

News from Cathcart Trinity Church

December 2017/January 2018



Cafe Church at Cathcart Trinity

Over the last few months we've been exploring what Cafe Church at Cathcart Trinity might look like.

There are still a wide variety of views, however there is a broad sense of feeling that it should be God centred, informal, interactive, open to all, intergenerational, flexible, adaptable and that people should be able to come and go as they please.

As part of this process of exploring what Cafe Church might look like, the planning team, with approval from Kirk Session, have decided to hold a trial Cafe Church in the Buchanan Hall on **Friday 26th January 2018 from 4-7.30pm. At the heart of this time, from 5.30-6.30pm, it is hoped to have worship in a cafe setting** and at either side of organised worship, the cafe would be open to allow people to pop in, to meet current friends and make new friends as relationships are built across the Church family and in the community over tea, coffee and cake.

We realise that this trial date and time will not suit everyone, so if you find yourself in this position, please don't remain silent. Let us know you're interested and when you think would be a better time, day or venue.

One of the things we've already talked about is Cafe Church popping up at different times and in different settings. We want your feedback about all of this and to know what you are wanting from Cafe church in exactly the same way as we want feedback from those who come along to any part of the trial on the 26th January.

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for the team and for the idea of Cafe church. Please keep praying as plans for the trial Cafe take shape. We also have decided that we need a better name for Cafe church. So if you have any suggestions please email minister@cathcarttrinity.org.uk with your ideas.

Finally, if you've not already expressed interest in planning or helping with the event and service on the 26th and would want to be involved, please speak to me or any other member of the planning team.

And obviously, if any of you would like to come along and see what it's all about, we'd love to see you there.

Alasdair.

A word from our Minister:

During most of the year I don't have much time for adverts - they're what interrupt my favourite programmes on TV or get in the way of searching for what I want to find or see on Google, Facebook and YouTube. However at this time of year, as the Christmas adverts (and if I'm being honest the Black Friday and 'New Year's' sale adverts too) are in full swing, there's something that makes me sit up and watch.

Will the Christmas adverts pull the right heart strings? Will there be a bargain in the sales?

It is estimated that by the end of 2017 approximately 591 billion US dollars will have been spent globally on advertising over the course of the year. I don't know about you, but I can't even comprehend that sort of number.

Nevertheless, it speaks volumes for the fact that advertising works. Well, most of the time...

Some of you may have noticed, that this year, Gregg's the bakers got themselves into a bit of bother for producing an advert that had a picture of the nativity with one of their sausage rolls at the centre, where Jesus would normally be.

They got themselves a lot of publicity, but it might not have been the kind of publicity that they wanted.

The first Christmas, there were no adverts about what to buy – the wise stargazers from the East travelling to see Jesus didn't check out Amazon or eBay to see appropriate gifts for the new King. However, it strikes me that there was lots advertising about one thing – the person the Gregg's sausage roll side-lined – Jesus.

For hundreds of years before Jesus' birth prophets of God said 'He's coming soon! Get ready! Wait and live in hope.' On the night that Jesus was born, an angel appeared to a group of shepherds to advertise 'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby in swaddling cloths and lying I'm a manger.'

And a group of stargazers saw a new star shining in the sky and somehow they knew it was advertising the birth of the new king.

For both shepherds and stargazers encountering these adverts about this new king posed the question – will you go and meet him?

All of these thoughts have me questioning how well do you and I 'advertise' Jesus to the folk around us?

When folk encounter us either in the church building or out and about do they see the qualities and characteristics that God loves his children to live out flowing through our actions and words? Do we speak about Jesus and share how amazing it is to be a disciple of his; to be a child of God? Do we advertise what God is doing in our Church and the services we offer to worship Him?

While the stargazers saw and understood that the new star in the sky was a sign for them and something that they had to seek out (even if they sought the King in the wrong place first), the shepherds needed a personal invitation – please never underestimate the power a personal advert can have in inviting someone to meet our Jesus.

So at this season of Advent, Christmas and New Year, please remember that

Jesus is the most important thing that we can advertise and may each of you, and all your families, know the blessing of God who is with us, not just at Christmas time, but every day of our life and forevermore.

With love, Christmas greetings and my prayers for the New Year,

Alasdair.



SU Holidays

Every year thousands of children and young people, including several from our own church, attend SU Holidays and have a great time, try a wide range of different activities, meet new friends, read the Bible and explore what it means to be a Christian.

There will be a wide range of SU Holidays on offer in 2018.

With everything from comedy to canoeing, from sailing to study and from music to the well-established multi-activity holidays, there is something for everyone!

Booking for Easter, Summer and October SU Holidays will be available on the SU Holidays website, www.suholidays.org.uk, from the 3rd January 2018.

You could make a difference by helping to ensure that as many children and young people as possible hear about SU Holidays in 2018: in church; in your local school; your own children or grandchildren, and their friends.

If you would like some brochures, have questions, or would like to find out about financial assistance to meet the cost of a holiday, please speak to Gail McLay.

Snowdrops

Every Tuesday evening the Large Hall is full of activity, laughter and a level of noise that only 27 girls aged 4-7 can make.

Snowdrops has been as popular as ever this year, with a full register and a number of girls on the waiting list.

Our evening starts with some games, which can produce some ear shattering squealing, and then we spend a half hour or so on a craft project – paint, glitter, glue, double sided tape, felt, card, foam, paper plates, glittery sequins, stickers and much more come together to form pieces of artwork that the girls are always proud to take home.

Huge thanks to Stuart who so willingly helps clear up our mess!

One highlight this year was our Thanksgiving crafts, and the chance to chat to the girls about all that we have and should be thankful for, whilst remembering those less fortunate than us.

Snowdrops is about having fun and building relationships with families – it's been great to see some of those families coming along to Messy Church.

Thanks to Marie, Mhairi, Kirsty, Ellie and Christie who help out each week and to Hannah, Sarah and Catriona who occasionally give us an extra bit of help when needed.

Gail McLay

Church Family news

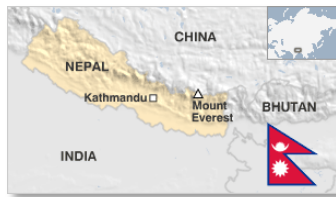
We were saddened to learn of the passing of Jan Bryce, Eleanor Carnichan and John Taylor. We give thanks for their lives and pray that they are now at ease in glorious Heaven.

Support event for Adrian Rootes

January can seem a bit of a flat month after all the activity of Christmas and New Year – a time for auld claes and porridge!



Well, Adrian's support group would like to counter that by whisking you off to the Himalayas for a few hours on **Saturday 13th January!**



Following the input of Alastair Seaman (son of church members Bill and Catherine Seaman) the International Director of the International Nepal Fellowship at our harvest service in October, plans are being put together to organise an awareness and support raising event for Adrian at Cathcart Trinity.



Details of the event will be advertised soon but the event will feature videos taken by Alastair during his visit to Nepal in November showcasing the hospital site in which Adrian will work and Nepali staff that he will work with.

The event will start around 4.30pm and run until 7.30pm. Nepali food (produced in a south side Nepalese restaurant!) and refreshments will be provided for participants.

As the support group needs to know for catering purposes how many folks will come along, tickets will be made available at a cost of £8 for adults and £5 for children (school age) and those not earning a salary.

Further details about tickets etc will be available soon via church notices.

Please do come along and find out more about the work Adrian is being called to undertake in the country referred to as the 'roof of the world'.





The Guild

By the time you have received your magazine, The Guild will have had their Finance Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5th December when funds will be distributed to various Church of Scotland projects.

Our final meeting for 2017 is on Tuesday 12th December and we are having an evening of magic with Ms. M Fletcher.

Update from Kirk Session

At its most recent meeting, Kirk session had a presentation from John Finch at Glasgow Presbytery about the Local Church Review (LCR). This review is being rolled out in place of quinquennial reviews and is a means of encouraging churches and congregations with their vision and direction and will help presbytery connect with communities.

Early next year we will complete a robust questionnaire on how we perceive our church, what shape it is in, and in turn help us to plan for the future. It was reassuring to note that much of our work with regard to our own vision will enable us to complete this efficiently. So if you are approached to assist in completing some of these questions then we would be very grateful for congregational thoughts and input. On behalf of Kirk Session may I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas

Best wishes,

Fiona Jones

Depute Session Clerk

January 2018 meetings are as follows:

9th – Holy Beetle Drive

16th – Tangible Texts

23rd – Put your collar on first

Speaker Ms. I Gray

30th – Action for Children Scotland

Speaker Mr S Laurie

The Guild would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and pray that God's richest blessings will be with you throughout the coming year.

Margaret McHarg

Community Christmas Events

We are looking forward to giving gifts of sweets to local homes around our churches this Christmas.

If you are free, please come along and help us to distribute the bags on

Sunday 17th December
Meet at 4.30 pm at Cathcart Trinity



Pop Up Carol Singing

Friday 22nd December
6.30pm - 7.30pm

We would love to have 2 groups carol singing this year, one at the flats around Holmlea Park and the other around the houses and flats in Merrylee.

We will meet together afterwards for a warm drink!

To make this possible we will need a large number of singers so please sign up on the sheets in the Church entrance and the mid hall.

For more details of either of these, please speak to Esme Uprichard.

Hello from Creche, Sunday Club and Pathfinders

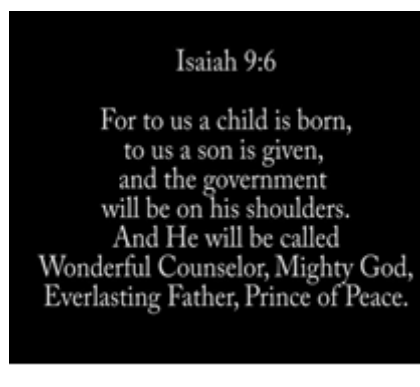
Lots of play and fun continues in crèche – my thanks to everyone in the crèche team who share in the care of our youngest children.

It is important that our children hear Jesus' name and that God loves each one of them.

In Sunday Club, the children have been learning about a divided kingdom as God's people struggled and some did not stay true to Him.

Some Old Testament names can be challenging to pronounce, but we had a good go with Jeroboam and Rehoboam. Have you seen our time line in the Buchanan Hall?

Over these few weeks, as we move towards Christmas, we are working on some illustrations relating to Isaiah 9: 6. Watch out for them appearing in church at Christmas!



Pathfinders will be delving into Isaiah 9:6 as we consider some of Jesus' amazing names during advent. We have just finished a series called 'Influences,' thinking about the impact on our lives of family, media, advertising and many other areas of modern life, and considering our response based on biblical principles.

Linda Burke.

**Community Coffee Morning
Friday 15th December 2017
10.30am - 12.00pm.**

**Newlands Junior College
6 Inverlair Avenue, Cathcart,
Glasgow G43 2HS.
All most Welcome**

Five words from Anna

An interesting part of the Christmas story took place a few days after the birth of Jesus.

There were no shepherds, no angels and no inn-keeper. Just Mary and Joseph meeting two old people called Simeon and Anna. Although they were both elderly, neither seemed to be looking back, thinking that their best days were behind them. They were looking to the future, looking for the Messiah.

It appears that, though Anna was widowed as a young woman, she never became bitter or critical but remained actively looking, and praying for, the kingdom of God. When Anna met the baby Jesus, Luke 2:38 records her simple, yet profound words, 'She gave thanks to God.'

This lovely prayer is quite different to the profound, prophetic and majestic words spoken by Mary, Zechariah and Simeon. Anna's prayer of thanksgiving reminds me of this little chorus whose author is unknown:

'Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,
Thank you, Jesus, that you came,
Holy Spirit won't you teach me
More about his lovely name.'

At this special time of the year when we remember Jesus' coming into the world, if we get stuck for words we can be like Anna and just say 'thank you.'

**'Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your son
And leaving your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done'
(Melody Green)**

We may not be able to express the great purposes of God in a prayer or write an amazing hymn, but we can give thanks to God for His wonderful gift. Let's resolve to give God thanks every day of this Advent season for the coming of Jesus.

Linda Watson.

Celebrating a growing Church

At a time when we are being frequently depressed by reports of dwindling Church attendances and even the closure of some congregations, it is very encouraging to read about one Church which is certainly thriving.

St Andrew's Church in Cairo, a former Church of Scotland building now under the supervision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the USA, has just held a rededication service to mark the completion of renovations - partly funded from Scotland. The assistant minister is Church of Scotland Mission Partner Rev Colin Johnston.



St Andrew's is host not only to an English-speaking congregation, but also to NINE refugee congregations, mainly from Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Services take place every day of the week, with the Church full of refugees singing and dancing, finding comfort and security.

One of the most exciting projects of the Church is St Andrew's Refugee Service, which provides a place of safety for many of the refugees in Cairo.



There is a school, a nursery, English classes, legal services, psychological counselling, community support projects and free meals for five hundred children every day!

The rededication service was a celebration of all the good that happens at St Andrew's. It included music from all the different congregations that use St Andrew's. The Church was full, with prayers and blessings led by many of the international visitors as well as by local pastors and the President of the Protestant Churches in Egypt.

It's great to hear such encouraging news, so let's give thanks and pray for them.

Safeguarding at Cathcart Trinity

The Church of Scotland aims to have all volunteers trained. A number of our volunteers completed their training earlier in the year – thank you for taking time to do this. Others have done training prior to this.

If you are a volunteer working with children, young people or vulnerable adults and have not attended Church of Scotland training, please look at the dates below and decide on a date which suits you. To book a place, please contact me by email or in person.

- Wednesday 25 April – Croftfoot Parish Church 7 – 9.30pm
- Tuesday 1 May – Cardonald Parish Church 7 – 9.30pm
- Monday 4 June – Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church 7 – 9.30pm

It is important that we continue to work together, as volunteers and as members of the congregation, to keep our church a safe place for everyone. Please do not hesitate to speak to Donald if you have a safeguarding query or concern.

Linda Burke L82gburke@btinternet.com

The Foodbank

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity in donating gifts, food and money in response to our request with regard to Christmas. We have received many beautiful, thoughtful gifts in addition to specific food items and monetary donations. This will all be used to provide a better Christmas than might have been for many who come to the Foodbank. One man said to me last week when I was telling him to come to see us before Christmas as we would be able to give him a little Christmas cheer, "It's just another day for me". We talked about that and he said he was a Christian but that things hadn't gone well for him. Thank you for being so generous and enabling us to give him a little extra support at this time.

On behalf of Norma and myself have a lovely Christmas.

Anne and Norma



Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 27th January 2018
08:30 - 10:00am

United Free Church, Struan Road

Saturday the 27th of January is our first prayer breakfast for 2018.

Come and join us for a time of fellowship round the breakfast table followed by prayer. An excellent New Year resolution would be to play a part in the prayer life of our churches. All welcome.

"Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4 v 16

We'll be holding our next Roll back the Years Disco for Scripture Union on Saturday 3rd April 2018, please put the date in your diary.

Stuart.

Cartvale Care Home Service

As you may know, Cathcart Trinity provide a short service each month in Cartvale Care Centre and we are needing some volunteers to help out with the services.

The service lasts about 20 minutes and consists of 5 or 6 old, well known hymns with a sentence or 2 about each, a short prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Alistair McDonald provides guitar accompaniment.

If you think this is part of God's work that you could help with come along to Cartvale on the second Sunday of the month. We meet at the Gate at 2.45pm or speak to me or call me on 0141 639 7029.

Services are on Sunday 10th December and Sunday 14th January.

Alison McMillan.



A week at the seaside

I noticed a short piece in our church notices a few months ago which gave me information about an autumn week by the sea in Paignton, organised by Flame Trust, a Christian organisation based in Yorkshire.



I was very interested, but thought that all the places may have been taken so was delighted when I made contact and was able to make a booking!

I spent an amazing week in a beautiful location, in a super comfortable hotel with people who wanted to spend time exploring more of our faith journey together as well as the surrounding coast and countryside.

Thank you for all of the lovely messages and prayers during my recent illness. They were much appreciated.

God Bless you all!

Angela Black.

This was truly a spirit filled week; reflective prayer together and bible study in the morning, and a variety of insights in the evening around God's work in various places around our country.

All of the sessions were inspiring and uplifting!

I certainly hope to return next autumn – 15 October 2018.

Maybe, its something you would like to think about?

Happy to chat anytime about my great week in Paignton.

Linda Burke.

Art and Craft Club

The art and Craft Club all enjoyed their Winter Lunch at Scholars Restaurant on November 16th where the atmosphere was very convivial and the food good. The last meeting before Christmas will be December 7th when we will have mince pies and then we restart in 2018 on January 11th at 10am in the Buchanan Hall as usual.

I do hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Fiona Sutherland

Moment's Cafe

Moments Cafe continues to be a happy place to meet friends and join in various activities. There is always lots of laughter and a great buzz of conversation.

Recently we celebrated the Queen and Prince Philip's 70th anniversary and were honoured by a special visit from this amazing couple!



In December we have some Christmas activities and baking to enjoy and we are really looking forward to welcoming a choir from Merrylee Primary on December 18th.

Gay Morrison.

Thank you for supporting Mercy Ships

A big heartfelt 'Thank you' to all who supported the Mercy Ship event on Friday 3rd November, whether it be in prayer, ticket buying, ticket selling, techy set up, a guest on the night, a host on the night, a goafer, an

organising team member, a cook, a clearer upper, a sponsor, a giver.

We all had a blast and Nicky and Dan were surrounded in love and upheld in prayer as they shared their experiences with Mercy Ships.

The organisers reported that Cathcart was the largest crowd on this tour other than their home church and that we were the most generous in our givings.

The special God given union of our Churches and plan for the area of cathcart is evident in projects like this and to be part of them is a wee taste of Heaven - why don't you get involved when God calls the next one. Bless you.

Kirstin, Karen G, Gay, Andrea, Karen P, Eilidh, Eleanor, Gary, Ewan, John and Alec

Messy Church

Messy Church meets on the third Saturday of each month from 4pm - 6pm. Here's a selection of photos from their November activities...



December/January at a Glance

Sunday 10th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 12th December	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
	7.30pm	The Guild
Thursday 14th December	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 15th December	6.30pm	Radar
Saturday 16th December	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 17th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship @ UF Church
Monday 18th December	2pm	Moment's Cafe
Tuesday 19th December	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
Thursday 21st December	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 22nd December	6.30pm	Pop Up Carol Singing
Sunday 24th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Early Watchnight Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Monday 25th December	11am	Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday 31st December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 9th January	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
	7.30pm	The Guild
Thursday 11th January	10am	Art & Craft Club restarts for 2018
	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 12th January	6.30pm	Radar
Sunday 14th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 15th January	2pm	Moment's Cafe

December/January at a Glance contd.

Tuesday 16th January	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
	7.30pm	The Guild
Thursday 18th January	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 19th January	6.30pm	Radar
Saturday 20th January	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 21st January	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 23rd January	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
	7.30pm	The Guild
Thursday 25th January	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 26th January	4pm – 7.30pm	Café Church
	6.30pm	Radar
Saturday 27th January	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast @ UF Church
Sunday 28th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 30th January	6.15pm	Snowdrops (currently full)
	7.30pm	The Guild

Save the Date Essence Celebration What has passed and of what is yet to come

All ladies are invited for a time of fellowship, supper and celebration as we bring Essence as it was, to an end of season and plan afresh for the new.

Looking forward to a time to chill and be filled!
on Friday 5th January 2018 in Cathcart Trinity
7.45pm-9.30pm (mid-hall and Buchanan hall)

Kirstin Drummond

Congregational Christmas Card

Over the last few years there has been a large Christmas card available in the vestibule during December. This has been a great way to write a greeting and , instead of giving individual cards to church friends, perhaps pop a small donation in the box beside the card . Any money raised will be given to charity.

Fiona Jones



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Cathcart Trinity Church is a registered Scottish Charity, SC011353

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