

The Link

Spring 2023 Issue No.24



The Magazine of Shawlands
Trinity Church

Hello friend,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are able to enjoy the lighter mornings and evenings, although there is still a chill in the air at times.

The year already seems to be moving quickly and we will soon find ourselves in the season of Lent as we move towards Easter.

Lent is a season in the liturgical year that allows us the time to not only accompany Jesus on his final journey towards Jerusalem through the sorrow and grief of Good Friday to the celebration and wonder of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, it also allows a time to reflect on our relationship with God and one another.

For many this means a time of abstaining from something we usually enjoy doing, whether that is eating chocolate, watching Eastenders or staying off social media, the phrase ‘what are you giving up for Lent...’ is a common one.

And whilst I fully intend to give something up for Lent, and it probably looks like it is going to be chocolate or crisps, Lent is not only about giving something up to help us reflect on our relationships, it is also about starting something new to help us do this.

So, let me encourage you to take up something new to help you in your personal devotional time with God.

Perhaps you could commit to spending more time reading your bible, or in prayer, and this doesn’t have to be inside, why not let nature inspire your prayer by walking round either Pollok, Queens or Newlands Park and enjoying all they have to offer this time of year, and there will also be the added benefit to body and mind getting out in the fresh air.

Or perhaps you could commit to staying in touch with a few folk through Lent, to see how they are doing and if they need any help with anything?

There are so many things that we can do to help develop our relationship with God and one another, so why not try one or more of them, and share with those around you not only what you may have given up for Lent but also what you have taken up.

Your friend in Christ

Stuart

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POPPY APPEAL 2022

Poppy Scotland advises the amount Shawlands Trinity Church team collected for the 2022 Appeal was £3,795.18 compared with £4,455.14 the previous year.

Thank you to all who were involved in any way, your support was greatly appreciated.

Ian



Notes



Plans for 2023

Work is afoot on the details for this year's walks.

We are hoping to do our first walk on Saturday **25th March**.

If you are interested in joining us on any of our outings please get in touch.

'King' Mural in Govan

Last year our first walk was around the murals in the centre of Glasgow. So you may be interested to know that a new mural appeared last August on Govan Road (gable end of no. 640, at the corner of Napier Street). The artist is known as SMUG, the Australian-born painter of the striking murals of St Mungo and St Enoch.



The daffodil theme is inspired by the Govan-born "Daffodil King" Peter Barr, who is credited with bringing the daffodil back into fashion in the late 1800s. He has been honoured each year since 1912 by a Memorial Cup given out each year by the Royal Horticultural Society to those who follow in his footsteps in advancing the standing of daffodils.

Look out for details of further outings.

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Material for the Summer issue of The Link should be in by Sunday 14th May 2023.

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

THE BROWNIES

Both Packs are having an active and varied Session.



The girls worked on their Languages Interest Badge and we thank Liz Hutcheson for coming along to the 53rd Pack and helping the girls with their Badge.

We are now doing the Have Adventures Skills Builder. Our choice of Interest Badges for this are



Archaeology, Space or Aviation! We shall let you know our progress with this.

We have decorated cakes, made marshmallow top hats and also celebrated Thinking Day. At the time of writing we have 12 girls going to the Country Thinking Day Celebration at the Renfield Centre a Saturday afternoon in February.

We are hoping to have a good number of girls going along to the County Interest Badge Day in May.

The 114th Pack are pleased to let you know that they have sent a donation of £115.00 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind from their Carol Concert.

The 114th Pack are planning to have a Daffodil Tea in April and we shall let you know of this event nearer the time.

The Brownies still collect used postage stamps in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind and the RNLI. Please remember to keep at least 1.25cm round the stamps.

Many thanks for your support to both Packs.

Ann

When you enter Church it may be possible that you 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.

There's a Welcome ...



Luke 15: 11-31

Sometimes we over-complicate things when the truth is simple and just looking us in the face. So, it is good now and then to look at a passage which we may think of as being so simple that we would have nothing new to learn by studying it. Such a passage is the story of the Prodigal Son!

There are three parables in chapter 15 and they were initially spoken in answer to complaints from the 'Pharisees and teachers of the law' that Jesus was welcoming sinners and eating with them. They all involve somebody seeking something and somebody finding something. We tend to think of God always doing the 'seeking', as in the parable of the Lost Sheep. But in the case of the Prodigal Son, it is the younger son who (ultimately) has to 'come to his senses' and do the 'seeking' while the father has to endure the anxious waiting (and watching). So, food for thought!

It's not as though his critics had got it completely wrong. They got a lot of it right but ended up getting it crucially wrong because they concentrated only on the first five books of the Bible and even overlooked such key verses as Deut 6:5 – 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.' (The Greatest Command) It is probably also fair to say that a result of recent upheavals in Jewish history they had acquired a position which partly depended on their claims to be upholding 'tradition'.

Elsewhere, Jesus confronts them head on, but here he adopts a softer approach. It is for the Pharisees to work out what they have got wrong. No form of coercion involved. If they get it, they get it.

What Jesus is revealing here is that the Covenant between God and the Jewish people is not about rules and regulations or about ritual cleanness but about mutual love. James would later say something similar: ‘Mercy triumphs over judgement’ (James 2:13). As we know, very few of them were influenced by Jesus’ teaching since it undermined their own teaching. They were particularly offended by any idea that God might ever welcome ‘sinners’ – and their opposition only increased to the point where Jesus was seen as a threat which had to be disposed of.

Let’s just look, though, at the end of the story. When the older son complains about the father’s lavish welcome for the younger son the father’s reply is full of grace: ‘You are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ (vv31 32) The attitude of the older son is exactly the attitude of the Pharisees. And the parable ends without giving us any idea about whether or not he did join in on the celebrations.

So the warmest of welcomes awaits ‘sinners’ who repent – but also the ‘righteous’ who finally come to see the error of their ways. Hard enough for some, but, really, it is a choice between death - and life!

*There’s a way back to God from the dark paths of sin.
There’s a door that is open and you may go in:
At Calvary’s Cross is where you begin,
When you come as a sinner to Jesus.
E H Swinstead (1938)*

Further Reading:

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming. (1992)
by Henri Nouwen.

The moving story of how his life was radically changed by his visit to the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg in 1986 to study the famous painting by Rembrandt. He concluded that ‘the hardest conversion to go through is the conversion of the one [the son] who stayed home’.

45th Glasgow Boys' Brigade

Our BB group is host to around 50 families who stay locally around or near to Shawlands. The majority of our boys attend Shawlands primary and Shawlands Academy. However we do also have some boys from Langside Primary and Hillpark Secondary. It's great that all these boys come together as members of the 45th. At the start of this session we welcomed Alexander Cowan onto the Staff team. Alexander joined the 45th aged 7 and has worked his way through the "ranks" gaining his Queens Badge (highest award) in May 2022.

In November our Seniors enjoyed a day trip to Edinburgh where we visited the Royal Yacht Britannia and had a "chippy" dinner in South Queensferry. This was a joint trip with our friends from the 86th (Giffnock) and 208th (Pollok).



In November our Juniors enjoyed a trip to Eastwood Theatre's performance of Wizard of OZ. Great night and the boys enjoyed their front row seats!!



Also, in December our Anchors and Juniors enjoyed their joint Christmas Party. Following the party we attended the Community Carol Service in the Sanctuary. We had around 20 boys at the party and it was great to see all their families attend the Carol Service. Meanwhile our Seniors final night before the Christmas break was a Pizza/Quiz night. All good fun.



At the start of the Session our Company entered a number of National Competitions. These are great experiences for the boys and usually involves meeting and competing against other groups from across the country. I am pleased to say that at the time of going to print our Table Tennis Team are now in the Quarter Final. Well done to our 3 boys for making it this far. In October the competition started off with 48 teams. By the time you read this we may have reached the semifinals as the Quarter Final ties are scheduled to take place by the 1st March. In February we shared details of our Summer Camp. We are planning to go to Boat of Garten near Aviemore from 5th - 12th August. This is always a highlight of the 45th Calendar and we hope all our Company Section boys are able to attend.

Finally, 9 of our Junior Section boys attended a residential at Carronvale House in Larbert (HQ of BB Scotland) We joined 7 other groups totaling over 40 boys from across Glasgow Battalion. Harry and Lewis from our Sunday School were two of our boys who attended.



In the afternoon the boys had 4 activities ranging from physical to baking and crafts. Huge “Shout out” to Rachel McNeill who over a 3 hour period was helping the boys make cakes that they would later have with their supper. In the evening the boys enjoyed a night walk around the grounds of the house. The highlight was seeing some deer wander the gardens. On the Sunday morning we enjoyed more games in the games hall before settling down for worship. The weekend finished just after lunch and as we travelled home the boys were already looking forward to going again next year.

Finally, since the start of the calendar year we have already welcomed 4 new recruits into our sections. 2 of these recruits have joined after we asked LASCCA to distribute leaflets to their young people. We are extremely grateful to LASCCA for their support in promoting the Boys’ Brigade.



Congregational Register

Deaths

'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

13th December 2022

Mr E Duckett District 24

30th December 2022

Mrs E MacIsaac District 18

17th January 2023

Mrs J Campbell District 1

22nd January 2023

Mrs E McCabe District 7

28th January 2023

Miss M Guy District 24

Change of District

December 2022

Miss B Shaw

From District 20 to District 21

December 2022

Mrs E Osborne

From District 18 to District 23

A Smile Epidemic

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled
at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner,
and someone saw my grin.
When they smiled I realised,
I'd passed it on to them.

I thought about that smile,
then I realised its worth.
A single smile just like mine,
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

Security

All Keyholders are asked to be very vigilant about opening up and locking up the Church. We have had expensive equipment stolen from the Church and it is important we remember to close all outside doors when we are in the premises and make sure the doors are securely locked when we leave.

Organisations and groups have had letters reminding them of the importance of Security.



The Legend of the First Robin

One day, long ago, a little bird in Galilee saw a large crowd gathered around a Man carrying a heavy wooden cross. On the Man's head was a crown made from a thorn branch. The thorns were long and sharp. The little bird saw that the thorns were hurting the Man. It wanted to help Him, so it flew down and took the longest, sharpest thorn in its tiny beak. The bird tugged and pulled until the thorn snapped from the branch. Then a strange thing happened. A drop of blood fell onto the bird's breast, staining it bright red. The stain never went away. And so today the robin proudly wears a red breast, because it helped a Man named Jesus.



**The greatest
message
ever heard came
from
an empty tomb**