

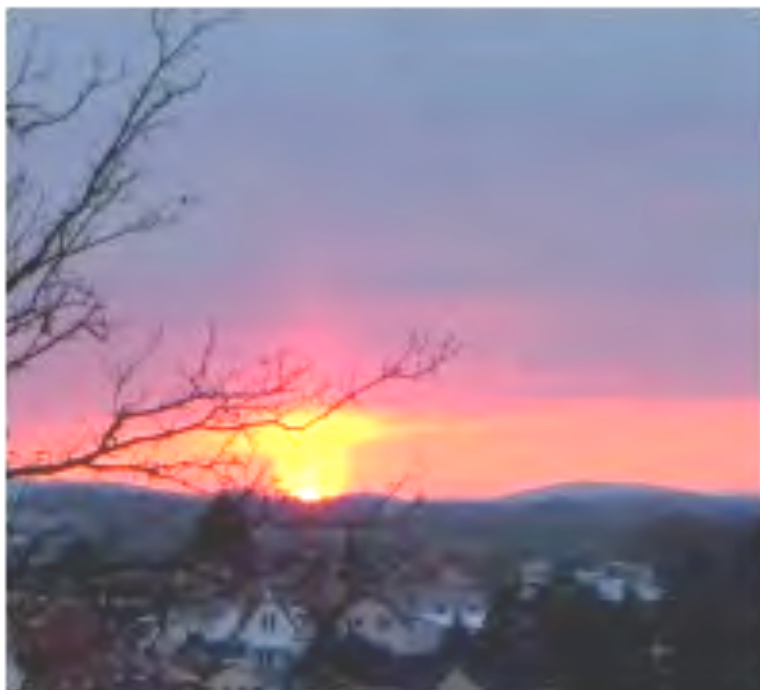
**POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW**

Scottish Charity Number SCO13690

**No. 32**

**February 2014**

# NEW VISION



## **Our Mission Statement:**

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

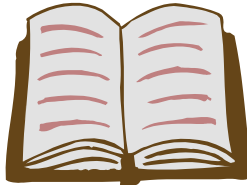
<b>Minister:</b>	<b>The Rev David Black</b>	<b>423 4000</b>
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	<b>Mrs Mary Morrison</b>	<b>632 1659</b>

## Sunday Services for February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church &  
Crèche  
3:30pm Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship
- 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church &  
Crèche
- 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 11:00am Morning Worship, Junior Church &  
Crèche
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 11:00am Thinking Day Service  
The Guides/Brownies

## Bible Readers for February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb Chris Drummond
- 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Mairi Fisher
- 16<sup>th</sup> Feb David Hart
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb The Guides/Brownies



**Copy date for the next New Vision is 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014**



## Message from the Manse

It is hard to imagine a year more fully planned out for us. The Commonwealth Games in July, the Anniversary events marking the Hundredth anniversary of the start of World War One in August, The Ryder Cup and the Referendum in September all already loom large on the horizon.

So much preparation has gone, and is going, into these events. But what will have us saying come October that they have been a success?

Will a certain tally of Scots gold medal be needed or will the Games bringing people together around sport be enough?

Will we need a win for “our side” whatever that side may be in the Referendum or Ryder Cup for them to have us cheering?

What is “success”?

Might well be a question we ask ourselves over and over again this year in the sporting social and political arena, and it is a question we do well to ponder in our church life too.

What does it mean to be a successful church?

How do you measure the quality and quantity of faith we have as individuals and a congregation?

In calling his first disciples Jesus told them to set aside all the trappings of worldly success and to faithfully follow Him, not to worry about tomorrow but to have faith in God’s gracious provision for today.

We are constantly seeking to find how to live such faithful discipleship for ourselves. Part of that is our commitment to worship and learning together so again this year we are having a series of study “months” the first of which begins this month looking at how the early church did its discipleship to see if we can find in their “success some ways to help shape our own in our look at “Acts without Paul”.

**Rev David Black**

## **Acts without Paul**

Study Group

A look at the early church through characters who feature in the book of Acts – a series of weekly meeting on

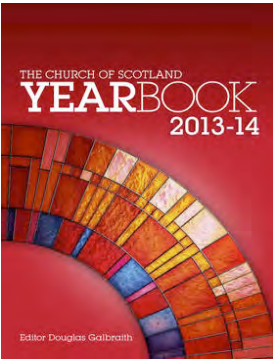


Wednesdays 11:00am – 12noon in the Kenmure Room  
Coffee etc available from 10:00am at Coffee Break

*Repeated:* Thursdays 7:30pm – 8:30pm in the Kenmure Room  
Coffee & Tea will be available

Begins Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February

## The Views of a Tired Cynic



I have just been studying the Church of Scotland Year Book for 2013/14. This can be quite fascinating but it is not recommended for normal people! In particular, I looked at some fact about the Presbytery of Glasgow, and have been able to calculate the following points.

Of the 131 churches in the Presbytery, 32 produce nearly half the income that is 49%. I do not think these churches are particularly wealthy – they just have a large number of members. I think they should be encouraged.

A further 25 churches produce a further 22% of the Presbytery income, ourselves included.

The remaining 74 church produce only 27% of the Presbytery income. These churches all too some extent, receive aid, some more than others. Some are manfully struggling, but others, I feel, are not getting on too well, even though they get quite a bit of help.

Maybe I am a bit of a cynic. Maybe I should stop reading the Year Book.

**K G Ross**

## **Weekly Freewill Offering**



This is to say 'thank you' to everyone who has donated to the work of the Church in 2013 using their Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes.

Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.

If anyone should like an individual note of thanks or a letter stating their total contribution for the year, then I should be delighted to write to them as requested. My phone number is (0141) 423 8421.

Thank you all once again.

**Murray Henderson**

## **Advanced Notice**

The Guild is planning to hold their Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10:00am – 12noon.

More information in the next issue of New Vision.

**Sadie Swan**

## Eco-congregations Scotland

Some of you may know I am involved in Eco-congregations Scotland so here are some thoughts on the issue.

We in Scotland are not the only church concerned about climate issues though with recent weather it might move up the agenda. Here is a poem from S Indian church leader.

Lamentations of a Bird

by Rev Dr M J Joseph, Devalokam S India.

I am a bird I have two wings

My wings are meant to fly.

The Almighty ordained me to fly above the earth across the dome of the sky

I walk and fly, I fly and walk

In times of joy and fear.

I was a counsellor to Noah.

I am the messenger of the Almighty

In the Kingdom of the Messiah my rights are protected

For he declared that the branches of the trees are for me.

The Almighty assured me that even the tiny one of my tribe does not fall without His will.

He made me a role model of faith

For he said: I don't reap or gather into barns for tomorrow

**Lord, my creator, I have a complaint to make.**

The humans around me cut down the trees thoughtlessly

How can I make nest if there are no branches on a tree?

The rivers and lakes around me have gone dry the waters are polluted.

How will I quench my thirst?

I don't leave any footprints in the sky I follow the path of the Spirit

Our tribes don't collide in the sky.

Look at the humans! How miserable are they!

They don't learn the great lessons from us;

There is no jealousy, pride and competition among us.

Why do humans force others to follow their own tracks?

Teach them to walk in silence.

Give them the ears to hear our lament.

*O humans, my lamentation is your peril*

*My helplessness will make you restless.*

*How will you survive without the trees?*

*How will you breathe without oxygen?*

*Trees are for me and for you.*

*My weeping today is meant for your survival tomorrow*

*My tears are meant to free you from decay and bondage*

*And to enable us - you and me- to share the liberty of the children of God.*

On a practical level we should stop using plastic bags

remember Scottish Environment Minister Richard

Lochhead announced that there will be a five pence levy

on disposable plastic bags provided by shops from

October 2014.

Earth Hour is on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014 when we are asked to

darken our homes and churches for an hour in the

evening – think of joining in host a candlelit dinner –

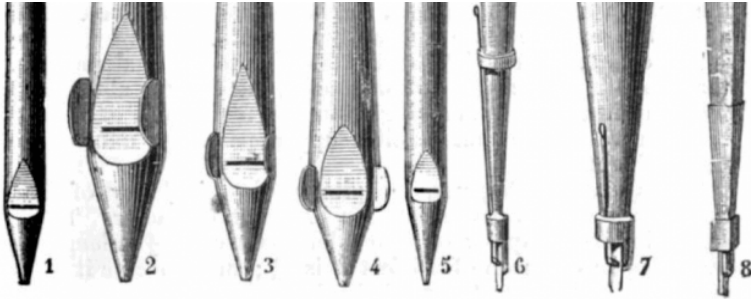
though you will have to cook in advance.

**Margaret Nutter**



# SCOTLAND'S FIRST CHURCH ORGAN

Last year was the centenary of our Church Organ. I thought you might be interested in this article taken from the Life & Work's archives:



*Drawing of different types of organ pipes. From William Henry Stone, Elementary Lessons on Sound, 1879*

**This article from August 1913 recalls the controversy when Old Greyfriars Church installed its organ nearly half a century before.**

THE JUBILEE OF THE CHURCH ORGAN IN SCOTLAND  
By the Rev. NORMAN MACLEOD CAIE

SCARCE an echo of the once famous 'Organ Controversy' now survives. But few ecclesiastical controversies were ever waged more acrimoniously. And after fifty years it is interesting to recall some incidents of the struggle.

By a curious irony of events, the storm centre of the strife was the historic Edinburgh church of Old Greyfriars, the sanctuary within whose walls the National Covenant had been signed, and beneath whose shadow many of the covenanting martyrs sleep. Of this church Dr Robert Lee became minister at the Disruption in 1843. Dr Lee undoubtedly possessed one of the most original, vigorous, and aggressive minds in Edinburgh. And as his opinions developed and were fearlessly expressed, he gathered around him one of the most thoughtful and cultured congregations in that city. It soon came to be remarked that Old Greyfriars was the only church in

Edinburgh in which the male element considerably preponderated over the female.

That the honour of martyrdom should have been meted out to such a man appears to us to-day the more remarkable, since Dr Lee was in no sense unorthodox. Had his so-called Innovations been the symbols of perilous views upon matters of vital doctrine or belief, the opposition, though scarcely the rancour, of his critics might have been condoned. But the essentials of the Faith were not involved. All that was attempted was the application of modern conceptions of refinement and taste to the bald austerities of worship, which the Scottish people through long usage had come to regard as in themselves of divine appointment.

In 1862 he introduced a harmonium to accompany the praise of Greyfriars Church. This modest instrument was the real pioneer of all our Scottish church organs of to-day.

The instrument was installed behind a screen in the vestibule. And one evening, while the choir were practising, Dr Lee came in. An excellent musician himself, and in full sympathy with his precentor's efforts to improve the musical side of the service, he was so impressed by the blending of the harmonium with the voices of the choir that he at once discussed with his choir-leader the idea of employing the instrument during worship. The project was carried into effect almost immediately.

The occasion was a Sunday when the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh attended in their robes of office. It was resolved that no one – not even the choir – should be apprised beforehand of the coming innovation. When the service of praise began, the effect was electrical. Everyone in the congregation – then one of the most influential in Edinburgh – was taken by surprise: the more so as the instrument was concealed

behind the curtain. A few professed to be put out. But the general sense pronounced the new departure a success. And thus was a far-reaching musical reform begun. The harmonium was soon emancipated from its place of hiding, and became a regular part of the church's equipment. An organ fund at once started; and on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1865 the organ was formally 'opened' and used in the Church service. The news of the innovation spread, and few visitors spent the week-end in Edinburgh without going to Old Greyfriars on Sunday to hear the minister preach and the choir sing.

It was not to be expected that these doings at Old Greyfriars should pass unnoticed in the high places of the Church, and Dr Lee was vigorously assailed by reproaches. He was about to be summoned before the Supreme Court. He had just published "A Letter to the Members of the ensuing Assembly," in which he powerfully defended his position. And within a week from its publication – indeed on the very day before the Fathers and Brethren were to meet – in the act of riding into Edinburgh he fell from his horse, stricken by paralysis. He lingered in weakness for about a year; but his labours were at an end.

The dramatic occurrence, appealing strongly as it did to the popular imagination, was more effectual in subduing the acrimony of the impending controversy than the most eloquent of disputations. The weapons of war were laid aside. And the Church felt that the conflict might now be decently buried in the vigorous reformer's grave. What the introduction of the historic little harmonium on that Sunday afternoon in Old Greyfriars meant to Scotland cannot easily be estimated. But it certainly marked the inception of a movement which, in barely fifty years, has transformed the character of Scottish worship.

# Lodging House Mission



Lodging House Mission

The sale of Christmas cards in our church realised £290 which was much appreciated and gratefully received by the Lodging House Mission.



Could I say too that your support gives me great encouragement as your Church Representative for the Lodging House Mission.

**Elva Carlisle**



**Lodging House Mission**

## Bible Study

As we start a new Bible Study this month called 'Acts without Paul'. Read this article taken from February's Life & Work Magazine by Ron Ferguson called 'A Panoramic View'. It shows how we are still learning about the Bible.

"As I write this column, a book is lying on my desk. It's an important book. In fact it's a copy of the New Testament. I open it at the first chapter. It is titled the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Now that is unusual – isn't the first book of the New Testament the Gospel according to St Matthew?

Well, the New Testament we are used to certainly begins with Matthew's Gospel. But this version is a little different. It begins with the earliest book in the NT. We move onto the next chapter. Will this be the Gospel according to St Mark? No. It is headed the Letter of Paul to the Galatians, which is believed to be the second earliest chapter of the New Testament.

So what is the editor of this New Testament, Marcus Borg, up to? The clue lies in the title he gives to the whole edition: Evolution of the Word. Professor Borg, a well-known biblical scholar, is giving us an edition of the New Testament - with notes - that is based on scholarly estimates of the dating of its various books. In his version, we don't meet the first of the Gospels, Mark, until we get to chapter 8.

But isn't the first Gospel written by Matthew? Not in this edition. Most scholars believe that the earliest Gospel is Mark's. The last book of this New Testament is not Revelation but the Second Letter of Peter.

No, dear reader, is it news to you that some of Paul's letters were written before the four gospels, that Mark was written before Matthew, and that Revelation was not the last biblical book to be written? If it is, then you have been short-changed in terms of Christian education."

Borg's book is not intended to displace the theological ordering of the New Testament which is so familiar to us. Nevertheless, it is helpful because it give the reader a panoramic view of how the ideas and stories of the New Testament changed over time. While some scholars will contest Borg's dating particular texts, his project makes it easier to look at the books of the New Testament in their historical context, and therefore assists understanding.

Some ministers will refrain from teaching their congregation about such matters on the ground that the people in the pews won't be able to handle the information. Ron Ferguson think that 'my people aren't ready for this' excuse is both patronising and counter-productive. Most people are exposed to scholarly material about biblical background are excited by it.

Ron makes no excuses for returning to the theme of biblical literacy. After the last article he wrote on the subject, he was encouraged to learn of experiments in biblical education. Dr Nigel Barge, minister of Torrance Parish Church, sent Ron a study material he had devised, titled Hearing the Word. By using a Look, Learn, Listen and Live method, he is encouraging congregational groups to study the Bible at first hand.

While both Nigel and Ron would differ in their approaches, Nigel's accessible material represents a good attempt at developing a simple model to enable everyone to engage with the biblical text, and understand it for themselves.

The Reformed tradition depends upon biblical literacy. It is part of our DNA. With adequate study aids in every congregation, all theology can become liberation theology.

*This is only one of the many stories that appear in the Life & Work magazine. If you would like to order a copy, so that you can read all the articles for yourself, please speak to, the Treasurer, Mrs Janice Teasdale.*

# Christmas Gifts

## **DAISY CHAIN EARLY YEARS PROJECT**

Please will you pass on our grateful thanks to the congregation of your Church for all the gifts which were donated to Daisy Chain Project.



Our Christmas party was a great success and all presents were given to the children who were delighted. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who donated toys and have supported the Daisy Chain Project of the past year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every Blessing in the Lord in 2014.

**Marie Cairns and staff from Daisy Chain**



Starter Packs would like to thank your Church for their generous donation of gifts at Christmas.

This ensured that some children who would not have had a Christmas present received one.

Your thoughts and generosity is very much appreciated.

## The Real Easter Egg



If you are buying Easter Eggs this year, remember to buy 'The Real Easter Egg'. It is the only egg to tell the Easter story and make real the Easter themes of hope and new life by supporting charitable projects.

This year there are three Real Eggs to choose from and each one has a copy of the Easter story in the Box.

The original egg has 3 crosses on the box, comes with Mark's Resurrection text in the lid, a 24 page Easter storybook, milk chocolate egg, pack of chunky buttons and a donation to Traidcraft Exchange.

A Sharing Box which has 20 midi-eggs with "The Real Easter Egg-Christ is Risen" written on the foil. Also there are 20 copies of the Easter story in leaflet form so you can give away an egg and a leaflet.

A special edition Real Easter Egg has Celtic crosses with a gold foil on the box, comes with a Holy Land Olive wood holding cross, extra thick milk chocolate egg, Meaningful Chocolate orange bar and a special Easter Version of the Easter Story

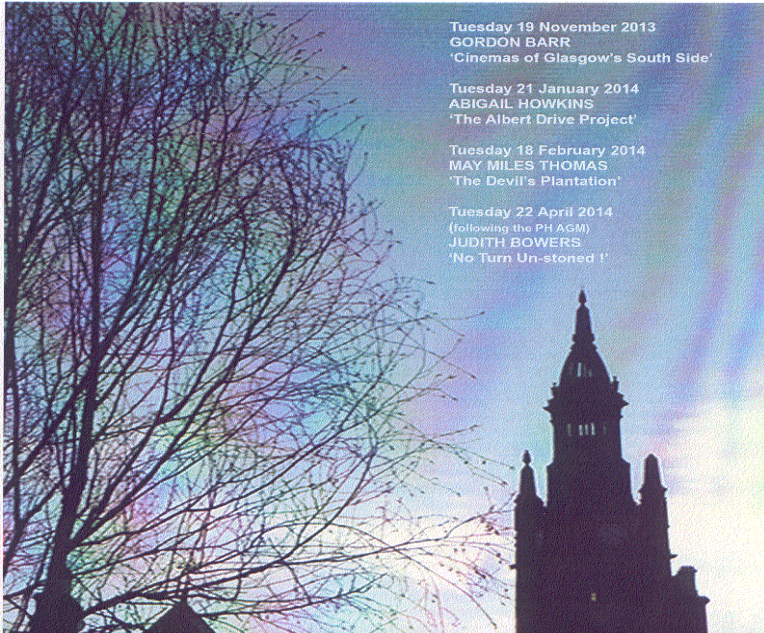
A church backed campaign has succeeded in convincing retailers to stock The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Fairtrade charity egg to mention Jesus on the box.

Morrison's Waitrose, Co-op and Booths are to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and sell it in their biggest stores. A number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals are also stocking the Real Easter Egg. And hundreds of Traidcraft Supporters have ordered thousands of eggs on behalf of their communities.



# POLLOKSHIELDS HERITAGE

LECTURE SERIES 2013-14



The third in the Lecture Series will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the Georgeson Room of the Fotheringay Centre 7:00pm for 7:30pm, £5 with wine.

It is entitled 'The Devil Plantation' by May Miles Thomas.

May grew up in Kinning Park and graduated from Glasgow School of Art where she studied design and photography. She then worked as a production designer, writer, editor, producer and director. She began her career as a filmmaker at the BBC in the 80s, where she directed arts documentaries and music videos. She formed the company *Elemental Films* with Owen Thomas in 1995, which is now based in Strathbungo. In 2007 May won the Creative Scotland Award to create 'The Devil's Plantation', and interactive website and multi-media project which explores the secret geometry and ancient paths of Glasgow. It has since won a BAFTA

Award and in 2013 was reworked as a feature-length film selected for the Glasgow Film Festival. May will give us an insight into the 5-year project and reveal the secrets of 'The Devil's Plantation'.

### **DEVIL'S PLANTATION**

*A moving psychogeographic journey through place, time and memory - released as both feature film and iOS app.*

*The lives of archaeologist Harry Bell and ex-psychiatric patient Mary Ross unite in the revelation of Glasgow's Secret Geometry.*

[devilsplantation.co.uk](http://devilsplantation.co.uk)

## **Three Grains of Sand**

Put three grains of sand inside a vast cathedral, and the cathedral will be more closely packed with sand than space is with stars.

JAMES JEANS (1877-1946)

**Ken Campbell**





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



The Guild resumes its Session  
FEBRUARY MEETINGS  
24<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm "Finding the Right Way"

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
7:00pm – 9:00pm in Kenmure Room

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](mailto: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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