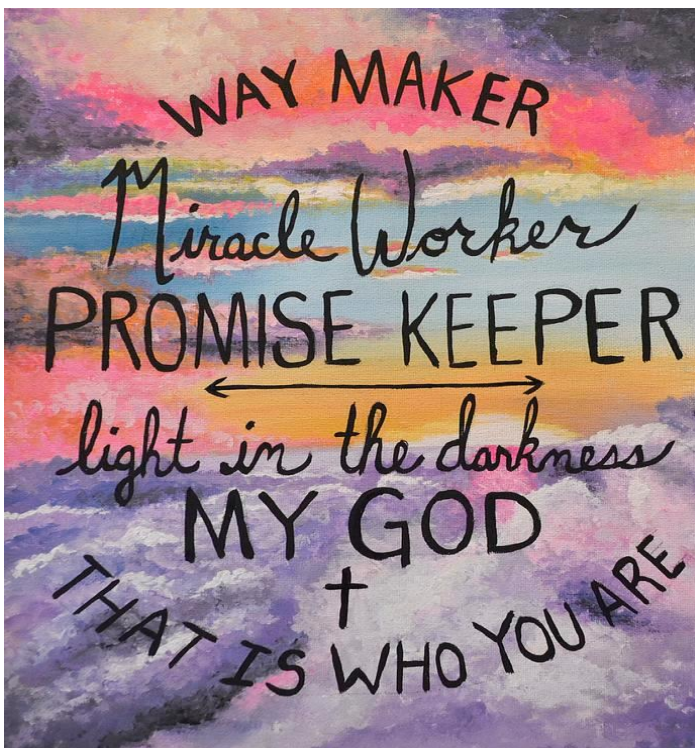




# CATHCART TRINITY CHURCH

FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST • GLORIFYING GOD • SERVING OTHERS



## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

# LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

When was the last time someone told you to “stay safe”? If your correspondence is anything like mine, it wasn't that long ago. Where folk used to end conversations or emails to me with something like “God bless”, now a good number of people's sign off is “stay safe”.

I'm going to let you into a secret. I truly value folks' care for me and my family expressed in those words, ‘stay safe’, but honestly, I'd still prefer God's blessing.

I've been thinking a bit about the Aaronic Blessing recently. We read it in Numbers 6:22-27 (NIVUK):

**<sup>22</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them,**

**<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you  
and keep you,**

**<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you,**

**<sup>26</sup> the Lord turn his face towards you  
and give you peace.**

**<sup>27</sup> ‘So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.’”**

How many times have we sung these words over someone who has just been baptised? Or did any of you hear the version of these words known as “The Blessing” that was shared at the beginning of lockdown with different worship leaders' voices leading the church in socially distant song? These are words that remind us of our calling as God's people to bless one another (in the New Testament all of God's people are priests). Are you seeking the blessings mentioned in these verses in your life? Are you praying these blessings of God into the lives of others?

For all those times I've read or sung these words, I'd never noticed verse 27 until the beginning of 2021. In verse 27, God tells us that the ultimate purpose of singing or saying these words over people is to bless them as the name of God is placed on them. This is significant. In the Bible, the name of God is shorthand that's used to describe all that God is: His character, His plans and His purposes. The name of God is God Himself. In putting God's name on God's people – what's really happening is God is coming to His people. He is with them.

The Christian belief in the Incarnation - in the Emmanuel God - the 'Here with us God', sets us apart from all other religions. We believe that whatever we are going through, we can know the blessing of the God who has put His name upon us; we can know the blessing of the God who is here with us.

It is worth underlining this truth in our hearts. Whatever you are facing today or tomorrow, God invites you to know that He is with you as you face it. Have you opened your life up to this blessing? Are you viewing your present and future through this prism of faith? Do you see the difference 'God with you' can make in your hopes, dreams, fears and opportunities?

I pray that we would grasp how amazing this blessing is and would share it more with the world!

While God's presence is the ultimate blessing, it would be wrong to not mention the other blessings God wants his priests to share. I've summarized each verse as a short prayer.

### **I pray that God bless you with His salvation (v.24)**

The past year has taught us just how hard it is to "stay safe". However, as Christians we have a God who keeps us through the storms of life and leads us safe through death. Peter shares **"This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."** (1 Peter 1:4-5)

In other words, God is preparing a perfect indestructible inheritance for us and is keeping it safe for us in heaven, and at the same time God is keeping us safe, so that in the end we might secure the promises He has held out for us. It does not always mean that here and now we come through storms unscathed, but it does remind us to cling to our God who keeps us. He has saved us, is saving us and will save us

Is God the one who “keeps you”? Or is your hope somewhere else?

### **I pray that God would bless you with His smile (v.25)**

I love this verse. What a difference it would make if more of us knew the truth of God’s face shining in delight upon us, smiling upon us. Some of us need to take to heart the truth that God loves us and that His love for us is completely and absolutely amazing. God’s love can’t be measured, it can’t be confined and it’s fixed upon you. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** (John 3:16)

Did you know that God wants you to know today that He’s smiling in love at you?

### **I pray that God would bless you with His peace/shalom (v.26)**

There is a lot in this world that could cause us to worry and be afraid, but God wants us to know the blessing of his peace. Jesus shares: **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”** (John 14:27)

What a difference it would make if we opened our hearts to God’s peace and prayed it into the lives of those around us. His peace, His shalom is not just an absence of war, but that sense of everything being right with us and with the world.

Do you know this peace that transcends understanding? Are you seeking to share it with others?

There is so much more that I could say about these verses. For one example, how God's presence, salvation, smile and peace are displayed as a blessing through the Easter story. However, I do need to stop somewhere, and I'm reminded of the truth that it's no bad thing to come back again and again to explore aspects of God and His blessings anew. As Christians we should fill our lives daily with the promises of blessing that God makes for His people. We should claim them for ourselves and pray them into the lives of others. Are we doing that?

With my love and every blessing,  
Alasdair

## **CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

At the time of writing it is unclear whether we will be in our building for Communion on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March

There will be a service from the sanctuary live-streamed onto our YouTube channel at 11am including an act of Communion.

This service will also be available for catch up. Should the building be open, our booking line will be open to welcome as many people as permitted by law.

Communion will also be celebrated at the Family Service at 11am. Please watch out for information about whether this service will be on Zoom or in the Kent Hall.

There will also be a short celebration of Communion on Zoom at 6.30pm (before the #LiveLent "God's Story, Our Story" course).



Let's hope it is not too long before we can start meeting up, but until then it is important that we make every effort to keep in touch.

In times past we depended on the GPO for communications. Sending letters was an art form for some. It would involve copperplate handwriting, good grammar and careful spelling. A letter to a friend, once written, was folded and sealed in a stamped addressed envelope before being taken to the post box. In a day or two the letter would be delivered to the recipient's home by the "postie."

Letters and cards are still precious and valued, but advances in technology have superseded this means of communication for many. "Letters" are more commonly sent electronically as "emails" with the advantage that they can be written and sent in minutes from the comfort of home and delivered in seconds. It would also appear that most people now carry a mobile phone with them at all times. The "mobile" has, at the touch of a few buttons, the potential to communicate both the spoken and the written word. What a boon it has been in these troubled times.

Since the end of March 2020, our ability to communicate has been sorely tested. Notice boards in the church are out of bounds, orders of service or information handouts at church are not permitted, and we have precious few opportunities to chat face to face with one another to enjoy hearing and sharing the latest news.

Phone calls have been a lifeline for many in terms of support and encouragement. However, for the purpose of passing on detailed information, emails are more effective. Over these months the church has sent out emails to all of its contacts. If you have not received emails from either the church or your elder, it may be that we do not have your correct email address, so please email me at [sessionclerk@cathcarttrinity.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@cathcarttrinity.org.uk) to let us know. Cathcart Trinity is committed to retain email addresses of its contacts for the sole purpose of communicating within our church community. We do appreciate that not everyone has access to email. If that is you, please contact your elder to discuss the best way for you to receive church information.

Angus Morrison

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **Deaths**

Hilda Buchanan, Alex Gowans, Kath Jolly,  
Andy Trainer, Jim Sodden

### **Disjunctions**

Joyce and David Maxwell

# Trinity and UF Prayer Gardens

As we said in the last Newsletter we are trying to have a different theme each month in the church gardens. Please do try and talk a walk past if you are able but we know many cannot do this at the moment so thought we would share some photos with you.

Esme Uprichard

In January the theme was **Light** and trees were lit with fairy lights



At Trinity we are encouraging people to think of a time when they have been shown love and to tie a ribbon to the gate to say thank you







There are hearts to take home as a reminder that God loves us all



The UF has some fantastic wooden letters and a sign with a Bible verse



# NEWS FROM THE FAMILY SERVICE



So many things have changed in the last year and so has how we meet for church. As a family we have enjoyed the different and creative services which the leadership has developed.

When the family service started we weren't sure how we would feel being in the Kent Hall away from the rest of the church, but very quickly it became something which we look forward to on a Sunday.

We all agree that we have built relationships with others even with our masks on and socially distanced! There is a lovely relaxed atmosphere where it appears evident that we genuinely care for one another and all the leaders make sure that everyone feels welcome.

The leaders have worked very hard to get the balance of teaching, praise and activities to suit everyone and it works well. As a family we have been able to talk about what we have learnt and how it challenges us.

These are some of the words Iain, Seonaidh, Ruairidh and Ceitidh have come up with to describe the family service.

Iain - I find it nourishing. A sanctuary. It's a nice environment and it's interactive

Seonaidh - Good fun and I like the welcoming people

Ruairidh - It's exciting seeing everyone and they look happy. I like seeing Alasdair and Wilma on zoom. I like all my family being together - grownups and children. Please can we have a party with food and games when this is all over?

Ceitidh - I love being in the red hall. I like the different themes. I remember about Moses. I like having everyone together and all the songs and crafts.

The feeling of unity and being together, especially when everything else in life just now is the opposite, has helped us feel less isolated and in God's family. Even although we are now on zoom the fellowship continues and we do learn a lot but we laugh together too and as a family we hope that church can continue like this in some form. Finally, I along with everyone else who attends the family service want to thank the leaders for the devotion and dedication in preparing each Sunday's session as we appreciate it very much.

**Psalm 122 v 1: I rejoiced with those who said to me "Let us go to the house of the Lord"**

Love from the Macdonalds

For the last 4 Sunday morning services Jan and I have joined the family service on zoom. We have been amazed at the amount of effort the leaders put into the service. There are usually at least 4 families taking part and folks like ourselves tuning in.



It feels like a normal service, great topics and the children giving their thoughts. They are also encouraged to draw a picture about what they have heard. We sing a few songs; some have actions but are all meaningful. The service lasts about one hour.

We have also taken part in the family quiz which is monthly and great fun and lots of laughter! Keep up the good work!

Jan and Stuart McCloy

Whether we're still on zoom, or back in person in the hall, all are welcome to join the Family Service (with or without children!)

Zoom Code is 864 963 9507





Throughout this pandemic there has been much talk of prayer inside and outside the church. Research has indicated that there have been record numbers of Google searches on the word “prayer”. People of faith and of no faith have been seeking understanding, guidance, comfort and hope from God through prayer.

There have been many calls to prayer by different denominations and church organisations.

Although we have not been able to meet together for our monthly prayer breakfasts, we have continued to meet on Zoom, not just monthly but fortnightly. No shared coffee and croissants but lots of shared prayer!

These prayer breakfasts started 11 years ago in January 2010. A notice in our church newsletter for the first breakfasts said 2 things:

- “prayer is a vital part of the lives of all Christians – it is how we communicate with God, develop our relationship with Him, bring our concerns to Him and listen to Him as he speaks to us”.
- “as a church, prayer needs to be at the heart of all that we do if we are to be sure that we are following God’s plan for ourselves and for Cathcart”.
- This was true 11 years ago and the purpose of the prayer breakfasts continues to be to:
- Thank God
- Seek His guidance and draw closer to Him
- Pray for others

The breakfast regularly has over 20 people but there is plenty of room for more! If you would like to join us on Saturday mornings, the upcoming dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in March, April and May 9.00 – 10.00am. Please contact [prayer@cathcarttrinity.org.uk](mailto:prayer@cathcarttrinity.org.uk) or Dougie Paton for the Zoom code. Bring your own coffee!

Fiona Paton

### Letter from Sheila Gowans

I want to thank so many people who have helped me in so many ways since Alex died. My sincere thanks to our minister Alasdair for conducting an uplifting and meaningful service at the crematorium and for his pastoral care. Also my thanks to Wilma for her support and her beautiful inclusive prayer at the service.

Our Church family, along with many others, have sent wonderful cards and letters which I will always treasure. I received amazing bouquets and flower arrangements from so many people which were really appreciated and a joy to look at. As a family we felt so supported by you all and upheld by your prayers through a difficult time.

I am not sad. Alex had had a good life with some ups and downs but he was becoming very frail. He had a peaceful death in his own home with his family at his bedside, unlike so many people at this time. This was a real blessing for us all.

Alex had a strong faith and wasn't afraid of dying as he knew he would meet his Saviour and Lord. Of course I am missing him after 63 years of marriage but feel blessed to have had all this time together. I also give thanks for a wonderful supportive family.

My thanks for all your prayers. With every blessing

Sheila

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER ARRANGEMENTS



During Holy Week there will be short daily reflections based on elements from the Stations of the Cross produced by ministers of Cathcart Baptist, Cathcart Trinity and Cathcart United Free Churches.

On Maundy Thursday there will be an evening gathering on Zoom for reflection and the sharing of Communion.

Finally on Easter Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a service from the sanctuary and a Family Service. If it is possible for these to be public gatherings for worship, the booking lines will be open. If public gatherings for worship are still banned, the Family Service will be on Zoom and the Sanctuary Service live streamed on YouTube – both at 11am. The YouTube service will be available for catch up

At the moment our plans for Easter reflect the current Covid 19 restrictions. Should it be possible to do more than we anticipate, we will publicise any additional plans as early and as publicly as possible.



# Easter Decorations

Why not decorate your house on the outside this Easter and witness to your neighbours about what Easter is all about?

Here are some ideas of what you could do but we are sure you will have some great ideas of your own which you could share on social media.

Esme Uprichard



You could put something in your garden, on your doorstep or on a fence







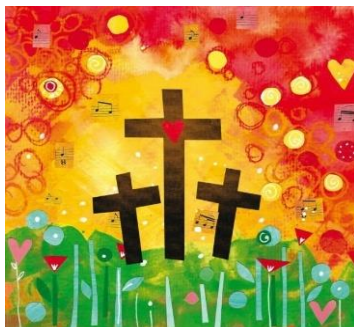
You could make a cross to put in your window



You could hang an Easter wreath on your door



# SHARING EASTER WITH YOUR COMMUNITY



Many of us have got to know our neighbours a little better over this year. We may have sent them a card at Christmas, but Easter is also a good opportunity to send a card and share with them what Easter is all about.

You may also want to buy an Easter egg. You could send a Christian card with a commercial egg or buy “The Real Easter Egg” which includes a little booklet of the Easter story



## Overnight Welcome Centre

This year Glasgow City Mission's Winter Night Shelter is called the Overnight Welcome Centre (OWC).



For those in our congregation who've volunteered at the Winter Night Shelter in previous years, it's very different this year. Gone are the mattresses on the floor of the Lodging House Mission. Now it's in the IBIS Hotel in West Regent Street and is a 24-hour service.

The Overnight Welcome Centre provides safe, emergency accommodation to anyone at risk of rough sleeping in Glasgow during the winter months. A hot evening meal is provided, which is made at Glasgow City Mission in Crimea Street and then transported to the OWC.



From this



to this!

There is a strong focus on working with partner agencies to enable guests to quickly move on to settled accommodation. Having a 24-hour service and a Glasgow City Mission staff present in the hotel at all times makes it easier to build up relationships of trust and work with guests to find them accommodation. The capacity is 25 guests at any one time.

Although it is a hotel rather than mattresses on the floor – it is very much emergency, temporary accommodation. It is the last resort for finding someone a safe place to stay. As a result, people rarely stay more than a few nights before they're found accommodation by the homeless agencies in Glasgow. There are teams of workers from The Simon Community and Glasgow City Mission out on the streets looking for people with nowhere to stay. In short, nobody should have to sleep rough in the city at this time.

I volunteer on a Tuesday night from 17.30 to 20.30 and help with the meals. It gives a good opportunity to talk to the guests in a relaxed atmosphere over food and hear their stories. In these Covid-19 times it's great to have a valid reason to be out at night, meeting people!

For those who've helped at the Night Shelter in previous years, there is the same mix of people in the OWC. I've spoken to people who've been trafficked, asylum seekers, people escaping violence and drug chaos and people who've found themselves suddenly homeless needing somewhere warm to stay until they find (or can be found) something more permanent. There are not the same numbers having to use the OWC as in previous years. This is mainly because Glasgow City Council and The Scottish Government decided that nobody should be sleeping rough in during lockdown. Therefore many rough sleepers have already been found somewhere to stay.

On average there are around 16 guests per night. As I said the turnover of guests is very high as this is the "way in" to finding a more permanent place to stay. It's great that an organisation with clear Christian values is at the forefront of helping people in this way. I find it interesting that in a supposedly secular society, said society still has to rely on Christians and Christian organisations to care for those most in need. Where are the secular organisations providing this first line support? Perhaps something for your atheist friends and family members to ponder?

Cathcart Trinity is helping at the OWC from 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> February. Contact Iain Duff if you want to volunteer. The Overnight Welcome Centre is open until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Derek McIntyre



Hunger is not just a third world problem. Today people across the world UK will struggle to feed themselves and their families. Redundancy, uncertainty within employment, illness, benefit delays/sanctions, domestic violence, debt, paying for heating, and add to this Covid19 - all have an impact and are reasons why people go hungry.

In 2019/2020 the Foodbank fed 12,134, of these 4,832 were children. Since the beginning of the pandemic, resources and staffing have been limited, but the centre still runs 3 weekly sessions from Elim Church, 42 Inglefield Street G42 7AT. As well as receiving food, clients can get benefits advice, legal advice and an income maximisation phone interview.

Food donations can be delivered to Elim Church, 42 Inglefield Street, Glasgow G42 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am - 12midday. Sainsburys Muirend, Morrisons Newlands and Crossmyloof have donation baskets.

Monetary donations can be sent to Audrey Flannagan, Manager at above address.

Direct donations can be made to Clydesdale Bank,  
Acc No: 10021197. Sort code: 82 64 27. Glasgow  
South East Foodbank

The staff at the Foodbank would value our continued prayers. Please pray for the continued favour of God on this work, they have never had insufficient, sometimes it has been tight but God has always provided. Please pray for the health of staff and volunteers and for grace and patience to work in what are sometimes difficult circumstances.

# CHRISTMAS GIFTS 2020



Despite all the restrictions, we were able to deliver **many** gifts to both Church House and Barnardo's 16+.

A huge thank you for the additional effort that you put in to allow this to happen. Perhaps, Christmas 2020 was an incredibly special time to be reaching out to families and teenagers and to share something of God's love for them.

My thanks to those who helped with the organising and delivery of the gifts.

As Cathcart Trinity, we can pray for families who continue to be supported by Church House and for teenagers who are experiencing difficulties; our prayer, too, for the staff of both Church House and Barnardo's 16+ as year-round they reach out to those in need.

Thank you.

Linda Burke

## **God is limitless!**

This guided prayer time was used for the SU Scotland Day of Prayer in January, why not take some of the ideas to inspire your own prayers.

## **BIBLE-BASED PRAYER**

2020 has been a year of **limitations**. We have been restricted in carrying out our normal SU ministry. We have mourned the loss of SU Groups; SU Holidays; some staff we have had to let go because there is just no work for them to do. We want to begin by coming honestly before God and acknowledging our sense of loss and grief. We want to allow the Bible to shape our prayers.

### **Lament**

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul; how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Psalm 42:1-4*

*To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. Psalm 28: 1, 2*

**How do you feel when you hear of few SU Groups and of SU centres lying empty... and hundreds of children having been denied an opportunity to hear about Jesus?**

Share your feelings with God. Cry to the Lord for what has been lost in terms of SU ministry at Alltnacriche, Lendrick Muir, Gowanbank – in young lives. When we humble ourselves, before the Lord, he examines the motives of our hearts and exposes our sin. He reminds us that **He** is in control - not us. We are his creatures; he is the Creator.

*When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Psalm 73:21-22*

**Confess wrong attitudes, wrong thinking. Seek forgiveness, hand him control.**

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21, ICB*

**What new thing might God be doing? Pray for vision, creativity, and obedience.**

## **Praise**

We have an awesome God! With God's power working within us, God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or think. We have seen this time and again this past year in terms of SU Scotland ministry. Rejoice with us!

**Listen to some worship music.** Choose your own preference. Worship God for who he is.

**Watch the video** on our Day of Prayer page ([suscotland.org.uk/dop](https://suscotland.org.uk/dop)). Find out what our great big God has enabled to happen in terms of SU ministry, by his power at work over the last 6 months. Give him the glory. Spend time in praise and thanksgiving.

**Bring your own thanksgiving.** Where have you seen God at work in 2020? Is there an individual you want to give thanks for? An answer to prayer?

**Intercede for others.** *Every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name from him. I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong in spirit. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. Ephesians 3:15-16*



**Give thanks for the SU Global family.** Pray for SU in Ukraine; Belarus; Rwanda; Tajikistan; India.

**Pray for the SU Scotland Leadership Team.** Robin MacLellan took over as CEO just at the start of lockdown! Pray for Robin, Jackie Ringan, Dave Rickards, Paul Bayton and Lisbeth MacMillan, that they will be strengthened by God's power to lead the staff team, make wise decisions, and enact God's will for SU Scotland.

**Pray for SU Scotland volunteers and staff.** Pray for spiritual strength for individuals who work or volunteer for SU Scotland.

*I pray that Christ will **live in your hearts** because of your faith. I pray that **your life will be strong in love and be built on love**. And I pray that **you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love**. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Christ's love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19, ICB*

Paul's passionate prayer is that Christ will live in people's hearts by faith – and that people will have power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.

**Make that a prayer for children and young people.** Pray they experience that love of God, being filled with the fullness of God, and made strong by God's power at work in them. Pray by name for individuals who come to mind. Pray for pupil leaders, courageously leading SU Groups in their school.

**Pray for fresh opportunities** for SU Scotland to be able to communicate the love of Jesus in 2021 at our centres; in schools; online; in person; in areas of disadvantage; new resources. Pray for SU Holidays Day Camps at Easter, that lives will be touched by God.

**Pray for effective Bible engagement** at Equip, Connect Groups, Commission and that SU Scotland will continue to be faithful to opening God's word and handling it well.

God has brought us this far... and he leads us on! Praise his name.

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37*

## **Please pray for SU Scotland**

**A total of £270 was collected at the Christmas services and split between SU Scotland and Lodging House Mission**

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Thanks to Gay Morrison for thinking of bringing flowers to the chancel again in these days of Covid-19 restriction we are all experiencing. Gay had the idea of using a selection of silk flowers so we record our thanks to her for doing this and arranging them so well.

This is an interim measure and we all look forward so much to having fresh flowers in the church as soon as we are allowed.

Ann McKenzie, Flower Team

# WIDER WORLD MISSION

## EUROPE

Europe - stretching from Ireland to parts of Russia, from Greenland to Greece - is seeing the long twilight of traditional Christianity. Most of the peoples of Europe were baptized by 1000AD and have had a Christian background ever since. Europe's nominal Christians are similar to soccer supporters who follow their team but never go to a match. They treat Christianity as a public utility, something you only call on in times of need. But now, even this nominal Christian identity is fading fast. In the Czech Republic, for example, over 70% of people now say they are 'non-religious.'



## Evangelicals in Europe

1. Evangelicals - who emphasize faith in Christ and commitment to the Bible and conversion - are stronger in European countries with a Protestant heritage, such as Norway, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. Of the world's 15 countries with five million evangelicals or more, only one is European (the UK).
2. The south-east European state of Romania also has many evangelicals. It has a large Roma population, many of whom are Pentecostals, and also an evangelical movement within the Romanian Orthodox Church.
3. Evangelicals make up an active minority of around 1% in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. Here, evangelicals are often members of the poorest communities, or might be Roma, former drug users, or migrants.
4. Elsewhere, evangelicals in Europe are a tiny minority, tens of thousands or less in each country.

*\* Pray for deep, wide renewal among the peoples of Europe, and the revival of Christian identity based on encounters with the living Christ!*

# THE NATIONS

## Those who have not heard the gospel

The Church has a debt to bear witness of Christ to the whole world. How far has it succeeded?

1. Humans today are divided into around 17,000 people groups. They are separated by language, national borders and, especially in the Indian subcontinent, by ingrained ideas of caste. Many people groups are very small: 7,000 peoples have fewer than 10,000 members each, the size of a large village.
2. People groups may be similar to what the Bible calls 'nations'. Jesus' command to 'make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 20:19) implies 'make disciples of all people groups'.
3. Churches grow within people groups. The gospel usually spreads through social networks, and so it tends to stay confined within a people group.
4. It takes a missionary effort for the gospel to move from one people group to another.
5. An 'unreached' group is a people group with very little witness to Christ. A best guess is that around 28% of the world has not been exposed to the good news about Jesus, mostly because they belong to groups with little Christian witness. This is 2.1 billion people.
6. Note that too much precision can be misleading and people are more complicated than their labels. But the Church's duty is clear: to bear witness to Christ today, to every people, tribe and nation.

*\* Pray that God will send people to take the gospel message to every people group on earth.*

*\* Pray that every part of the beautiful mosaic that comprises human diversity will take its part in the united worship of Christ!  
The above report comes from "Praying for the world"*

## **Update from Imran**

Imran and his father {76yr old} have both had Covid-19 but are now recovering. This limited Imran's work at the beginning of the year. His main focus at the moment is to organise monthly get togethers for all their Majority Background Believers contacts and a consultation for all in leadership in this ministry.

### **Please pray**

- Our upcoming MBB leader's consultation that the Lord would give us wisdom as we plan and meet. Pray that all would go as planned and the Lord help us to develop a strong MBB work in this country.
- For me as I meet different responsibilities, eg. father, son, husband, and a leader. It's not always easy to juggle with all of them together. I need grace and strength.
- For strength and health for the family especially my parents and Nagina
- For OM that it would reach more people in Pakistan with the gospel

## **Update from Catherine**

I returned to Spain on January 8th, the following week we began inscriptions of new students, and on Thursday 14th, a team member tested positive for coronavirus. Since then, of the 10 adults and 5 children on the team, 9 adults and 3 children have tested positive. I was the last to test positive, after 15 days of incubating the virus, but I feel fine now. Throughout all this time it has been wonderful to see God's care for each of us in many ways, but in particular through the individual team members. Today is my first day venturing out, and it will take some time to find my rhythm again, having been away from the frontline since early November.

**Please pray for wisdom and grace for the team as we pace ourselves returning to work. Pray for opportunities to show how Jesus made a difference to the way we lived the experience. One or two groups have started so pray that God will bless these**

# ART & CRAFT CLUB



Sheila Clark

Well here we are, a whole year without being together as a group. We have had small periods of being able to meet each other for coffee or lunch but since Boxing Day, our life has centred around our homes. This has been very much emphasised by the weather! Snow and ice have kept some of us in by the fire all the time or when venturing out the odd one or two of us has fallen and broken a bone!

You will see that creativity continues with painting and stitching and I'm sure knitting even if we are doing everything more slowly. Also we have all learnt the art of doing nothing and keeping a good sense of humour.



Fiona Sutherland



Alison Davidson

Many of us have now had our first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and so feel that small steps to the management of this virus and a return to some sort of normality is slowly happening. Unfortunately we have lost one of our founder members, when Alec Gowans passed away in December. He was such a support and inspiration to everyone and a well loved person. He will be sorely missed.

At this time the club gives money to charities and so our £200 will be split between the Blood Transfusion Service and Guide Dogs for the Blind. We have been keeping in touch by telephone and are about to try our skills at 'Zoom' as many of us have learned the skills of communicating through these digital platforms. So until we can join together in the one room to carry out our more regular art and crafts, keep well and safe.



Gordon Avison

Fiona  
[suther@supanet.com](mailto:suther@supanet.com)

# 2020 FABRIC REPORT



When lockdown started in March 2020, we did not expect to be in lockdown nearly 12 months later. During the past year, we have been busy carrying out repairs, redecoration and updates on the general fabric throughout the Church.

One of the walls within the Kent Hall was redecorated following the water damage that resulted from a blocked down-pipe. Many thanks to Iain Duff who did all the redecoration and has brought the Kent Hall back to a good state of repair



The entry gate leading into Cathcart Trinity Hall complex was in need of a lot of TLC to bring it back into a style. This was carried out by removing all the ornate rusted ironmongery and replacing them with modern scrolls that not only enhanced the look of the gate, but also made it a more secure area of the Church. A new combination padlock was also fitted.

With the successful award of a Viridor Grant, we were able to get the heaters in the Large Hall replaced, and now able to offer a warmer Large Hall, ready for whenever we are open for business.

As part of the Grant received we were able to restyle the Kitchen by fitting new cupboards, sinks, and renew the flooring. We also fitted a new oven and an additional fridge. Many thanks to Bill Martin and John Jones for all the work that they have done in updating the Kitchen.



My grateful thanks on behalf of Cathcart Trinity Church to all the members of the congregation who helped support the cost of these repairs.

Over the summer, the manse was reroofed as was planned when the church purchased the manse in 2016. Again thanks must be expressed to Alasdair, Kirsty and the family for their patience in getting this matter sorted out.



Services restarted within the Sanctuary in September and we were challenged with making the Sanctuary safe for a maximum of 50 people attending the Sunday morning service.

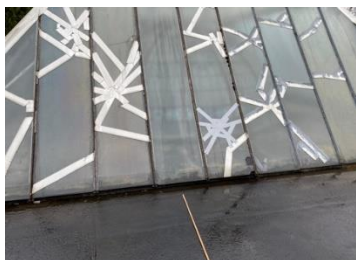
Over the summer months, many different alternative layouts were built within the Sanctuary and most were felt to be very unsociable and we eventually resorted to using the chairs in a standard 2 metre social distancing layout.



Members of the congregation were asked to register their attendance in advance and then follow the rules laid out before attending the morning Services. This was later extended to allow the Family Service to be held in the Kent Hall using separate entrances from the Main Church.

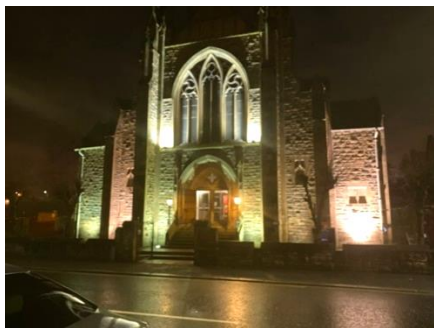


Thanks to Linda Burke and Hector Marshall for all their help in building a risk free Church and to all our members and friends who have come along to all our Sunday Services.



We started to see water ingress on the recently redecorated Buchanan Hall. Preventative measures were put in place and after being advised by a couple of roofing companies, that the source of the water ingress had nothing to do with the roof, but was due to the loss of putty sealing the wired glass panels. Hector Marshall and Iain Duff carried out a detailed examination and located the source of the water ingress and Stuart McCloy and Iain Duff carried out successful repairs on the most important areas.

If you drove past Cathcart Trinity Church around Christmas week, you would be pleasantly surprised to see that the floodlights were repaired with new fitments and bulbs and the Church was well illuminated over the Christmas period.



***An excellent year considering the limitations of lockdown and many thanks to everybody who has continued their support of Cathcart Trinity Church.***

## **So what are we planning for 2021?**

Work has been carried out in getting quotes to get the main roof of the Church watertight, and we are now in the position of asking for quotes from a number of roofing companies based on a tender document prepared by Ewan Gourlay with help from Glasgow Presbytery



It is hoped that during the summer of 2021 we will be able to report that this work has been carried out and we will have a watertight Church and be able to get rid of the plastic buckets that surround the band. We are also looking at getting the two valley gutters on either side of the Large Hall repaired during 2021, depending on funds being available.

The Board is also committed to getting the Manse electrics up to 2021 specifications and to get wired-in Smoke and Heat Alarms within the property.

I would also like to welcome new members to the Fabric Committee, Bill Martin, Ewan Gourlay and Iain Duff who will join Hector Marshall and me, to put together a sustainable Fabric Policy for Cathcart Trinity Church.

We are all aware that there are certain areas of the Church and Halls that look very tired and in need of attention, but with the limited resources that we have, we need to ensure that we prioritise the work and to ensure that the work carried out is done to a good standard and exactly what we have asked to be done.

We are starting to put together tenders documents for all work for 2021.

I am already looking forward to a great year for Cathcart Trinity Church.

Roy Kinnear,  
Fabric Convenor

# THE FINISHED KITCHEN!



In January last year the church was successful in obtaining a grant from the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund administered by Viridor Credits, to refurbish the kitchen. We had to show that community groups and non-members as well as members of the church were able to use the facilities.

In order to secure the grant, the church had to provide matching funding for the project. The church had been planning to replace the heaters in the Large Hall and this work was carried out as part of the project. We also decided to renew the safety flooring in the kitchen as this was showing signs of wear.

Three quotes for each aspect of the work were submitted to Viridor. James Ramsay Heating and Plumbing installed the new heaters; Carpet Studio supplied and laid the flooring and J Jones DIY installed the kitchen. My thanks go to each of them. I would also like to thank Roy Kinnear for his help in arranging new heaters.

The grant enabled us to replace and install new kitchen units at little cost to the church.

We look forward to everyone being back in the church soon to see and use the new kitchen.

With thanks

Bill Martin

# CHURCH FINANCES

At the time of writing, our 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 Budget still require the approval and agreement of our local Trustees (our Elders and the members of the Congregational Board). A Trustees' meeting is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> March. Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to go into specifics about our financial position in this newsletter. However, we are aware that it would be helpful to share some general information so that when our Accounts and Budget are released there will be no major surprises, and hopefully we can whet your appetite for our Stated Annual Meeting in June.

2020 presented a series of financial hurdles for our congregation. We have received no income from hall lets since March. Members and visitors who used to give by the open plate have been unable to do so. In addition, we needed to spend money to ensure we were Covid-19 compliant when we re-opened our building, and to upgrade our internet and local network to allow the sharing of services from the Sanctuary. Church groups and hall users will benefit from this upgrade when activities are able to resume.

Nevertheless, through grants received via the Government's Job Retention (furlough) Scheme and the innovative ways that members have found to get money to our Treasurer, our operating loss for 2020 has ended up around £7,700. This operating deficit could have been considerably worse. The fact that it is not, is testament to the continued generosity of our members. Thank you all. We also received a generous legacy which is not reflected in these numbers. This means that our 2020 Accounts reflect an overall surplus for the year.

Looking forward into 2021 we face a considerable degree of uncertainty. We do not know when public worship will be possible in the building, or how many people will be permitted to attend. We do not know when hall users will be able to return to our halls. We do not know whether the Government's Job Retention Scheme will be continued after April. As a result, the draft of the 2021 Budget reflects

a considerable operating deficit for the year. We will be working to keep running costs low, and to restore hall use as permitted by the Government, but a stewardship campaign may also be required.

One major piece of work in the building was undertaken over the past year, and one is planned for the near future. The work done in the kitchen and on the large hall heaters was paid for by a grant from Viridor together with monies collected through the 20/20 Fund. These monies had to be spent on fabric. Looking ahead to the prospective work to stop water ingress into the Sanctuary – the plan is to use money held for us by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh; money from the proceeds of the sale of the previous manse. This fund is also reserved solely for fabric purposes and not for general running of the congregation.

The Church of Scotland's Covid-19 guidance on Stated Annual Meetings states that these must be held by the end of June. Therefore we have decided to use this flexibility to postpone our SAM from March until sometime in June. Hopefully this will allow more people to engage with the meeting and permit me to report back about the General Assembly which I will attend as a commissioner. It is expected that significant announcements and decisions will be made at this year's General Assembly. Full details about our June SAM along with the relevant papers will be available in advance.

For the moment, thank you again for your generosity. If you feel able at this time, would you please consider increasing your giving to the Church and please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Alasdair McMillan

# Coming to Cathcart!

## Watch out for details!





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SC033802

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