

POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

No. 8

May 2011

NEW VISION



Our Mission Statement:

‘Showing forth the Love of Christ
in a
Multi-Faith Community’

Services in May

- 1st May Baptism Service
- 8th May Christian Aid Service
- 15th May Morning Worship
- 22nd May Baptism Service
- 29th May Morning Worship



In the Name of the
Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Amen

Message from the Manse

This could prove to be one of the most decisive months in the history of the Church of Scotland.

Though the headline grabbing focus will be the result of the two year study into attitudes towards those in same sex relations and their eligibility for leadership within the church, other issues at this year's General Assembly could also have far reaching consequences. Not least amongst them are the plans for a new style of Ordained Local Ministry, with all its implications for parish ministry, and plans for a new style of Presbyteries which would see them run by small paid bureaucracies, ending hundreds of years of Presbyterian government since the Reformation.

It is somewhat ironic that though it was the changes brought about by the Reformation which led to the kind of democratic government we now enjoy in political society, yet such have never been the norm within the church. At a time when we have had to choose the way we vote in national elections, it has become apparent that in the church the membership has no effective say in its management at local, regional or national levels. Only ministers and elders had a vote on the same sex issue – how representative are their views?

Why should those whose weekly offerings are the whole foundation of the church's finance have no say in how that money is spent – not even to say whether a ministry should be supported in that congregation and parish? Yet there is no space in Presbytery planning for "views from the pews".

This could be a decisive month for change for the church – but will they be the changes we really need to equip us as God’s people to serve him in our local parish and community?

David Black

THE MEETING PLACE

Loneliness,
A wise man once advised me,
Is not a gaping wound:
A well, maybe, down into which we fall;
Yet dark and silent places
Are where we meet our soul,
And where we see ourselves as all that we can be.

Solitude
Is not so much a lack of company,
A place devoid of friends, or crowds where we belong:
It is communing with the God who puts a song into our hearts,
Who gives us life in all its fullness,
And makes us strong enough to carry on.

Happiness
Is not a measure we can take by counting friendships, money,
skills:
It is a small, still peace inside,
A knowing that no matter where we hide,
We have beside us One who suffered true abandonment
That we might never be...
Alone.

Erica Wishart
18.5.03

Little People who have made a big Impression

The boy with the loaves and the fishes.

Imagine, if you can, a small boy, at the edge of a big crowd.

He has heard of the great preacher who can work miracles and heal people, even if they are possessed by an evil spirit. Now is his chance to see for himself.

When eventually he gets a glimpse he is surprised, for here is no wild, looking fanatic, or someone like a high priest or a king. But just an ordinary man with an ordinary face. And yet, his face is not really ordinary, for it is full of power and love. There is a real magnetism about it.

He then hears Jesus saying something about food. Nobody apparently has thought of providing any, or even warning people to bring some. Even Jesus has nothing. The boy thought almost smugly that he at least he brought lunch with him. With the generosity of children, he thought, could he share his lunch with Jesus? He wriggled his way to the front, and got a closer look at Jesus. Suddenly he had a panic. How could he possibly go up to the great man, far less speak to him? He thought of the people standing around Jesus. Obviously his friends. Maybe if he could speak to one of them? One had a specially friendly looking face. He tugged at that man's robe, and asked if Jesus would like to share his lunch. There was not much of it but.... The man (he found out afterwards that his name was Andrew) took him by the hand and went straight up to Jesus.

The small boy would never forget not only Jesus' thanks but also what he did next. He just took the five loaves and two fishes and gave them out to everyone! He would never forget that. Nor can we, for the story of that boy's small act of sharing has rung down the ages, and is with us today.

That small boy was indeed one of those little people who have made a big impression.

Val Henderson's Paris Marathon 2011

It seemed like a good idea back in October when 9 girls from my running club decided to enter the Paris Marathon. Fast forward to the week before Christmas with snow falling and thick ice on the ground and my 5 times a week training schedule didn't seem quite so clever! Still, if I could run through this, think how well prepared I'd be for the actual race?

Amazingly, the training period flew past and at 7:30am on Sunday the 10th April I found myself by my starting gate in a VERY hot and sunny Paris. Suddenly, the arctic fitness schedule seemed somewhat inappropriate!?!*

Likewise, nothing prepared me for jogging with 40,000 other runners... and the temperature kept climbing past 25 to tickle 30 degrees C.

In the melee, I lost my running partners as moving through the crowds was proving to be very difficult (though not for Santa who flew past me ...only because he wasn't carrying his sack of toys!)

As the race progressed, the temperature continued to sap my strength (thank goodness for the drinks stations and the Fire Brigade dousing everyone with hose pipes). The last 6 miles was a case of just gritting my teeth and "digging in".

At the 23 mile mark, runners were falling like flies with cramps or hitting the dreaded "wall". I had never witnessed the latter before and it was horrible to see people suffer in that way.

So how did I react when I turned the last corner and saw the Finish a few hundred metres away? Em, er, well...I burst into tears and sobbed my way over the line!

My time was 4 hours 11 minutes (secretly, I'd hoped for 3 hours 59 minutes) but the heat took its toll on my pace as well as on our group. Two of the girls ended up requiring medical attention, one being very unwell when she crossed the line and the other (our best runner) collapsing at 24 miles and taken off the course in an ambulance. Thankfully, both made full recoveries.

So in the end, I have my Finishers T shirt and my medal as trophies and the memories of pain are dulling from my mind already.

Would I do it again? Mmmm, we'll have to wait and see but if Iceland ever holds a **winter** marathon then...???

On a personal note, I should like to thank everyone who generously donated to our two nominated charities of CHAS and Headway. The amount raised from our congregation alone was in excess of £250 (more still coming in at the time of writing) which is absolutely magnificent.

Thank you so much again for all your donations and good wishes.

Church House Update.

The Annual Stated meeting in March was given an update on the slow and painful processes through which we must go as we seek to develop our buildings to allow for the sale of Church House.

Part of that included the giving out of a survey form on the choices and opportunities which such a redevelopment could bring.

Out of 70 forms given out, 40 were completed. These have been analysed and the comments they contain added to the "brief" we have prepared towards the "Options Study" asked for by the General Trustees. The aim is to make the best use of the space we have to allow for greater use of the buildings by church and community throughout the week whilst also reducing the net cost to ourselves of having such a fine place in which to worship.

Having received Presbytery's backing for a study we are awaiting the securing of finance from the Trustees to allow such to go ahead.

However, once the study is complete we will then require not only your approval but also that of Presbytery and the Trustees for whichever plans we agree on. So there is still a long way to go, and you can be assured that in line with the comment in my "Message from the Manse" it is my intention that you will be consulted, and your views taken heed of, at every step of the way.

Your next opportunity for comment will be when the Group bring back the range of possibilities the option study produces.

David Black

**- Forrest House -
Charity Spring Fayre**



*...helping those who are less able to help themselves...
to create and landscape a safe and restful garden area for
residents of this specialist care home*

Saturday 14th May 2011

1-3pm

BOOKS

RAFFLES

TOMBOLA

BRIC-A-BRAC

NAME THE DOLL

HOME BAKING SALE

AROMATHERAPY HAND MASSAGE

RESIDENT'S ORIGINAL ART WORK SALE

GUESS THE WEIGHT AND WIN THE CAKE

Tea, Coffee & Snacks served 1-3pm



311 Albert Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5RP

All Donations Welcome

Registered Charity No.SC160605.



The Way A typical Night

The smell of a fresh, hot pepperoni pizza fills the room and our mouths water in anticipation. 'There's more pizza on the way' cries Jules as we all get stuck in. I ask with my mouth half full 'so what's your earliest childhood memory?' as a discussion starter. AHHH the group wrack their brains and decide that what's needed is more Irn Bru. The chat moves onto Psalm 139 and how God knows everything about us.

We discuss the merits and pitfalls of Facebook and how God knows even the comments we'll put on before we've posted them. The never ending pizza chain keeps going 'cheesy one anybody? Now that our minds have been exercised it's time to burn off those calories. Shona pummels the latest contender with a vicious right hook on Wii boxing-who's next? This week is Games Competition night so everyone is trying to get maximum points from all the activities. Stand a bit nearer the dart board! Ohh a double bounce on the table tennis table! Will they ever pot all those ball? Can't anyone beat Thomas at table football?

The Way meets monthly in the Fotheringay Centre (formerly PURC church) on a Sunday 6:00pm-8:00pm for a secondary age. The next meetings are **17th April** (Easter special) **15th May** (Barbecue) and **19th June** (Games in the Park).

Colin Macleod

Diary Dates

Roll Away the Stone

This event takes place on Sunday 22nd May in Edinburgh as part of this year's General Assembly. If enough members wish to travel through we will arrange a bus at the subsidised cost of £5 return. Please sign up by 24th April in order for us to book it. The bus would leave the church at 1:30pm, returning from Edinburgh at approximately 7:00pm.

National Youth Assembly

The Church of Scotland's National Youth Assembly 2011 will be held on Friday 2nd September – Monday 5th September. More information can be had from the poster which is in the Hall. If you wish to go to the event then please see Session Clerk, Mrs Mary Morrison. Places to the event are limited so book your place soon.

Trip to the Holy Land

We hope to plan a trip to the Holy Land next year. If you would be interested and would like more details please speak to the minister, Rev David Black.

THE GUILD

The Guild theme for 2010 - 2011
"Called to Love Mercy"

The Guild syllabus for this Session has now been completed.
If you would like information about the Guild
please contact the Guild President,
Miss Marjory Swan
through the Web Site

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 11 years.

GUIDES

Guides meet on Wednesday 7:30pm – 9:00pm for ages 11 – 15 years 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 st Sunday in month)

MONDAY

12:00–1:00pm	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 st of month)
7:30pm	Bible Study	(2 nd & 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

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

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