

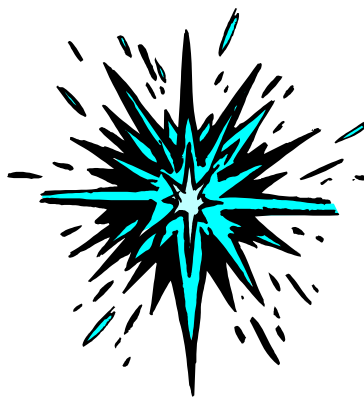
POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

No. 4

December 2010

# NEW VISION

The Wise Men  
came from the  
East  
following the  
star.....



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 622 1650

## Services in December

5 <sup>th</sup> December	Sacrament of Holy Communion
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Gift Service
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior Church Nativity Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Watchnight Service: Traditional Lessons and Carols
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Service
26 <sup>th</sup> December	Feast of St Stephen: Contemporary Lessons and Carols

## Services in January

2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Morning Worship
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Morning Worship
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship



Merry Christmas  
&  
A Happy New Year  
to  
All



## Message from the Manse

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We held back the production of this month's magazine to report on the special rededication service. We have to give a snow report.

Where we had hoped for 150 gathering at the church together recommitting ourselves to be God's people in Pollokshields Church, seeing the snow fall we expected no one yet 50 brave souls managed to make it along to share in an act of recommitment and a superb lunch ( and yes we did all have seconds of cake and gateaux to save them spoiling!).

We regret so many could not get out, appreciated that many phoned to say sorry, and hope most will have been able to come to our Communion Service on 5th December instead. Whatever the weather we are always open 52 weeks of the year.

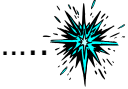
The Good news is, that as noted elsewhere, we have raised £9685 towards our £20 000 Gift Day Target from those envelopes received so far (60 out of 180 given out) and so a big thank you for the generosity shown so far.

Snow on the first Sunday in Advent made it feel like Christmas is coming. We look to use the next few weeks to prepare ourselves again for the celebration of Christ's birth and al his coming means for the world. Come and watch a very special Nativity Service this year.

Indeed come and take part in it by joining the preparation events as the final part of the Hear I AM series (see its own page)

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Black.



## **Gift Day – A Great Success Despite The Weather**

In spite of the fierce physical cold and the frostiness of the financial climate our Gift Day was a heart-warming success.

Sixty members of the congregation either made it through the snow or gave in or sent their special donations to raise a great total of £9,685.

Of that sum £8,835 was Gift Aided, which means with the reclaimed tax the total, will rise to £11,326.92. Adding in the non-Gift Aided donations of £850 the total will then be £12,176.92.

That really is a great achievement which should give us all a warm glow despite the weather.

We are however not finished there. We know of a number of members who just could not make it through the adverse weather but had set aside their donation to hand in as this edition of the New Vision went to press.

I would urge all of you who are still to give to Gift Aid the special donation and indeed your regular giving to the Church. Anyone who wants to know more about that should speak to David Hart.

Tithing our time, our talents, our energy and our money is important as a sign and as an expression of our commitment to each other, to the Church and to our Lord.

Those of us who were able to be there on Sunday stood to express that commitment verbally in rededicating ourselves to the Church and its work.

It was good that so many who were there on Sunday morning were able to stay on and enjoy lunch in the hall. Thanks to all who made and serve the lunch and to the finance group for counting the special donations.

And of course the biggest thanks to all who gave money for the Church's work here in Pollokshields, in Scotland and in the wider world.

**Ken Symon, Finance Convener**



## **Shoogaling the Kaleidoscope**

We had a lecture in the Cathedral by the Right Rev Dr Richard Holloway, the Bishop of Edinburgh on the state of religion today. Dr Holloway is one of the people whom you either approve of or you don't. In the lecture he divided religious people into four categories.

Those in the first category he called Strongly Religious. We would probably call them Fundamentalists. They are people who believe implicitly what is in the book, the book having been written thousands of years ago, when society was completely different. His opinion was that this might be ok for some because it gives people great comfort and complete certainty. But, if something turns up that does not fit into this system, the whole thing collapses and people lose faith.

The second category he calls the Weakly Religious. We would call them Liberal. Their beliefs are flexible, and anything new can be made to fit in. The trouble is we are not sure what the Liberals believe. We think they might believe anything or nothing.

The third category is those who don't believe anything very much, but enjoy singing familiar hymn tunes and find comfort in the old language. They are very conservative and will resist any change at all. The trouble is that time will pass them by.

The fourth category is the most controversial. They are the unbelievers. They can be divided into two groups. The first is those who do not believe anything. Religious means nothing to them. It is as if they were tone deaf to music or colour blind to paintings.

The other group in the category are very religious. They believe that all religion is false, and they are very evangelical about this. They believe there is no God, and they can prove it.

They get very annoyed if you question their theory. They try to convert everyone to their perverted religion.

And so you see, looking at religion in modern society is like looking through a shoogly kaleidoscope. It is always changing.

By the way, I am not sure which category I fit into.

**KGR**



## **Little People who have made a big Impression The Little Maid**

The Bible is often short on detail. We Are told nothing about the young Israeli girl taken captive by a band of raiders from Syria.

What was her name? How old was she? Had she any brothers or sisters? What happened to her Mum and Dad? We do not know, but we can imagine her terror, despair and misery when she was taken from everything that was familiar and sold in a strange country as a slave girl.

Her new mistress, she discovered, was the wife of Namaan, the commander of the Syrian army. Namaan was a leper, but in that country the illness carried no stigma of uncleanness or ostracism as in Israel. Nevertheless the young girl would have been brought up to regard the disease as abhorrent, and Namaan's condition would have added to her misery.

Fortunately, if we read between the lines, Namaan's wife was good and kind, for there arose between the young slave girl and her mistress trust and even love. She eventually plucked up courage and said, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria he would cure him."

The story of how Namaan was healed, and what then happened to Elisha's greedy and deceitful servant, is written in 2 Kings Chapter 5.

And the girl? Nothing further; she was just one of the 'little people'. All we know is the he kindly concern for her master and her faith in God made such an impression on the writer of the Book of Kings that she is still remembered thousands of years later.

**Douglas Miller**

# Ceilidh

13<sup>th</sup> November

Music by

Flamin' Nora

with

Lewis Morrison

playing the

Bagpipes







*Prayer by an*

*Unknown Confederate Soldier*

**Prayer of the Unknown Confederate Soldier**

**- Soldiers Prayer**

**Discovered folded in the pocket of a fallen Confederate Soldier!**

“I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;  
I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing I asked for but everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among men, most richly blessed.”

"Without God's blessing I look for no success, and for every success my prayer is, that all the glory may be given unto Him to whom it is properly due. If people would but give all the glory to God and regard his creatures as but unworthy instruments my heart would rejoice. Alas too frequently the praise is bestowed upon the creature. " --- Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, 31 July 1862.

**Ken Campbell**



## **The Moderator Designate**

The Rev David Arnott, a Fife minister has been elected as Moderator Designate of the General Assembly for 2011.

Rev David Arnott was minister of St Andrews: Hope Park and Strathkinness until he retired earlier this year. He was inducted to St Andrews in 1996 and also served as a local hospital chaplain and chaplain to two primary schools. He was honorary chaplain at the University of St Andrew's, plus he took part on committee's of the local presbytery.

He is married with three children and six grandchildren. He was born in Dunfermline and educated at Burntisland and Lochgelly West primary Schools before moving on to George Watson's College in Edinburgh. He had a scholarship year at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, he also attended St Andrew's and Edinburgh Universities graduating with an MA in French and Spanish with a Bachelor of Divinity (Honours) New Testament.

He realises how highly the church and others regard the office of Moderator and he trust he shall live up to these expectations.

Please remember him in your prayers for his term of office.

**Elizabeth McKissock**

# Hear: I am 2010

A series of monthly reflections listening to God led by the Kirk Session of Pollokshields Church of Scotland.

December's Theme:

Preparing for Nativity  
(Play about a Play )

Sundays 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December  
3-4pm

in the Session Room (enter by glass door at hall)





## **Worship and Hymns**

When the school children come on a visit to our church one of the questions that the children ask is why we sing hymns during our worship. An article appears in the December Life and Work in which Douglas Galbraith gives his view on this subject.

He explains that he reread his first article that he wrote for Life and Work which was called 'Death by hymn sandwich'. A term so often used to describe present day Presbyterians at prayer. After the title he feels that he did not actually explain or discussed this much maligned lunch delicacy.

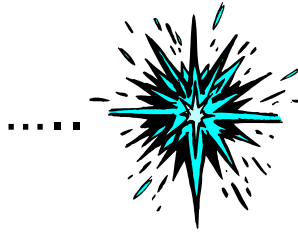
He thinks there is nothing wrong with five hymns and four fillings? He goes on to say that hymns are treated as set pieces, little acts of worships in themselves. Music, however, is no mere embellishment of word and ritual. If music is embedded in the liturgy, it is also embedded in the worshippers, in that to make music demands physical investment, both in body and brain, even when we are 'only' listening. As we sing, we are 'made into church', grow as disciples.

So when a hymn bursts out of wrestling in prayer, or a new grasp of a biblical truth, or a sense of awe in the building, or joy in being with our fellow pilgrims: and when it leaves an aftertaste that is only expressible in a hunger for scripture, or the call to the table, or the longing for the spirit to descend, then that is no longer a hymn sandwich. Worship, hymns, music are one. So if it is not sandwich, what? Let call it, the whole act of worship-yes a hymn soufflé.

This is a condensed version of the article read the rest in Life and Work.

**Elizabeth McKissock**

which went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was born



## **THE GUILD**

The Guild theme for 2010 - 2011

“Called to Love Mercy”

### **December Meetings**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	CHRISTMAS TEA
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CHRISTMAS PARTY

Visitors are always welcome at all our meetings

NOTE- THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER MEETINGS

UNTIL

14TH FEBRUARY 2011.

## **Rainbows**

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

## **Brownies**

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

## **Guides**

Guides meet on Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:00pm for ages 11 – 15years in the Hall. Guides play games, learn to cook and work towards Guide badges.

## ACTIVITIES held at OUR CHURCH

### SUNDAY

10:15am	Church Choir	(Church)
11:00am	Junior Church	(Church + Hall)
11:00am	Crèche	(Church + Session Room)
3:30pm	Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship	(Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in month)

### MONDAY

12:00noon–1:00pm	Lunch Club	(Session Room)
2:00pm or 7:30pm	The Guild	(Alternate Weeks)

### TUESDAY

6:00pm–7:00pm	Rainbow Guides	(Ages 5-7 years)
7:30pm	Kirk Session	(1 <sup>st</sup> of month)
7:30pm	Bible Study	(2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4th of month)

### WEDNESDAY

9:45am–10:00am	Midweek Service	(Session Room)
10:00am–11:45am	Coffee Break	(Hall)
5:30pm–7:10pm	Brownies	(Ages 7-11 years)
7:30pm–9:00pm	Guides	(Ages 11-15 years)
7:15pm–8:15pm	Church Choir	

### THURSDAY

12:00noon – 1:00pm	Lunch Club	(Session Room)
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### FRIDAY

10:00am – 12noon	Parent & Toddler Group	(Hall)
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