

News from Cathcart Trinity Church

October 2017



Welcome to the October issue of the newsletter.

Can I start by thanking everyone who fed back with comments on my first outing, editing the newsletter? I appreciate that there are things that I did differently and some of them worked and some of them didn't work.

Some of the comments that I've taken on board are:

- For this issue, we've increased the typeface size to hopefully make it easier to read.
- I've included names next to every article as it had not occurred to me that people would want to have follow up discussions with those who had contributed after they had had a chance to read the newsletter.
- The times of all of our Worship services are included on the inside backpage along with some other key activities around the Church and I'll try to make sure that this is a regular feature from now.

Inside this issue, you'll find details of changes to Worship services explained by our Minister on page 3 and by the Session Clerk on page 5, a request for us to prayerfully think about the finances of the Church on page 3 & details of upcoming Guild activities on page 5.

On pages 5 & 6, Fiona Paton invites us to think about how we can grow and develop in our prayer lives.

'Kind Words are like honey, they cheer you up and make you feel strong,' Proverbs 16 v24

I hope that as you read this issue of the newsletter, you will feel as strengthened and excited by God's work at Cathcart Trinity as I do and please do share some of that with me so that we can feature it in future issues of the newsletter.

Copy for the November issue should be with me by Sunday 29th October. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how we can work to improve sharing of Church and Church family news through the newsletter, please feel free to speak to me.

Gary.

Communications Team.

November Worship:

Sunday 5 November:
11.00am and 6.30pm

Sunday 12 November:
Remembrance Sunday
10.45 and 6pm

Sunday 19 and Sunday 26 November
11.00am and 6.30pm

A word from our Minister:

Last year a congregation in Dalkeith, near Edinburgh, decanted from their own building to a nearby school so their premises could be refurbished and made fit for 21st century worship and community use. On the outside of the building the congregation put up the following sign – “Church is not closed! We’re undergoing a faith lift!”

Groan-worthy as this play on words may be, I love the way that it speaks to the fact the Christian community is called to be a renewed community (a picture of the time when God will make all things new – Revelation 21:5) and reminds us that God wants our faith in Him to grow.

Peter, for example, writes “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3) I’ve said it before, but I’ll say it again, each of us individually (as well as the fellowship corporately) should be “Under construction (to the Glory of God).”

In this context it is perhaps not too surprising that over the course of this year exploring the vision that God has for us as Cathcart Trinity – five building blocks to focus on have come to the front of our thinking:

- Building Unity
- Building Family
- Building Mission
- Building Faith
- Building Prayer

As we saw on Harvest Sunday each of these “building block” themes are rooted in the Bible and are expressed in us together - reaching out to others; nurturing those already in the Christian community and remembering that it all depends upon God.

It is my hope and prayer that going forward we can work together to help build God’s kingdom here in Cathcart and that over the next few months and years there are activities that we can all get involved in to do that.

The Kirk Session and various ministry teams will be revisiting the materials produced at the Vision Events earlier in the year to see what ideas we can pick up going forward.

At this time, it is beneficial to ask yourself “Where do I need a faith lift?” and “What role can I play in the building the congregation here in Cathcart Trinity?”

One outcome of the vision process that has already been actioned, is the Kirk Session has made the decision to move to a single Sunday morning service.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly, but we feel that a united forward-looking family service at the heart of Sunday worship is one of the ways for us to move forward together as a church fellowship.

This will be change for all of us, and we will need to support one another as we move to this new service at 11am. This service will have songs the congregation can sing at the centre and will hopefully facilitate people using the gifts of service that God has given them in a variety of ways. We also hope that at times there will be a place for sharing stories and that we can develop a prayer ministry, for those who desire it, after the service.

Alongside all of this, we are also exploring another new service, this time a week-day evening – “Café Church”. This service is very much still in the development stage, but aims to provide a place where faith can be explored and grown, through talks, discussion, music and refreshments.

Anyone who is interested in coming along to a meeting to discuss “Café Church” or find out more – please come along to the Coffee Cup at 190 Clarkston Road on Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

I’m struck, as I close, that lots of information about changes and opportunities are going to be shared over the next wee while, and that all of this can feel both exciting and overwhelming - even at the same time.

My prayer for each of you, please don’t store that up for yourself. It has been our prayer throughout that this process would be energising and that each one of you would be released to serve God, just as he has called you individually.

So, if you feel overwhelmed, either positively or negatively, please do something positive about it; speak to one of the ministers or your elder and we can see how we can help you. And above all else – can I ask you to pray?

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.” Psalm 127:1

With love,
Alasdair

Church Finances

The Congregational Board met on Monday 2 October when the Treasurer reported that at 31st August our income was £10,600 below budget.

While our expenditure over the same period was £4,200 below budget there is still a significant gap which were it to continue in the same pattern over the remaining 4 months of the year would result in an annual deficit of around £10,000 reducing our current small surplus to £7,500.

This is unsustainable in the long term and unfortunately we have little scope to reduce expenditure as the significant elements are Ministry and Mission contributions, insurance and fuel all of which are essential.

We recognise that some members may make single payments later in the year however even taking this into account it seems likely that we are heading for an annual deficit unless contributions are increased.

We have a generous Congregation and this has been clearly demonstrated in the pledges which have been made during the year to our fabric appeal.

While the maintenance of the property is essential it is critical that Income to the General Fund exceed our annual expenditure.

Without this the chances are that in a few years’ time the viability of the Congregation will be in question.

We will try to identify ways in which we can raise additional funds however through this article I am asking everyone to consider, prayerfully, whether they can increase their giving and to maximise the effect of this by use of Gift Aid. Please also bear in mind that regular payments by Standing Order help us to plan our finances effectively.

Iain Duff
Session Clerk

News from Kirk Session

At our meeting on 19 September, Kirk Session spent some time on the Vision exercise.

It was encouraging to see that a common sense of purpose and direction had come through both from the Trustees away day and the wider contributions from Congregation members.

It was agreed that going forward all Organisations, Ministry Teams, Kirk Session and Board should be encouraged to see how their work fits with our 5 key objectives:

- Building Unity
- Building Faith
- Building Praise
- Building Mission
- Building Family

It was also agreed at the meeting that we should move to a single 11.00am service of Worship on Sunday mornings from Sunday 5 November and that a new Café style of worship would be developed and held on an evening mid-week.

It is hoped that these combined with our Sunday evening and Thursday lunchtime services will provide a range of styles and times of worship to suit our congregation and to attract new worshippers.

Iain Duff
Session Clerk



Life and Work

It is now time to consider whether you wish to reorder Life and Work for 2018.

The annual cost with discount for bulk orders is £27.36. Cheques made payable to Cathcart Trinity Church must be given to me by Sunday 22nd October 2017 at the latest.

If you have not taken Life and Work before now and would like to do so, please contact me on 637 4462 or by email anne@hindfamily.plus.com

Anne Hind

Prayer @ Cathcart

It has been very clear throughout the Vision process that many people within our congregation recognise the importance of prayer.

There are many ways we can pray as individuals and as part of the congregation, and there is no shortage of situations, people or events to bring to God in prayer.

The monthly Wednesday prayer meeting and prayer breakfasts are advertised in the notices and in the newsletter regularly and if you have not yet ventured along to either of these, you would be made very welcome.

The prayer letter which accompanies the newsletter provides prayer topics to inform your individual prayers and hopefully inspires other prayers which God lays on your heart.

Currently, there is a group of people who join in prayer via email. When we know of a particular person or situation in need of prayer, a request is circulated (with that person's consent of course).

If you use email and would like to join this prayer ministry, please contact prayer@cathcarttrinity.org.uk with your email address and you will be added to the group

And....

What if you would like others to pray for you or about a situation you are experiencing?

Again, if you use email, you can email prayer@cathcarttrinity.org.uk with some information of what you would like us to pray about.

If you don't use email, you could speak to one of the ministers or leave a note in the box in the vestibule labelled prayer requests.

At all prayer meetings and with the email prayer group confidentiality is important. As we pray for one another, we seek to treat each person with love and respect as we uphold them to God.

Fiona Paton



The Guild

By the time you read this, the Guild's 2017-2018 session will have started with Karen Girvan's Accordion Band.

The programme for the remainder of October is as follows:

10th October
Stage Struck
Ms. Y. Wearing

17th October
Upstairs, Downstairs - Life
At Holmwood House
Ms. J. MacDonald

24th October
Queen Victoria's Sons
Mrs. W. Sandiford

31st October
Riding for the Disabled
Mrs. E. McReady

As always, a warm invitation is extended to all members and friends of the congregation to come along to any of these evenings, where a welcome awaits at 7.30 p.m. in the newly refurbished Kent Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE...

The Guild will be holding its Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th November between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and tickets priced £2 for adults and 50p for children will be on sale soon.

There will be stalls for home baking, gifts, fancy goods, etc. and donations for these will be welcomed. Please come along and support the work of the Guild.

Margaret Brough

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.

- Thursday 9 November – Merrylea Parish Church 7 – 9.30pm
- Friday 10 November – Newlands South Church 7 – 9.30pm
- 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 L829burke@btinternet.com



Faith Under Pressure

Our Lord warned his followers that they would always be liable to face persecution. Starting within three decades of his death and resurrection, when dreadful violence was launched against them by a succession of Roman emperors, there have been waves of persecution down through the centuries.

Since the start of the present century, we have been seeing a resurgence of pressure on Christians from several antagonistic ideologies.

Communism, with its atheistic agenda, used to be the main ideology leading to the persecution of Christians, and much suffering it caused.

Although communism has collapsed in all but half a dozen countries e.g. China, where Christianity is seen as a national security risk, it has been replaced in many by equally authoritarian dictatorships, e.g. Uzbekistan, which brutally repress religious freedom.

In some countries, national identity has become tied to a particular religion and so members of other religious groups are regarded as subversive.

For example, President Putin has linked patriotism and loyalty with membership of the Russian Orthodox Church and he has introduced sweeping new laws severely restricting other expressions of Christianity.

The most serious example of religious nationalism is in India, where Hindu nationalists believe that only Hindus should live in India (and Nepal). Although India is legally a secular state whose constitution is meant to guarantee religious freedom, various laws have been passed recently by individual states, e.g. making it illegal for a Hindu to change religion or for anyone to persuade anyone to change religion. This anti Christian hostility has become much worse since the nationalist government led by Mahendra Modi came to power three years ago. Mob violence has increased and there have been attacks on people and buildings - with the police refusing to intervene.

The persecution we're all most likely to be aware of in recent years has been that inflicted on minority groups by radical Islam.

From the Taliban to Boko Haram, ISIS and Al Shabaab, countless numbers of Christians have been killed, imprisoned or forced to join the great tide of refugees being displaced around so much of our world.

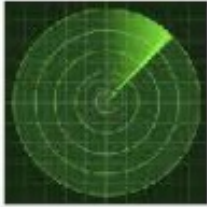
The mere rumour of an accusation of someone speaking against Mohammed or of desecrating the Koran has led to mobs rampaging through Christian districts, torching houses, shops and churches, and seeking to kill Christians, with the police often turning a blind eye.

Across various sections of the Church, the week of 29th October - 5th November has been designated Suffering Church Action Week and it would be great if we in Trinity could think specially of our persecuted brothers and sisters at that time, and give thanks for the freedom we enjoy in our country to worship according to our own conscience. The enclosed bookmark (I love Lily of the Valley) should help to focus our thoughts and prayer.

Bill Seaman

Cathcart Trinity Church

We say goodbye to Anchor Boys, but hello to



Radar



Radar is a club for boys in Primary 1, 2 and 3



Find out more what **Radar** is about!

Radar

starts **Friday 1 September** at 6.30pm



Radar aims to:

- ❖ help build self-esteem and confidence
- ❖ provide a safe place to play and make friends
- ❖ have fun and explore interests
- ❖ build awareness of the Christian faith through bible stories
- ❖ provide a gateway to local BB at later stages

A quick peak at what's on around the Church and some of our associated organisations during September and October...

Sofa Groups have started at various times and venues. They will be studying a variety of topics, not yet all decided. These groups are a great way to get to know people and to grow in your faith. If you are interested, speak to one of the leaders, or to someone who goes, a minister or email sofagroups@cathcarttrinity.org.uk.



On Saturday 21 October at 7pm there will be a concert in Cathcart Trinity Church with **Ian White** and **Father's Song**.

This will be a fund-raising event for **CAP** (Christians Against Poverty).

No ticket required, but an offering will be uplifted.

Please note the date and plan to be there!



Autumn holiday?

For the past ten years we have enjoyed an Autumn break on the South Coast of England which is organised by Dave Pope.

About 100 people from all sections of the Christian community attend and enjoy Bible teaching which this year will be led by Rev David Coffey. The Redcliffe Hotel in Paignton is the venue and the dates are Monday 23 October until Friday 27 October.

There are still places available and for more information please visit Flametrust.org and click on 'Time out'.

Thanks to Ian & Linda Watson for sharing.

Cathcart Old Parish Church which is located at 119 Carmunnock Road, Glasgow, G44 5UW has a **Men's Association** which resumed weekly meetings on Monday 2 October at 2:30 pm.

The 16 weekly talks will be wide ranging including:

"Dumfries House"

by Charlotte Rostek. (A major driving force behind the restoration of Dumfries House).

"Donald Trump's First Hundred Days"

by Dr Robert Hamilton.

"Brexit Negotiations" by Professor Tom Mullen.

All welcome.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Alex Laughlan on 0141 637 3837 or email alexanderlaughlan@hotmail.com

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 28th October

08:30 - 10:00am

United Free Church, Struan Road.

Prayer Breakfast is the time that we gather as a body of God's people to pray for our churches, the community and the wider world. Come and join with us and enjoy a time of fellowship round the breakfast table before praying. The needs of our world are great both here and abroad - there is much to pray for. All welcome.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Psalm 117 v 1 & 2

Mercy Ships:

We are excited to announce that Cathcart Trinity is hosting an evening as part of The Mercy Ships UK Tour 2017 on Friday 3rd November!

It promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment with music, illusions and memorable stories with acclaimed singer/songwriter Nicki Rogers and the phenomenal Illusionist Dan Alexander, while raising awareness of and support for the Christian mission organisation, Mercy Ships.

Both artists are Christians, and have had the opportunity to go and spend some time on board the Africa Mercy (a large floating hospital, funded through Mercy Ships) and so they will be sharing stories from their own experiences.

The evening will run from 7:30pm – 10pm with a break in the middle, and there are some great prizes to be won too!

Please do come along, and invite friends too (recommended for over 16s due to some of the content of the real life stories shared, of situations where lifesaving or life changing medical treatment was needed)... Tickets are available online from, www.mercyships.org.uk/tour or call 07902 371232 (no booking fee when phoning!).

Tickets can also be bought from Kirstin Drummond, Eilidh MacDonald, Gay Morrison or Karen Purdom.

News from the Foodbank:

Thank you for the excellent collection of 100kgs. of food and also for monetary donations as part of the Harvest Sunday Collection.

This is so, so necessary as our cupboards have been quite bare recently. October sees us busy uplifting harvest collections from churches, schools and businesses but as previously said, very necessary.

Another aspect of the Foodbank is that we are often asked to support work placements for young people who are either in a school for children with additional support needs or college with a similar requirement.

Our environment although extremely busy can be supportive to these young people and it has been our pleasure to do this over the past few years with children, parents and staff delighted with the provision and support offered.

Anne and Norma.



October at a Glance

Sunday 8th October	10am	Early Service
	11.15am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 10th October	7.30pm	The Guild - Stage Struck
Wednesday 11th October	7.30pm	Prayer Time (UF Church)
Thursday 12th October	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 13th October	6.30pm	Radar
Sunday 15th October	10am	Early Service
	11.15am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 16th October	2pm	Moments Cafe
Tuesday 17th October	7.30pm	The Guild - Upstairs, Downstairs - Life At Holmwood House
Thursday 19th October	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 21st October	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 22nd October	10am	Early Service
	11.15am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 24th October	7.30pm	The Guild - Queen Victoria's Sons
Thursday 26th October	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 27th October	6.30pm	Radar
Saturday 28th October	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast (UF Church)
Sunday 29th October	10am	Early Service
	11.15am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 31st October	7.30pm	The Guild - Riding for the Disabled
Thursday 2nd November	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Friday 3rd November	6.30pm	Radar
Sunday 5th November	11am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 6th November	2pm	Moments Cafe



Highlights from a great day at Messy Church! Was so good to see everyone - both familiar and new! For anyone who didn't make it and might be wondering what the bread is all about, we were thinking about how Jesus said he is the "bread of life" - we need him like we need basic food - he can sustain us and give us what we need.



Key Church Contacts:

Minister:

Rev Alasdair MacMillan

0141 633 3744

minister@cathcarttrinity.org.uk

Associate Minister:

Rev Wilma Pearson

0141 632 2491

wilma@cathcarttrinity.org.uk

Session Clerk:

Iain Duff

0141 586 0544

sessionclerk@cathcarttrinity.org.uk



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 third Sunday of the month. We meet at the Gate at 2.45pm or speak to me or call me on 0141 639 7029.

Alison McMillan.