

JULY 2015

Dear Friends

As you will know, the General Assembly agreed to approve of ministers and others people serving in the Church of Scotland to be in Civil Partnerships. It also asked the Church to consider whether civil partnerships might be superseded by Same-Sex marriage.

A number of years ago the Church was asked whether ministers should be allowed to 'bless' Civil Partnerships. The answer was a resounding 'No!' Despite that defeat, within a few weeks Civil Partnerships were 'blessed' within the bounds of Glasgow Presbytery, and no one was reprimanded. When that was challenged in Presbytery, the reply was that it was not a matter of serious concern. In the same way, though the Church has been asked only to *consider* whether Civil Partnerships *might* be superseded by same-sex marriage - for at present it is not allowed - some ministers have already entered into a same-sex marriage, and there are no plans to exercise discipline (the exercise of discipline being one of the hallmarks of the church of Jesus Christ).

The denomination is not only in a financial crisis, it is also in a theological and moral crisis.

The Kirk Session considered what the response of our congregation should be, and we are minded that the more difficult and painful course of action is the right one for us. That is, to stay within the Church of Scotland, and in a way that honours the Lord, not giving in to any pressures to conform to contemporary whims and passing trends in a denomination's life, to fight the good fight of the faith where we are. We know that in all likelihood we shall lose that fight, but we will have shown, in our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God in scripture, what the truths of the gospel really mean to us.

Please go on praying for the Kirk Session. We are in great need of the power and grace of the Holy Spirit to give us understanding of the gospel together with the wisdom to know what to do and say and perseverance, never to give in.

Your friend and Minister,

Richard.

Secondly, we are told that God is the God of Jacob.

This speaks of the faithful God of the patriarchs; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And he is no less our God too, if we come to him through faith in Jesus Christ. And if he is our God, then he is our fortress in all the trials of life.

The storms of life will come to all of us, but if Christ is our refuge we need not fear. The LORD Almighty will be with us and the God of Jacob will be our fortress.

Peter Kay

ORGANISATION NEWS

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

Once again, the Friendship Club have enjoyed a good year. The Club has now been in operation from 1950, making it 65 years old! The Club originally started in Henry Drummond Church, and continued in the united congregation of Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond. We hope to have a Celebration Party to mark our 65 years! Hopefully we will be able to recruit some new members when we start in October.

TWINKLE TUNES:

Things go well with Twinkle Tunes on a Friday morning – we have new people all the time, and the children enjoy coming! We have purchased some new Children's Bibles, so we hope to do more Bible stories. It can be a slow process getting to know people, but we have fun on a Friday morning, and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake!

WOMEN'S HOUR:

Every year seems to go faster than the one before! This year, as always, we have had the usual mix of new speakers and 'well-kent' faces who have come to share their experiences with us and lift our spirits with words from Scripture – Major Helen Adams from the Salvation Army was new to our meeting, and was like a breath of fresh air as she pulled on different hats which helped her describe her experiences in various inner city posts. The various ministers each had an uplifting message – Graham Finch from Cadder with the story behind a stained-glass window in his church and Fergus Buchanan from St. Paul's Milngavie, who was pleased to renew acquaintance with Miss Nancy Queate whom he had met 12 years before. Then there was Jean Green, whose husband, Alec, had been Assistant Minister to Mr Walker. There have also been speakers from WEC International, the Scottish Bible Society, the Leprosy Mission, and the Mission to Military Garrisons. This information helps us to pray more intelligently for missionary work.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ACTION: PRIZEGIVING DAY



Ben receives his prize from his grandfather.

Looks like Isaac is winning...



Ben teaches his mum and grandmother to read...

TWO TESTIMONIES

WILL KNIGHT:

Will Knight is married to Rachel Buckley, and came into membership by Profession of Faith on 28th June

I grew up in East Yorkshire and attended the local Church of England school, attending Sunday Schools and Youth Groups. Though they were fun and helpful, I learned more about behaviour and being nice, rather than the transformative power of the salvation, God, and His Gospel. Though my parents were helpful and instructing me, God has used others to help me grow in maturity of faith.

I arrived in Glasgow in 2007, and throughout Architecture my flatmate Phil and I were able to support and uplift each other not just socially and practically, but more importantly, spiritually; witnessing to classmates and testifying about the ultimate architect that God is in our lives.

Navigators has been pivotal in both mine, and the lives of many around us, allowing me to ask questions and study further the word of God. It was through Navigators that God taught me the ultimate truth and supremacy of His Word, and, even though I can't pinpoint an exact time, it was during the long evenings and close friendships that I gave myself to God. Knowing that through His Word and the work of His Holy Spirit I personally could have a relationship with the Living God, and forgiveness of sin, I was made more and more aware of behaviours that were far from what God calls of us. I began to acknowledge that through the death of Jesus, I had been bought at a price. In opening my Bible alone, I saw its relevance to all of life all the time, and at this time God placed around me people who cared for my soul. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:12: 'For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and Godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom, but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you'.

In summer 2010 I went with Navigators on a short-term mission to Tanzania. The beauty, vibrancy and colour of the world were shown to me. Before embarking on a placement year in London, God showed me that He is everywhere, and in everything, and he would not leave me. In working with orphans there at Amani Orphanage I saw and heard of the injustice and fragility of our broken world, and yet at the same time, in playing with the children, I saw similarities between children the world over. Despite the cultural differences, we were all one, made in the image of God. The children had such dignity and joy, and yet had experienced such suffering. I was struck to the core at this. Never before had I seen such need for Christ's intervention in this world, and the beauty and hope of God's plan in redeeming all peoples! That He is, and will be, our God, and that 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away'.

In 2011 Rachel and I began embarking on a friendship and future together. We had met through Navigators, and I was struck by the beauty of her Godliness and the gifts she has in her humility and her ability to talk to people from all walks of life. Rachel would later give me a Spurgeon Daily Devotional book, in which a card to a young married couple had been left as a bookmark. This fell out, and it bore

words from Jeremiah 29: 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare, and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come to pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me, and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.' As we moved towards marriage and away from student life into work, knowing this to be true has been of great comfort. As we work out what our family looks like, and as we see both Christ and sin in one another more clearly, to be loved and led by Jesus and to have God's Word as a lamp to our feet and a light on our path is vital.

I began worshipping here at TPHD in October 2011. To commit as a member today is a real blessing, and undoubtedly a testimony to the work of the Spirit in both me and the Church. It is a privilege to commit to such a welcoming, warm and wise body of believers. The preaching of the Word that we benefit from and being reminded of the Gospel makes us partakers in grace, enabling us to be Lights in the World!

QUEEN VICTORIA:

Queen Victoria once attended a service in St. Paul's Cathedral and listened to a sermon that interested her greatly. Afterwards she asked her chaplain, "Can one be absolutely sure in this life of eternal safety?" His answer was that he knew no way that one could be absolutely sure.

This incident was published in the Court News and came to the notice of a humble minister of the Gospel, John Townsend. After reading of Queen Victoria's question and the answer she received, he prayed much about the matter and then sent the following note to the Queen.

"To her gracious Majesty our beloved Queen Victoria from one of her most humble subjects:

With trembling hands, but heartfilled love, and because I know that we can be absolutely sure now for our eternal life in the Home that Jesus went to prepare, may I ask your Most Gracious Majesty to read the following passages of Scripture: John 3:16; Romans 10:9,10.

**I sign myself, your servant for Jesus' sake,
John Townsend"**

John Townsend was not alone in praying about his letter to the Queen. He took others into his confidence and much prayer was offered up to God in Her Majesty's behalf. About two weeks later he received a modest-looking envelope in which was enclosed the following letter.

"To John Townsend:

Your letter of recent date received and in reply, would state that I have carefully and prayerfully read the portions of Scripture referred to. I believe in the finished work of Christ for me, and trust by God's grace to meet you in that Home of which He said, 'I go to prepare a place for you'."

**(Signed)
Victoria Guelph."**

80th ANNIVERSARY 1936 - 2016

As we approach the 80th Anniversary of the opening of Trinity Possil Parish Church an appeal is being issued to anyone with memorabilia and/or photographs of things relating to Trinity Possil!

Were you a member of the Sunday, 32nd Girls Guildry School / 43rd Girls Brigade, Junior Choir, Christian Endeavour, 275th or 114th B.B., Women's Hour, Woman's Guild, Youth Fellowship or Bible Class? Or were you one of the many children who attended Possil Secondary School who came to have their lunch in the large hall or perhaps who came to the end of term service in the church? Please send us your memories and should you have photos, please enclose them too. They will be greatly appreciated.

If the answer to any of the above is "Yes" we'd love to hear from you!

Email us at: - tphdchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Isabel Whyte



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gift of £1336 to help those afflicted by the two earthquakes that have recently struck Nepal. Your generosity will help bring vital practical help to those in Nepal and northern India who have lost their homes as a result of the disaster.

Please continue to pray with us for those affected, with thousands living in tents, for Tearfund's partners and staff, and for swift response as we follow Jesus to the areas of very greatest need. Please also pray for the people who are grieving, and that those who have been injured receive treatment quickly.

JEAN JARVIE

Eunice, Crawford, Bryan and Pamela and extended families would like to extend their grateful thanks to the Rev Richard Buckley for the pastoral care he provided their Mum over the last few years and especially over her final spell in hospital. It was a great comfort not only to the family but also to Jean herself.



The family also appreciated the cards, phone calls, flowers and visits from the congregation, especially the visits by Margaret Findlay, who faithfully visited Jean over the years when she was unable to get out and about. A special "Thank you" also is given to Aunt Grace (Crompton) and Anne Blair who for many years helped the family keep an eye on Jean.

Thank you also to the T.P.H.D. Church friends and neighbours who attended Jean's funeral. It was appreciated by the Jarvie family

Eunice & Crawford and family

HELEN DOCHERTY



The sudden and untimely death of Helen Docherty in April, left many members of the congregations shocked and upset. Helen came to TPHD shortly after the death of her mother and was very quickly taken under the wings of many of the ladies of the church.

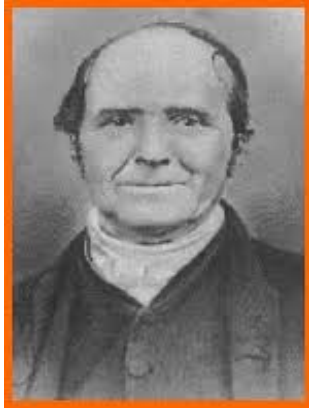
Helen came along to Sunday morning worship enjoyed being part of the TPHD family and took part in the after church fellowship in the hall, where she fair enjoyed her cup of tea and biscuits!

Helen was also a very faithful member of the Women's Hour over the years, where she and Donna enjoyed the various speakers, the company and the cakes!!!

There were always plenty of giggles around the table where Helen and Donna were sitting!

Helen will be missed at T.P.H.D.!

BILLY BRAE – IN HIS OWN WORDS



Not long after I was converted I bought and read a copy of my first Christian biography which cost me the princely sum of 90p from the old Church of Scotland bookshop in Buchanan Street. It's called "Billy Bray — The King's Son" by FW Bourne and is the thrilling story of a 19th century Cornish tin miner.



A few years later(!) in 2014 I paid my first visit to Cornwall and high on the "to do" list was a visit to Billy Bray's "Three Eyes" chapel, a tiny church (*right*) which he more or less built himself. After negotiating many miles of narrow roads bordered by high hedges on a beautiful sunny day I stood at last in that special little place and felt strangely moved and inspired.



I don't think I've read of a more joyful Christian than Billy Bray. From his teenage years until a spectacular conversion at the age of 29 he was a heavy drinker and pipe smoker who caused his wife a lot of suffering and poverty by drinking his earnings. But after becoming a Christian he became widely known for the extent to which he loudly and constantly rejoiced in the Lord. He said that when he walked through the village his right leg seemed to say "hallelujah" and his left leg "glory". He became a very popular preacher and would sometimes walk 20 miles on a Sunday to preach in three different chapels and people would come from miles around to hear him. Not surprisingly, some of his favourite texts were David dancing before the Lord, and the man in Acts chapter three lame from birth but who went "walking and leaping and praising God".

Billy Bray wrote a journal which has more recently been turned into a book called "Billy Bray - in his own words". I would be happy to lend this to anyone who would like to read of this man's amazing life and Christian witness. Near the end of his life when he was almost 74 he was told by his doctor that he was going to die soon to which he responded "Glory, glory be to God! I shall soon be in heaven!"

Scott Sullivan

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

During the summer months we will be having the following preachers in our pulpit:

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| July | 12 | Rev Peter White |
| | 19 | Rev Iain Laing |
| | 26 | Rev Iain Laing |
| August | 2 | Rev Dr George Mitchell |
| | 9 | Rev Dr George Mitchell |
| | 16 | Mr John Broadfoot |
| | 23 | Mr David White |
| | 30 | Mr David White |

AND FINALLY...



Can you guess what is shown here? Let the Editor know.
(No prize will be awarded for the correct answer)

PRECIOUS THINGS FROM PETER...

Three things are called 'precious' in the Scripture:

The blood of Christ is called '**precious blood**', 1 Peter 1:19;
faith is called '**precious faith**', 2 Peter 1:1; and the promises
are called '**precious promises**', 2 Peter 1:4