

The Link

Autumn 2021 Issue No.18



The Magazine of Shawlands
Trinity Church

Dear Friends,

I was at the funeral of a long-time friend the other day and the minister spoke about some of the values my friend lived by – one of them was - “If you can’t be kind - be quiet.”

In her life she had been a kind, gentle - long time committed Christian woman who loved nature and tried to live a life that was filled with acts of kindness.

Her time had come to leave this life and she had prepared for it in a way that was a lesson for all of us who were there.

Life moves on - it’s always been like this - nothing stays the same. And we know this - life has moved on - as we have come out of lockdown and begun to get back to ... normal? Well, in reality there is no normal. There is only what we are calling the ‘new normal’. But then it has always been thus.

Life moves on.

However much we wish it were not so – life has always moved on – that’s what is normal.

My brother once said to me – “I wish we could go back to living the way granny and grandad lived – it was such a simpler time.” And he was right, life was much simpler in their time. However, as he looked back and recalled the best parts of that life, I looked back and remembered how much harder their lives were. No running water, no electricity. (They lived in a part of Scotland where mains electricity and water had not yet come.) Taking a pail to the pump in the village every day for drinking water – cooking over an open fire on the range that was their normal, and only those who could afford their own generator lived any differently. They lived in the north of the country – without the benefits of the city. I found I could not agree with my brother – life has moved on and I prefer the ease of modern plumbing! Life moves on and changes are much easier to cope with if we can see them as challenges and opportunities to be welcomed, rather than problems to be avoided.

We can’t go back to what life was like before lockdown because too much has happened. Zoom meetings are here to stay and although face to face meetings are much preferable there may be times when a Zoom meeting will be the best thing.

Life moves on.

However much we may wish that we could go back – or that life would stay the same – it is simply not possible – how does the saying go? “You can never step into the same river twice.”

I would think that most of you will know by now that I am going to retire on 31st December this year. I have written the appropriate letter to the Presbytery Clerk – I have informed the Kirk Session and I know the news has begun to filter out. It’s probably six months earlier than I had originally planned – I had always said I would retire before I reached the age of 70 and I am closer to being 69 than I am to 68. It has been rather nice to be told that I don’t look my age, but I can assure you I am this old.

Lockdown has affected every one of us and it is time for me to step back and retire. This has not been a quick decision on my part – I have thought long and hard about it and God and I have had quite a few conversations.

Life moves on and we need to plan for it.

At the end of August we are having a congregational conference where we will think about our future and how we want to shape it. I hope you will be involved in this discussion. **This is an important conference and we will send out a report of it in the following weeks.**

As we begin to gather again on Sundays, meet with each other during the week and begin to start up the different groups in the Church may each of you know you live surrounded by the presence of God and may you know God’s blessing in all your conversations and interactions.

God Bless

Val

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45th Glasgow Boys' Brigade

We normally finish our BB session in May however due to the disruption caused by Covid we decided to keep going until the Schools stopped at the end of June. We held our meetings outside as Covid regulations prevented being indoor. Being outdoors in Scotland has its drawbacks (you've always got one eye on the weather report). We were able to evolve our programme and keep the boys interested. I was particularly pleased with the substantial increase in our Anchor Boy membership. We had started the year with 10 Anchor boys, however by the time we finished in June we had almost 30 boys attending. Being outdoors makes you visible. (and heard).

Despite all the disruption to last session we did have a few highlights to celebrate and share.

Queens Badge

We were delighted to be able to present 4 Queens Badges (highest award) to the following boys: John Mutrie, Lewis Brown, Stanley Hay, & Conor McConnon. This presentation was delayed from May 2021

President

We were delighted that Alistair McAlinden accepted the invitation to become our new President. His BB CV being a perfect fit for the role, a former boy, Queens Man, former leader and now a parent. We wish Alistair well in his new role.



Ice Cream

On our final night we organised an Ice Cream van to come along and serve up some cones to all our boys. In total almost 60 cones were enjoyed (yum). Also, on this night we enjoyed some fun and games in the church grounds, the highlight being the wet sponge throwing. (see pictures).



Loch Lomond

At the end of June a group consisting of our older boys cycled from Glasgow to Loch Lomond. We had one puncture as we cycled under the Erskine Bridge, however help was on hand. Mr Gardner had chosen to drive alongside the route in his van. As a result he was able to pick up the bike, take to nearest bike shop (Bowling) and we were all back on our way within 40mins. We finished off our day with a dip in the Loch before heading home.



Aviemore/Pitlochry

For the 1st time since lockdown we were able to take our older boys away on a day trip. On the 12th August we met at 6.45am outside the church. We then headed north to Pitlochry where we enjoyed an 18 hole putting course. After a quick toilet stop we continued north to Aviemore where we had booked a Go Karting experience. This was the highlight of our day for many boys as they raced round the track. Only one small incident with one boy managing to go off the track. The red flag was raised, all drivers stopped whilst the Go Kart was reinstated onto the track. Happy to report the boy concerned had no lasting injuries. After the Karting we headed to nearby Loch Morlich where we were able to enjoy some canoes on the water. With all these activities completed it was time to head back to Aviemore for a “Chippy” dinner before starting the journey home. All boys safely dropped back at the church at 10.30pm. A fabulous day.

We look forward to starting our new session and hopefully being able to do some more things that have been off limits due to Covid.

Simon McNeill
Captain

Walking - Update

It's good that the pandemic seems to be receding but there are still quite a few questions about what we can/cannot do - when/where/how. We are hopeful that we will be able to do something (maybe a bit more local and a bit more limited than usual) over the next few weeks. Whatever we're doing may well be arranged at fairly short notice, so please keep an ear open. And, of course, your suggestions are always welcome.



Bill Craig 649 2237 billcraig38@gmail.com

Guides

Following government and Girlguiding UK guidelines, we will be meeting up again, face to face, from Monday 6th September at 7.45 p.m. until 9.30 p.m.

If you would like to join us, either as a guide or volunteer, please give me a call on 07900563078.

After such a strange year, we are really looking forward to seeing you all.

Elaine

Brownies

Both Brownie Packs are planning to start meeting indoors week commencing 6th September. Numbers are low in both Packs and we are hoping to welcome new girls to both Packs.

We are having an afternoon at Rouken Glen Park at the end of August and it will be good to meet the girls again.

We are all looking forward to meeting indoors again.

Ann

As Kathie leaves for her new home in Bathgate this is her view of how she saw the Church after the renovation.

In with the new and out with the old.

The place looked different and comfortable.

The people think it's beautiful with the minister standing at the pulpit wearing a nice, coloured scarf every week.

The organist plays the organ and the piano and the choir sit beside her at the front.

We have three screens they are at both sides and one at the back.

There are heaters on each side and the chairs are all set out.

The minister asks the children to come out beside her because she likes to tell them some bible stories. The children always ask questions, and the minister tries to answer them.

When people come into the church, they will find it warm, and they will get a welcome too.

This is a place of happiness and love.

You should come in and see for yourself.

Kathie Pickard.

The Unbelievable Truth

2 Timothy 1:6-14



Here's a thought to conjure with.

When writing his biography of Maj Gen Charles George Gordon (of fame in the Crimea, China and Khartoum) in 1889 William Butler noted that it was a pity that we would never know how many of Gordon's own clan died at Culloden because 'it is the victor who writes the history and counts the dead'. Underlying many of the problems we face today is the truthfulness of what we are being told – what should we believe and what should we dismiss – especially when so many different opinions can be expressed so quickly and so widely? An extreme example of the problem occurred when Rudy Giuliani stated in an interview: 'Truth isn't truth' (19th Aug 2018, NBC). Now, just what are we to make of that?

The first thing to appreciate is just how much we rely on 'trust' in our everyday lives. If we do a day's work we can expect to receive a day's pay; if we buy food from a shop, we expect it to be uncontaminated. If we lacked such trust, we would be reduced to cynicism at best and paralysis at worst! If we then look at the effects on public life, we would see disillusionment with the structure of government, the growth of divisiveness within communities and opposition to the rule of law itself.

But we, as followers of Jesus, are neither to be daunted nor dismayed by the undermining of such fundamental things. Rather, we are to be 'wiser than serpents, but harmless as doves' (Matt 10:16)! Among other things, this means taking things 'with a pinch of salt' and weighing up the pros and cons. The Old Testament has plenty to say about wisdom and the need to apply it but we might well struggle working out how to apply it in any particular case.

But God has foreseen all this and has provided us with his Spirit to ‘lead us into all truth’ (John 16:13). This does not mean that we are immune to the lies of the age, nor does it mean that we will always get it right. [It may well be that we, like everybody else, we will sometimes get it (even seriously) wrong: just so that we will be less likely to make the mistake of thinking we are always right – which would certainly put an end to any further discussion with anyone who was seriously seeking the truth!]

We can so easily be deceived by ‘the facts’ but it is a different matter when we can call on the assistance of a ‘person’. Jesus said that he himself was ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’ (John 14:6)) and that his Spirit would continue to be available to guide us – today and every day.

Paul would have been the last to imagine that what we believe doesn’t matter but he sees that there is something even more important. In his letter to Timothy (written during his final imprisonment in Rome he is talking, among other things, about the need to combat false teaching in Ephesus) he doesn’t base his appeal to Timothy on the correctness of what he believes. He says, rather, that his confidence is based, not on what he believes but on **whom** he has believed (v12).

We can’t ask for much better than that. And if our hearts are still aching to know more, then we can take comfort in knowing that a day is coming when all will be revealed...

*If we do not listen we do not come to truth.
If we do not pray we do not even get as far as listening.*

*Hubert van Zeller (1905 –1984)
Benedictine Monk*

Deadline for the Winter issue of The Link will be Sunday 14th November.

Anything received after this date will be held over to the next issue.

I would like to thank the Congregation for the many flowers, cards and supportive messages received following the passing of my Son David Rowan. They were much appreciated and provided comfort at this time.

Betty Rowan



The Mobile Phone

When you enter this Church it may be possible that you can hear “the call of God”. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

Annon.



Congregational Register

Deaths

'I am the Resurrection and
the Life'

4th July

Mrs I Thomson District 25

4th July

Mrs Y Leggat District 1

19th August

Mrs M Reid District 14

20th August

Mrs E Bell District 10

Disjunctions

18th July

Mrs P Duncan District 5

31st July

Miss D Priestly District 6

NEVER GIVE UP

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it did not ring off the hook with calls from potential backers. After making a demonstration call, President Rutherford Hayes said, "That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"

When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2,000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2,000-step process."

In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca Recording company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out." The group was called The Beatles.

A winner is not one who never fails, but one who
NEVER QUILTS!

SMILING IS INFECTIOUS

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too
I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

Author unknown