

Communion Roll

We note the death of the following members:

January 2021

Margaret Key Golfhill Care Home

Sunday Worship

The **Carntyne Parish Church Phone Service** continues to offer a short service of worship (20-25 minutes) which is uploaded on Sunday and is available until the next service is posted. This can be accessed by telephoning **(0141) 815 1331**.

'The Service' continues to be broadcast on **BBC Scotland** at noon on Sundays (channel 9 on Freeview). **Reflections at the Quay'** is on BBC1 on Sundays at 10.30 am.

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If you are in need of support or would just like to chat, please do not hesitate to contact either: Rev Joan Ross 770 9247 or May Fawns 774 4250



Carntyne Parish Church is a recognised Scottish Charity No SC006729

Carntyne Parish Church

February/March 2021



Dear friends,

It is a long time since we began discussing the refurbishment and remodelling the Church building and developing it as a community hub. I'm pleased to say that the first phase of the work has now begun. The Contractors are now 'in the building', currently isolating the North Transept from the rest of the church so that the transept can be used as their rest area. They are also covering the floors in the corridors and vestry to protect them from damage.

The next stage will be to erect scaffolding to enable the main work on the roof and exterior brickwork to begin. The work is expected to take about 20 weeks and, should the Scottish Government relax the rules on Sunday worship, the Contractors have confirmed that it will be safe for the

congregation to meet in the sanctuary.

Soon discussions will begin about how the space in the church building might be remodelled and the indicative costs. Alongside this, we will need to discuss how we envisage the building being used in the short and medium term and, therefore the kind of spaces we will need.

Of course, a significant factor in what we will be able to do is resources. We have some money in reserves, earmarked for building redevelopment, and will continue to seek grants. We are also grateful for the donations to the Refurbishment Fund we continue to receive from the congregation and look forward to holding some fund-raising events in the future.

In the meantime, it's been suggested that people might like to contribute to the current phase of work by buying a roofing slate or three. Slates cost just over £3 each and so a donation of £10 would buy 3 slates. Any contributions can be given along with offerings and marked 'roof slates'.

Yet, despite the pandemic, these are interesting and exciting times for the congregation. We are on a journey to provide a multi-functional space for congregation and community, and now we will be able to 'see' progress being made.

Meeting together in 'person' may seem some way off, but the time will come. Until then, keep safe.

Blessings, Joan

Living God,
Speak to us in the place where we are today,
That we might speak a word for our times.
Speak into the future that lies before us
And grant us grace as we seek to live out that future.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Speak to us in the place where we are today,
That we might hear again your voice.
Speak to us on the highest heights, and in the deepest depths,
And may we know, and be known by, the One whom you love.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Everlasting God,
Creator of the ends of the earth,
We are those who wait
And who ask that your promise will be fulfilled.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Everlasting God,
Creator of the ends of the earth,
We are those who wait
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.
AMEN

Prayer

Christian organisations throughout Scotland, including the Church of Scotland, continue to invite Christians to join together in prayer at 7pm on Sunday evenings. The following is a suggested prayer:

Living God,
Speak to us in the place where we are today
And make your presence known.
Speak to us the words of affirmation
That we may know that we are loved by you.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Speak to us in the place where we are today;
Even in the face of darkness.
Speak into the uncertainty of our times
And reassure us that you hold the future.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Speak to us in the place where we are today
And bring hope for days to come.
Speak words of comfort and of healing
And words of compassion for those who mourn.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

In Memoriam – Stuart Thomson

It is always sad when we lose one of our members through death, but the recent passing of Stuart Thomson has been felt by many across the congregation.

Having been born in Carntyne, Stuart was in and about 'the church on the square' throughout his years, coming up through the Boys Brigade and attended worship regularly.

In 1967, he was ordained an elder and was always very conscientious in visiting his district and keeping folk in touch with news of the church. He also served as the congregation's World Mission contact, and organised the collecting and delivery of used stamps to the World Mission Office.

For many years, Stuart lived in Whitehill Street in Denniston. But recently, the family persuaded him to move into the Bield where he was able to see 'his church' from his sitting room window.

Stuart was a quiet and gentle man, a friendly soul, with a warm smile and generous heart and though he wasn't a great talker, he liked to be with people... always interested in others, and in knowing what was going on.

Stuart, someone who loved everybody – and told them so – and they in turn loved him He will be greatly missed.

Lent

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days excluding Sundays) which comes before Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year 17th February), Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the events of Holy Week and the celebrations of Easter.

For some, lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities, reflecting the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness.

A Reflection for Ash Wednesday - Matthew 6:1-9, 16-18

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and, for some, Lent is a time to 'give up' things. Often, they are things we should cut down on anyway, the favourites being chocolate, smoking and alcohol. But the traditions of Lent began with a more serious self-denial; with genuine fasting, and the wearing of

teaching skills and a servant heart, as they prepare for working with children.

Humphrey spoke about the Pastor Parent Partnership which makes Global Children's Network Malachi Clubs very different from traditional children's work. Its emphasis is on the family and encouraging parents to disciple their children in the home through Malachi Family Clubs. These happen on days when the children are not at church, Sunday school or Malachi Kid's Club. The Pastor of the church is responsible for training the parents to help them make the most of teachable moments with their children, suggesting ways to strengthen family relationships, and to learn and serve God together as a family.

Thank you to the members of Carntyne Parish Church, who sent a donation at Christmas. This enabled me to subsidise some of the Malachi training costs. This would not have been possible without your help.

We have already heard of churches meeting to see how these ideas can be incorporated into their programmes, and we are praying that many Malachi clubs will start soon in Sandema.

Please continue to pray for the growth of God's kingdom among the children of Sandema.

Blessings

Pam

News from Ghana

Pam writes:

My main ministry focus since before Christmas has been setting up the Malachi Club Pastors and potential Club Directors meeting on Saturday February 6th. It has been amazing how it has all come together and the support and enthusiasm of local churches. My part was liaising with the speakers, Saviour and Humphrey Hooper, who head up 1for50.NET. and Global Children's network in Ghana, organising their air travel from Accra, and their accommodation in Sandema.

Pastor Nicholas from Bulisa Good News Bible Church was the other local organiser who helped me liaise with the Local Council of Churches leaders and the Good News Bible Church District Council. This is a very relational culture, so relationships need to be built slowly and properly, and his presence gave me the right introductions to church leaders.

Forty-one delegates attended the meeting from around 19 churches and 10 denominations in Sandema. After a time of worship and prayer and a short devotional, Saviour spoke about 1for 50.NET. training and especially about five things on God's heart for children: for them to know and love God, grow together, and to shine for and serve God.

Later, Saviour used the illustration of the local three stone fire to demonstrate the qualities needed for a successful children's worker. The need to balance Bible knowledge,

sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penitence, hence 'Ash Wednesday'.

Fasting, along with prayer and almsgiving, is one of the marks of the spiritual life – they are disciplines common to Christianity, Judaism and Islam - and Jesus make reference to all three in the Sermon on the Mount.

He first warns against practising piety in order to be seen by others.... about publicly showing religious devotion while keeping an eye out for the reactions of an audience.

Jesus makes it clear that 'holy behaviour' as a way of impressing others, is 'holy behaviour' for all the wrong reasons. It's not that Jesus is against folk letting their light shine before others if in doing it they glorify God. But he is against people using religious piety to direct attention to themselves.

In Jesus' day, Jews were required to pray at set times of the day: at nine in the morning, at noon, and at three in the afternoon. Wherever they were, they were supposed to stop, stretch out their arms with hands facing heavenwards, and bow their heads.

But Jesus was concerned that there were some who would make sure that they were on a top step or at a busy street corner at the appropriate time.. and that their prayers were loud and long.

Jesus didn't think much of posturing prayers as the purpose

of prayer is to address to God, not those who happen to be within hearing distance.

And he gives the test of true prayer: that it's an activity that goes on in the secret places of our lives, when the audience has all gone home, when our doors are closed, and when our hearts are open to God.

As one of the great rabbis put it: "God says to Israel, pray in the synagogue of your city; if you cannot, pray in your bed; if you cannot, commune with your heart and be still."

Like prayer, fasting was an important part of the spiritual tradition and was a sign of repentance. Fasting has always been linked to repentance, and if it's not, it can be reduced simply another diet.

In Palestine the two days of fasting were Monday and Thursday, which were also the market days. And some people would go to the market place, their faces drawn and sombre, leaving others in no doubt that they were fasting. But Jesus said that funeral faces have no part in fasting - it isn't important that others know you're fasting - only that God knows.

When it comes to giving alms to the poor, Jesus had little time for those who made sure that people were paying attention before the gift was given. He said "your left hand shouldn't know what your right hand is doing". He would have approved of those who used the room in the Temple called the Chamber of the Silent. There people could atone

easier to enter. You'll only need the meeting ID from now on. It's also possible to join the Coffeetime Zoom and the Wednesday Space by telephone by phoning 0131 460 1196 and entering the Meeting ID

- **Coffeetime Zoom on Tuesdays at 10am**

Meeting ID: 865 5388 2010

- **Film Club on Thursdays at 1pm**

Meeting ID: 853 1316 0371

Upcoming films: 18th Feb: Carousel; 25th Feb Butch Cassidy and the Sun Dance Kid; 4th Mar Towering Inferno; 11th Mar True Grit; 18th Mar The Roaring Twenties; 25th Mar Paint Your Wagon

- **Wednesday Space at 10am**

Meeting ID: 884 4248 5052

- **Young at Heart on Fridays at 1pm**

Meeting ID: 813 0649 6870

Zoom is not geographically bound, and anyone can join- so if you know of anyone who would benefit from seeing some friendly faces each week please tell them about these gatherings.

Do phone me on 07734007260 for more information about any of the above or if you'd like support accessing any of the meetings.

Kindest regards,

Aileen

Zoom with Aileen

Dear Friends,

I write having just logged off from Young at Heart online. Today we've 'visited' China and Japan. We've watched James Bond skiing, Carntyne boy Stephen Ashfield singing and dancing on stage and Danny MacAskill cycling through Scotland, we've done some singing, some chatting, and some exercise and we've had a good time together. When I asked for comments for this newsletter folk said, "the group keeps people in touch", "it lets you see other people", and "it's helping us get through the lockdown". We've also decided that we're going to save up and go to a musical together when all this is over.

In the next few months my work will also involve working with the organisation Faith in the Community Scotland on a project called Shaping the Future. The project comes with some funding that we as a group need to decide how to use to benefit the work that we do with older people in Carntyne. If you would like to be involved with the project and meet the other groups across Scotland taking part, please get in touch.

The usual Zoom groups are detailed below, and I would draw your attention to a new event planned for Wednesday mornings at 10am. A half hour space for prayer and reflection. I'll run this until we are allowed to meet to walk together.

I've also removed the passcodes for meetings to make it

for their sins by making offerings anonymously, and from those offerings, those living in poverty would be helped, secretly. It was almsgiving done in secret, and it benefited the poor.

Three times, using almsgiving, prayer and fasting as his illustrations, Jesus gives the same message: practise your faith in secret, and God, who sees in secret, will reward you. But while Jesus says 'don't flaunt your faith', he isn't telling us to hide our faith. When he tells his followers to pray - in secret, to fast - in secret, to give to the poor - in secret, he isn't saying, "Don't let anyone know you're a Christian!" it's not our faith that we're to keep from the world, only the showy display of it.

Whether it is almsgiving, prayer or fasting, Jesus tells us we should do it not for human admiration but for God. Then, the reward we are promised is not something transitory such as public acclaim; it is nothing less than the love of God for his children.

There is an intimate relationship between fasting, prayer and almsgiving. In fasting, we deny ourselves luxuries which distance us from God; in prayer we are moving closer to God; and in giving to others, we are showing our love for God. And when our focus is on those things, then our focus isn't on gaining other people's attention and admiration... but on sharing God's love with them.

In fasting, we can give up all sorts of things we don't really

need. In prayer, we can give up asking for ourselves and instead ask what God wants of us. In helping others, we can give up thinking in terms of charity, and see it as sharing all the good things God has given to us: not just our money, but our time and our talents.

As we move into the season of Lent, we turn our faces to Jerusalem ... to the events of Good Friday and the promise of Easter Day..... the evidence that God never 'gives up' on us.... and a reminder to us that our "giving up" shouldn't be just for Lent, but for life.



Scripture Readings for upcoming Sundays

21st February – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

28th February – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

7th March – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

14th March – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

21st March – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33