

## **THE MINISTER'S LETTER**

I must first of all apologise that the church magazine for summer 2014 is so late in arriving. The fault is entirely mine. I have attempted a number of times before to write a letter but until now nothing seemed to be apt or at least of any use except to fill a space at the beginning of the magazine, and so a waste of space and the reader's time.

The reason is not that there is nothing to write about but actually that there is so much, but of such a variety that there might seem to be no discernable theme to bind them together. As a congregation we had the joy of Will and Rachel's wedding, and the sorrow of the death of some of our members: Mrs Templeman, Mrs Quinn and Mrs McLeod and the death of Mrs Sullivan, Scott's mother. Together with our elderly members in care homes or in their own homes, some in pain and discomfort, others well looked after, others who are cared for by members of their families with all the attendant worry for their welfare.

Over the past weeks some of our members have been in hospital and facing weakness and awaiting the results of medical tests, and close friends of the congregation or in our families likewise seriously ill in hospital.

On the national scene, we will not only vote in the Referendum whether Scotland should be an independent nation with a new fresh start, and the Church of Scotland awaiting a vote in presbyteries that will affect us in our future work as a denomination. The outcome of both votes is so significant for so many in different ways. Whatever the outcome of the vote concerning government in Scotland the Church can flourish in any political regime, but can never flourish except by the Preaching of the Word and the Praising of His Name.

Internationally, there are as ever many places where there is violence, bloodshed and oppression.

What are we to do in all of these burdens and sorrows?

First, our identity is that we are Christians, the sons and daughters of the living God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We therefore ought to have in the forefront of our minds Paul's words, 'To me to live is Christ, to die is gain.'

Secondly, we need to emphasize the preaching of the Word. On the Lord's Day to be where it is preached and listen attentively and wisely, but like the Bereans checking whether what is preached is accurate to the Word of God, praying for all we know who are preaching that word that the Lord would give grace, unction and power to the preaching of the word.

Thirdly, just as the church met for services of praise and worship of God, so we ought to give time as a congregation to praying for one another and our national and international concerns.

May I plead with you for the forthcoming year to make meeting on the Lord's Day for morning and evening services of worship and the weekly Prayer Meeting to be a priority for you in the way you allocate your time. This not for any better reason than that God requires this time of us, and has given it to us as the great privilege of being his own family, the Church.

If ever there was a need to seek the face of God in praise and prayer it is now.

Your Minister and friend,

Richard.

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## **THE 5-FINGER PRAYER**

1. Your **thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is **the pointing finger**. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is **the tallest finger**. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, military, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our **ring finger**. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our **little finger**; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

{*Author Unknown*}

***"Auld Ayr, wham never a town surpasses, for honest men and bonnie lassies."*** *Robert Burns*

On 27th of May this year the ladies of the Women's Hour went to check this out. Accompanied as usual by three 'not so young' men, we were driven down to Ayr by Julie from Ann's Coaches, arriving at lunchtime. We then went our separate ways with strict instructions to be back at the bus in plenty of time to go for our High Tea.

It was a warm and sunny afternoon, and most of the ladies enjoyed a leisurely stroll down the main street, shopping in some of the well-stocked shops and looking for bargains in the Charity Shops. Later on, when there was a light shower of rain, it was time to meet up at the pre-arranged pick-up point where Julie was waiting to take us to The Old Loans Inn in the village of Loans near Troon. There we had a delicious two-course meal, served very efficiently by an attentive staff.

As for the 'honest men and bonnie lassies' - we shared the tearoom with a party of American golfers who were travelling round Scotland playing on some of our golf courses and were eager to chat about their experiences. They were as delighted as we were with the service we received from the bonnie Scottish waitresses who served us piping hot food in the shortest possible time.

And so in the early evening, feeling content and well-fed, it was time to travel home to Glasgow, after a 'great day away'.

*Eva Campbell June 2014*

### **A selection of photos taken on the day:**







## OLD SPECTACLES



Thank you to all who continue to place their old spectacles in the box in the vestibules to send to "Vision Aid" for recycling.

Over the 20 or so years we have been collection the spectacles we have sent almost 1,000 pairs!! Well done folks – quite a "spectacular" achievement!!!!

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### WHO DO YOU RECOGNISE??

Two "old" Trinity Possil photos from the 1948 production of The Princess of Poppyland by the Junior Choir and Operetta Group – a clue .....there are two people (one in each photo) who still attend church every Sunday!!!

*(Larger copies can be seen in the Large Hall)*



## **THE BIBLE AND THE TV GUIDE...**



On the table side by side  
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide  
One is well-worn and cherished with pride,  
But that one is not the Bible; it's the TV Guide.  
One is used daily to help folks decide.  
No! It isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide.  
As the pages are turned what shall they see?  
Oh! It doesn't matter, just turn on the TV.  
Then confusion is started for they can't agree,  
Just what they shall watch on the old TV.  
So they refer to the book in which they all confide,  
But it isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide.  
The Word of God is seldom read,  
Maybe a verse before they crawl into bed,  
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,  
Not from reading the Bible, but from watching TV.  
Then back to the table, side by side,  
Go the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.  
No time for prayer; no time for the Word,  
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.  
Forgiveness of sin, so full and free,  
We find in the Bible and not on TV.

*Via "The Messenger"*

## **ARRAN 'BIG CHALLENGE'**

At the start of June I volunteered to do a sponsored cycle ride round the island of Arran for the Glasgow City Mission. Some early morning keen types were planning to do the cycle trip AND climb the highest point, Goat Fell (874m.) but the majority of volunteers were doing one or the other. It was a lovely sunny week and then, on Thursday we saw the forecast for the Saturday – **HEAVY RAIN**. Sure enough it was raining heavily when I left home at 7.30 and it was raining heavily throughout the train journey and ferry crossing. It was pouring when the five cyclists on the team set off from the Sports Centre in Brodick and as we arrived at the Whiting Bay check point for water, a banana and energy bar.

Halfway round the island at Blackwaterfoot, disaster unfortunately struck. I had a puncture and had foolishly not taken a spare tyre or puncture kit with me. A phone call to base and the City Mission puncture repair man duly arrived and did his best in the rain but to no avail. The tyre blew up. I along with two other cyclists (who got no further than Lochranza due to the weather) were driven back across the String Road to Brodick with our bikes in the back of the van. I was disappointed at only cycling halfway round the island but a hot shower, soup and toasties relieved the disappointment as soaked and bedraggled hillwalkers trudged in eventually from Goat Fell. Quite a few of them had done really well and made it to the top.



Could I again thank everyone for the generous sponsorship total of £430 for the City Mission funds. I have heard that over £8,000 was raised through the Big Challenge.

*Scott Sullivan*

PS. On two glorious days (June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>) I went back over to Arran and did a complete circuit of the island so in total I cycled round one and a half times!

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



*Mr Buckley and Hettie*

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, after the Morning Service we all joined with Hettie Jamieson in the Large Hall to celebrate her 95th Birthday.

We all joined in singing Happy Birthday to Hettie and enjoyed her birthday cake.

Mr Buckley spoke of Hettie, and made comment that her school friend, Margaret Whyte, was with sitting with her and asked if Hettie saw any change in Mrs Whyte! Hettie responded "Well she doesn't have her hockey stick now!" Quite astounding to have two people who first met at Keppochill Road Primary School still meeting at TPHD on Sundays at the age of 95!!



*School Pals - Hettie and Margaret*



## **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

In July, Mr and Mrs Henderson celebrated their Diamond Wedding, and, as well as congratulations from the congregation, they received a Commemorative Card from Her Majesty the Queen. This was framed and brought to church for everyone to see.



*Mrs Henderson with the framed Commemorative Card*



*The Commemorative Card signed by the Queen*

## WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



*The Bride enters with her father*

Will Knight and Rachel Buckley were married on the afternoon of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June this year. The wedding took place in a packed church of family, friends, and members of the congregation who had come to join in the joyous celebration of the day.

The congregation would like to offer their best wishes and prayers for Will and Rachel's future together!

Let the pictures tell the story...



*Will and Rachel (now Mr & Mrs Knight)*



## **REV A. L. WALKER : AN APPRECIATION**

*Rev Alexander L. Walker had been Minister of Henry Drummond Church in Possilpark until 1967, when, due to the fabric problems with the building, the United Charge of Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond was formed, with Mr Walker as its first Minister. He remained there as Minister until his retirement in 1988.*

*Many of us in Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond owe a great deal to Mr Walker. Many of us grew up - spiritually as well as physically - during his time of ministry. He introduced us to the great doctrines of the Reformed faith, like predestination, election, and the saving grace of God. Most of all, he delighted to point, like Evangelist in our stained-glass window, to Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for sinners and the willing Saviour of men.*

*During his retirement until he went to be with the Lord in 2014, he continued to be used by God in ministry. It was so encouraging to meet a man recently who had heard Mr Walker preach the Gospel, and come to know Christ through his preaching. Here is that man's story...*

As an 18 year old man I came down to Glasgow to study, full of fear and being unsure of what lay ahead. I travelled down from the Isle of Lewis. Although I grew up with a godly grandmother and was bought up in the local Sunday school, I rebelled against Christianity and embraced atheism, sure that belief in God or Jesus was equivalent to believing in fairies at the bottom of the garden.

I mocked Christians as being "weak minded fools", especially those fellow school friends who professed faith! Whether out of curiosity or spite, I took up a copy of a neglected Gideon's New Testament which I had received in Secondary school, with the purpose of exposing these Christians at their own game through understanding their scriptures. Starting with the Gospel of Matthew I read on, and soon my heart was melting within me. What I was reading was so wonderful, could it possibly be true? I was so worried that anyone would notice me reading the New Testament, I hid it under my pillow!

The Holy Spirit was beginning a work in me, I was utterly flabbergasted at the scripture in Matt 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

It was just too good to be true! Could God be so wonderful?

I arrived in Glasgow to study. My Free Church uncle and auntie had encouraged me to come to their church in Partick and then have a sumptuous lunch - who could resist such an offer? However I managed to get lost, and upon asking a random woman in desperation in Partick as I

was really quite late "where the Highland church was" she pointed me to the Church at the bottom of Gardner Street! I went in and a Rev Sandy Walker was preaching - and it was literally like I had entered heaven itself! I had no idea he was a locum, but I knew he preached what my heart needed to hear! If I recall he preached in 1 Corinthians beginning at Chapter 1 in the morning.

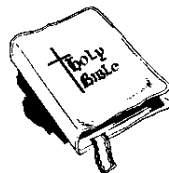
I vividly remember Sandy Walker taking just one little phrase of a verse "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." He dwelt richly on those two words - grace and peace! It was like an angel speaking from heaven to me!

In a short time, I placed my faith solely in Jesus - which was the Holy Spirit's doing! I became a member of Gardner Street and was their organist for 6+ years.

Today I am fortunate to be a member of St George's-Tron and able to help out the city centre ministry there. I will always consider Sandy Walker to be my father in the faith, a most wonderful Christian, and I can only hope to mirror his example!

*Cailean MacAulay*

### **WHAT'S ON AT OUR SERVICES?**



During the past year, we have studied important books of the Old Testament: Job at the Bible Studies, and 2 Kings at the Evening Services.

This year, our services will have a New Testament flavour about them! At the Morning Services we will be looking at the Acts of the Apostles (described as '*the young Church in action*'), and at the Evening Services the Book of Romans (with its important theme of the salvation from sin which God gives us through faith in Christ).

The Bible Study will focus on the Book of Revelation, with its great topic of the absolute sovereignty of God – and His triumph - over all forms of evil.

## STOP PRESS

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Mrs Myra Girvan celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday (photo below) and joined the TPHD "Nonagenarians" club - a select and ever growing club within our church family. This was closely followed by Miss Peggy Farmer who celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 - and as can be seen in the photo below taken by Mr Buckley's - Miss Farmer is a very happy lady!



Myra Girvan



Peggy Farmer

Following on from those birthdays, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014 the congregation were invited to remain after the morning Service and join in birthday celebrations with John and Elizabeth Broadfoot and Robert Dey for tea and cake.



The 17<sup>th</sup> August saw Mr Robert Dey celebrate his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday



John Broadfoot reached the ripe old age of 65 and Elizabeth Broadfoot celebrated being 21 again!



The Happy Duo – John and Elizabeth Broadfoot