

POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

No. 14

February 2012

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 FEBRUARY

- 5th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
3:30 Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship
- 12th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- 19th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- 26th 11:00 Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
with Brownies and Guides



"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist"



INDIRA GANDHI

Copy date of the next New Vision is 19th February



Message from the Manse

Further on in this magazine you will see a full article on the progress we are making re developing the use of Church House. This work has absorbed a great deal of time and energy on the part of the church leadership over the past year. So, too, has the work needed to help formulate our part in Glasgow Presbytery's "plan" for the future shape of ministry across the city.

Hopefully both these items will lead to positive news over the course of this year to add to the very encouraging reports which will accompany our accounts.

Thanks to everyone's generosity we have recorded our lowest running deficit for many years and have not had to use reserve funds to carry out our ministry across the church and parish. (More on this at the Annual Stated Meeting in March)

Our aim is to treble our income by 2025, and we have got off to a tremendous start. So we start the year with a *thank you* and an encouragement to continue to review and reflect on your commitments not just in terms of money but in time and service as well.

Equally thriving are our various series of events to help us grow in our faith together. We plan to have Clare Radford, the Community Theologian, do more work with us this year and as well as a Lent Study we are exploring the possibility of using "Living the Questions" series to help us express our faith in ways relevant for the 21st century.

A final thank you – for the generosity of those who gave over £200 to “Help for Heroes” at the Watchnight service – reminds us that what we do as a church and congregation is not for ourselves but so that the wider community in parish and nation know we care in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Rev David Black



This Little Light of Mine

Regeneration of New Gorbals

A lecture will be given by Simon Metcalfe, who is the Development Manager of the New Gorbals Housing Association.

It is about the Regeneration of the New Gorbals which is one of the UK's success stories. The community-based housing association is now committed to the Laurieston redevelopment and has appointed architects to design its first phase.

You can hear more on the project on Wednesday 29th February in the Fortheringay Centre at 7:30pm. Admission £5.00 plus wine.



At the Church in the Trees



On Wednesday, 10th January, we attended the Induction of our former Assistant, Sarah Brown to be Minister of the linked charge of Castlemilk East and West. The Induction of the Reverend Sarah Brown took place in Castlemilk East Church. Some of us were there as is usual on these occasions; it was a very happy event.

The lesson was from Isaiah, Chapter 6, verses 1 to 13. The sermon was preached by Rev Chris Rowe. He pointed out that this reading from verses 1 to 8 was one of the commonest readings at induction services. It is the call to Isaiah to be a prophet. But verses 9 to 13 are very different. They are verses which have caused a great deal of debate and discussion as to their meaning. Read them for yourself. 'God says that He will not let the people hear what He has to say. He is going to block their ears to make them deaf, so that they may listen but not understand'.

Chris Rowe then went on to explain to us that, that is exactly what happens today. A preacher may spend hours preparing a sermon and deliver it forcefully. We all sit and listen to it attentively, and then go away and forget about it. Is that not true? How many sermons can you remember?

His message to Sarah was that she was not to get discouraged by this. It is all part of God's plan.

I was very unimpressed by Castlemilk East Church as a building. It is not like a Church. It is quite difficult to find and some of us got lost. It is at the end of a cul de sac and almost surrounded by trees. It is at the edge of a housing estate, and so far away from the main centre of population that they were running a bus to take people from the shopping centre to the Church.

Sarah was very warmly welcomed by the congregation. I think there may have been between 200 to 300 people there. I think she is going to have a very successful ministry.

Ken Ross

A Thank You to All

I would like to thank everyone for the very generous donations which have been forwarded to the following organisations:

Thank You 1

Retiring Offering from Remembrance Sunday £284.61 for Erskine Hospital

Thank You 2

Watchnight Service Offering the sum of £201.42 was raised for The Help for Heroes Fund.

Janice Teasdale (Treasurer)

Making A Vision A Reality

- Church House Development Group – The Story so Far

Much has happened since the congregation's Annual State in 2010 agreed to a recommendation that *a decision in principle be made to sell Church House as a whole entity.*

The group began pursuing all options regarding the use of the church buildings, including, if it seemed best, the sale of the church house to provide the finance to upgrade the rest of the property for the future use of the congregation and community.

In September 2010 we met with two representatives of The General Trustees as "owners" of the hall and sanctuary and their recommendation was for the church to look at a more imaginative plan for the future rather than simply juggling facilities so Church House could be sold.

Eventually with approval of Presbytery also secured, the Trustees awarded a grant of up to £10,000 towards feasibility study/ options appraisal.

While this stage has been reached it has not been without a lot of going backwards and forwards, often to hear conflicting advice from various parties. A local architect has been giving his own time freely to us as a member of the local community interested in seeing a positive future for the local asset.

With approval of the Trustees and Presbytery we had in December 2011 moved to the stage of inviting him and his company to provide us with a feasibility study, with a timetable and costings towards a large scale

refurbishment project for the whole of our property (which may or may not be financed by selling Church House).

Using advice and experience from the *transformation team* work we did in 2010 we created two surveys in 2011: one of the congregation (March- April) and one of the community (May –June). These have been used to create a “brief” for the feasibility study and this has been seen and approved both by Presbytery and the General Trustees.

But all this has taken time and we now recognise that this is a long-term project, for the kind of “fit for purpose” refurbishment the General Trustees have in mind is a far larger project that we ourselves first set out to achieve. Therefore we are now following a two-stream approach to the matter of Church House itself.

On one hand we are looking to maximise the use and income generated by use of the top flat while in its present condition. To that end the £5,000 realised by the short term let to the *Albert Drive* drama project has been a good example to build on.

This is dependent on our being able to be flexible in our own use of the accommodation we have, and of volunteers being able to open and secure premises etc. Several initiatives have however started – *Mini Music Makers* and at least two *Health* focused groups have used the premises on regular lets.

On the other, we are pursuing the development route.

Since Sept 2011, work has been done in the background by Ken Symon who has taken on the leading of the project with Kirk Session approval. He has continued to be our link to the architect and, as well as various meetings with other bodies such as Presbytery, has attended funding events

along with the minister. There they identified the Parish Development Fund (PDF) as a potential support and arranged face-to-face consultations. These were reported back to the group on 5th January 2012 and the decisions made as to what to apply for in terms of grant from the PDF (See below).

Concerns raised by the Presbytery Buildings Officer re the initial proposals for the feasibility study provoked further meetings and conversations with the General Trustees. They remain fully on board with where we are and the Church House Group met with the architect on 5th January to further discuss matters.

One major concern for us all is how any project would be financed and we have assumed the sale of Church House would be the way the congregation raised its share of costs – however this may not be the best route and creating a business plan to engender grants is another possibility. Equally, the local Trustees of Church House have legitimate concerns re the building itself and are anxious as to its use and maintenance as time goes on.

To sum up where we are:

We have permission in principle to sell Church House

We have finance from General Trustees to think wider about the future use of our buildings in a feasibility study, (with their and Presbytery permission to carry such out.)

We have advice re grants and business planning

We have successes in marketing our building to celebrate and build on

We have possibility of “pilot” grants for testing some of the areas we’d like to develop in a revamped building.

Therefore the Kirk Session agreed on 10th January that:

- The renamed Church Development Group should pursue grant applications to enable us to create a business plan for the funding of the development of the building (and possibly increase the funds available for the feasibility study)
- And to seek funding to “pilot” a project which would enable the community to more readily engage with the church and its buildings
- A timetable for this work is being created and will be unveiled at the ASM of 2012, aiming to have the Feasibility Study completed in September 2012.
- It would be at that stage the congregation would then have to vote to decide to commit to the actual refurbishment programme.

We appreciate this is all much longer term work than we had envisaged back in March 2010 but the group are working hard to make this a realisable project and not just a vision which is impossible to finance or turn into a reality.



Poor Planning

This letter was sent to me for New Vision from Ken Campbell. He writes, "Sorry to be so slow in typing this but I'm in hospital suffering from".....

The Bricklayer's Lament

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block #3 of the accident reporting form. I put "Poor Planning" as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I found I had some bricks left over which when weighed later were found to weigh 240 lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 240 lbs of bricks. You will note on the accident reporting form that my weight is 135 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel which was now proceeding downward at an equally impressive speed. This explains the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collarbone, as listed in Section 3, accident reporting form. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley which I mentioned in Paragraph 2 of this correspondence. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of the excruciating pain I was now beginning to experience.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and severe lacerations of my legs and lower body.

Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks, in pain, unable to move and watching the empty barrel six stories above me, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope. And I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back onto me.....

Ken Campbell

Organ Music

Liam will be playing the following music on the Organ in February. All the pieces will be in French

Sunday 5th February:

Offering: *Sicilienne* - Gabriel Fauré

Recessional: *Grand Choeur Dialogué* - Gigout

Sundays 12th & 19th February:

Guest Organist: Scott Blackwood will be playing as Liam will be in Kenya.

Sunday 26th February: First Sunday of Lent

Offering: *Prière à Notre Dame* – Boëllmann

Recessional: *Toccata* – Gigout



Glasgow Society of Organists

is holding a

Composite Recital

by

Steven McIntyre GSO

&

Ben Fowler ESO

on

4th February at 2:30pm

at

Pollokshields Parish Church

Please come along and support these young men

The Guild: An Appeal

The Guild is collecting for Starter Packs. The poster below tells you the articles that they are requesting.

Please bring your donations to the Church



*BY DONATING YOUR UNWANTED HOUSEHOLD GOODS
YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE TO REBUILD THEIR LIFE.*

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR PLANET!

WHAT DO WE DO?

Starter Packs Glasgow sources household items on a predominantly re-use basis and redistributes these goods in the form of starter packs to households making the transition from homelessness to the taking up of new permanent tenancies.

WHAT CAN YOU DONATE?

CROCKERY - Plates, bowls, tumblers, mugs, storage containers. **KITCHEN UTENSILS** – pots and pans. **BED LINEN** – duvet covers, blankets, towels and curtains. **CLOTHES**. Small **ELECTRICAL ITEMS** in good working condition such as kettles, toasters, dvd players, radios, irons etc. Any other **GENERAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS** such as washing up liquid, cream cleaner, toilet rolls, soap etc.

WHERE ARE WE?

📍 Burleigh Street, Govan, Glasgow G51 3LA.

CONTACT: Tel: 0141 440 1008 • Email: administrator@starterpacks.org.uk

www.starterpacks.org.uk

The Guild

The Guild theme for 2011 -2012 "Called to walk humbly with God"

February Meetings

13th	2:30pm	"Travelling with Sadie & Marjory"	
20th	2:30pm	"Glasgow Cathedral"	Myra Hunter
27th	2:30pm	M.A.F.	Guild Project

New members or visitors will be most welcome at any of our meetings

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.

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
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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.

Editor: Elizabeth McKissock
elizmckissock@pollokshieldschurch.org.uk

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