

POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

Scottish Charity Number SCO13690

No. 31

December/January

NEW VISION

Unto us A Child is Born



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 for December and January

1st Dec 11:00am 1st Sunday in Advent & Sacrament
of Baptism

8th Dec 11:00am Sacrament of Holy Communion

15th Dec 11:00am Gift Service

22nd Dec 11:00am Nativity Service led by Junior Church

24th Dec 11:15pm Watchnight Service

25th Dec 11:00am Christmas Day Service

29th Dec 11:00am Service of Lessons and Carols



5th Jan 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church & Creche

12th Jan 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church & Creche

19th Jan 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church & Creche

26th Jan 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church & Creche

Copy date for the next New Vision is 19th January 2014



Message from the Manse

Advent heralds the coming of Christmas as Lent precedes Easter, a time of anticipating and reflecting and getting ourselves and our church and our worship ready for the big day itself.

We will take a gentle look at who the Christ child will be through our study of the Advent Antiphons, Old Testament foretelling of the Messiah, in our final four week study event of the year.

Junior Church to are hard at work preparing a Nativity with a little help from some "friends" they have "roped in", and though I might "string you along", guessing who they might be, come on the 22nd Dec to find out, and we have our traditional services at Watchnight and Christmas Day too.

We look beyond the festivities to the New Year and what promises to be a year when Scotland is at the centre of the whole world's thinking with the Commonwealth Games and the Independence vote – who we are and what we stand for as a people and nation will be examined tested and lived out in the full glare of the world – let's hope its a year we do ourselves proud.

Of course we are nothing like the tight fisted image we are caricatured to be and I am sure this will be reflected in our generosity towards those suffering the consequences of the devastation and loss in the Philippines, every bit as much as it is in your generosity to pay for the work of the church through our Gift Day (see report Page 3)

We give, we share, not just at Christmas but at all times

because of the generosity we know in the grace of God who comes Himself into our world, to be its peace in the child of Bethlehem, Jesus our Saviour.

Best wishes for a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Rev David Black



Junior Church Pennies

A big thank you to everyone who has donated "pennies" to Junior Church over the last few months.

We are using them to buy Christian Aid Gifts. We hope to buy some ducklings, mosquito nets, a goat and a chicken



These will go to families in the Developing world.

We will let you know how we get on.

Junior Church



GIFT DAY – THANK YOU

Following our Gift Day on 27 October 2013 members will no doubt be interested to know the outcome.

I am pleased to report the following “headlines” as at 10 November.

A total of 64 named responses have been received to date plus several more unattributable contributions.

The total of all lump sum contributions received so far is £8,843 of which £7,651 is Gift Aided. This should produce a further £1,912.75 on submission of the relevant tax reclaim to HMRC bringing the overall total received to £10,755.75.

The tax reclaim to HMRC has been submitted and all being well the amount claimed should be received before the end of the year.

Many members have indicated a commitment to both increasing their ongoing regular contributions and to reviewing their giving on an annual basis.

Other responses also demonstrate members’ ongoing voluntary commitment to practical support in many different of ways, without which we could not continue to function on a week to week basis.

Arrangements are in hand for all those who have expressed an interest in using WFO envelopes, bankers orders or requested more information on these and on utilising Gift Aid, to be contacted by the appropriate conveners.

The Finance Group are working through a detailed

of all the response slips received.

In these challenging times, when many individuals and organisations are faced with, among other things, increasing fuel costs and numerous competing demands on their resources, this level of support for our Gift Day is all the more appreciated and on behalf of the Finance Group a sincere **THANK YOU** is extended to everyone for their consideration of our request and the level of personal commitment demonstrated by both your ongoing practical support and your financial contributions.

David McRoberts
Finance Convener



The Affair at Peshawar



On Saturday, 2nd November, we were at a most moving service in our Church. It was led by the Asian Christian Fellowship, in memory of those who died at All Saints Church in Peshawar. On Sunday, 22nd September, two suicide bombs were exploded. 124 people were killed and around 160 were bodily injured. We heard some horrific tales of the suffering this caused.

It is bad enough to hear of the people who were killed, but it is ever worse to hear of the suffering of those who were badly injured; of those who lost a limb; or those who were destined to suffer great pain for the rest of their lives.

One speaker told us of how when he heard of the bomb he phoned up his mother whom he knew had been there. She said to him "I am fine, but I have a terrible pain in my tummy" So he was reassured. A few days later a friend phoned up to say he was sorry to hear about his mother. He said "Oh she is fine." Then the phone went dead. A few hours later he got a call to say his mother had just died.

Pakistan appears to be a very dangerous place for Christians. It is even more disturbing to be told that the victims are not getting proper medical treatment unless they pay for it. There was a collection taken to help with this, and we all gave generously.

K G Ross

An ecumenical perspective on Africa

A Roman Catholic priest visited Capital Remand Prison in Nairobi.

One day he felt frustrated he said "I come here month by month, most of you have never seen Mass before. You only come because there is nothing else to do. Has it any meaning for you? Say something"

I sat, no-one moved. I had better get on, maybe I won't come next month. As I was about to continue a man stood up.

He was grey and gaunt a beard and a shifty look. He said, "We are put here by the government, we are forgotten, hardly anyone visits. A few women relatives come; even they are ashamed to see us. They have to wait hours to see us, there is a mesh between us - we can hardly see them, we can't touch them. Soon they are sent away.

But when we have Mass God comes through the first gate and the second gate and the third gate and he is here with us."

He didn't say we are pleased to see you, keep coming, he didn't even see me. His mind went to something beyond all that - God visits his people. I thought "Don't put yourself between God and his people."

Fr Lalor no longer worries about a sermon - he says he prepares certainly but lets God visit his people.

We were encouraged to think and pray for Africa by World Mission at the General Assembly. Let's remember people in prison there - Nairobi has the largest shanty town in the world at Kibera where Christian Aid has been helping.

Margaret Nutter



Lodging House Mission

We have received two letters from the Lodging House Mission's Chaplain, Gus McKay.

One is to thank us for donating our Harvest gifts to help subsidise a meal for the many homeless and socially excluded men and women who visit the Lodging House Mission. These gifts help to provide free and low cost meals for the service users and without donations they would struggle to provide the service that they do at such low costs.

The other letter is addressed to our Treasurer, Mrs Teasdale and it is to say thank you to the congregation of Pollokshields Church for their donation of £652.50 raised during our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Gus Mackay writes "This donation will help with providing a healthy and wholesome meal to their 100+ service users who come through the door daily. As the years pass the definition of 'homelessness' has changed. In the past, homelessness tended to be associated with 'rough sleeping'. Lately we have seen fewer 'rough sleepers' coming to the mission but an influx of younger men, with chaotic lifestyles, who are living in emergency or temporary accommodation. This is the group that tends to experience social isolation more than any other. It is therefore important for us to be able to provide a safe and welcoming environment where they can relax and hopefully engage with staff and take part in the many educational, recreational and spiritual activities that we offer. All this is only possible because of your generosity and support.

Please continue to support us in whatever way you can so that as we engage with our service users we will begin to see their lives changed for the better."



Glasgow Loves Christmas



A Traditional Celebration of Scotland's

Patron Saint

Saturday 30th November

The very best way to enjoy St Andrew's Day will be at George Square. It will be transformed into a place to gather to enjoy contemporary Scottish music, traditional cuisine and activities for all the family

Throughout the Christmas Period

George Square is the place to be from the end of November until the start of next year.

Highlights include film nights, music from the city's festivals and a firm family favourite the Friday Night Quiz Night.

At the weekend there will be free family fundays including storytime with Santa, puppet shows, arts and crafts and face painting.

There will also be special themed weekends such as cooking and fashion among the festive events.

Glasgow on Ice



Saturday 23rd November to Sunday 5th January 2014

As well as Glasgow's Christmas Lights, there will be even more sparkle as Glasgow on Ice return to George Square.

You can glide under the twinkling lights and stars.

All ages can explore the ice with special sessions for parents and toddlers between the ages two and four.

Fairground rides and live music from an eclectic mix of jazz, Celtic, ceildh and choral music Will all add to the festive atmosphere.

Christmas Eve Celebrations

George Square

Tuesday 24th December



This is probably the best day of the Christmas period when George Square captures the true spirit of Christmas. There will be carol singing, seasonal food and drink and the screening of the best-loved festive films.

Glasgow's Hogmanayday

George Square

Tuesday 31 December



Celebrate Hogmanay with all the family throughout the day and into the evening.

There will be the best traditional music, children's activities and Scottish food and drink.

You can also skate on the rink but this must be pre-booked.





The Way (Youth Club)

The next meeting of The Way is 8th December 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Sherbrooke St Gilberts Church.

Children is S1 – S6's will be welcomed to take part in Games, Air Hockey, Table Football, Pool, Darts, Skates Q&As and Christian Discussion.

Pizza and other food are available.



The Hair Cut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son. "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

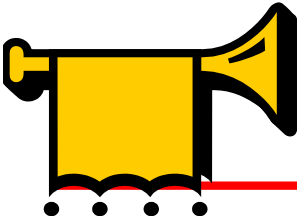
After six weeks his father said, "Son you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut." The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

You're going to love the Dad's reply:

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

Reproduced from Eastwood Parish Church's magazine "Cross Beam"
by kind permission

Ken Campbell



Church Music



Liam will be playing the following music on the Organ in December 2013.

Sunday 1st December:

Anthem: *Be Thou My Vision* - German trad arr. LD

Offertory music: *Nun komm den heiden heiland* - Bach

Recessional voluntary: *Venez, divin Messie* - Lebégue

Sunday 8th December: Communion

Introit: *Adoro te devote* - Peter Worlock

Offertory music: *Meditation on Tantum Ergo* - LD

Recessional voluntary: *Prelude in G Minor* - Bach

Sunday 15th December: Gift Service

Anthem: *Lo how a rose e'er Blooming* - German trad arr Wood.

Offertory music: *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* - Brahms

Recessional voluntary: *Prelude to Te Deum* - Charpentier





Church Music (contd)



Sunday 22nd December: Nativity Play

Anthem: *In Dulci Jubilo* - Pearsall

Offertory music: *Puer Natus in Bethlehem* - Arnaud

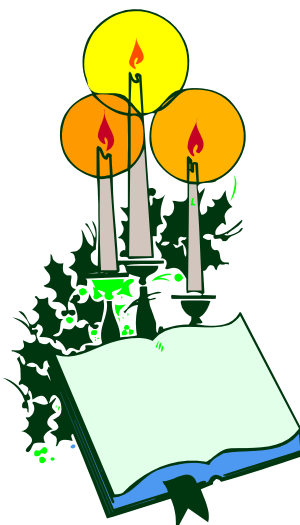
Recessional voluntary: *Litanies* - Alain

Christmas Day:

offertory voluntary: *What shall I give to the Child in the Manger* - trad Spanish

recessional voluntary: *In Dulci Jubilo* – Bach

Sunday 29th December – Mr Scott Blackwell will be playing



Christmas Gifts

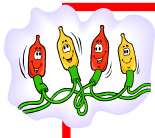
Gifts from our Gift Service, Sunday 15th December will be given to Daisy Chain and Starter Packs.

Crossreach, the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland was inspired to start an 'Early Years HUB' called Daisy Chain, based in Inglefield Street Glasgow.

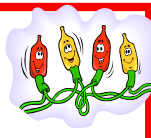
The Service is geared to improving parenting, improving self-esteem and confidence in children, improving health and early literacy and preventing vulnerable children being the victims of isolation within their communities.

Starter Packs, Burleigh Street Glasgow provides practical help to those moving from homelessness to setting up home in new, permanent tenancies. They do this by seeking donations of household goods, which we redistribute in an accessible, affordable way to ensure people have a dignified standard of living.





Christmas around the World



From houses covered in thousands of tiny lights in Texas, a private family holiday in Hungary, to thousands of curious people queuing up outside churches in China and simply another working day in Taiwan, Christians around the world describe their experience of Christmas Day.

Olivia Sun, who works for the Amity Foundation in Nanjing, China, explains how curious Chinese have started to embrace the 'commercial carnival' and that an increasing number of people are coming to church to get an idea of an 'authentic' Christmas.

"Worship service on Christmas Eve usually starts at 7pm. However, our church is always full by 5pm. People who want to enter the church have to wait outside for the second worship service that starts after 8.30pm. Then, the first worship finishes, people waiting can come in and have a seat. But after the church is refilled, there is still a long queue outside.

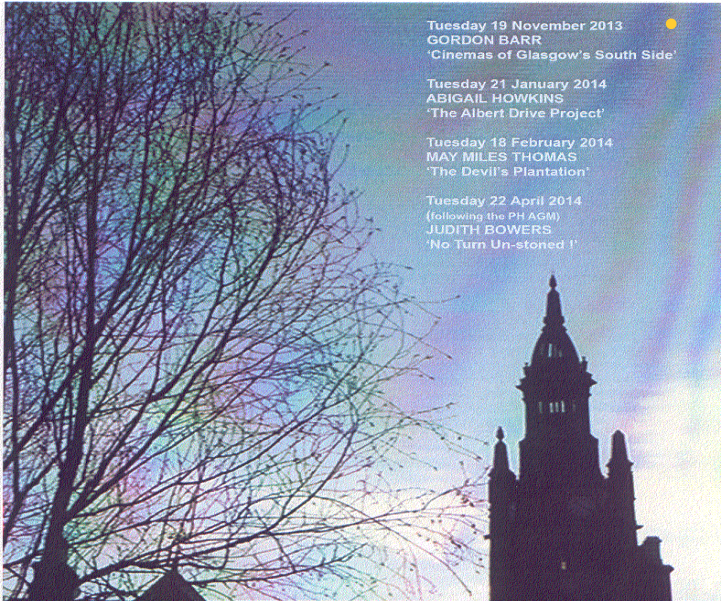
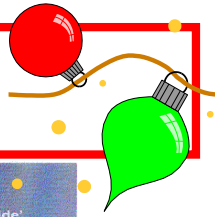
And they won't leave even when you tell them there are only two services tonight! Then the church decides to add a third worship service and last year there was even a fourth service.

*(Taken from Life & Work
December issue)*



POLLOKSHIELDS HERITAGE

LECTURE SERIES 2013-14



The second in the Lecture Series will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2014 in the Georgeson Room of the Fotheringay Centre 7:00pm for 7:30pm, £5 with wine.

It is entitled 'Albert Drive Project' by Abigail Howkins.

Abigail is an art-school graduate and award winning producer, manager, filmmaker and educator with experience in film and television production, community media and film education. She enjoys developing and producing multi-faceted creative projects and helping others do the same. For over a year she has been collaborating on 'Albert Drive', and exploration of the idea of 'neighbour' and what it means to live alongside each other from the perspective film record of her engagement with Pollokshields and its residents.

Abigail and her team worked closely with us during the year long project.



Red Shoes

A Magical Family Show

Tramway has announced its first ever winter show. It is 'The Red Shoes' a classic dark folk tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

Red Shoes will honour winter in a non-commercial way allowing non-religious and diverse cultures to connect with a 'Christmas' Event.

Red Shoes follows Judy Two Shoes on her journey as she explores the divide between duty and instinct. Told through live music, singing and visual theatre, audience participation is crucial. It is hoped it will create a true, lasting and genuine connection between Judy Two Shoes and the audience, so the story lives with us.

The production plays with perception and scale to create a beautiful, magical world for the audience. In the forest Judy might appear tiny, surrounded by giant butterflies. In the city she has outgrown the tallest buildings.

It is hoped that this will convey a message of creativity and of valuing the small and important things in life.



The show runs from *Friday 29th November – Saturday 21st December*. Ticket price (*Preview £5 shows £8/£6*)



The Guild ,,
The Guild theme for 2013 -2014
"A FELLOWSHIP TO BUILD"



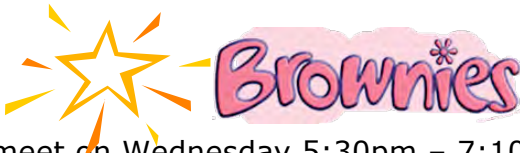
DECEMBER MEETINGS

2nd 2:30pm Christmas Tea
9th 7:30pm Christmas Party

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO VISITORS OR NEW MEMBERS
AT ALL OUR MEETINGS



Rainbows meet on Tuesday 6:00pm – 7:00pm for ages 5 – 7 years in Glencairn. Rainbows play games; do craft work and have lots of fun. They then progress to Brownies at the age of 7 years.



Brownies meet on Wednesday 5:30pm – 7:10pm for ages 7 – 11 years in Glencairn. Brownies are involved in badge work, games and have lots of fun. They progress to Guides at the age of 11 years.



Guides meet on Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:00pm for ages 11 – 13 years in Glencairn. Guides play games, learn to cook and work towards Guide badges.

Ranger Guides for ages 14 and over meet every 2nd Thursday 7:00pm – 9:00pm in Kenmure Room

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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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