

The Link

Autumn 2022 Issue No.22



The Magazine of Shawlands
Trinity Church

Hello friend,

Well as everyone's Granny used to say, 'the nights are fair drawing in'. And from the last time I wrote to you, well they are! And the light nights not lasting as long as they did a few weeks ago is the signal that we are moving towards Autumn, and new session in the life of the church.

This means that after their summer break many organisations that use the church halls are coming back to start their new sessions. So, a very warm welcome back to all returning groups and organisations.

The summer traditionally is a quieter time for churches but not so this year, for on the 24th of July, we welcomed Brodie Richardson into God's family through his baptism, and it was lovely to see the church so busy that day with both regular worshippers and visitors.

For others it has been busier than ever, in no small part because of the Presbytery Mission Action Plan that every church, not only in the southside of Glasgow, but in Scotland have been involved.

As I write this, conversations are still going on amongst the local cluster groups as to how the new ministerial allocation will be distributed amongst the churches in each cluster group, and you will be updated as soon as any firm agreements have been reached.

I would therefore ask is that if you have any questions about the process, please get in touch with me and I will do my best to answer them, as there have been a number of rumours and speculative comments especially on social media relating to the plan, none of which are based on fact.

I would also ask that you continue to pray for all those involved in the process that they will continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance through the rest of this part of the plan and beyond.

Just as in many walks of life, when often, we do not know what is ahead of us or even round the next corner, the church is no different, we know that change is coming, we just don't know what shape and form it will take.

But I would encourage you, that even in these times of change and uncertainty, God is with us, and always will be, so please remember that and keep trusting in him, that he will continue to lead us forward as a community of faith.

Your friend in Christ
Stuart Crawford

Thank You

I would like to say a special thank you to the Sunday School and the Congregation for the gifts I received on my leaving the Sunday school.

I was surprised and delighted by them and checked the name on the envelopes a few times to make sure there hadn't been a mistake.

Love and God Bless

Irene

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Finance Team

Count your Blessings

We are all aware of the rising cost of living. It is no different for the Church. Heating, Cleaning, Insurances and so on must be met.

We are fortunate we have money from the sale of the former South Shawlands building. This cash is held by Edinburgh but is restricted to fabric repairs and maintenance. It cannot be used for the day to day running of the Church.

Many members have not returned to worship after the pandemic so our givings are down. Please have a think about changing to a Standing Order for your offerings. Then, if you are unable to attend, the Church still receives your giving. When the Church was in lockdown, and no one could attend, the Standing Orders were still received in our bank account which helped keep us going.

One very simple thing you can do, if you are a taxpayer, is sign a Gift Aid form. It will not cost you anything extra but for every £1 you give to the Church the taxman also gives us 25 pence. It is a wonderful scheme and long may it continue.



Finance Team

Brownies*

By the time you are reading this both Brownie Packs will have resumed their meetings on a Monday and Wednesday evening.

A few girls have moved on to Guides so there are spaces in both Packs for girls to come along and join us.

At the end of last Session, we enjoyed our Parents' Evenings and spent a couple of evenings in the park.

We shall continue to support The Guide Dogs for The Blind Association and still collect used postage stamps for charities.



We look forward to your continued support.

Ann

Congregational Register Deaths

'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

19th March

Miss H Ninian District 22

12th June

Mrs E Reid District 20

11th July

Mr I Dowie Adherent

22nd August

Mrs J Martindale District 1

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH . .

A MAN OF WORDS
AND NOT DEEDS,
IS LIKE
A GARDEN
FULL OF WEEDS.



Material for the Winter issue of The Link should be in or emailed to: christinecuthbertson@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 13th November **at the latest**. Anything received after this date will be held over to the next issue.

Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2022

Thank you for your continued support for LHM, we really appreciate it. We have put together a list of things that would be useful for us in the kitchen. Ideally we would love fresh produce to allow us to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches for those who use our service but we understand that this may be difficult for you. Additionally, we would welcome the Card System mentioned in the link provided. This would allow us not to stockpile food, risking things going out of date or being wasted.

<https://vouchers.aldi.co.uk/products/orange-voucher>

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Meat/Fish
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	Peaches	Tuna/Salmon
Weetabix	Pears	Corned beef
Rice Crispies	Pineapples	Ham
Sugar Puffs	Mandarins	
Frosties	Fruit Cocktail	Other
Coco Pops	Rice	Brown Sauce
Cheerios	Custard	Vinegar
		Tomato Sauce
Jars/Pastes	Other	Porridge Oats
Pasta bake sauces	Full fat UHT milk	Dried peas
Curry Sauce/paste	Coconut Milk	Lentils
Tomato paste	Small Juice Cartons	Olive oil
	Diluting/fresh juice	Vegetable oil
Dried Goods	Coffee	Bisto
Mixed herbs	Biscuits	Veg Stock cubes/bullion
Garlic powder	Crisps	Broth mix
Ground turmeric		Jam
Chilli powder		Sugar
Crushed chillies		Jelly
Ground coriander		
Salt and black pepper		

Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2022

Not Required List

Pasta	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Grapefruit
Pearl Barley	Muesli	Prunes
Marmalade	Alpen	Long Grain Rice
Salad Cream/Mayo	Red Kidney Beans	Chickpeas

We hope that you find this list helpful when choosing something to donate. Again, thank you from all of us here at LHM.

Youth Group Day Trip

The youth group's summer day trip happened a couple of weeks ago and it was great fun. We went bowling and the girls completely thrashed the leaders! We had no chance. We thought that Sadie might have a chance when she got a strike, but alas, the girls were too good and were 50 points ahead of us by the end of the game. It was good fun, with a lot of cheering, applauding, laughing and, the most important thing, pizza!

After bowling it was time to stock up on snacks and supplies and head to the cinema to see *Minions: The Rise of Gru*. Munching our way through snacks, laughing at the film, what better way to end our day together?

Now summer is almost over and soon, we'll be starting back at Youth group. We'll be using the

Spill the Beans curriculum and exploring themes such as Lost and Found, Being a Light and Responding to Jesus.

We are also in talks with other youth groups throughout presbytery, about connecting our youth groups together for events and trips. We would like our young people to see that there are other Christian teenagers in their area and allow them the chance to create friendships with one another and share in fellowship.

We're also looking for someone to come and join the youth group leadership team. If you have a passion to help young people connect with and live out their faith, or know that someone that does, please get in touch.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward.

Blessings, *Jess*

BE 'WISE' WITH YOUR MONEY

'There is desirable treasure...in the dwelling of the wise'
Proverbs 21:20 NKJV

God's Word says you're to do two things with your money. 1. *Sow some*. The Bible says, 'whoever sows generously will also reap generously' (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV). You say 'But things are a bit tight for me right now.' Don't withhold because you are afraid of not having enough. Give God a seed to work with, and He will make sure you have a harvest when you need it. His ability to provide is not limited by the world's economy. Do what Isaac did: 'There was a famine in the land...Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him' (Genesis 26:1, 12 NKJV). Who blessed Isaac financially? The Lord! When God tells you to give, do it in faith, confident that at the right time, in the right way, and in exactly the right places, you will receive. You say, 'I've never tried that.' Just one time before you die, try it! 2. *Save some*. 'There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise. But a foolish man squanders it' (Proverbs 21:20 NKJV). Learn to live within your means. Remind yourself that you can live happily without most of the stuff advertised on television. Before you make a purchase, stop and pray. Just because the bank approves the loan doesn't mean God approves the expenditure. Joseph instructed Pharaoh: 'Gather all the food of those good years that are coming...Then that food shall be as a reserve for...seven years of famine' (Genesis 41:35-36 NKJV). Live by the 'Joseph principle', and save. And one more thought; if you keep squandering money recklessly, why would God answer your prayer and Give you more money to squander?

UCB Word for Today Written by Bob & Debby Gass.

Congregational Conference update

"Last September we held a congregation conference and notes on this conference were sent out to each member. The following is a review of the progress made highlighted as follows:

Green - Action taken and good progress made

Amber - Some progress - more action required

Red - No Action/progress made.

In the areas Amber and Red progress has been slow to happen because of the lack of volunteers to help. If we want Shawlands Trinity to be a thriving church in the community, we all need to play our part so please offer your services and volunteer - you will be most welcome. You can do this by speaking to the Session Clerk, any Elder or a member of the welcoming team."

Conference Report Notes

Shawlands is, geographically, a small area but is a busy and vibrant one. Home to a wonderfully diverse multicultural population of approximately 7000, a vast majority of which are working age (also known as ‘young working professionals’), Shawlands has the reputation of being ‘the place to be’, with many people desiring to live there. With good transport links (it is close to the M77 and M8; easy access to railway stations; numerous bus routes), Shawlands is ideally situated for those who commute to work in the city centre. Housing is mainly tenement flats but there is also a small number of detached and semi-detached houses. A large portion of these properties (approximately 79%) are privately owned with other properties being rentals.

Shawlands boasts many ‘trendy’ bars, restaurants and cafes. There is a Co-op, various convenience shops, newsagents, primary schools, an academy, various places of worship and green space (Queen’s Park) located nearby.

Shawlands Trinity church building is located in the middle of Shawlands, and within its parish boundaries there are two primary schools, one academy, numerous restaurants, bars, cafes, small businesses, five other churches and a large housing area. The building is ideally located to be of service to the local community

Shawlands Trinity church has a vision to become an intergenerational¹ and inclusive church. We seek to be a church that serves its local community, both within and outwith the church building, ‘letting its light shine...to glorify God in heaven’. We seek to be an active part of the community, creating positive relationships, helping to meet needs within the community, showing the love and light of Christ through our actions and sharing the gospel.

On the 31st August, 2021, we gathered together in a conference to plan how we would work towards our vision. There were three topics that were discussed – Intergenerational and Inclusive Church; Presbytery and Congregational Planning; Children, Youth and Family (questions that were asked in these topics can be found in the appendix). From the responses, this report has sought to find the common themes and present them as foundational blocks for helping our church to begin the journey to realising our vision.

Communication

Communication was predominantly the most common theme in the responses. It was noted that, as a church, we need to have better communication with those in

¹ “Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation *intentionally* combines the generations together in a mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community.” *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together for Ministry, Community and Worship* by Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Ross (2012).

In essence, intergenerational means a greater depth of relationships between all ages within the church community.

our community. We also need to improve our communication within the church, acknowledging that some members do not have access to the internet and are at a disadvantage. Suggestions for us as the church –

- Have a more active role on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. – **This has been achieved thanks to a volunteer to take on the Role as Social Media Co-ordinator.**
- Continue with the WhatsApp group and encourage others to join – **Ongoing and being used to keep people up to date especially when people are unwell or in hospital. Please join if you have not already done so.**
- Refresh and update the website, ensuring that content is relevant and current. **This is an ongoing process by our Social Media Co-ordinator. Suggestions welcome**
- Use noticeboards. **Needs improvement**
- Use signage outside the church. **Needs improvement**
- Ensure that we have current details of church attendees and a preference for form of contact (i.e. emails, letters, etc). **Elders contacted members for updated details. Please let us know of any change of address, phone number email.**
- Advertise events in local newspapers. **Not happened. A volunteer to co-ordinate would be appreciated.**
- Send out leaflets/flyers with the church's calendar of events to houses/flats within the local area. **Not happened, Volunteers to deliver would be appreciated.**

Worship

There were a great many responses from the conference with regard to worship, it was strongly felt that there needed to be a variation in the way the church worships. It was noted that Sunday morning services were not suitable for many people, especially families and that more services should be offered throughout the week. It was also felt that there should be a variation in style of services (including Sunday morning worship) and should be more inclusive and intergenerational. Suggestions for us as the church –

- More intergenerational services. **Youth Worker and Sunday School Co-ordinator attending conference. If you think this is an area of interest please let them know.**
- Expand worship group – include children, young people, families and others from the congregation. **Work in progress**
- Have praise band (Rock of Ages) attend more regularly. **Have played in two services in 2022 more planned for the rest of the year,**
- Services – have a variety of teaching, worship, songs and outreach. **Remitted to Worship Group**
 - Have a service throughout the week, e.g. café style church¹. **No plans as yet - volunteers needed.**
 - Have Messy Church. **Plans were made for Messy Church but did not take place due to lack of volunteers.**

² o Understand that services outwith a Sunday morning are not created to bring people into the Sunday worship service, but are valid forms of church in themselves and are to be celebrated.

- Annual bereavement service. **Remitted to Worship Group**
- Have coffee and a roll before Sunday morning service. **Need volunteers to co-ordinate this**
- Have services led by the children, young people, families. **Services have taken place and welcomed by all. Mores services are planned,**
- Have a welcome team (which includes children and young people) at the door for services. They will welcome people and take them to their seat. **Need to co-ordinate with Door Duty Convenor**
- Have a befriending team. If someone new arrives at the church, someone will sit with them, talk them through the service and introduce them to people. **Volunteer required to co-ordinate this.**
- Have services outside. This allows us to enjoy the gardens and for people to see us worshipping together. **Nothing arranged to date.**
- Leave the doors open so that the public can hear the music and feel that they can attend, even if they are running late. **To be passed on to door duty team.**

Social

Most of these suggestions have not happened and the Social/Fundraising Group is being re-established. Please volunteer to be part of this Group.

It was recognised that we need to have more social events to enable us to connect with the community. Suggestions are –

- Within the building there are uniformed organisations and clubs which use the halls and rooms throughout the week. Have elders or volunteers from the congregation(s) befriend the groups and ask how we as a church can support them (i.e. – provide hot drinks to people waiting to collect children; help with fundraising or finding volunteers for them etc).
- Hold events in the evenings for younger families and/or working professionals.
- Hold film nights (especially at Christmas).
- Game nights/family nights.
- Intergenerational events – Skill sharing!
 - Baking days – older generation teaching younger generations.
 - Gardening
 - Technology – younger generation can help older generations use their smartphones, tablets (not the medicine), computers etc.
- Use the grounds.
 - Make the garden a place of peace and tranquillity.
 - Add benches and tables for people to use.
 - Covert part as a play area for small children.
- Open days.
- Quiz nights.
- Re-establish activities and events that were successful in the past
 - Trinity's Got Talent (intergenerational).

- Spring Fair (again intergenerational and reaching out to the community).
- Create a quiet area for space/reflection.
- Create a safe space for people.
- Create welcome packs for new houses/flats being built in the area.
- Pastoral care for all who attend church (this can be an intergenerational task as well).
- Host gigs of a faith based nature (e.g. Stuart Townsend).
- Community Christmas carol service.
 - Could a group of families and Sunday worship attendees create a small 'choir' to sing in the centre of Shawlands near Christmas?
 - Could this be done ecumenically?

Outreach

We need to be aware of what is happening within the community of Shawlands and look for opportunities in which we, as the church can help serve them.

Again this has not been taken up – Again need volunteers to be part of the Outreach Group

Ecumenical

Working with our fellow churches allows us to work on bigger outreach/missional projects. It provides us with more resources and opportunities to share the gospel with the community, meeting them where they are.

- Explore working with other churches around major festivals.
- What are the needs in the community and how can we, together, help?

Ecumenical work is part of the Presbytery Mission Action Plan

Volunteers

There are many great plans and thoughts for how we can achieve our vision, however, it is dependent upon volunteers. There is a common saying that in every church, twenty percent of the people do one hundred percent of the work. This leads to burnout and people leaving. We do not wish to put so much on to so few people, we need everyone to help. We recognise that sometimes people do not wish to volunteer as they are concerned that they will have to do it 'forever'. Again, we do not want this to be the case. For the tasks that arise, we will provide job descriptions, a volunteer contract (with a time limit), training where necessary, and reviews of the role. We do not want anyone to feel taken for granted, stuck or unappreciated.

skills; good at public speaking; happy to do heavy lifting/setting up for events; join with others to pray for ventures; have active listening skills; the list goes on. Volunteering is often about doing work in the background as well as work being done 'upfront'. Please share your skills with us and then we can approach you and ask if you'd be interested in volunteering for certain tasks.

Notes

We had two outings over the summer



Prestwick to Troon, 18th June



We started off in Prestwick, following the dunes between the beach and the golfcourse. Then inland to find the bridge over the Pow Burn. Then it was on to the beach which was quite hard going in the face of a stiff breeze. We were glad, though, when we reached the Old Course in Troon where we followed the path behind the dunes in almost complete calm, ending up with an enjoyable cuppa at the Poppy Room. And after a bit of a wait, on to the bus back to Prestwick and, so, back home.

Beeccraigs Country Park, 13th Aug

We might not have been able to tackle Chimborazo or Popocatepetl but some of us managed to scale Cockleroy and got close to Cairnpapple! Great day at Beeccraigs and great to see some new faces as well as some old(er) ones too!



At the Top of Cockleroy



Some, though, were quite happy to explore some of the shadier parts of the park and discover the meadow, the loch and the 'deer park' (deer in hiding!) Not to mention the delights of the café!

Beeccraigs Loch

Next walks: 17th Sept **Water of Leith Walk (Balerno to Slateford)**
15th Oct, **Woodland Walk (Somewhere!)**

Bill Craig at billcraig38@gmail.com or 649 2237

The Greatest Gift



Matthew 18:21-35

Luke 7:36-50

We have a bit of a problem. At almost every service, we are invited to repeat the Lord's Prayer and, by convention, we do. We might well be happy (and sincerely grateful) to pray "forgive us our debts" since our relationship with God depends entirely on his willingness to forgive our sins; but what about that next phrase "as we forgive our debtors"? It is quite possible that we may miss the impact of this since the prayer then quickly moves on to asking God for further acts of mercy – "lead us not into temptation...etc"

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant might help us to see things in a clearer light. Matthew locates this story after the Transfiguration and before Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem. The parable is told in response to Peter's question about how many times he should forgive the brother who sins against him. Jesus' immediate response is "not seven times, but seventy-seven times". Very pithy, but surely it must be meant as a joke or at the very least exaggerated for effect!

However, Jesus expands on this by telling the parable – and it turns out to be no joking matter! The gist of it is that the servant who was forgiven his debts to the king showed no mercy in trying to recover the debts owed by one of his fellow servants. Not a pleasant tale at all, but at least we can see the irony. But here's where it gets scarier; when the king hears of it he is enraged and dispatches the servant to 'a fate worse than death'. It seems to have been unusual for Jesus to spell out the meaning of his parables but this is an exception. He goes on to say, chillingly, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive you brother *from your heart*"! And while it

may be reassuring to know that justice will be done, it is disconcerting to know that we are subject to just the same justice!

Luke records an incident which might give us a fuller understanding of how forgiveness works. Jesus had been invited to have a meal at the house of Simon, a Pharisee. A woman ‘who had lived a sinful life’ was weeping at his feet. After drying them with her hair, she poured perfume on them. When Simon criticised Jesus for allowing this behaviour Jesus replied with a mini-parable about two people who owed different amounts of money but both were forgiven by the money lender. Jesus then posed the question, “Which will love him more?” whereupon Simon correctly replied, “the one who had the bigger debt forgiven”.

Jesus then takes the opportunity to point out that her ‘great love’ has shown that her many sins have been forgiven and that “whoever has been forgiven little loves little”. Turning that on its head, it would also be true to say that he who has been forgiven much loves much. “Love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Pet 4:8). That, at least, is the way it’s supposed to work. It can be hard enough to show forgiveness in some situations (Hint: Try praying for your enemies!!!) but it would be such a sad thing if our unwillingness prevented someone seeing God’s willingness to forgive. It might also show up our lack of understanding of the extent of God’s love and the costliness of the forgiveness that he offers us all so freely. Forgiveness could well be the greatest gift we can offer anyone.

*But if we confess our sins to him,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
1 John 1:9 (NLT)*

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his love as he told me to.
Chorus*

*He said 'Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.
Carol Owens (1972)*

