

**POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW**

**No. 15**

**March 2012**

# **NEW VISION**

**Charity Number SCO13690**



## **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 IN MARCH

- 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00    Baptismal Service, Junior Church and Crèche  
          3:30    Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship
- 11<sup>th</sup> 11:00    Sacrament of Holy Communion,  
                                Junior Church and Crèche
- 18<sup>th</sup> 11:00    Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche
- 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00    Morning Worship, Junior Church and Crèche



## Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual Stated Meeting of Pollokshields Church of Scotland, Glasgow will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012 following the Morning Worship at 12:30



*Annual Report*

**Copy date of the next New Vision is 18<sup>th</sup> March**



## Message from the Manse

The first draft of the new Presbytery Plan for Glasgow has proved to be controversial and upsetting to many churches. Seeking to share ministry fairly across the Presbytery, a statistical analysis of congregations has raised more questions than answers. Change is needed in the face of the future shortage of ministers and of the finance to employ them, but a lot of discussion and innovation will have to take place before we get a positive end result.

Our share of the allocation is 0.94, though the Kirk Session have challenged the basis of the score on which that is made. We are invited to see how that might translate into closer working with neighbouring congregations and we will keep you informed as to progress.

Our Annual Stated Meeting, which we will hold again on a Sunday after worship this year, will be the next point at which we can report to you. We'll also be sharing our hopes and vision for the year ahead and the practical plans for progressing our Building Redevelopment and Church House. We will be celebrating your financial generosity which has seen us have the closest "gap" between income and expenditure for many years, meaning we had to use very little of our reserves to make ends meet. The challenge of the income we want to see by 2025 is still before us though.

Watch out for details of this year's Lent Studies, and we look forward to welcoming you to share in our

Communion on 11<sup>th</sup> March as we look ahead to Easter and the heart of our faith, our hope in Jesus as the Christ who lives and dies but rises again for us and the world.

**David Black**



## **Freewill Offering**

This is a note to thank everyone who has donated to the work of the Church in 2011 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.**

## Does History Repeat Itself?

Like all other faculties memory deteriorates with age. I cannot remember what I had for lunch yesterday, or why I went from this room to that, but childhood memories remain firm and clear. One of my teachers once painted a picture of someone in an easy chair on top of a cliff. "You can be perfectly comfortable like that - but just remember where you are."

Adam and Eve were perfectly comfortable in the Garden of Eden, but they forgot the rules, and disaster followed.

The Israelites were an unreliable people. Time and again God gave them good land, good crops and pasture and peace, but time and again they got up out of their easy chair and time and again they wandered over the cliff edge.

In the book of Judges we read that under Deborah the Jews had peace for forty years, but then "the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites." These invaders ruined their crops, ravaged the land and spared not sheep, cattle or donkeys. Even Gideon threshed his wheat in a wine-press to keep it from the Midianites.

Throughout the history of the Jews the cycle was repeated - well-being, idolatry, law breaking, prophets' warnings ignored, God's punishment, penitence, forgiveness and restoration. Jeremiah gives a clear account of their backsliding. The Jews even defied Jeremiah, saying "We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord. We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and we will pour out drink offerings to her, just as our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem." Time and again God relented and mitigated their punishment, but eventually

enough was enough – too much was too much. Ezekiel (Ch 23) catalogued the Israelites' detestable practices in such graphic and specific detail that I would not like to quote it. God just says, "I am against you".

What a terrifying thought - that God, their God for centuries - should turn against them. So much for the complacency with which they took God for granted. This time there was no reprieve. Ezekiel says (23.22-28), "You have a proverb: The days go by and every vision comes to nothing. but this is what the sovereign Lord says, "I am going to put an end to this proverb. The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled. For there will be no more false visions among the people of Israel. But I the Lord will speak what I will and it shall be fulfilled without delay. None of my words will be delayed any longer."

Does history repeat itself? Will the cycle of idolatry and punishment and backsliding as in the Old Testament be repeated today? Are we over-confident in the New Testament teaching of God's grace and forgiveness? Does our national situation so reflect that of the Jews in Ezekiel's time that we are about to suffer similar disaster? Some of Jesus' teaching that forgiveness depends on true repentance echoes the Chronicler's "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

Is it not time to humble ourselves and pray - pray that we may avert the awful catastrophe that may be about to overtake our smug complacency and change our world and our lives.

**May our cry be "Sleepers wake!"**

**D.D.M.**

# Holy City

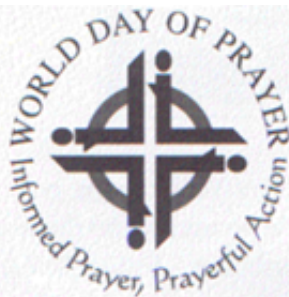
Holy City 2011-12 is a monthly ecumenical event, a rendezvous of faithful folk, curious enquirers and compelling doubters, drawn from the whole glorious spectrum of Christian denominations, marginal spaces (and none). They come from Glasgow and further afield, in all shapes and sizes, experience and back grounds, and range from 16 to 93 in age. All are welcome, irrespective of creed, practice and preference. It meets in Renfield St Stephen's Centre in Bath Street at 6:30-9:30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Holy City is organised by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community – John Bell, Jo Love and Graham Maule – and a planning group comprising of a motley crew of local Glaswegians. Each event has two halves: workshops exploring the theme, followed by a time of participative liturgy. We seek to discern rooted, relevant and participative modes of worship and witness, drawing on the riches of tradition **and** the creative potentials of imagination that are the gifts of God's people.

The choices with which they'll engage each month is not a million miles from those Jesus confronted:  
LOVE OR APATHY? US OR THEM? HISTORY OR  
HERSTORY? NOW OR THEN? WEALTH OR SUFFIENCY?  
WHOLENESS OR HOPELESSNESS? KIRK OR KINGDOM?  
FREE OR FATED?

For further information: 0141 332 6343

[wrg@iona.org.uk](mailto:wrg@iona.org.uk) [www.wrg.co.uk](http://www.wrg.co.uk) [www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)



# **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012**

**Written by  
Christian women of Malaysia**

**'Let Justice Prevail'**

**Will YOU join us?**

A warm welcome awaits you at your local service:

In **St. Albert's Church, Albert Drive.**

At **2.00 p.m.**





**'Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name ... there I will be also'**

***Will YOU join us?***

Every year on (or near) the first FRIDAY in MARCH, Christians around the world (Protestants, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Evangelicals), all ages (women, men, young people and children) gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year on a theme given by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.



***'Lord teach us to pray'***

**This year we pray with women of Malaysia for**

- refugees and migrant workers
- victims of oppression and violence
  - the hungry
  - those who are abused
- women who are powerless
  - children who need help
- women and children who are trafficked
  - those affected by HIV or AIDS
  - local concerns

In this service we consider the justice and righteousness of God and the instances of injustice, which are so prevalent all over the world. We are called upon to identify situations of injustice and to answer the questions:

*Do we engage or stay neutral? Are we to watch in silence? What can we do?*

**For more information:**

M Anderson

0141-637 2791

WDP Scottish Committee (SC 020446) website: [www.wdpScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk)



A letter has been received from the City Mission, it reads  
Dear Friend

Thank you for your generous support of Glasgow City Mission throughout the last year.

At the start of 2011 we had some ambitious plans to more effectively meet the needs of people in disadvantaged situations, plans that only became a reality because of your support.

We hired a new Project Worker to work with the growing numbers of young men seeking our help. City Mission then opened a fifth evening to serve an extra 100 people every Thursday. You took action when we appealed for more volunteers and our numbers grew from 90 to 130.

We were able to meet the growing demand for food parcels and provided a temporary night shelter for winter accommodation. While our Child and Family Centre was able to give another generation of Govan's children the best start in life.

Once we had met people's immediate needs, we delivered a programme of activities to release their potential.

In the lead up to Christmas, you responded with generosity to our Appeal and we are on course to provide 10,000 hot meals this winter.

Over the past year we have achieved so much with God's provision and your partnership.

As I reflect on the year, I consider our role in the city. At our main Christmas meal I stood behind a volunteer who gave the men and women a gift as they left. The volunteer knew each of them by name, He would ask about their personal issues or problems; he knew each of their situations. At that moment I was reminded of City Mission's role: it is to be Jesus' hands and his feet, to be in relationship with individuals who others reject, it is to be a catalyst for the Fathers love.

We go into 2012 trusting in God to transform many more lives and thanking Him for supporters like you who continue to respond to His call to love and help people who society has not place for.

Thank you for standing with us.

**Andrew Low**  
Chief Executive  
Glasgow City Mission



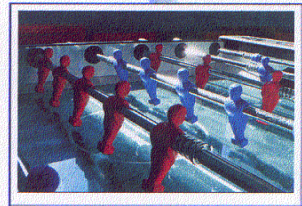
Getting older is no problem. You just have to live long enough.

**Groucho Marx**

# The way

WELCOMES YOU

6PM - 8PM  
AT THE FOTHERINGAY  
CENTRE,  
FOTHERINGAY ROAD  
5TH FEBRUARY  
4TH MARCH  
1ST APRIL  
29TH APRIL  
10TH JUNE



GAMES PIZZA DARTS  
TABLE TENNIS POOL  
TABLE FOOTBALL WII  
CHRISTIAN DISCUSSION  
CHAT AND BANTER

# Church Music

**Liam will be playing the following music on the Organ in March.** March will be devoted to J.S.Bach



**Sunday 4th March:** Second Sunday of Lent  
Offering: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV634* -  
Recessional: *Prelude in C minor BWV546*

**Sunday 11th March:** Third Sunday of Lent  
Offering: *O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß BWV622*  
Recessional: *Fugue in C minor BWV 546*

**Sunday 18th March:** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Scott Blackwood will play as Liam is giving recital in St Salvator's Cathedral, Bruges

**Sunday 25th March:** Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Offering: *Alle menschen müssen sterben BWV643*  
Recessional: *Fugue in B minor BWV 544*



**Anthems to be sung by the Choir in March**

**Sunday 4th March**

anthem: *From the Rising of the Sun* - Frederick Gore Ouseley

**Sunday 11th March** Communion Sunday: Introit: *O Salutaris* – Elgar

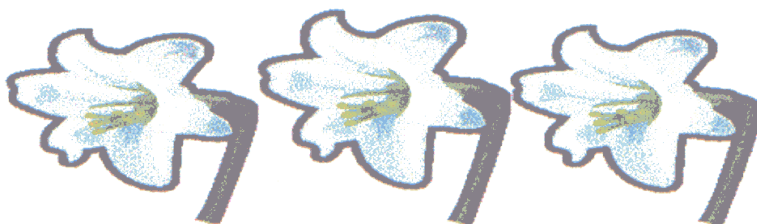
**Sunday 18th March** (see note above)

**Sunday 25th March**

anthem: *God so loved the World* - Stainer

**Pollokshields  
Church of Scotland  
525 Shields Road**

**THE GUILD**

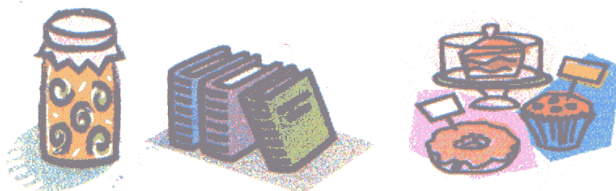


**SPRING  
COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**10am - 12noon**

**Stalls**



**Tickets £1.50**

# The Guild

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

### March Meetings

5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Guest Night	The Anderson Singers
12 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm	"The Well"	Rhoda Yamamoudi
19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	The Salvation Army	Majors John & Joan Swan
26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	A.G.M	

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

## Guild Appeal



*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](http://www.starterpacks.org.uk)

The Guild is appealing for unwanted household goods that can be used by Starter Packs Glasgow, who help people you are rebuilding their lives.

If you wish to donate anything please put it in the special bag that is on the platform in the hall

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.*

**Editor:** Elizabeth McKissock  
[elizmckissock@pollokshieldschurch.org.uk](mailto:elizmckissock@pollokshieldschurch.org.uk)

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