. Thank you so much to everyone who donated and a special mention to those who completed the door-to-door collecting. It's not always the easy option and there are issues and areas which I hope we can fully review before the time comes again next year. However, the envelope distribution and collection isn't always about the totals raised. I hope we can see the community development potential of Christian Aid Week in future years and work to build on this idea too. Having said all that, nearly half of the total raised was from the door to door collections so I hope you agree that it was indeed worthwhile. I've been lucky enough to spend some time working directly in the Christian Aid office over the last few months so I have had a proper chance to see how the money we have raised will help them in the vital work they do. Any ideas for fundraising activities and events are always welcome but for now, a huge thank you again to all involved.

Shona Morrison

I was utterly delighted - nay, overjoyed - with both the fantastic array of cakes made by the wonderful gentlemen of our congregation and with the sum of money raised through our coffee and cake morning after the Christian Aid service. Over £100 was added to the total raised for Christian Aid through the generosity of our cake munchers and I was particularly pleased to notice several members who normally tend not to pop through for a cuppa! On a personal note, with this being my first attempt at organising anything involving the Church I was relieved and enthused with how many cakes turned up prior to the service starting. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this such a wonderful event - give yourselves a pat on the back!

Yvonne Sandlan

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

The other side to our Christian Aid Week activities (aside from the fabulous Men's Baking of course!) was the service held on Sunday 16th May. A number of the older members of Junior Church took part in a workshop hosted by Eilidh Forsyth, a youth advocate with Christian Aid and then worked to put together different presentations for the service itself. For those of you who missed it (tsk tsk!) we learned a host of interesting/shocking statistics about life in a Kenyan slum, received a letter from a woman living in Kenya thanking Christian Aid supporters for their help, and were encouraged to write pledges and prayers or thoughts for people across the world who don't have access to clean water or proper sanitation (look out for this display in the church hall and feel free to add your own 'thought droplet').

At a time when the younger people are incredibly busy with exams etc, I was extremely grateful to all of them for giving up their time. I think the service went well and hopefully offered not just them (and me) but those who were there, an opportunity and space to learn and think more about these issues.

I was so proud of the younger members who got involved and want to thank them for their mature handling of the issues and presentations (thanks guys!) It's not an easy thing getting up in front of the whole congregation to try something different but they all handled it brilliantly. A thank you should also go to the congregation for being open to this different approach and I hope we can all support the younger members, who are so important to the life of our church and its community, in future projects like this one.

Cover Story

Loaves and Fishes

- Small boy:* Hey, mister! I saw you talking to Jesus. You a friend of his?
- Andrew:* I am!
- Small boy:* He's great! Isn't he? All he says and does! He must be tired, and hungry, you know.
- Andrew:* Yes. He's been at it all day.
- Small boy:* Has he had anything to eat?
- Andrew:* Not a thing. And no chance of getting anything here.
- Small boy:* I brought **my** lunch with me. Do you think Jesus would like to share some of it?
- Andrew:* Why not? Let's go and ask him

The above is of course fanciful. There is no mention in any of the Gospels of a small boy offering Jesus his lunch. But if it had been like that it would be great teaching. Jesus can take our offering however humble and work wonders with it.



The offering

When ministers are dedicating the offering in church they often use the word 'token'. That is all it can be. Unlike the widow who gave her all we give just 'a token'. Yet Jesus will accept our gifts however small and use them to work miracles - in providing food and clean water where these are lacking, in providing the resources for teaching and preaching, in this country and overseas, and in supporting ministry worldwide.

Every time the offering bag comes to us we should remember the loaves and fishes and pray that Jesus will continue to work his miracles of creation.

D.D.M.

259th Rainbow Guides have had a very successful year, celebrating 100 years of guiding. We have only two tasks left to complete our 'Adventure 100' badges, for which we had to complete ten tests to gain 100 points.



For our 'Wacky 100' task we are going to have a sponsored jump. Where each Rainbow has to jump 100 times. For our final task, 'Share the Adventure' we are going to have an outing to Calderglen Country Park.

For spring we have been 'Busy Lizzies', painting plant pots and making plant pot pals before planting flowers.

Thanks for everyone who helps with Rainbows.

Toucan (Helen McGregor)



259th Brownies have had a great year, learning lots of new skills and games. The Leaders have been dining well with many of the Brownies completing their Cook Badge; some are now working on their Cook Advanced. We were even treated to a three-course meal in the course of one meeting! Others have been demonstrating their gymnastic skills and the importance of exercise with their Agility Badge, or their theatrical and musical talents with their Entertainers Badge. We have also been discussing re-cycling and the Brownies even made their own fashionable creations out of materials we would normally throw away.

The Christmas outing was a trip to the Citizens Theatre, where some of the Brownies got pictures with the Ugly Sisters, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We will hopefully be taking a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park as our summer outing.

The four Young Leaders have been a fantastic help this year, giving up their spare time to help run games and activities at the meetings. Next year Snowy Owl will be in Spain as part of her university degree but we will be seeing the return of another leader who has been spending the year in Paris, so the group will be able to continue meeting as usual. Overall it has been a highly productive and enjoyable year for Brownies and Leaders alike.

Lauren Hoare - Snowy Owl

Places in the Bible

Colossae

COLOSSAE, in the Lycus Valley, was a city of contradictions:

Its streams were impregnated with chalk, which made much of the ground infertile - nevertheless it was renowned for its areas of lush pasturage, which fed large flocks of sheep, which produced lots of wool, which made Colossae one of the main centres of the woollen industry...

Paul never visited it, nevertheless he wrote an epistle to that city, which is a model exposition of orthodox Christian belief and behaviour ...

Paul commended the Colossians for their faith and love and growth, nevertheless he felt he had to warn them to beware of the heresies which flourished among the multi-ethnic population there ...

The church in Colossae was founded by Epaphras, himself a Colossian. It was certainly one of the churches in Asia, but oddly not included in the list of seven churches referred to by John in Revelation. Another familiar name from Colossae is Philemon.

Colossae was in what is now Turkey. It was in the Lycus Valley, about a hundred miles from Ephesus. When it suffered from the effects of an earthquake there, it began to decline in importance. As it did so nearby Laodicea increased.

Much of the book of Colossians is similar to Ephesians, perhaps because Paul wrote both epistles to them at about the same time.



R. Lycus



Lycus Valley

People in the Bible

Jephtha

JEPHTHA was a great man. He was Gilead's eldest son but because his mother was a prostitute his brothers, to gain the inheritance, drove him out. He settled in nearby Tob and became the leader of a gang of terrorists, who would raid local villages and attack caravans. He gained the reputation of being a mighty warrior.

Later the Gileadites were at war with the Ammonites - and losing. The elders sent to Jephtha asking him to return and then to lead them to victory. This he did. He then made a vow, "whatever first comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph I will sacrifice as a burnt offering." (Some authorities say, "*Whoever ...*" and comment that Jephtha intended to make a human sacrifice of some unfortunate slave.)

We can imagine his utter horror when dancing out to meet him with tambourines came his darling daughter. Jephtha was a godly man and with breaking heart decided he must keep his vow. His daughter too was godly. She told her father he must do just that, only asking that she might have two months to roam the hills and lament her virginity.

Years before Abraham faced a similar agonising decision and decided to obey God's command to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering. The big difference was that God countermanded his instruction to Abraham, and Isaac was spared. Not so with Jephtha's daughter, for whom came no reprieve.

Why the difference? It may be that the test that faced Abraham was part of **God's plan**. He had other things for Isaac's life. There is no suggestion that Jephtha's daughter was any part of **God's plan**. There is also the difference between **God's plan** and **man's plan**.

Have we the right to demand from God "Why?" As God made it clear to Job God's will is sovereign. It is presumptuous for us to question it. If God sometimes gives us a glimpse of "Why?" that is just his gracious way.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOURNEY

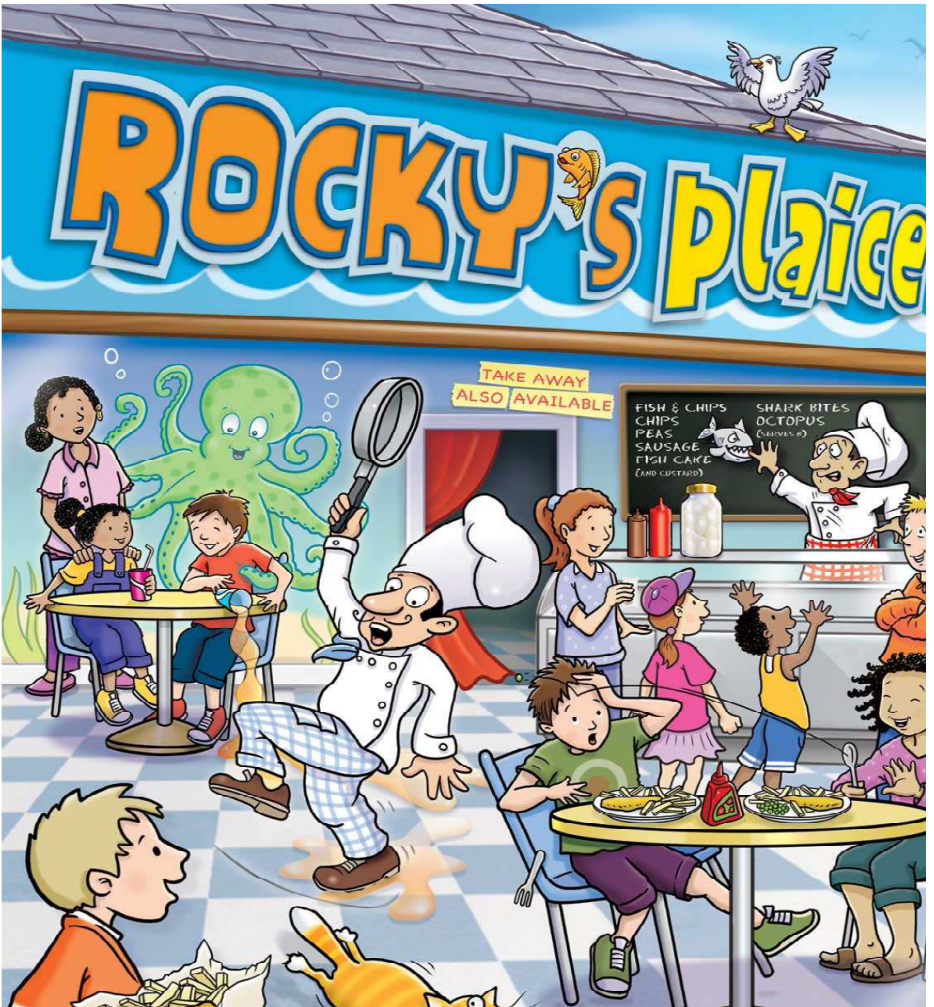
When someone suggested a few months ago, that I don my running shoes and enter the women's 10k to raise money for the orphan- age my first reaction was to laugh. Inside at - least - outside I had to nod my head and agree it was a great idea. After all, I can hardly ask people for money to support the orphanage I worked with in India last year if I'm not prepared to put in some blood, sweat and tears myself (or in this case, ankle sprains, sweat and a pulled shoulder muscle - don't ask!)

When I first signed up to the women's 10k I figured it would be good for me and I'd raise a bit of cash for the orphanage in Andhra Pradesh. I never imagined I would raise so much. People were so incredibly generous, and so many people at that, that I managed to raise more than £850. Over £300 of this came from the congregation of Pollokshields Parish Church and so I wanted to say a huge heartfelt thank you to you all. That sum will be able to do a tremendous amount of good over there and will be able to make a real difference to the work that they do.

The atmosphere on the day was fantastic and I really (somewhat unexpectedly) enjoyed myself. There is something rather special about joining 11,000 other women all running, walking, gasping and pushing themselves on together and it was inspiring. For those who are interested my time was 1.06.23. I was particularly proud of the fact I didn't stop, though at times I was running only just above the speed of zero. The main thing that kept me going was the constant support of the crowds of people that lined the street and I felt incredibly proud of the people of Glasgow standing clapping, cheering, handing out water (and occasionally chocolate biscuits) to the runners. I was delighted to see some of you stood out on Shields Road so thank you very much for the much needed encouragement!

The women's 10k became much more to me than just a run. Joining so many others of all ages, shapes and sizes who were there for fundraising or just fun and seeing people turned out to support us was quite humbling. Thank you so much again for your sponsorship - it made the pain I had in previously undiscovered leg muscles completely worthwhile.

**Pollokshields Churches Together
Holiday Club
9th to 14th August
(Yes, it's on !)
for children entering P1 through S1**



THE LOCAL CHARITY SHOP

The Local Charity Shop
214 Albert Drive
Pollokshields
GLASGOW
G41 2NJ
TEL: 0141 429 0130

SEVERAL years ago Winnie Baxter wrote an article in The Guardian about our shop being a survivor.

Both Winnie and The Guardian have gone. But we, despite the recession, are still surviving.

We are still looking for bowlers and top hats but we would welcome table linen, bed linen and bric-a-brac.

At our A.G.M. on 18t May it was decided we should give our profits this year as follows:-

Enable Glasgow	£12,415 (80%)
Macmillan Nurses	£500
Beatson Hospital	£500
Alzheimers Scotland	£500
Parkinsons	£500
British Skin Foundation	£500
The Preshal Trust	£500
Our Church	£104

J. Provan

Biblical Connections

What connects the following four pictures?

The answer is on page 13.



Biblical Connections
Answers to puzzle on page 12

Solomon wrote, "There be three things which are too wonder- ful for me, yea four which I know not: the way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid."

Odds and Ends

Back to Normal The church heating system has been repaired and on 2nd May we once again worshipped in the sanctuary.

Our thanks go to all who coped with the difficult circumstances and made the changeovers look easy.

Paul Cathcart Pollokshields Churches Together have found a leader for this year's Holiday Club. (see p.) Paul is 'on loan' to use from Govan and Linthouse Parish Church, where he is the Youth and Children's Outreach and Development Worker. He is married and he and Christine have three children. We hope that his time with the Holiday Club will not be the last we shall see of him.

Christian Aid Christian Aid was launched on with a coffee morning, which raised £

Door to door collections and other gifts totalled £1,503 - so far!

Congratulations to Val Henderson and Shona Morrison for taking part in the Women's 10K on Sunday 9th May. Shona's sponsorship raised

Election Day The Church doors were open on Thursday 6th May to provide respite for voters and helpers. Over 30 visitors (including some who were just interested passers by) came to see the inside of our church and enjoy refreshments.

Welcome back to those who were stranded because of the cancellation of so many flights, due to volcanic Ash.

The General Assembly has been fully reported elsewhere; the best source of news about it is probably Life and Work. Our Minister was one of the Commissioners.

Colin Johnston our Missionary Partner in Tiberias wears many hats including that of Minister of the Church there and Chaplain to the hotel there. He is available to the many tourist visitors there, helps to ease racial tensions and generally personifies the Christian presence there.

Fancy a Fun Night Out - 10 pin bowling at AMF Bowling at The Quay at 7 pm on Thursday 3rd June? If interested contact Liz Izzard on 0141 770 6559 or elizzard2000@yahoo.co.uk. Sorry for the short notice.

Congratulations Danielle! On Mothering Sunday 14th March, after instruction, Danielle Goodbrand took her vows to become a church member and was duly admitted to membership of the Church of Scotland. Congratulations and welcome.

The Hidden Gardens is an award winning public green space located behind The Tramway and offers visitors a unique experience, found nowhere else in the city. It hosts various events in June; details of these can be found at www.thehiddengardens.org.uk

Sanctuary Lighting has been much improved and we remain grateful to Hector Dickson for his input to the design and installation of the new system.

The Gardener

an allegory



In his greenhouse the gardener had twelve seed trays. They were his chosen plants and he loved them. Each seed tray had a different variety but all plants came from the same stock.



In due course the gardener took the plants from the greenhouse and put them in a cold frame outside. This was to harden them off.

The gardener's plan was to plant them out in a nearby bed he had chosen for them. The soil there was good but it was full of weeds. These had to be eradicated, roots and all, every one of them. A passer-by complained at this 'slaughter' but although the weeds appeared healthy they had undesirable characteristics, but to make room for his 'chosen' plants they had to go.

As each patch of the new bed was cleared of the weeds the gardener planted out a trayful of seedlings. Eventually all the good plants were in their new locations. He had loved them from the start and had cared for them throughout their early growth.

"Now remember," he warned them, "behave yourselves! Any deviations or failure to grow true to type and I will come and get rid of you."

Sadly those in the northern half of the bed failed to respond to the gardener's love and care. He gave them chance after chance but eventually he uprooted them and took them away. He moved some to a neighbour's allotment; others he scattered to lie wherever they fell. Many were never heard of again.

D.D.M.

Points for Prayer

For the world

Pray that the time will be near "when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."(Habakkuk 2.14)

For our country

Pray for our new Parliament, that both Government and Opposition may work for the good of our nation.

For our church

Pray that we may have a sense of mission, and that we may all work at it.

For Colin Johnston, our Missionary Partner

Pray that the Lord may bless him and keep him, and make his face to shine upon him, and be gracious unto him, to lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace.

For ourselves

Pray that we may live up to our professions of faith.

Give thanks

that we are able to pray, both in private and in public.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4. 6,7)

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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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