

# News from Cathcart Trinity Church

December & January 2019



## Services

Did you know that the 8th February 2020 will mark 100 years since the dedication of the stained glass window above the organ? To mark this, our morning sermon series in early 2020 will cover the images and texts on the window, before we embark on a series on "Narratives of Generosity" - leading up to the Stated Annual Meeting (after the morning service) on the 29th March.

Our evening services will resume on the 5th January with an Evening of Praise organised by Ian Watson. The following week we will begin a series in the book of Hebrews.

Returning to 2019 – as I hope you'll have gathered our morning services are picking up places in the New Testament we're commanded to "Remember" something and our evening services are exploring the book of Titus.

We are planning to celebrate communion on the 1st December at both Sunday services and as in previous years – hold a Gift Service on the 15th December and the Nativity on the 22nd.

The last Sunday evening service of 2019 will be on 15th December (in the UF Church) with Community Carol Singing on the 22nd – please look out for more details. There will also be special Christmas Eve evening and

Watchnight Services - as well as a Christmas Day service.

*Alasdair.*

## Community Christmas Events

Pop Up Carol Singing  
Sunday 22nd December  
Holmlea Park  
6.00pm - 7.00 pm

This will be instead of an evening service.  
Meet at the park at 5.50pm

The local flats will be leafleted with an invitation to join us for singing. We need your help with this! Please meet at Cathcart Trinity at 9.00am on Monday 16th December

Monday 23rd December  
6.30 - 7.30 pm

Singing around the houses and flats in Merrylee. Please meet at Merrylee School Car Park at 6.20pm

## **Romans 12: 9 – 13**

'Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.'

When I was asked if I might share some thoughts on a favourite passage of the Bible, I quickly realised that I had many verses which have spoken to me at different points in my life. I don't think for one minute I will be the only person to make that comment. We all have times in life when we are on the mountain top and other times we are in the valley. However, I have chosen these verses as I think they are a challenge for me and perhaps each one of us, and for each and every day.

It is wonderful to feel accepted and loved within a church family, and it is also very painful to feel that you are left out in some way. I think "love" comes in so many ways. It might be simply making time to chat to someone before or after a time of worship. You are simply making time for someone, and often we find out later just how much it meant to the person. God does prompt us to speak to certain people, and sadly, all too often, we have someone we need to catch up with before they leave church that day. We need to prioritise, and show brotherly love at all times.

We can often just identify a concern, and go home and pray for that person, if we feel that the offer of prayer might be awkward. God will guide us, and we simply need to listen for His voice.

I also think that 'love' comes in practical ways too. Some people who are hurting need someone to come alongside them and pray, and others perhaps need more practical help. Others who are perhaps more lonely would so enjoy going out for a coffee/tea during the week and have a chat. Only God knows what the needs are, but we need to be listening for His voice, at all times.

I have to say that I am challenged by these verses and am very much speaking to myself. I hope you might look at these verses and also be challenged. God has lavished so much love on us, and we are called to share that love with others, in our church family and in the community.

*Pat Martin.*

## **Wider World Mission**

We cannot all go to other nations with the gospel but we do have a mission filed on our doorstep.

The following is quoted from "Praying for the world" Prayer Guide.

### **Mission and the workplace**

The workplace is at the heart of Christian witness, discipleship and service. Yet most Christians do not have a clear understanding of how their work and their faith are partners to each other. Churches rarely teach about the workplace.

## The workplace and service

Integral to the working world is serving others. Every job we take is an opportunity to serve our fellow humans and the common good. It is also an opportunity to glorify God by being good in our work, just like Joseph was good in his work and through this, 'His master saw that the Lord was with him' (Gen 39:3).

## The workplace and witness

The workplace is where we mingle with the world God loves, outside of our church bubble, sharing the same stresses and difficulties, taking part in the jostle of ideas and conversation, seeking to live out our Christian faith.

Our workplaces are where we spend the most time, make the most mistakes, invest the most energy, live through bad days and difficult colleagues and enjoy good days and great teams. The workplace is not perhaps a place for mass evangelism but it is supremely the place for us all to live out Christ's calling: 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth' (Acts 1:8).

- God's call on his people is to be a 'priesthood'. Pray that we will help bridge the gap between God and our fellow-workers, as ambassadors and go-betweens for Christ.
- Pray that each of us will glorify God in our workplace and that through the workplace the whole world will glimpse something of Christ.

*Willie Black.*

## From our Minister:

Dear friends,

Some of you may remember that this time last year I decided I would write daily reflections based on Luke's account of the Nativity. Now fast approaching Christmas 2019(!) I find myself returning to some of the biggest lessons in preparation for Advent this time around.

### **Don't rush through the story because you know it – There's lots still to learn**

As I worked my way through the story of the births of John the Baptist and then of Jesus I was amazed at how many times I found myself saying "I've never noticed that before!"

It's easy to approach well known stories like Christmas with expectations and familiarity, we know the story, we know what happens next, but there are riches that we miss when we only engage with the story on a superficial basis.

If you haven't done it before, I'd encourage you to sit down and read Luke chapters 1 and 2 verse by verse stopping and pausing after every sentence. Don't rush. Take it all in. What have you not noticed before?

But it goes further than that. Taking it all in means noting the Christmas story has relevance for us in our walk with Christ at all times of the year, not just at Christmas. The lessons God teaches us through people like Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, about themes including call, discipleship and salvation are not just for Christmas, but for everyday living.

**Don't doubt that God will keep his promises – God brings things to fruition in his own time**

The context of Luke 1 and 2 sees the people of God having been waiting for God to keep his promises for a very long time. It's fair to say lots of people had given up on God acting, but the people Luke introduces in his gospel hadn't. They trusted that God would be faithful to his promises and they were right.

God's timetable is not ours, but when God makes a promise he keeps it. Are you placing your hope in this promise keeping God?

**Don't think you're too old/young or at the wrong time/place in your faith journey for God to use you – God works with all people to bring about his plans**

It's impossible to miss the surprise in the words of Zechariah and Mary when it comes to the fact that God was going to use them. Zechariah was too old, Mary was too unimportant – at least in their own words and self-assessments. However, in God's eyes they were perfect for the jobs he had prepared for them.

If (that is to say since) we're followers of God, God has a role for each of us.

Are you doing it?

**Don't forget to spend time in worship and wonder – Christmas should lead us to worship God**

Again and again the characters lead us back to worship. We see it in the songs of people like Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and the angels. We see it in the shepherds returning to Bethlehem "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:20).

It is easy to get lost in the busyness of the season or the busyness of the story, as life changes forever for the characters.

Is Christmas a time for you to worship God, or has it become about something else?

With my love and Christmas blessings,

*Alasdair.*

**DAVID AND YVONNE LYON**  
will be at  
**CATHCART TRINITY CHURCH**  
on **FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER** at 7.30pm.

Tickets available NOW from Ian Watson



## Love Actually

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for sixteen years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!  
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?  
What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!'

(Dr Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!)

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

*Mission & Discipleship Church  
Without Walls Team.*

## Sofa Group lunch

After the morning service on 15th September, nearly 100 people participated in a lunch to build sofa group contacts and understanding. Folk from Trinity and the UF church who already belong to sofa groups were there but we were pleased to welcome others who are not yet sofa group members. The aim was to build relationships and to encourage people to learn more about what it means to be a member of a sofa group.

Once people had collected their choice of soup, they were encouraged to discuss the following questions which we on the table:

What do you know about sofa groups?

1. How often do sofa groups meet?
2. Do you have to say anything if you join a sofa group?
3. Do you have to prepare for a sofa group?
4. Is there a designated leader of a sofa group?
5. What kind of subjects are studied in sofa groups?
6. Is it always the same people in the group?
7. Where do sofa groups meet?
8. What time do sofa groups meet and for how long?
9. Do people pray in sofa groups?
10. Do you get anything to eat and drink?

Later we established that there was more than one answer to most of the questions, not least because each group tends to evolve a culture of its own.

Most of the groups meet fortnightly but not all of them. Members can participate at whatever level they feel comfortable. Some groups choose to prepare before they meet, others rely on what they do when together.

Most groups have a designated leader who may or may not be the same person as the host. One group, which has been together for a while, works without a specific leader. Meetings generally take place in members' homes - sometimes the same one, sometimes rotating. Other groups meet in our church buildings.

Subjects vary but normally aim to help us grow our understanding about our faith. We might study a particular book of the bible; we might look at tackling life issues like grief or parenthood from a Christian perspective, or we might examine ways to grow our witness e.g. ways to help us talk to non-Christians.

The sofa groups meet at various times. At present there are groups running as follows:

Day/time	Frequency	Leader/ Contact
Monday 9.45 – 11.30am	2nd and 4th Mondays of the month	Bill Martin justwilliam50@hotmail.com
Tuesday evening	Fortnightly	Elaine Tarves etarves3@gmail.com
Tuesday evening	Fortnightly	Jim Tarves 07963418990
Wednesday 7.30pm	1st and 3rd Wed. of the	Angus Morrison angusmorrison@talktalk.net
Wednesday 7.30pm	1st and 3rd Wed. of the month	Alison Ogilvie disneydog26@gmail.com
Saturday 8.30 – 10am	Last Saturday of month	Dougie Paton dougie.paton@sky.com

However, we would could start other groups if people can get together at a suitable time or situation. Please let us know if you feel there is a gap which is not being met. For example, you might have young children and, though you would love to join a sofa group, you could only do so if there was a crèche. If enough people can meet at the same time, we might be able to support this. It is certainly worth discussing this or any other way you would like to study.

Some people go to every single group session. Others find this more difficult. Everyone is welcome. Most groups pray at some point during the sofa group. It is up to you whether you want to participate in this. Most people find it very reassuring, when they get to know they others in the group, that there is somewhere to go where they can ask for prayer in difficult times. However, you need not participate unless you want to.

Finally, it does not need to cost anything to join a sofa group. Some people buy study material but it is not compulsory. Material is never expensive, if you choose to buy it. It is helpful to have a bible with you but normally the host will have spares. If you don't have a bible and would like one you can talk to a sofa group leader who will either help you get a book or show you has to download a free iBook bible.

Hopefully this has answered your questions but you can always contact one of the sofa group leaders from the chart above.

*Caroline Roger.*

## **Foodbank**

It has been a very busy time over the past few months in the Foodbank and our numbers continue to rise on a weekly basis.

People find it so much more difficult to cope in the winter weather and the additional demands for Christmas can just be too much.

Many people wouldn't have a Christmas meal or gift if it wasn't for people like yourselves who donate so generously.

The response from the church recently has been overwhelming and I would like to thank all of you who have donated. Our clients really appreciate what others do for them and we know that when we begin to give out Christmas gifts that they will be moved by your generosity.

Norma, Marie and I were at the guild last week sharing some of our experiences from the Foodbank.

We were warmly received and the ladies were generous in their donations so "Thank you" to them also.

As you know Stuart organised a Disco on our behalf and apart from the fun of the evening we were delighted with the sum of money raised. Much of this has gone to buy items for Christmas and to provide Lunch Vouchers for a local shop where a filled and a hot drink is provided when the voucher is given.

Thank you to all of you and bests wishes for a Happy Christmas.

*Anne Hind.*

## Glasgow Winter Night Shelter

(Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT)

Over the last three winters, Cathcart Trinity have supported the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter for homeless people by helping and supervising there for one week. This year we have been asked to help during the week beginning Sunday 16 February 2020

Two volunteers are required each night from 9.00pm to midnight and each morning from 6.45am - 8.00am. You will not be alone, there will be a staff team of around 8 people.

Duties will include helping set up the Shelter for the evening, generally making guests feel welcome and serving a simple supper and breakfast. All supplies are provided just bring yourself, a big smile, a warm heart and comfy warm clothes.

It is a most worthwhile service and a valuable experience and we already have sufficient volunteers to cover the late evening sessions.

Iain Duff is coordinating our team of volunteers. Iain can be contacted at [iain.duff@virginmedia.com](mailto:iain.duff@virginmedia.com). If you are able to help at any of the early morning sessions, just let him know which session(s) you are available. If you need more information, or can't contact Iain, then please speak to me.

*Angus Morrison.*

### NEW PRAISE GATHERING CD

'HOPE HAS A NAME'

now available from Ian Watson  
£8 each, or 3 for £20!

### Prayer Breakfast Cathcart UF Church 8.30am – 10am

This is the first prayer breakfast of the year and many new resolutions have been made. Why not add this to your list!

What a way to start the New Year in prayer, focusing on our churches and our personal spiritual walk for 2020 with our Lord and Saviour. Many folk discover how helpful the time is being still and quiet away from our busy lives just to be with Jesus.

This is an opportunity to join with other Christians for a time of fellowship over breakfast followed by prayer.

All welcome.

"The plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purpose of his heart through all generations." Psalm 33 v 11

### Monthly Prayer Meeting Cathcart UF Church, Struan Road

Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm  
Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm



## The Guild



The new Guild session got off to a great start when we were entertained by the Harmony Singers. Since then we have had some excellent and informative speakers

covering a variety of subjects. We are now looking forward to the rest of 2019 with the following:

December

3rd. AGM Finance, Quiz, Sales Table

10th. Lessons and Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

As always, we extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to come and be made very welcome on Tuesday evenings, 7.30 pm, in the Buchanan Hall.

Meantime, the Guild would take this opportunity to offer its good wishes to everyone for a joyful and blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2020.'

*Margaret Brough.*



## Gifts for others service

Once again, we have the opportunity to reach out to children and young people in Glasgow whose Christmas may not be the happiest: situations affected by poverty, broken relationships etc.

Our gifts have been well received in past years and have shown that people do care.

Gifts for Church House (for children aged 8 – 12) – games, toy, puzzles, construction toys, stationery, selection boxes, annuals etc.

Gifts for Barnardo's (for young people 16+) – make up, after shave, hair gel, stationery, fashion jewellery, purse, photoframe, nice mug, fluffy blanket, chocolate, gift vouchers, small electrical gadgets etc. Perhaps ask our young people for ideas?

Please do not wrap your gift, but include a gift bag or wrapping paper.

Thank you.

*Linda Burke*

## Stamps

Many thanks for all the stamps I have received over the past months. We are soon going to be on the receiving end of lots of envelopes with stamps on them. Can I ask that you trim these neatly and place them in the grey tray marked 'Stamps'.

Thank you - they are much appreciated by Crossreach.

*Margaret Brough.*



**Being a praying congregation is part of our vision.**

**We can pray with one another and for one another.**

**All we need is a heart open to God: to speak to Him, to listen to Him.**

**We can go to God in prayer just as we are.**

**Prayer with others respects confidentiality and is a shared time speaking and listening to God.**

Our prayer may include:

- thanksgiving
- concerns in our community / world
- about a particular issue
- for our church family
- for ourselves
- response to what God is saying

**Who: anyone.**

**When: at the end of worship.**

**Where: near the band**

## December & January at a Glance

Sunday 1st December	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship with Communion
Monday 2nd December	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 5th December	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 8th December	11.00am	Morning Worship with Communion
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship with Communion
Thursday 12th December	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 15th December	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 16th December	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 19th September	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 21st December	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 22nd December	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6pm	Pop Up Carol Singing
Monday 23rd December	6.30pm	Carol Singing in Merrylea
Tuesday 24th December		Early Watchnight Service
		Late Watchnight Service
Wednesday 25th December		Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday 29th December	11.00am	Morning Worship.
Sunday 5th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Praise Evening
Monday 6th January	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 9th January	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 12th January	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 16th January	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 18th January	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 19th January	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 20th January	2pm	Moments Cafe



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Cathcart Trinity Church is a registered Scottish Charity, SC033802

#### Key Church Contacts:

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