

POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

No. 22

December 2012 / January 2013

NEW VISION



Our Mission Statement:

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

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



Sunday Services In December

2nd 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion, Junior Church
& Crèche
3:30 Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship

9th 11:00 Gift Service, Junior Church & Crèche

16th 11:00 Junior Church Nativity Play & Crèche

23rd 11:00 Lessons and Carols, Junior Church & Crèche



24th 11:15pm for 11:30pm Christmas Eve Service

25th 11:00am Christmas Day Service

Sunday Service in January

5th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church & Crèche

13th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church & Crèche

20th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church & Crèche

27th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church & Crèche

Copy date for the next New Vision is 20th January 2013



Message from the Manse

The lights are switched on across our communities, and shops open for longer hours, and adverts feature snow, sleighs and excessive eating and merriment, heralding Christmas is coming.

The nativity play is cast, choreographed and well into rehearsals – your pudding should have been stirred and if presents not yet bought or cards written then the lists – “to do”, “to get”, “to send” ought to have been.

But wait a minute! - There are weeks to go and how can we use them for the best? We call this time in the church year, Advent, the coming, but its really about *anticipating* the coming of the Christ Child and using its weeks to reflect on what that birth means for us this year.

In the week that Israel and Palestine once again launched rockets at each other, the Church of Scotland launched its Advent reflections “Come all you faithful” inviting us to explore Advent with the people who live and work in the Holy Land of Jesus birth. It invites us to reflect on the angel’s song of “peace on earth and good will to all people”

What does Christ’s birth mean for a world which seems perpetually at war and deaf to angel’s song? What do the stable and kings and shepherds and wise men signify for the kind of King Jesus was and is and will be?

How do we celebrate God’s great intervention in our human history with a real sense of joy and wonder this year that its not just annual festivity but joy to the world today and forever?

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Rev David R Black



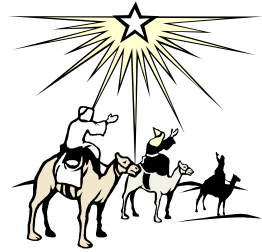
Christmas Eve

Four short winters
Wise
To the world,
He is bathed
In an innocence I have lost,
Swathed
In the warmth
Of the age-old tale.

Reverent he stands,
Unshod,
Upon the hearth,
The holy ground
On which I may no longer tread.

His eyes are stars,
Lighting the way
For the giver of gifts.
Softly
His heart sings:
"Tonight he is coming,
Tonight."

But I who've eaten of
The Knowledge Tree
Can only long for that lost wonder.



Stephen Pacitti



The Setting Apart

On Monday, 29th October the Presbytery of Glasgow met in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's church for the ceremony of The Setting Apart of Ann Smith as a Reader. It is always a pleasure to be present at this time when someone is being dedicated to do God's Word. At this time when we are agonising over the latest plan for the Church in Glasgow, We are going to need at the lay readers we can get.

The Rev Douglas Nicol preached a most interesting sermon. He told the story, a true one, of this Dominican Priest, who was a very charismatic preacher, but who never used notes and always spike off the cuff. He was often asked how he did this. He explained that he just listened for God's message, and that was the sermon. Sometimes it might come weeks beforehand, sometimes it came the night before.

On one particular occasion it did not come: Not even on the night before: Not even as he was processing down the aisle. When he climbed into the pulpit he had no idea what to say. A really terrifying situation! So he announced a hymn. Then another hymn. And another. And another.

By this time it was becoming apparent that something was wrong. There was much fidgeting in the pews. Then, quite unexpectedly, someone at the back of the Church

stood up and said he had something to say to the Congregation.

It was then that this charismatic preacher realised why God had not spoken to him. It was this man from the pews that God wanted to hear. So he invited him to come forward and deliver the sermon.

I wonder if this is not God's message to us today. We are the Church, not just the Minister. If the Church in Glasgow is short of Ministers, perhaps it is up to us to fill the gap.

K G Ross



A FAMILY CAROL CONCERT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GOVAN
AND
SALVATION ARMY
GOVAN CITADEL BAND SONGSTERS
AND TIMBELISTS

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 7.30 PM

**SHERBROOKE ST GILBERTS
CHURCH**

240 NITHSDALE ROAD POLLOKSHIELDS

ADULT £4.00 CHILDEN UNDER 16 £2.00

TEA COFFEE AND JUICE

TICKETS FROM DUNCAN MACLEAN 0141 882 6983
RONALD GRANT 427 3669 ANNE THOMSON 427 1105
SEONA MAGUIRE 427 0902

ALSO AT CHURCH DOOR FROM 6.30 ON
FRIDAY 10TH 7TH

ALL IN AID OF LOCAL CHARITIE



A THOUGHT AT CHRISTMAS

*'Tis God gives skill,
But not without men's hands;
He could not make
Antonio Stradivari's violins
Without Antonio.*

(George Eliot)

Christmas is the time when our hymns and Bible readings help us to focus our thoughts not only on the love and the grace of God, but also on His vulnerability. The Christmas story is about a helpless baby in a manger.

Thinking recently on the anxiety that parents have about ensuring the safety of their children in today's society, I got to marvelling at that Christmas story – the central feature of which is that God entrusted his only son to a couple of ordinary, flawed human beings, with no childcare credentials. There can be no better evidence of Divine Condescension than this – that God makes Himself vulnerable in mortal form, at the mercy of mortals. 'Immanuel' – 'God with us' is, we might say, an immense risk on the part of God, revealing the very essence of His nature.

A point that keeps recurring in the Scripture record is that God sets a great value on ordinary folk. He is portrayed time and time again not only as a leader and ruler but as the One who wants to have fellowship with us, and there are some rather touching descriptions in the old Hebrew tales: 'the Lord God walked in the garden in the cool of the day' (Gen 3:8) 'Enoch walked with God three hundred years' (Gen 5:22); 'the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend' (Ex. 33:11) 'But thou Israel art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the

seed of Abraham my friend...' (Isaiah 41:8).

What experiences must have given birth to this fundamental conviction that God is and speaks to us and communes with us? We cannot tell; but perhaps we have found a similar conviction being born in us as a result of our own experiences of life. This is one of the gloriously distinctive aspects of the Christian view of God: He knows our names, He loves our faces.

I suppose most of us at some time or other have found ourselves asking, "What does God want me to do with my life?" And perhaps (especially in our youth) we have had momentary visions of doing something great and grand, something by which we shall make our mark upon the world. But experience has taught us that very few are called to that. But is that true? Is it not the case, rather, that we are **all** called to that? Not by nailing theses to a church door, or by organising a religious campaign, but by showing God's presence in the workaday world. In a sense it is left to **us** now to be the Incarnation: the making God visible in the form of human flesh.

The key question that God asks us is not, "What bright ideas have you got?" but rather the question Jesus put to Peter, "Lovest thou me?" with its consequent command, "Feed my sheep". (John 21:16, 17) He does not say, 'devise an agricultural programme', but 'feed my sheep' the sheep whose names and faces and forms I (and you) know. The call is to faithfulness, not to ingenuity.

Christmas is a time of joy and festivity for many. And all my life I have found a very special atmosphere about a Christmas service. It seems as if somehow a spirit of friendship and goodwill is let loose among people, and there is a positive willingness to rejoice. For some, though, it can be a bleak time, a time of sad recollection, bringing with it a sense of loneliness or neglect, all heightened by the stark contrast with the sparkle of

surrounding celebrations. At this blessed season of the year the function that we, all of us, can perform is to bring that sense of good will, **our** good will and **God's** good will, into the lives of others: by a mere smile, a word, a caring look, a gift, a pressure of the hand. How trivial, you may say. Yes, but in these actions, showing our bond with our fellow men and women, we, too, become truly the embodiment of a loving God. And through this we do not leave **our** mark upon the world; we leave **God's** mark.

May this Christmas be a time of particular blessing for us all.





Church Finance Update

As we come into Advent it is perhaps appropriate to take a few moments to reflect on where we stand with the church finances.

Along with countless countries all around the world the UK continues to experience difficult financial and economic circumstances both nationally and internationally and I am sure most of us have noticed the impact on our personal finances.

The church is no different and the efforts our members and supporters have made to maintain and in many cases increase their contributions are hugely appreciated.

Some bullet points may be of interest.

- Two thirds of the way through the year, total offerings including Gift Aid income were only down around £1,100 against the same time last year.
- Total income, excluding legacies, is down around £4,200.
- Total ministry costs, which include our contributions to "121", are up around £3,900.
- So far operating costs for our buildings are down around £7,500.
- Excluding legacies our net deficit is no different from last year.

BUT we do have some known expenditure for ongoing repairs – who can fail to have noticed the scaffolding which was up recently for roof access? At least some of this should be covered by our insurance for storm damage but we still have an excess to pay.

The income tax recoverable on Gift Aid contributions is now at the reduced rate of 20% (previously 22%) and even that small change will have an adverse impact moving forward.

While there is no specific campaign at present, at this time of giving we would simply ask everyone to carefully and prayerfully consider their level of financial commitment to the ongoing work of the church.

THANK YOU.

David McRoberts
Finance Convener



Church Music

Liam will be playing the following music on the Organ in December.

Sunday 2nd December:

Anthem: *Laudamus Te* - Vivaldi

Text: *We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, We glorify Thee*

Offering music: *Andante* (from *Violin Sonata no2*) – J S Bach

Recessional voluntary: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* BWV 739 – J S Bach

Sunday 9th December:

Anthem: *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*- Vivaldi

text: *Glory to God in the highest.*

Offering music: *Nocturne* in Bb Op 16 no 4 - Paderewski

Recessional voluntary: *Venez divin Messie* - Lebégue

Sunday 16th December:

Anthem: *A Maiden Most gentle* – French trad.

Offering music: *Nun, komm', der Heiden Heiland* BWV 659 – J S Bach

Recessional voluntary: *Toccata* – Théodore Dubois

Sunday 23rd December:

Carols: *Ecce Novum Gaudium* – 16th century Scottish

text: *Lo, a new joy from on high, rejoice,*

A virgin has brought forth a son, a child without a father.

God has Come in – John Barnard

Offering music – *Spanish Carol* – arr. L D

Recessional voluntary: *In Dulci Jubilo* BWV729 – J S Bach

Sunday 30th December:

Guest Organist



The Albert Drive Project

An Arts Project about Neighbours

We began the Albert Drive Project a year ago in October 2011. Our aim was to make a theatre performance with one whole street about the idea of neighbours. We decided to work with Albert Drive as it was also the location of Tramway, an international arts venue committed to learning more about it's community and building local audiences. It is also very long and home to lots of different buildings, people and groups all with different stories to tell. At this time we enlisted 16 drama students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to help make it happen and we moved in to a flat belonging to the Pollokshields Church of Scotland and were welcomed into the community by David and the team.

For the next three months we worked with local individuals, families and communities who told us about the things they valued about Albert Drive and the challenges faced by people living in the area. In December 2011 over 200 people arrived at Tramway to see the final performance and walked the length of the drive watching small pieces performed by neighbours along the way. This event ended at the Banana Leaf restaurant with lots of people of different ages, and ethnicities sharing a meal together.

The first phase of the Albert Drive Project was such a success that we received support keep working and deliver an even bigger version of the piece. This would allow us to meet more people, build more relationships and find out more about our neighbours on Albert Drive. The theme of neighbours is something that is not only relevant to Pollokshields but to the city of Glasgow and to

whole. The notion of 'neighbour' is also something valued by many religious and spiritual groups and is central to the practice of ministry and pastoral care.

The Albert Drive Project will last for nearly a year and will involve lots of artists, volunteers and members of the local community. This will all culminate in a theatre show and exhibition at Tramway in July 2013 as a final celebration of the street, its residents and its history.

As we begin working again we have spent the last month out and about in Pollokshields meeting with groups, chatting to shop owners and visiting with families and communities. We have met so many lovely people, heard many stories and experienced such kindness. We have been given tea and cake, mango lassi and gulab jamun. We have been invited to school assemblies, coffee mornings, lunch clubs and cookery classes. Everyone seems excited about the possibility of meeting more of their neighbours and about being involved in a huge artistic project based in the area. We can't wait for all the adventures the next year will bring...

You can follow the Albert Drive Project on our website at www.albertdrive.com or call us on 07934 150530 and find out about all the different ways you can get involved.

Jess, Tashi and Rachel
Lead Artists, The Albert Drive Project

Organ Centenary Season: **Concert 3**

Sunday December 2nd

The programme includes music from the Organ played by Liam Devlin, along with singing from the Choir and Friends.

The collection will be for the Church of Scotland AIDS project. The collection from Concert 2 for Hospitaller Holidays for Adults with Special Needs raised £280.

Pollokshields Parish Church

ORGAN CENTENARY YEAR 2012-2013

Concert 3

Sunday December 2nd at 1.15 p.m

Vivaldi *Gloria*

The Choir of Pollokshields Parish Church and

Friends

and Organ music for Advent

Admission free – collection for

the Church of Scotland

AIDS Project





At this season of remembrance, I decided to put the index to the "Book of Remembrance" on to our web site. You can find it from the "Church" link on the front page.

I have listed the names from the index, and where possible, I have provided further details of those listed.

This will be an ongoing project. Any corrections or additional information, especially of those for whom I have no other information, would be appreciated.

David Hart



Remembrance Sunday Retiral Collection

The retiral collection on Remembrance Sunday for Poppyscotland raised the sum of £176.91.

Poppyscotland is the leading charity supporting ex-Servicemen and women and their families in Scotland. They are probably best known for running the iconic Scottish Poppy Appeal, but they work all year round to help veterans and their families receive the care and support they urgently need.

To show your appreciation, to remember a loved one or just to show you care – why not plant a "virtual" poppy with them and share it with your friends and family.



Letter from 'The Davidson Family'

To all our friends at our well remembered and loved Pollokshields Church.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and kind thoughts and for the presence of many of you at the beautiful service on Monday 1st October.

We have fond memories of Pollokshields.

Thank you & Love from

Elizabeth Davidson & Family



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Christmas Tree

The church Christmas tree will be put up on Thursday 6th December at 6:30pm. Why not come along and join in the fun. Everyone is welcome. Adults as well as children



Friday 7th. Dec. 2012



We need your help, yet again, to provide Gifts for local homes and hospitals.



These gifts give great pleasure to many.



Please give generously.

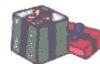


Toiletries - Tissues - Sweets - Gents Socks

**Gifts suitable for ladies and gentlemen
from 20 to 100 years of age**



Please do not wrap gifts



Many, many thanks



Pollokshields Heritage Lecture Series

Tuesday December 11: 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Colin Mackay

'AYE GAUN' ROON' IN CIRCLES-
THE PERMANENT WAY OF THE WEEGIES

Colin explores Victorian Glasgow's fascination with circular railways, notably the Cathcart railway of Snooker Tam fame.

Thursday January 17: 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Elizabeth Moignard

'HOW TO BE A HERO'

Prof Moignard takes a detailed look at the dining room of Alexander Thomson's Holmwood House, and the way in which John Flaxman's illustrations of Homer's 'Iliad' were used in its original decoration.

Both lectures will be held in the Georgeson Room at the Fotheringay Centre, Fotheringay Road. Entry £5.00 with wine.





While browsing one of the magazines in the The Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society centre. I came across details of a one-name website for the Adsheads. As Adsheads are commemorated on six windows in the East Clerestory. I contacted the owner of the website and he sent further details of the family, including a Family tree. I have distilled some of the information below.

He said in his reply:

"I am very impressed with your site and the information you have gathered on Pollokshields Church.

I had no idea that these windows existed.

I was aware of the family of Neil ADSHEAD: one of the very few who make it to Scotland: A printer and stationer.

Most ADSHEADs originate in NW Cheshire, but Neil came from a family of Jewellers in Liverpool.

One of his sons James Brown ADSHEAD was Company

Secretary of the RBS in Edinburgh between the wars.”

He also sent a spreadsheet which includes the following information:

Neil Adshead (1824-1900), mentioned on the windows, was the son of James Brown Adshead and Jessie McNeil. He had three sisters: Mary Ann (mentioned on the windows, 1826-1901); Sarah (1826-1903); and Jane (1830-1871). He had four step-brothers from his father’s first marriage: James (1805-1805); James (1806-1870); William (1808-); and Peter (1815-1834).

He was a Stationer/Printer.

He married Lillias Russell on the 19th June 1856, in Hutchesontown. They had seven children:

1. Jessie, born 15th January 1857 in Tradeston, and died 7th March 1859.
2. Lilly Russell, born 22nd April 1859 in Tradeston, and died 17th February 1923 in Hillhead.
3. James Neil, born 2nd February 1861 in Tradeston, and died 8th February 1863 in Cardross.
4. William born 28th August 1862 in Tradeston, and died 25th March 1924 in Glasgow. He was a Stationer.
5. James Brown, born 2nd February 1864, and died 26th January 1951 in Edinburgh.
6. Neil, born 6th July 1865 in Tradeston, and died on 3rd August 1865 in Tradeston.
7. Jessie McNeil, born 11th November 1897 in Tradeston, and died 29th June 1914 in Glasgow.

Lilly Russell Adshead (No 2 on page 19) married John Leiper Gemmill in 1899 in Glasgow Their son, John Adshead Gemmill, who was born around 1891, died in action on the first day of the battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916.

James Brown Adshead (no 5 on page19 and the RBS Company Secretary) married Elizabeth Hardie Ramsay (1868-1951) on the 29th April 1891. They had 2 sons and a daughter. One of their grandsons, Patrick James Neil Adshead died in 1941 on his return from his first sortie as a bomber pilot.

If you wish to see the Family Tree please contact me.

David Hart

Extra Warmth Payment

This year Glasgow City Council is once again giving people over 80 an extra warmth payment towards their heating bills.

If you received the payment last year you will receive a letter advising you of how to make a claim.

If however you turned 80 in the past year speak to Elizabeth McKissock for an application form



The Guild



**The Guild theme for 2012 -2013
"A Faith to Proclaim"**

December Meetings

Monday 3rd	2.30pm	CHRISTMAS TEA
Monday 10th	7,30pm	CHRISTMAS PARTY A Sing-a-long with Graeme & Isobel

New members and visitors are always welcome.



The Flower Team

Many thanks for the Donation to the Flower fund which was received on Sunday 28th October

Lillias Campbell





Be in touch!

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

The contents of NEW VISION are now reproduced electronically on the Church's web site, so if anyone has any objection to personal photographs or details being made public in this way they should speak to the web-master, David Hart, in church or at:

webmaster@pollokshieldschurch.org.uk.

Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor nor of
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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