

Musings from the manse ~ who am I?



Often in the media, Christians are not portrayed in the most flattering light - as mad, hypocrites, or in certain murder mysteries, the vicar/ minister is often portrayed as the murderer! I am glad to say that in daily life this is not usually the case. Christians often quietly try to love and care for others around them and work for good in society, to be salt and light.

Recently, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was in the news and the press were trying to create a sensation that his genetic father was not the person he had always known as his father. This could have been a time of accusation and recrimination but Justin put out a statement, some of which is reproduced below:

"This revelation has, of course, been a surprise, but in my life and in our marriage Caroline and I have had far worse. I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in Him never changes. Even more importantly my role as Archbishop makes me constantly aware of the real and genuine pain and suffering of many around the world, which should be the main focus of our prayers.

"Although there are elements of sadness, and even tragedy in my father's (Gavin Welby's) case, this is a story of redemption and hope from a place of tumultuous difficulty and near despair in several lives. It is a testimony to the grace and power of Christ to liberate and redeem us, grace and power which is offered to every human being."

(Continued on page 2)

He talks honestly about his childhood, his parents' alcoholism, their chaotic lives, and how proud he is that his mother has not had anything to drink for 48 years. His statement shows great dignity and forbearance, a desire to see the positive aspects, of hope and grace and the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives.

I was particularly struck by his sentence "I know who I am in Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in Him never changes." And this is an issue for all of us to think of.

Who are we?

We often know ourselves as a person who has had a certain job, who is daughter of, or son of, or a mum, dad, aunt or uncle. But when we look deeper, who are we?

Justin Welby is saying that his identity lies not just in his family relationships, or his job or his status, but in Christ.

In 2 Corinthians, in verse 17 it says:

"If anyone is in Christ, He is a new Creation; the old has gone, and the new has come."

If we decide to follow Jesus Christ, to place our lives in His hands, then we are a new creation. This means that we know we are loved by God, that when we confess our sin to Him, He forgives us, and cleanses us and sets us free from the hurts and negative influences from the past. We are set free to be a new creation, "ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven" as the hymn says. And so we find a deeper self-understanding and a peace that transcends all things. And this identity - as a beloved child of God - is the anchor for our soul, that helps us when we face difficulties and surprises in life.

For all of us, whatever our life may hold, may we know the love of God in Christ in such a transformative way, that we know our identity is in Him, and that it cannot be shaken. May this knowledge help us to live lives of freedom, and equip us to make the best decisions and to become more like Jesus Christ.

With every blessing,

Fiona Gardner

Letters and Notice Board

Holiday Club

We are hoping to run a holiday club 'Rocky's Plaice' from 25th to 29th July. If you would like to help please speak to Ellen or Fiona. It is mornings only, and great fun! All volunteers need to have a PVG.

With thanks

Could I say an enormous thank you to all those who sent cards and good wishes and prayers, while I have been off ill.

My son Andrew and I are very appreciative of your thoughts and prayers, and they make an enormous difference.

I am getting better now, and just need to pace myself a little more wisely in the future. Thank you.

Fiona Gardner

Pilgrimage Day

A date to keep clear in your diary!

We are going to have a pilgrimage day on the **4th September** - please keep this date free, and watch this space! The theme of pilgrimage is going to be one that recurs in the year ahead!

The deadline for the Autumn edition of Crosstalk is

Sunday 4th September 2016

Articles can be handed to me on a Sunday (I'll do the typing!), handed in to the church office or emailed to:

michaelgshanks@outlook.com or any other way you can think to get the information to me!

Michael Shanks, editor

Flower Deliveries

If anyone is able to deliver Church Flowers once or twice a year could you please let Elisabeth Robertson know? We are short of delivery people at the moment.

Congregational Register

Deaths - “blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

March - Mairi Brown (Church Family)

April - Janet Cowe (Nursing Home)

April - Molly Begg (District 02)

April - Catherine Shaw (District 22A)

Disjunctions/Certificate of Transference

Linda Kirk-Wilson

New members - we extend a warm welcome to:

Neelam Fredrick

Anju George

Fredrick George

Nidhi George

Beatrice Goldie

Georgina Hutchison

Louise Reid



A message from the past

With the wonders of the internet, our Church has reached people all over the world. Last week we received a message from a couple now living in Corby, Northamptonshire who were married in Temple Anniesland 60 years ago in June 1956. The message read:

“Glad you are still operating. We were married 60 years ago on 22 June 1956 and we are living in Little Scotland in England, Corby Northants. We just thought we might find out if you were still in the land of the living. My daughter is sending for a telegram from the Queen. P.S. I am at present a local Councillor and a former Mayor.”

Thank~you

Caroline Stirrup and Karen Beveridge (Molly's daughters)

On 14th April 2016 we lost our wonderful Mum, Molly Begg.

We would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their cards, flowers and messages of support which helped us through a very sad and difficult time.

Special thanks go to Marion Stewart and her team who kindly arranged the funeral tea. A lot of work went into this and the hall looked lovely on the day. Mum would have been very pleased.

Thanks also go to the Guild ladies who were on the door to welcome everyone into Church and to Stewart Henderson for playing the organ. The flowers which Elisabeth Robertson arranged were beautiful and all in Mum's favourite colours too.

We were so grateful for the love and care shown to us by Fiona Gardner who was not just Mum's minister but her friend. Both the burial service in Bannockburn and the service at Temple Anniesland were a wonderful reflection on Mum's life.

Mum touched the lives of so many people and I know that you, her Church family will miss her almost as much as Caroline and I do.

A New Book Group

Fiona Gardner

At the moment, we are looking at the possibility of a monthly book group, starting in the new session based on the book reviewed in this magazine "Sensible shoes" by Sharon Garlough Brown.

This is a novel, so it is quite easy to read, and is about the theme of spiritual formation.

The characters happen to be women attending a course on exploring ways to encounter God, but the insights and learnings from it are for everyone- about different ways of praying, of coming closer to God, or seeing their life in a new light.

Louise has written a review about this book later in the magazine, and if you are interested to know more, please get in touch with me.



Toilet Twinning

Alison Gray

Thanks to all who have given money to help pay for toilets for some of the 2.5 billion people in the world who have no access to sanitation.

The Church itself paid for one toilet, and with contributions from individuals and the Men's Dining Club who kindly contributed £30, we have purchased a second toilet and we're well on our way to buying a third one.

The price of a cup of coffee (about £2) is a good contribution towards a toilet. Any contributions are gratefully received.

I have Gift Aid envelopes available for anyone who wants to make a donation this way.

The framed photos of our toilets abroad can be seen in our own toilets here at Temple Anniesland!

Thanks again for all your help.



Take a Pew

Michael Shanks

The Church of Scotland has launched a new initiative 'Take a Pew' with the aim of hosting conversations about the future of the Church at iconic locations across Scotland.

Invited guests and the public will 'take a pew' with a Church Minister to discuss topics such as how the Church needs to change and how it can reach more people.

The first 'Take a Pew' was held at the Kelpies, and included the Youth Moderator and the STV news broadcaster, John McKay.

Rev Neil Glover, who is convener of the Church of Scotland's Ministries Council, describes the video as a bold step which it is hoped will stimulate discussion. He says:

"As a church, we cannot afford to become comfortable. We must be ready to challenge ourselves. 'Take a Pew' is a great way to focus this debate, and the idea has really caught on".

You can watch the first video and find out more at www.tomorrowcalling.org

Extracts from Presbytery Meetings

Anne Weir

March 2016:

The meeting was held in Pollokshields Parish Church. The meeting was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Tom Pollock.

A tribute to the late Rev David Keddie was given by the Moderator.

Vacancy Business - Rev Sandy Fraser of St Margaret's Knightswood is appointed as Interim Moderator at Kirkintilloch St Columba's Church due to the demission of Rev Dr David White.

Special Speaker - Mrs Angela Molloy of Church House, Bridgeton. Church House is continuing to be developed into a family support centre, and will be re-housed in a new annexe being built onto Bridgeton St Francis-in-the-East Church.

Church Reviews - these were presented for Cranhill, Garthamlock and Craigened East, Knightswood St Margarets, Ruchazie and St James Pollock.

Pioneer Ministry - a new ministry among the arts community has been established and, as reported in the local

press, applications for the post are now being submitted.

Recruitment for Ministry - Rev Jonathan Fleming addressed Presbytery on the subject of the Glasgow Presbytery Vocations Champion. As reported in the local press, this is a campaign by the Church of Scotland to recruit more candidates for the ministry.

Ageing Well Training Event - was held in the City Chambers on 11th March. It was open to Ministers, Deacons, MDS staff - all either involved in working with older people or interested in starting such work.

Ecumenical relations and interfaith matters - Partick South Church are providing accommodation to the Glasgow Korean Church.

April 2016

Instead of the usual form of Presbytery meeting, regional meetings were organised according to congregational groups in the presbytery plan.

The venue for churches in the city centre and north west was Wellington Church. The aim of these regional meetings is to improve our sense of mutual support, and discuss the possibility of sharing locally in mission.

Reports of these regional meetings will be collated and in due course reported back to Presbytery.

Treasurer's Report

Fergus Platt

It used to be that I sat down in front of a blank piece of paper but now I sit down in front of a blank computer screen when I start to do this article. My mind is also usually a blank. Her indoors would say "That's normal". I know that I have to say something about how the church finances are doing at least somewhere in the article, but apart from that I usually ask myself, "What will I say?" Her indoors usually has a lot to say so maybe I should ask her.

The other Sunday, when three new elders were being ordained, I thought back to when I was ordained which was back in 1978. Although quite some time ago, I can remember the day as if it were yesterday. It was in the days when Temple and Anniesland were separate and Temple only had male elders. It was a shock, therefore, when we joined with Anniesland to find that they had female elders and today I say "Just as well."

With regards treasurers, it used to be the case back then that there were only male treasurers, but once again that has changed and in the church we now have more female treasurers than male treasurers.

Maybe it is time we had a female treasurer and got rid of this elderly male treasurer who has maybe been in the job too long. In fact, not 'maybe' but definitely been in the job too long.

I am also still 'temporary treasurer' at St George's Tron, a job the Presbytery Clerk said I would have for three months and it will be 4 years this June since I took it on. Mind you, here at Temple Anniesland, I was asked to be treasurer for 5 years nearly thirty years ago.

A wee plug for St George's Tron. They now have a café which is open Monday to Saturday from 10.30am and it's very good. I have sampled the soup and, of course, the home baking. Well, actually it is not home baking as it is made on the premises.

Now for my big plug. If you pay tax and have not yet signed a Gift Aid form, please contact Elisabeth Robertson (959 0498) who will be delighted to organise one for you.

Elisabeth just gave me a note on Sunday telling me that we have £4,618.80 due from the taxman which is the Gift Aid for the quarter to 5th April.

It is a lot of money we get from the taxman and it certainly helps to go towards balancing the books. Our offerings to date are slightly up on last year but so are our expenses.

You may have noticed the men working on the church and old hall roofs recently and the total bill for this was £9,378. We did receive £2,508 from our insurance claim for storm damage. We now have a £1,500 excess for each claim for roof storm damage as we have had so many claims in the past.

The insurance company had last year asked for an excess of £3,000 but we managed to negotiate that down to £1,500, which in my opinion is still pretty high.

You may or may not have noticed that we also lost a letter in the wind from the new church sign but this was replaced free of charge.

The big light in the church which was not working for some time has now been replaced and I thank whoever did it as we did not get a bill to pay.

I thank the Fabric Team for their hard work in maintaining our buildings. If you think our fabric upkeep charges are bad you should see what St George's Tron have to pay and you would be a little happier.

At our communion service in March the collection for the Scottish Bible Society raised £233.27.

Molly Begg's passing was a huge shock to us all. The family had asked

for a retiring collection at her funeral service for the British Lung Foundation and this raised £626.07.

I am still amazed at the anonymous donations I receive, and recently I received one for £1,500. I also receive ongoing ones for Messy Church and church flowers (which I think always look great) and even for batteries for the mics. Our church office was funded mainly by anonymous donations. Having said that, I am privileged to know who the anonymous donations are from and we are therefore able to claim Gift Aid on them. So the likes of the donation of £1,500 was really in with Gift Aid, a donation of £1,875.

The very good news is that all bills have been paid to date and we still have money in the bank.

Just a wee story to finish with. Our family had a charity fund raiser the other week and when my nieces were counting the money donated my great niece, aged 6, who was watching them, opened her purse and gave all the money that was in it - 60p. It reminded me of the widow woman and her offering which of course, as a treasurer, is one of my favourite passages in the bible.

Book Review

“Sensible Shoes”

Review by Louise Reid

I came across this book when browsing at the Christian book stall one Sunday.

I was immediately drawn to it by the description of the four main characters. Hannah a pastor who doesn't realise how exhausted she is; Meg a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past; Mara a woman who bounced from relationship to relationship, trying to navigate a difficult marriage and Charissa a hard working graduate student who wants to get things right.

The book follows these women in their daily lives exploring their relationships, fears, hopes and ambitions.

For a variety of reasons they end up meeting at the New Hope Retreat Centre when they sign up for the “Sacred Journey” group. Hannah has an enforced sabbatical and is looking to rest and meet God in new ways, Meg wants to deepen her relationship with God, Charissa hopes it will help her in her studies for her PhD and Mara's counsellor suggests it will help her to connect with other people.

The group is led by Katherine Rhodes who guides them through a variety of spiritual practices each time they meet and leaves them to work and explore these in between sessions.

The four women are from very diverse backgrounds but develop a relationship with each other by chance and necessity. This grows into strong friendships as they help each other deal with life's challenges and explore their individual relationships with God.

The story is compelling and I couldn't wait to read more, and discover how their lives progressed. Throughout the book there is a real emphasis on each of us having a unique personal journey. I found myself identifying with different aspects of various characters and their experiences. I particularly liked Katherine's suggestion to the group about spiritual life being about “paying attention...getting off autopilot and taking time to look and listen with eyes and ears of the heart.”

The spiritual practices of the “Sacred journey” group gave me useful tools to explore my own spiritual journey.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good story it features strong women, the importance of love and friendship in everyday life and how to explore a deeper personal relationship with God.

Where our phrases come from

The amazing Bible influences on our language

I got a book for my Christmas called 'The Good Samaritan Bites The Dust' by Ferdie Addis. It is a collection of well known phrases and charts the story of where they originated from. All have some foundation in the Bible.

Here are just a few - and I recommend the book to you if they are of interest!

Eat, drink and be merry - (Ecclesiastes 8, Isaiah 22) - the two quotes entered the English language in the 19th century,

with the misquote - 'eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die'.

The ends of the earth - (Deuteronomy 33, Job 28, Zechariah 9) - since most thought the earth was flat, it inevitably had to have ends. In Job, God's reference to the ends of the earth simply means he is everywhere.

Fight the good fight - (1 Timothy, 6) - the earliest Christians found that keeping their faith often meant dying for it. Paul says - above all - 'fight the good fight of faith'.

Scapegoat - (Leviticus 16) - origins in the practice of saving one goat from sacrifice to be symbolically loaded with all the misdeeds of the land.



Flowers at Temple
Anniesland, taken on a
very sunny Pentecost

Church Calendar



Saturday 4th June - 7pm - **All age celebration concert.**

Sunday 5th June - 11am worship - Giving thanks for our gift and talents. We hope to have with us Mr Craig Shields, and a group of young people from Knightswood Secondary school who will be going out to Malawi

Wednesday 8th June - 7.30pm Congregational Board

Saturday 11th June - 10am-11.30am Quiet prayer in the sanctuary (with coffee) - all welcome, no experience required.

Sunday 12th June - 11am The sacrament of communion will be celebrated
6.30pm The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

Sunday 19th June - 11am - Sunday Club celebration service

Sunday 26th June - 11am - Morning Service.

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Over the summer, we have three times of Quiet prayer in the sanctuary. These times of prayer will be very informal, with some ideas on different ways of praying, and some quiet space just 'to be'. These are open to everyone to come along, and include tea and coffee.

Times are:

Sat June 11th at 10- 11.30am

Sat July 16th at 10am-11.30am

Sat 20th August at 10am-11.30am

We also are going to have a pilgrimage day on the 4th September - Please keep this date free, and watch this space! The theme of pilgrimage is going to be one that recurs in the year ahead!