

**POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW**

**No. 16**

**April 2012**

# NEW VISION

**Charity Number SCO13690**



## **Our Mission Statement:**

*'Showing forth the love of Christ in  
a Multi-Faith Community'*

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>The Rev David Black</b>	<b>423 4000</b>
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	<b>Mrs Mary Morrison</b>	<b>632 1659</b>

# Church Services in April

- 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00 Palm Sunday  
3:30 Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship
- 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Good Friday Service
- 3<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Easter Sunday Family Service and  
Holy Communion
- 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- (Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm will  
be held in Sherbrooke - St Gilberts)



**Copy date of the next New Vision is 22<sup>nd</sup> April**



## Message from the Manse

At a time when we celebrate the central belief of our faith and hope in God in the Resurrection of his Son Jesus the Christ, we affirm once again at Easter, our belief that the travails of this world are not the be all and end of our living.

The great Easter cry “The Lord is Risen”, is the place where our hope, our faith, our church, our witness to the world around us finds its rationale. It is Jesus, God made flesh, dying yet in death made something altogether new, who having revealed his new life to his disciples, ascends back to God and is the power in which we stand.

This is the unique message which our faith proclaims. It is what makes Jesus more than just a great prophet or preacher.

That he dies but lives again.

And we live in the light and faith and hope of His resurrection and the promise of our own.

This offers us a perspective from which to view the world and all its striving for goodness and glory, from which to view all its suffering and loss, from which to view all our struggles, personal and political in the church and in the world.

That the risen Christ will one day be the returning Christ and his kingdom be the place of peace and justice and salvation for all people is what we look for and work for as we put our hope in Him, as we seek to work out what it means to be the church in 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland.

Best wishes for a Happy Easter.

**Rev. David Black**



Taken from the Life and Work Facebook page

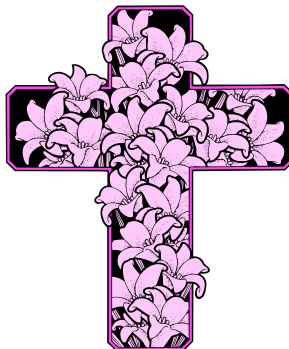
## News Articles from Lodging House Mission

Instead of giving a Easter Egg why not give £1 to the Lodging House Mission and they will make sure every person who comes to them will get an egg. Money can be given to Elva Carlisle.

Are you free on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 then come and enjoy Jamie Suart (see poster on page 12)

The latest three-way relationship with Scottish Opera and Givin' it Laldie (community singing) is attracting large numbers of service users – this was an out-come difficult to predict, in view of the initial reception which was had when it was announced that Lodging House Mission was to write and produce its own opera! The production can be seen at the Lodging House Mission on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April and at Gorbals Parish Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April is shaping up to be something special.

The Annual General Meeting of the Lodging House Mission will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7:00pm.



# Plans and Development

Two items reported on at The Annual Stated Meeting are the Presbytery Plans and the progress of our own Development Plans.

The Presbytery of Glasgow voted for a motion on 13<sup>th</sup> March which its STAG group found unacceptable and so resigned en masse. The First Draft of their plan therefore has fallen and until a new group is formed no progress will be made towards the revision of the current suspended plan. What remains clear is that a cut of 31 ministry posts across the Presbytery will have to be planned for in the next ten years, and that these are roughly 10 losses in Priority Area posts and 21 in Non Priority area posts.

The uncertainty sits alongside our own plans for development of our building but should not be seen as a distraction from what we are looking to do. Even the harshest of the ideas for our congregation would be a linkage with some other congregation and building on our work in and from this place.

Therefore the Development Team are pressing on in seeking to find ways to fund a business plan for the redevelopment of the buildings complex, alongside a "pilot" project to show how the building could be more fully utilised and generate income.

Watch out for our OPEN EVENING on Election night in May and our summer cafe as well as improved access to church and hall at Shields Road, as they are the first stages on the way.

**Rev David Black**

## A Thought at Easter

The Swedish writer August Strindberg (1849 – 1912) wrote a story called *A Half Sheet of Paper*. With great economy of words (the story itself was not much more than a page long) he managed to convey a great deal. The half sheet of paper in the story was pinned up beside the telephone of a young man and contained numbers which themselves spoke volumes: there was the number of a theatre, where the young man had booked seats for himself and his girlfriend in the early days of courtship; then other significant numbers; the florist, the priest, a hotel, a midwife, a doctor, an undertaker.... in a few words Strindberg painted the happiness and the tragedy of the young widower's life.

As we get older and have the sad experience of reading the obituaries of some of our contemporaries, Strindberg's story may strike a chord with us. In the end, apart from a select few who merit a biography, the lives of most of us can be (and are) reduced to a few lines, even a few words. A sobering thought. Our years of toil, struggle, dedication, devotion, ambition, wasted time and opportunities: all alike reduced to a few words, kind or cruel, inadequate or extravagant. The words may not even be written or spoken, but simply formed in someone's mind and retained in memory; and it can be a comfort to us to believe that what we truly are is known but to God, while it is perhaps a divine irony that God is least impressed by what impresses us most.

It only takes a few words to record the basic impression we have left on our fellow men and women. And how posterity can cut us down to size! Nero is remembered for fiddling while Rome burned; King Arthur for the burning

of cakes; Drake for playing bowls. On the other hand, we may draw hope from the words of Earl Gray about his father: 'He lit so many fires in cold rooms'. What a testimony to the effect of one individual's life on others!

And there is a challenge in that. We live in a world which is motivated by curiosity and greatly impressed by wonders: the Guinness Book of Records in its numerous editions is a continual reminder of that. But where in its pages will you find the impressive record of a daughter's lifelong devotion to an invalid parent; or a long-suffering spouse's tolerance of a seemingly intolerable family situation; or the self-tormenting agonies of some poor soul striving to be 'good' in the face of an environmental conditioning to do 'evil'? However impressed we are by the almost superhuman achievements of men and women in the field of the arts, athletics, science, engineering or what have you, in the end these achievements are not the things that touch our lives at the deepest level and fundamentally change us.

I think it was Baron von Hugel who said, 'Caring matters most.' Indeed it does. And the Gospel of Christ, the Good News of God, the Easter message if you like, presents itself to us at just this level - the level of God's caring for each one of us as an individual - offering us wholeness; and calling us at the same time to fulfil the ministry of caring for others. A powerful part of that Easter message is that a crucified man, hanging in agony on a cross, and only a step away from death, could take thought for his mother and commit her to the care of one of his disciples.

In its long history the Christian church has often made the mistake of thinking on too wide a scale; of coming up



with grandiose ideas to reform the state or convert the world, and leaving the planning (and often the practice) to committees, boards, and working groups caught up with the same wide vision. But wherever the 'policy' or the 'plan' has come to be more important than the 'people' the result has been negligible. Simply because 'the world' never sees itself as 'the world'; people can only see themselves as 'people'. And we cannot love 'the world' as the 'world' needs to be loved; it has too many faces, too many outstretched hands. The pop star clutching her microphone and going "Mwah! I love you all!" to a packed concert hall is simply talking nonsense. We must love individuals. And it is as individuals that we are called to serve. As Colin Morris once lamented: 'The church is dying because it is concerned more with the salvation of the world than with half a dozen actual people.' But Jesus chose twelve individuals, and through the individual life, shaped and moulded into conformity with the life of its Lord, miracles were wrought.

It is important to remember how much effort, and pain, and sheer doggedness goes into the life-long writing of each individual's half sheet of paper, including our own. When it is reduced to its barest and briefest elements, what will our half sheet reveal to the world through which we have passed and in which we have sojourned for all too brief a space?

**Selected**



## 259<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Guides

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rainbows

We may not look it but Rainbow Guides are 25 years old this year (our own unit is now 14 years old.) To celebrate we are working towards a special birthday badge, and of course there will be a few parties as well.

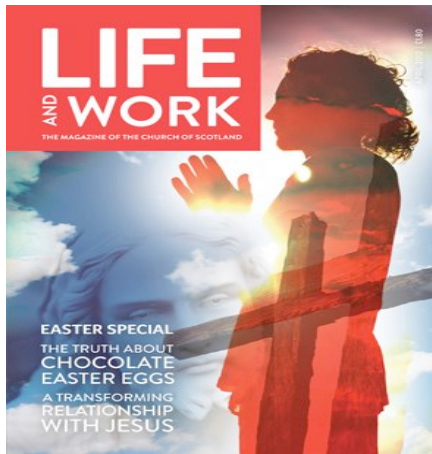
In February we celebrated Guide thinking day when we think about other Guides around the world. We joined over 500 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from all over Glasgow in Hutchesons' Grammar Secondary School for an Indian "Bollywood" themed event. We were in the Delhi Rainbows group where we made puppets, learned the Indian drums and joined in the "Bollywood" style dancing. On a more serious note we also learned about the problems faced by some children living in India.

Recently we have been busy making up a parcel of cards, photos, friendship bracelets and shortbread biscuits for our pen friends the Daisy Scouts in Indiana, USA.

Thank you for welcoming us to the Church Service for Thinking day on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Rainbows really enjoyed the service and one Rainbow has now joined Junior Church.

We are really looking forward to a busy few months ahead with our birthday celebrations, a sponsored Rainbow Olympics fundraiser and Summer outing.

**Toucan (Helen McGregor, Chaffinch (Claire McCormick), Robin (Anne Clark) and the 25<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Guides.**



**April Life and Work** is out now, it includes the following articles and more.....

- **Regular**

**The Big Question:** How can we communicate the Resurrection message in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

**A Welcome Return:** Love him or hate him, the unmissable Ron Ferguson has returned as a columnist.

**Biblical Botanicals:** Muriel Armstrong reflects on the symbolism of the 'flag' iris.

- **Features**

**A Transforming Experience:** The Rev Denis Duncan offers an Easter reflection.

**Ethical Eggs:** Thomas Baldwin uncovers the truth about our chocolate Easter treats.

**Philanthropy and Public Service:** With strong family connections to the role of Lord High Commissioner, Lord Selkirk is keen to serve as Lord High Commissioner to the 2012 General Assembly. He has a special place in his heart for a personal letter from the late Dr Martin Luther King.

If you are interested in reading any of the above articles, Please speak to Elizabeth McKissock.



## The Real Easter Egg

An apparently inert object from which springs new life, the obvious symbolism of the egg has proved irresistible to many cultures across the millennia.

However, for Christians there are extra layers of meaning and symbolism: the egg can represent Jesus's sealed tomb, or the stone rolled away by the angel. In Eastern Christian traditions, Mary Magdalene was carrying eggs to the other women at the tomb when she met the risen Jesus.

The Easter egg market is now worth over £200 million in the UK. 80 million chocolate Easter eggs are sold annually. Like Christmas, this Christian celebration has become big business.

Of course, the eventual losers in all this are the cocoa producers; some of them are benefitting from Fairtrade, but are still too poor to afford the 60p chocolate bar that it takes you seconds to eat.

Christians hunting for an egg that reflects the true meaning of Easter have one choice. The Meaningful Chocolate Company's Real Easter Egg is the one. Last year on its box it explained the Christian understanding of Easter. This year it has a booklet inside, the egg is Fairtrade and some of the profits from it go to charity – over £25,000 in 2011.

The eggs are sold by mail order although stocks for this year are completely sold out. Morrisons and larger Co-op stores stock the eggs but they only have a limited supply.

*This is a short extract of an article taken from the April Life and Work by Thomas Baldwin.*

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF GOVAN**

**PRESENTS**

**A Programme of Music, Magic  
and Fun**

**Followed by a tasty Supper  
In Pollokshields Burgh Hall**

**on**

**Friday 30 March 2012 at 7.30  
p.m.**

**In support of Forrest House,  
Pollokshields,  
a residential centre for adults  
with Cerebal Palsy.**

**For Donation Ticket £10.00 phone Seona 427 0902**



Lodging House Mission



***Are you free on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm ?***

***Then why don't you come along to the LHM and spend an evening of stories and laughter with***

***JAMIE STUART***

***(Author of A Glasgow Bible and The Glasgow Gospel)***

***Entry is free but a donation to the work of the mission will be gratefully accepted.***

*Tea and coffee will be provided at the close. To help with catering could you please RSVP either by phone on*

*0141 552 0285 or email [enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk)*

*We look forward to seeing you and please bring a friend too.*

**Scottish Charity No SC017283**

## **The Guild**

### **The Guild theme for 2011 -2012 "Called to walk humbly with God"**

The final meeting of the Guild for this session, is the A.G.M. on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm.

The Coffee Morning on March 17 raised the sum of £332. Many thanks to all who supported this event by attending and donating.

## **New Hall Let Keep Fit and Pilates**

Want to get fit for the summer then why not come along to our new hall let:

Zeal Pilates & Fitness starts in the Church hall on  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

7:00pm	Body Blitz Aerobics & Tone
8:05pm	Pilates

"Physical fitness is the first prerequisite of happiness"

**Joseph Pilates**

Be in touch!  
Send us original articles,  
Views, snippets of news-  
Anything you would like to share with  
other people

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The Church of Scotland

*The purpose of Vision is to record the life and work of the congregation. No editor on their own can know all that people do, feel and want, so it is up to you, whether your are an office bearer, the leader of an organisation to submit your articles.*

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