

News from Cathcart Trinity Church

May & June 2019



A word from our Minister:

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland always seems to loom over my month of May. I'm not even going through to Edinburgh as a Commissioner this year, yet my mind and prayers have already wandered to the east as I read through some of the things that will be discussed.

Many of you are aware that at last year's General Assembly the main talking point was the Commissioners rejecting the proposed 10 year Action Plan for the church in favour of exploring a 'three year radical action plan' instead. This year the revised plan comes to be voted on.

The main points to be discussed are:

- Establishing a fund for growth.
- Creating fewer, but larger Presbyteries – with more resources released from Church central offices.
- Facilitating local churches to be part of networks, hubs or other new models of church.
- Reviewing the size and responsibilities of the Kirk Session to release more people from meetings.
- Co-operating with other Christian denominations to ensure all of Scotland has access to a worshipping community.

Developing new ways of supporting congregations in vacancies.

- Creating a single, easily accessible space for resources.
- Facilitating programmes of support for every member of the Church of Scotland.
- Creating a single, easily accessible space for resources.
- Developing new initiatives to help the church engage with those 40 years and under.

While all this needs to be discussed and ultimately voted upon (and could by this time next month be a completely different list) reading the list gives a sense of what those in positions of leadership within our denomination feel need to be done to stop the declining number of people, ministers, congregations and young people within the Church of Scotland.

It also begs the question 'What can we do?'

Pray.

The Church of Scotland is encouraging us to engage in a Season of Prayer' from September to December. However, there's nothing to stop us praying now. In fact I would urge you to pray now. As you read the letters in the New Testament, prayers for the church and prayer requests from the apostles spill out everywhere.

'First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.' (Romans 1:8)

'And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...'
(Philippians 1:9,10)

'And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.' Colossians 4:3 (at the time of writing Paul was in prison for sharing his faith. It's also worth noting that he uses the word 'mystery' in the context of something that was secret that has now been revealed and is to be shared).

So, as the 2019 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland approaches please pray for those who will be heading as Commissioners. The Rev. Colin Sinclair, who came to Trinity some years ago to help introduce the E100 materials is due to be installed as Moderator (the person who will chair the discussions), Ewan Gourlay one of our elders, is heading through to represent our congregation – please pray for both these men.

Please also pray for John Fulton who is due to be installed as Moderator of the United Free Church's General Assembly at the end of May.

And 'pray for us, too' and as God continues to open doors for the ministry here in Cathcart, let's step out in faith wherever he leads us to share Christ in words and actions.

With love,

Alasdair.

Thank you

The Flower Team would like to say a big thank you to all the willing volunteers who delivered daffodils after the service on Easter Sunday. The flowers and your visits were very much appreciated by many of our church family. Also we would like to thank the Friday badminton group for their kind gift which covered the cost of the daffodils, and for the many welcome cups of coffee they provide when we are arranging the flowers week by week.

Gay Morrison.

Men's Breakfast reconnected Saturday 1st June @ 9.00am Cathcart UF Church

Come along for some coffee and a breakfast roll, early morning chat and a chance to see video highlights from the recent Commission conference.

Email dougie.paton@sky.com or purdomth@gmail.com to book a (free) place or if you need more information.

reConnected builds on a strong heritage of well-supported men's events locally and is designed to be informal and occasional with no syllabus, subscription or formal membership.

What is the church?

- Is it our fine building with all its history and its prominent place on Clarkston Road?
- Or is it ourselves, and our mission to worship God, know Him better and share His message with a world in desperate need of it?
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As you might have guessed, it's both – and it's impossible to imagine one without the other. However, as things stand, there is an urgent and ongoing need for more financial resources if this church is to survive and flourish into the future

Why is there a funding crisis?

That's easy – costs are rising in all aspects of our church life – from building repairs to gas bills, from Sunday club materials to salary costs. If we don't review what we give to the church in line with increases in our income, the purchasing power of our giving shrinks year on year. Each £100 of giving in 2009 would need to be £134 today to make the same contribution, because of inflation.

How are we doing?

Accounts for the 3 months ending 31 March 2019 (Unaudited)

	Actual (£)	Budget (£)
<u>INCOME</u>		
Envelope Scheme (non-Gift Aided)	5,600	5,500
Gift Aided Donations	27,000	27,700
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	6,800	6,900
Open Plate	2,500	2,700
Other Ordinary General Income	5,600	6,800
Total Ordinary General Income	47,500	49,600
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	51,100	49,600
(Deficit) on ordinary activities	(3,600)	0

What can we do?

The figures above show that our income was less, and our expenditure more than expected, resulting in a deficit of over 7%. In order to get back on track, our givings need to increase by at least 7%. For tax payers, a 'gift aided' donation results in an additional 25% for the church at no extra expense for the donor - (Information leaflets are available in the church vestibule). Would you please prayerfully consider your own personal giving.

Angus Morrison.
Session Clerk.

Praise Gathering – are you going?

Praise Gathering concerts are taking place in Perth on June 15th and in Glasgow on June 22nd and 23rd and we have a large number of members of our congregation singing in the choir who it would be great to support.

We are looking at organising a bus to go to 2 out of the 3 concerts so if you would be interested in joining with other members of the congregation to go along to either Perth on June 15th or Glasgow on June 23rd, there are sign-up sheets in the vestibule, please put your name and contact info there and I will get in touch with you.

Alternatively email me at garysbainbridge@googlemail.com or drop me a text on 07789 991773.

Gary.



Come to our Big Brekkie!

Ready to change the world over breakfast? We'll be serving a delicious morning meal, while raising money to fight poverty and help save lives.

Hosted by Sunday Club

Join us for Breakfast and raise funds for Christian Aid

Sunday 19 May, 9:30-10:30am
Large Hall



Registered charity 216451 (UK) and no. 6092810 (Scotland) 01753 507600
Charity account no. 801963 Companies House no. 02042404
2018-2019 financial year: The Christian Aid group is a member of Oxfam
UK Christian Aid is a member of Oxfam. For more information visit www.oxfam.org.uk

Time Out with God

'Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;' Psalm 37:7.

Like most of us, I suppose, I know in theory that I need to develop a prayer life that is as much about being still and listening for God, as it is asking Him for things, praising His name, and bringing Him my confession and thanks.

In practice, however, I imagine I'm not alone in finding prayerful listening difficult. Here's a couple of reasons for that, and some practical suggestions:

I just can't seem to find the time.

The real challenge in this statement is my need to be honest with myself about the other ways that I spend time each week seeking re-creation and stimulation. When I sing Isaac Watts' lyric 'All the vain things that charm me most ...' it's always a wake-up call to my priorities in allocating my time and attention.

After all, God is able to make His presence known to me in ways that are far more thrilling than the most finely crafted TV crime series, and much more satisfying and uplifting than even the most skilfully written and played piece of jazz music.

However, it's not just a case of squeezing in a few minutes with God each day, as if we were in the business of ticking some kind of religious boxes. This is the Creator of the universe whom we have the chance to invest time with – the One who is all-wise and all-loving, and who longs to bless us – in practice, not just in theory. He surely deserves some intentionality and patience on our part, as David commands above.

I'm not really sure how to go about this.

Having found the time and the (undisturbed) place, perhaps the next step is to recognise that, like any conversation, spending time with God only makes sense in the context of a relationship. However, whether that relationship feels close or more distant, has lasted for years or is brand new, it is certain to deepen and develop as we spend time waiting on Him.

Just as our God is infinite in his complexity (see Isaiah 55:8-9), the different ways He chooses to interact with us will vary, and will be perfectly tailored to our personalities and needs. However one good starting point for us is to fill our minds with thoughts of His Word, His Son, His Spirit and His nature.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul says we should think about '...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – anything ... excellent or praiseworthy.' (N.B. Emptying your mind is a dangerous practice, and the basis of Buddhist and other Eastern religious meditation).

What happens next is really God's business! As in all aspects of the Christian life, we are asked simply to trust, and remember the promise in James 4:8 'Come near to God and he will come near to you.'

May God bless you richly as you invite Him to share His plans, His promises and even His presence with you.

Thanks to Dougie Paton for sharing this.

ONELIFE Leaders Training

Calling all minions we will be starting our new leadership training sessions on Saturday 11th May 2019 from 5:15pm until 7pm at The Gateway, dinner included.

Please let Cara know if you would like to attend.

Future training sessions are:

Friday 31st May 2019 4pm until 6pm (dinner included)

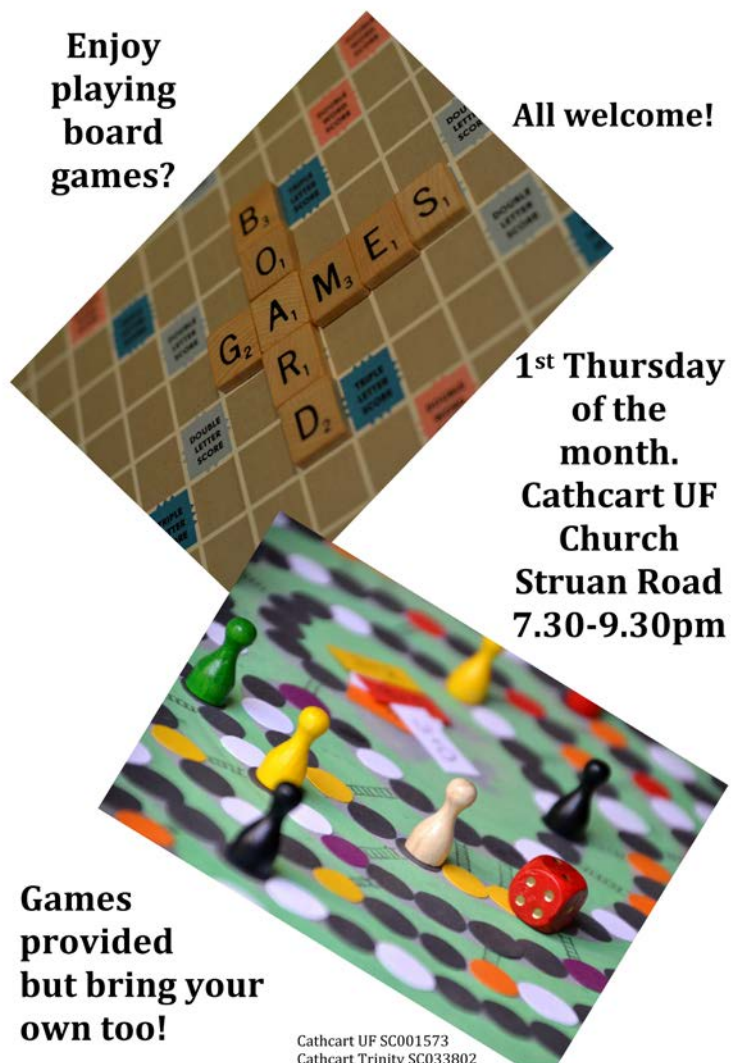
Tuesday 4th June 2019 6:30pm until 8pm (dessert included)

Tuesday 11th June 2019 6:30pm until 8pm (dessert included)

Tuesday 18th June 2019 6:30pm until 8pm (dessert included)

Saturday 22nd June 2019 5:15pm until 7pm (dinner included)

<https://www.onelifeleaders.com/>



Enjoy playing board games?

All welcome!

1st Thursday of the month.
Cathcart UF Church
Struan Road
7.30-9.30pm

Games provided but bring your own too!

Cathcart UF SC001573
Cathcart Trinity SC033802

THE 400-VOICE PRAISE GATHERING CHOIR, YOUTH CHOIR AND BAND, PRESENT...



PRAISE GATHERING 2019

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

PERTH CONCERT HALL

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **GRAHAM KENDRICK**

SATURDAY 22 JUNE

GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **PAUL BALOCHE**

SUNDAY 23 JUNE



TICKETS ON SALE NOW
www.praisegathering.org.uk



Reflecting on faith and actions

The book of James is full of great practical advice for us all as Christians and the second half of chapter 2 challenges to think about how our faith and actions go together, something that God calls us all to think about at various points in our life.

We read 'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.'

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless.'

So what about me? Or where I used to be at?

I come to Church on a Sunday, I help out around the Church, pray from time to time, put money in the offering bags, I'm not too horrible to anyone. Job done. What else is there to say? I do good deeds, the answer is yes, box ticked.

Or is it?

Is James suggesting that there is more to it than this because if he is, it appears at first to contradict what is written elsewhere.

Paul says specifically in Romans 3:28, 'So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.' He says again in Galatians 2:16, 'Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law' and at Galatians 2:21, 'For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.'

The entire New Testament says we are saved by faith alone. 'By grace, through faith, we are saved.'

So what does James want us to do? Does he want us to go about quite literally trying to cloth and feed everyone who is struggling?

Are we expecting or praying and expecting that God will step in and fix it and get everything done without us doing anything?

We know from what we hear and what we see that the world is becoming a more and more challenging place.

Is he calling for our prayers leading to our actions to be helping to further His Kingdom?

Charles Schultz often touched on religious themes in his cartoons. You might remember his Christmas special years ago, where Linus recited the meaning of Christmas from the book of Luke. Charles Schultz taught bible study into the 1980's, and many of his cartoons were thought to illustrate bible scripture. Image the scene, Snoopy shivering outside in the cold. Charlie Brown says to Linus, 'He looks kind of cold, doesn't he?' And Linus says, 'Maybe we'd better go over and comfort him. So they walk over to Snoopy, wearing their warm coats and mittens and hats and Charlie Brown says, 'Be of good cheer, Snoopy!' Linus also says, 'Yes, be of good cheer.' And then they walk on by.

How many times have we walked on by, whether literally or metaphorically without pausing and thinking about how we might help?

How do we naturally use our faith as a call to action from God?

Ephesians 2:8-10 might help us think about that 'for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, for a life of good works that God has already prepared for us to do.'

That's what God wants from us. That's genuine faith. Alasdair has written in the newsletter in previous issues about whether there might be an area of service that God is niggling you about.

So how do we get there? Firstly, we need to realise that faith and works or deeds are two things that cannot be separated but before we decide what deeds our faith is calling us to take we need to draw close to God in prayer.

In our prayers, we need to first of all look to open wider, our hearts and our minds. We need to thank Him for His love for us and we should thank Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

God has given each of us gifts and talents, skills that we can use for His glory and so we need to then allow Him to guide us on why He has blessed us with them and how he'd like us to use them.

Without deeds and actions covered in prayer and God's guidance, we run the risk that the actions that we take, are human actions that might seem like what we should be doing but are they distracting us from the actions that God has prepared us to take for Him?

As Jesus ministered, we read extensively in the Gospels about people travelling from every corner to be near him. They came because they had heard about what he was doing for people and for God and they believed and showed faith in him that his actions could make a difference.

How can we show that same faith leading to actions?

How can we make sure that we are listening to what God might place on our hearts? Can we take an action for Him, do something practical, that will help to strengthen our faith?

When we pray, God listens and when we give him the opportunity to talk to us, he will guide us and help us to see. We may not always like what we hear at first. And we don't always get it right but James is challenging our faith to grow. When you reflect on what he has written, James is saying that faith is not just something you say, or think, or feel, or believe. It's not even a question of faith versus deeds. Real faith is something you do alongside what you think, feel and believe.

Saying you trust God, and actually trusting God are two separate things.

Saying you have faith, and actually having faith means you do what God asks of you, stop finding reasons about why you can't do it.

God wants us to demonstrate our faith because demonstration means we have to trust God for who he says he is.

And when we trust God, he strengthens our faith so we can do even more.

So why am I reflecting on James' call to action?

As most people reading this newsletter will know, I have recently been accepted as a Candidate for Ministry with the Church of Scotland. It's been a long process and there is longer still to go.

Why did I do it? Because God placed it on my heart, I prayed and told Him I wasn't the man for the job. There were others who could do it better. I then stilled my heart and my mind, took time to walk, to pray, created the space to hear Him speaking to me and said okay, I know you and love you and trust that you will lead me and equip me on this journey. And he has.

I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the prayers and support of my Church family as I have walked step by step and now I need you to pray about something else please.

There are all manners of opportunity to volunteer your time and talents around the Church. Over the last few years, I have been blessed to have the opportunity to be sat behind the computer at the AV desk, to edit this newsletter and to do a variety of other 'bits and pieces' around the Church.

As I step forward to do my University Access Course in September of this year and to then begin training to become a Minister in September 2020, I want to ensure that there are people in place to take over where I have been serving around Cathcart Trinity as I serve God in another way.

So please take time to pray, to listen to God, to let Him remind you of the gifts and talents that he has blessed you with and if you feel that you could use these to help with the newsletter, the welcome loop that appears on the screens on a Sunday or to provide AV

support at services, please speak to me or to Joe Cree or Ewan Gourlay.

Just like we need both hands to clap, salvation, our promise, our Hope, also needs both faith and works. Think of your right hand as faith and your left as works.

And finally, having spoken about time and talents, please do also pray about the finances of the Church and Angus' article on pages 3/4 and see if God guides you about either individually or collectively, we can take actions to ensure that the funds we need to do God's work in Cathcart are in place.

Gary.

The Guild



Last year, during the summer months of April to September, the Guild tried a trial run of Afternoon Teas. These proved

very popular, so we plan on having them again this year - the next one will be on Wednesday 29th May in the Buchanan Hall from 2 - 3.30 pm. Please come to enjoy tea/coffee, delicious home baking and good companionship. Subsequent teas will be on the last Wednesday of each month. We look forward to your company.

Margaret Brough.

Safeguarding Training Dates 2019 (Volunteers)

Working with children, young people or vulnerable adults in our church?

- Volunteers are required to do training to help us all to have a shared understanding about safeguarding.
- Could you look at the list of possible dates and venues and select what suits you best?
- Volunteer training will be booked by Donald Macleod.
- When you contact Donald, please give him your email address and a contact number as this is required when booking.
- If you are no longer working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, please let me know.
- Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to talk about the training, your role or any other safeguarding matter.

Thank you for all you do to keep our church a safe place for all.

Linda Burke

L82gburke@btinternet.com

Donald Macleod

d-macleod@hotmail.co.uk

Date	Time	Church
Thurs 6 Jun	7 – 9.30pm	Maryhill 1990 Maryhill Road, G20 0EF





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.

Prayer opportunities

Our monthly prayer meetings take place at Cathcart UF Church of Scotland, Struan Road, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th May and Wednesday 12th June.

Would be great to see you there.

Our prayer breakfasts both take place at Cathcart UF Church of Scotland, Struan Road.

Prayer Breakfast Saturday 25th May 8.30am – 10am

The theme for this month will be focusing on summer outreach for the children and young folk in the community and throughout the country. This is a great opportunity to pray for this very important work in reaching our children with the Gospel.

Come and join in fellowship around the breakfast table followed by a time of prayer.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.’

Deuteronomy 6 v 5-7

Prayer Breakfast Saturday 29th June 8.30am – 10am

This is our last prayer breakfast before the summer break. We have a time of fellowship around the breakfast table before we pray. There is nothing like joining with fellow Christians for a time of prayer bringing the needs of the world before our Lord and Saviour.

‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for accordance with the will God.’

Romans 8 v 26 – 2

April & May at a Glance

Sunday 12th May	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	5.30pm	CYMP AGM @ Cathcart Baptist Church
	6.30pm	CYMP Celebration Service @ Cathcart Baptist Church
Tuesday 14th May	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Thursday 16th May	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 18th May	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 19th May	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 20th May	2pm	Moments Cafe
Tuesday 21st May	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Thursday 23rd May	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 25th May	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast (UF Church)
Sunday 26th May	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 28th May	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Wednesday 29th May	2pm	Guild Afternoon Tea
Thursday 30th May	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
	7.30pm	Board Games @ Cathcart UF Church of Scotland

Sunday 2nd June	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 3rd June	2pm	Moments Cafe
Tuesday 4th June	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Thursday 6th June	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 9th June	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tuesday 11th June	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Wednesday 12th June	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting @ Cathcart UF Church of Scotland
Thursday 13th June	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 15th June	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 16th June	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 17th June	2pm	Moments Cafe
Tuesday 18th June	6.15pm	Snowdrops
Thursday 20th June	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 23rd June	11.00am	Morning Worship.
Wednesday 26th June	2pm	Guild Afternoon Tea
Saturday 29th June	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast (UF Church)
Sunday 30th June	11.00am	Morning Worship.

Church family news:

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Helen Robertson and William Doig, both members of Cathcart Trinity and Anne Campbell and Peter McAulay who worshipped regularly with us.

We give thanks for their lives and for their involvement in our Church and pray that they may now be at peace in God's glorious heaven.

We congratulate Harry Miller and Alphonsine Niyonkuru on their recent marriage and pray blessings upon them as they begin their new life together.

Ranga & Ivor Nyamupanda have left Cathcart Trinity by certificate.



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Cathcart Trinity Church is a registered Scottish Charity, SC033802

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