

Dear Friends

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and blessed new year, both full of the joy of the Lord's presence with you and your families!

You will be aware that Glasgow Presbytery voted in favour of the overture of the Legal Questions Committee allowing ministers to be in Civil Partnerships. The voting was 127 in favour and 93 against, 57% in favour. (Out of approximately 30 Presbyteries that have voted there is a 66% majority in favour.) That was a week ago. Today I was at a meeting of Presbytery and the issue was not raised as a matter of concern, or one about which we needed any discussion, let alone repentance. That is the way so many regard the issue.

At the General Assembly I gave an interview to a Scottish local newspaper during which the reporter asked me what I thought of the denomination's response to the Independence debate. I replied that as far as I was concerned that was not the most important issue at the Assembly. He was really surprised at that and asked my opinion of what I thought it was. I answered that the Legal Questions Committee's overture allowing ministers to be in Civil Partnerships was the most important. He reminded me that as far as Scottish society was concerned that was a 'non-issue' because society had moved on and come of age therefore the focus of his paper was upon our response

to independence. I pointed out that the Church could flourish in any political climate, even in the worst and most oppressive regime, but it could never flourish where the Word of God was set aside as either full of man-made myths and legends or because we knew better than a previous generation about the science of human psyche and what it was to be human, and since the Bible was merely one in a multitude of man's best guesses at what God was like and what was wrong with society, it could be set aside.

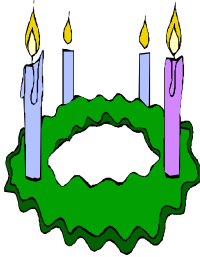
When the Bible is set aside, we cease to be the Church of Scotland, because her supreme authority is the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments, because it is the Word of God written by the inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Since the Word of God is only to be found in the Bible and not in any other book, however insightful or important, we state that the Word of God is 'contained' - goes no further than - the Bible.

In this season of Christmas I implore as never before read and reread your own Bible to know its content well and '*...let the Word of God dwell richly in your heart...*', for it will make you '*...wise to salvation...*'

Richard G Buckley

*The Scripture is both the breeder and feeder of grace.
How is the convert born, but by the 'word of truth'?
How does he grow, but by the 'sincere milk of the Word?'*

Thomas Watson



*Christmas at Trinity Possil
&
Henry Drummond Church*

SUNDAY 14th at 11am– GIFT SERVICE

*We will be responding to TEAR Fund's Appeal
to help those suffering in the conflict in Syria*

SUNDAY 21st at 11am – FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY 21st at 6.30pm – CAROL SERVICE

*Our Carol Service will be preceded by a
Church Supper.*

See Intimations for details

WEDNESDAY 24th at 11.30pm

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Preceded at 11pm by light refreshments



THE WOMEN'S HOUR

At the start of this year's session Richard spoke to us about the prophet Daniel's long time of exile in Babylon. Throughout this time, and despite many adverse circumstances, Daniel remained faithful to God and became a prominent figure in the court there. More importantly, God kept His promises to Daniel, and eventually brought His people back from exile. Richard assured us that God still keeps His promises today and encouraged us to keep on praying just as Daniel did.

There's an old Sunday School chorus which tells the story of the most well-known event in Daniel's life -

Daniel was a man of prayer.
Daily he prayed three times,
Till one day they had him cast
In a den of lions.
Even then in the den
Fears could not alarm him.
God just shut the lions' mouths
So they could not harm him.

At the time of this experience Daniel was not the fresh-faced youth he had been when he arrived in Babylon, but a man in his eighties whose faith in God was as strong as it had ever been. It is for this faith that he is commended in Hebrews 11 - that great Roll Call of faithful servants of God. His name is not mentioned but he's there in verse 33 - *'who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,....'* During the first half of this year's Women's Hour programme, we have celebrated 70th, 80th and 95th Birthdays, so it would be fair to say that many of the

ladies who attend would admit to being 'that little bit older'. They belong to a section of society which is not greatly respected in modern Scotland, as was evidenced in the aftermath to the recent Referendum. It's a great comfort to know therefore, that we have a God who is not the least bit ageist in his dealings with frail human beings.

Isaiah 46:4 -

'I will be your God throughout your lifetime--until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.'

It is thought that Daniel lived to be 101 years old and experienced the working-out of this promise throughout his long life just as we can today if, like him, our trust is in God. We can read about his exploits in the first section of his book.

The second part of the Book of Daniel deals with visions and is not always easy to understand, but tucked in amongst the prophecies concerning future world history is this little gem -

Daniel 12:3 -

'Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.'

We may be very ordinary people here in this life, we may at times feel old and done, but if our faith is in Jesus and we seek to shine for Him as Daniel did, in every decade of our lives, then one day we'll be stars - not like the celebrities of today's world that sparkle for a time then fade away - but bright, shining stars for all eternity.

So, this Christmas, as we think once again of the stars that twinkled in Bethlehem on that special night long ago, may we resolve to be bright shining lights in a dark

world which has completely forgotten the 'reason for the season.' In other words, as the hymnwriter P.P. Bliss wrote -

Hold the Gospel banner high!
On to vict'ry grand!
Satan and his hosts defy,
And shout for Daniel's band.

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.

My thanks as always to the ladies of the Committee who work hard each week to make the Women's Hour the bright, happy place it is, and to the speakers who come to inspire and encourage us on our Christian journey. I would also take this opportunity to send greetings to those ladies who are unable to be with us on a Tuesday afternoon due to illness or other circumstances which make it difficult for them to come. Please be assured that you are often in our prayers.

To all the Tuesday afternoon ladies who give me such wonderful support each week - May God's richest Blessings be yours this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Eva Campbell December 2014

congratulations!

We send our congratulations to **Mr and Mrs. William McFarlane** of Balmore Place who celebrated **70 years of marriage** in September. They were married on the 22nd September 1944 and received a letter from the Queen congratulating them on their **Platinum Wedding Anniversary**.

(They have an extended family of 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, and joined TPHD when they moved to Crowhill Street in 1987)



In 1944....

....and in 2014



90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our congratulations go to Bill Rossine, who recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.

Bill has been a lifelong and much-respected resident of Possilpark, where he has been (and still is!) a tireless worker for the community.



Bill is shown with his family: Catherine, Margaret and Susan.

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Friday 24th October 2014 was a very special day for Mrs Edith McDonald (formerly of Loskin Drive) who became a member of Trinity Possil Church during the Rev James Hogg's ministry.

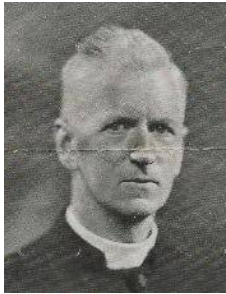


Mrs McDonald celebrated her 100th Birthday surrounded by all her family in Torrance. As can be seen in the photo above Edith is looking very well and is shown with the Official Card from Her Majesty the Queen. Congratulations from us all!

FROM 1936

The following is from a 1936 Outreach leaflet in the possession of Rev Dr George Mitchell:

Trinity Possil 1936 The Rev James Hogg B.D. Minister



A Message from the Minister

The opening of a new Church anywhere is an event of considerable importance to the community, and I am deeply sensible both of the honour and of the responsibility of being called to be the first minister of such a charge. A stranger to the district, I hope before long to know many of you, and to have the help of many in building up a strong and active congregation.

The Church offers to the community a many-sided service. First and foremost, it is a House of Prayer. This was how Jesus thought of the Temple, and the measure of our success in making this true of the Church here will be the measure of its real usefulness in every other respect.

Further, the Church is a sign and symbol of spiritual realities, reminding men, as they pass by, that the

business and bustle of the world belongs to the surface of life, and that the deep and abiding realities are unseen and eternal. We need this reminder to-day.

And it should be the home of a fellowship, warm and true and friendly, in the atmosphere of which faith and hope and virtues and graces of the Christian life naturally flourish.

It must be, too, a centre of devoted Christian service, offering scope for the varied gifts of which God has endowed us and bringing, by this service, the Gospel of Jesus to bear upon the mind and the life of the community.

I hope that, in seeking to make such things true of the Church here, I shall have the help of many of you, and that, by the blessing of God, the congregation which shall grow up here will take its place in the best traditions of the Scottish Church.

James Hogg

'This is a wonderful aspect of our Bibles: the more we read the whole, the easier we find it to understand the part; and the deeper we delve into the part, the more we are enabled to understand the whole.

Bible readers find over the course of the years that the Bible has a way of making itself plain. Perseverance and faithful prayerful continuance in Bible reading does bring understanding.'

Alec Motyer



During the year, several of our members went to be with the Lord:

Mrs V. Templeman,
Mrs S. Quinn,
Mrs I. McLeod,
Miss M. Findlay,
Mr William Young,
Miss M. Farmer

Both Mrs McLeod and Mrs Quinn had been unable to attend Church for some years, but were kept in touch with all that was going on.

Mrs Templeman, even until shortly before her death, was to be found in her pew Sunday by Sunday, having been brought with a group of her friends by one of the Elders.

Miss Farmer – who appeared in our Summer Magazine as having celebrated her 99th birthday – was in hospital only a short time before she died.

Miss Margaret Findlay was known throughout the Congregation as an indefatigable visitor – and this in spite of visual impairment from which she suffered. Many people will miss her caring visits.

Mr William Young came to us from Sandyford Henderson Church where he had been Session Clerk for many years. He was invited to join the Session, and served until old age and infirmity overtook him.

" I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINDLAY FAMILY

**Margaret Findlay
1939 – 2014**



Thank you for your thoughts and prayers which brought so much comfort to all of the members of our family during the sad time of Margaret's illness and passing. Your visits to the hospital were very much appreciated by Margaret and ourselves. Thank you, too, for remembering us through you cards, flowers and telephone calls these were very comforting.

We are also very grateful to those who made sure that Margaret travelled safely home from Church meetings over the years. It gave us peace of mind to know that she had good friends who could provide practical assistance to her in this way and allow her to be more involved.

Thanks also to Rev Richard Buckley for his constant support and encouragement of Margaret and the family during our most difficult days.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the members of TPHD during these difficult days.

Ann, Marion and the Family