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Church Worship and Activities

Sundays: 11:00 am - Morning Worship (crèche available)
          - Sunday Club (Kid Zone and Y-zone)

Mondays:  1:30 -2:30pm (fortnightly) - Ladies’ Fellowship

Tuesdays: 11:30- 2:00pm North Glasgow Food Co-op
          12:30 - 2:00pm Drop-in Shop

Wednesdays: 9:30 am   Prayer Meeting
             10:00 -11:00am - Drop-in Shop
             10:00-12:00pm  Computer Class/Internet Cafe
             10:00-12:00pm  Sewing Class (Opportunity to use
             - one of our  new sewing machines and be involved in
             - producing varied items such as cushions and tote  bags)
             1:00 - 3:00pm   English Class (crèche available)
             1:30 - 2:30 pm   (fortnightly) Bible Study
             7:30 - 8:45pm   Prayer Meeting

Fridays: 6:00pm - Men’s football at Townhead pitches;
         Contact Paul Wilson for details: - 0753398980

Front Cover:

Behold I send my Messenger, and He will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple, even the
messenger of the covenant in whom you delight. Behold He is coming
says Jehovah of hosts. Malachi 3:1
“I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one finds many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended”.

Nelson Mandela

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st March – Congregational Board meeting at 7:00pm followed by Kirk Session.

Friday 4th March – World Day of Prayer service at St Rollox Church of Scotland at 2:00pm

Sunday 6th March – Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper -11am

Sunday 13th March – Worship to be led by Rev Malcolm Duff. ANNUAL STATED
MEETING of the congregation following worship.

Sunday 20th March - Delivery of Easter Cards to all homes within the parish.

Friday 25th March – Good Friday Service at 7:00pm

Sunday 27th March – Easter Day Family Service followed by church family lunch.

Tuesday 5th & 12th April - Community Outreach closed

Wednesday 6th & 13th April – Community Outreach closed

From the Pulpit

My Dear Friends,

What an exciting time to be alive! The Easter greeting will soon be ringing in our ears: Christ is risen - He is risen indeed - Alleluia! At our Easter Sunday morning service on the 27th of March, we will remember again (DV) the great historical fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the tomb. No other explanation makes sense of the evidence of the tomb, the Bible and the disciples.

The tomb was empty. Had the disciples stolen His body? Would fearful disciples have been capable of this? How did they get past the guards to unseal the tomb? What of the guards themselves?
They were stationed there for the express purpose of guarding against this very kind of assault - is it at all feasible that they should sleep? Remember their very lives were at risk. How is it that the grave clothes were left neatly laid out where the body once lay? Would anyone trying to sneak in past slumbering guards have taken the time and risk of so doing? If Jesus was not raised His body would have been in the tomb.

Consider witness of the Bible. The Scriptures of the Old Testament record the prophecies of the One who would come and be sacrificed. The Bible also records, in the New Testament section, the appearances of the risen Lord Jesus to His followers. Were they hallucinating? Of course not! They recognised Him. He showed Himself to more than five hundred such witnesses in at least one of eleven episodes. This is not the stuff of hallucinations. If Jesus was not raised then there would be no fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy and indeed no New Testament record at all!

What of the disciples? The disciples were changed people after Jesus’
resurrection. From being timid, weak and afraid they became bold, powerful and fearless. Think of Peter: here was a man who had promised never to forsake Jesus, yet he denied knowing the Lord. Think of John: this disciple ran off at the time of Jesus’ arrest. What of the others who were so afraid of retribution that they locked themselves in a room? Look at these men who, come the day of Pentecost, just seven weeks later, were full of confidence; challenging people with the truth of the Gospel and the guilt of the death of the Messiah. So down the centuries, in an unbroken line, men and women have been able to bear witness to the risen Lord. If Jesus was not raised then there would be no Church here today!

But the historical fact of the resurrection is not just an event to commemorate and look back on for it is the stuff of everyday Christian living! The Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead (and subsequently glorified) is the same One who makes the difference in our lives. He shares in our sufferings: in times of illness, in our weakness and frailty, when we feel devalued or useless, when we encounter disappointments. He shares in our joys too; for example, in births, marriage, good news of exams successfully negotiated and so on. But above all Jesus Christ is the One who gives hope: in the depths of our despair, in the abyss of bereavement, Jesus brings the hope of healing for our anguish and the promise of life beyond this existence.
The Easter message is relevant to every week. The Church today meets on a Sunday in witness to the resurrection taking place on the first day of the week, hence the title the Lord’s Day. Every Sunday then is a remembrance of Jesus’ victory over death and evil. Yet the talk in the media is of a declining and out of date Church. Are we to worry? In a human and worldly sense we are conditioned to think of success in terms of numbers and wealth. But the Church is not a worldly institution, it is God’s creation! If the Church has lost her confidence in preaching the truths of the Bible and proclaiming the Saviour for sinners, perhaps she deserves to be pruned back. (cf. John 15). There are many examples in the Bible of the remnant of the faithful. But it is very exciting to know that there is an increasing number of churches in Scotland who are bearing faithful witness to God. And remember that He is the One we must look to. It is His work we are involved with. He will not be frustrated. We are not called to be successful, but to be faithful; to live as salt and light; to honour God, not to please people. And this we will strive to do in Sighthill, and indeed wherever God puts us.

Yours in the confidence of the Gospel of Jesus,

John Martindale

Finance Report 2015

2015 has been a year of both anticipation and uncertainty for the congregation, as the plans for the redevelopment of Sighthill, including St Rollox’ buildings, unfold through various twists and
turns. We are enthusiastically facing these challenges head on and despite the uncertainty, the congregation has responded very positively in 2015 after facing a financial crisis towards the end of 2014.

So it has been a year of ‘financial consolidation’: ensuring our costs are minimised whilst retaining all essential services and maintaining the buildings to correct standards; and encouraging gracious and thankful giving to sustain income. As a result, we have concluded 2015 having met all our financial commitments both locally and nationally. We have a small yet strong, dependable, multi cultural congregation who has, through their generosity, ensured that St Rollox increased all categories of unrestricted, general income in 2015.

We formally record our thanks too, for generous donations from our twinning partners, Torrance Parish Church and from Lifelines Bishopbriggs towards our Restricted Funds in support of specific projects. These donations are critical in the Lord’s work in Sighthill.

Undoubtedly, 2016 will bring new challenges, especially as the physical redevelopment of Sighthill continues apace which will encompass our eventual move from this current site. So despite the challenges we face in funding the Pastoral Assistant role in 2016, it is an encouragement that we find ourselves in a more positive financial position than when we commenced 2015.
Copies of the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts are available on request at the church.

*Ian Thomson*

*(Treasurer)*

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**CHURCH FLOWERS**

Due to the semi-retirement of Mrs Betty White as flower convenor, we have decided that the time has come to change the process.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Betty for fifteen years of dedicated commitment to this work which involved ordering, collecting, displaying and then after worship on a Sunday dismantling the display and preparing the flowers for delivery to the sick, bereaved or housebound. Few are aware of the time involved in this work and the commitment shown by Betty who every Saturday collected the flowers and prepared beautiful arrangements to enhance our worship on a Sunday morning. In the past the cost of this was met by donations from the congregation who often donated flowers in remembrance of a loved one. However this has not been the case in more recent years when for several weeks there was no donation.

You will have noticed (or may not) as many folks think the flowers are real, that this year we have had silk flower displays which have been kindly donated. This was an extremely generous gift.
We will continue to use these apart from Communion Sundays and special festivals. e.g. Easter, Harvest. On these occasions, as always God willing, Betty hopes to continue to prepare her special displays which are always much appreciated and very meaningful. This would also include Remembrance Sunday.

If you would like to donate flowers for any of these occasions please give your gift to Margaret Woods or place an envelope in the offering plate marked, “Church Flowers”.

**Ladies Fellowship**

This meeting has recommenced and once again we are delighted to welcome new members. This session we are looking at the question, “Why does God accept us?” a study in the book of Galatians. The meetings will be held on the following Mondays 1.30pm – 3pm. March 7th & 21st, April 11th & 25th May 9th & 23rd

**Church Building**

The General Trustees are following up with the council our preferred option for site one. The site directly opposite the new flats on Fountainwell Road. They have asked the Council to make an offer but have asked for full details of the site boundaries and the requirement of a full survey of the site. At present these negotiations are ongoing, if no agreement is reached before the Compulsory Purchase Order is imposed then the issue would require to go to a
court hearing. Please pray that an agreement is reached and this is not required.

Transition Minister

Interviews took place on Thursday 11\textsuperscript{th} February and we are extremely grateful to all who supported us in prayer on this very important day in the life of our congregation. God made His will very clear and the preferred candidate is prayerfully considering the post. Should the person accept the Ministries Council will then take up references.

Big Anne

It was super to have Big Anne with us in December and hear how God is at work in Zambia and of Anne’s calling to lead the work at \textit{Mercy House}. We have since heard that the building has passed its inspection and the work there has commenced. This is a very exciting but demanding time for Anne as she trains her team. Please pray that all involved will cope with, and be committed to, the various aspects of the work. Pray that Anne will have good health, stamina and wisdom in her leadership role. Pray for those from St Rollox considering the possibility of visiting Mercy House and for Sharon Rose as she seeks to facilitate this.

Margaret Woods

(Pastoral Assistant)
Prayer News

- Transition minister
- Negotiations between General Trustees and City Council
- Elders following their special meeting on 21st February re church leadership
- The work of Forward Focus
- Graduates still seeking employment
- Those seeking Asylum
- Families under stress awaiting outcome of visa applications, now taking much longer to process than previously.
- The weekly Community outreach programme and for the whole congregation to have a vision for the parish.
- Hannah Smith recovering at home after a heart attack and fall.
- Peggy Graham - We give thanks that Peggy Graham has at last secured a place in Abbeyfield house in Springburn where she is settling in well.

Forward Focus Update

The Forward Focus Group meets monthly to bring forward proposals for congregational development and mission. The cultural meals over the past year have been very successful and we are still looking for groups to organise meals in 2016. Meanwhile there will be a special meal on Easter Day, 27th March, when we are inviting all our cultures to work together to provide food for all to share. Prior to this
we are planning to deliver Easter cards to the whole parish, and we need plenty of willing volunteers to help with this on 20th March, after our Palm Sunday Service. More information over the next few weeks.

Malcolm Duff
(Forward Focus Coordinator)

Signs of the Times

The following news item provides an interesting commentary on the times we live in. G.K.Chesterton’s well-known comment comes to mind: “When people give up believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing; they believe in anything”.
An atheist church is to start holding regular services in Scotland from next month in a bid to spread the word about “free-thinking faith”. The gathering will be run along the lines of a traditional church service but the strains of “All Things Bright and Beautiful might be swapped for a sing-a-long to ‘Eye of the Tiger’ and preaching replaced with a talk on positive thinking.

Robert Concannon, who is helping to organise the Sunday Assembly in Edinburgh, said, “A lot of us are ex-religious who feel the lack of community when you drop the religion.

The Sunday Assembly founders claim it is catering to the fastest-growing belief group - those who do not count themselves as religious.

Figures from the 2011 census, published earlier this month, revealed the number of people in Scotland who regard themselves as non-religious stood at 37%- with numbers rising from 1.4 million to 1.9 million over the past decade. According to the census figures, just over half of the country- 54% - still think of themselves as Christians.

(Culled from: The Messenger – December 2013)

[Source: The Sunday Herald; October 6, 2013]

*Never be anxious and say, ‘What are we to eat? or, ‘What are we to drink? or, ‘What are we to wear?.......Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things”. Matthew 6:*31,32
Jenny Fraser – Rest in Peace

Jenny joined the eldership at St Rollox in June 2009 and became one of our most faithful and committed elders, attending not only Board and Session meetings but every other meeting where she felt it was her responsibility as an elder to be there. As a Board member she was on the Sunday Finance team rota.

She was a member of the Ladies Fellowship group and insisted on doing the home baking for the cup of tea after every meeting. Of course this always included the famous cheese scones. Her contribution to that Bible study group was invaluable and she was thrilled to see the group grow both numerically and spiritually.

In our present vacancy she served on the Nominating Committee and was instrumental in commencing the Nominating Committee Prayer meeting. Prayer was very important to Jenny and she prayed for many individuals on a daily basis.

Only in the last few months she asked to join the Forward Focus group, a small group given the remit of considering ways to help St Rollox move forward as a congregation. She was first to put her name on the list for the visitation to the new houses.

As if all of that was not demanding enough, she went with other St Rollox members to the Lunch Club at Torrance and also went to the Women’s Guild and Craft Group at Springburn Parish Church.
You can’t help but ask, “Are you sure this lady was 95?”

She certainly leaves a massive gap in the leadership team at St Rollox and we give thanks for such a dedicated servant. She will be sorely missed.

**Extract From Family Tribute**

Jessie Mackenzie Mayer was born on the 24th of July 1920. She was the oldest daughter of Elizabeth and Major Alfred Mayer and was always known as Jenny. Jenny was educated at Hutchison’s Girls Grammar School, followed by four years at the Dough School. And so began a lifetime of making cheese scones and dress making. After graduating she taught Home Economics in Eastwood Secondary School, which she enjoyed very much.

Jenny became involved with the Girls’ Crusader Union. Her brother attended the South Boys Crusaders class. One of his hobbies was motor bikes and one day he brought home a crusader friend who was also interested in motor bikes. His name was John Fraser. History does not relate if it was love at first sight but they did fall in love and after a romantic proposal on Loch Lomond they married in June 1949. It was to be a life-long love match.

They both felt God’s call to work for His kingdom overseas and sailed for Central Africa in 1949. They began their missionary work in the Copper Belt in Zambia. Most of their time in Zambia however
was spent at the Church of Scotland mission station of Lubwa where they brought up their young family of four - Elizabeth, Catherine, Sandy and Janet.

After returning to Scotland, John was called to MacGregor Memorial Church of Scotland where they served together for twenty seven years. Jenny was involved in the Young Mothers Group, a keen member of the Woman’s Guild, where she served in both local and national committees, and she continued her involvement in the Girls Crusaders. She was a popular speaker and even had a speaking engagement the day she was taken into hospital which of course she was sadly unable to fulfill. She was also a keen Guilder and ran a large Company in Govan.

She had a huge enthusiasm for life and in particular for the mission field. After the Falklands war ended she packed her baking bowls and wooden spoons and set off for the Ascension Islands with The Mission to Military Garrisons to help set up a cafe for the soldiers stationed there. Later she also was involved in the same type of work the Ascension Islands.

She served on many committees and liked keep up with her many friends especially those connected with Zambia. The Saturday before being admitted to hospital, at the age of ninety-five, she went on the train to Edinburgh to attend a meeting of the Livingstonia Fellowship, a group of missionaries connected to Zambia and Malawi. On returning her comment was next time I will stay longer!
Another important aspect of her life was her love of crafts and lately her great passion was decoupage and card making - often very intricate designs. She spent many happy hours at her decoupage classes where she made good friends. Even that she used for the work of God, as she sold her cards to raise money to help send some of the youngsters of St Rollox to Scripture Union (SU) camp.

Her life was lived to the full and we would like to finish with the words of the Crusader Chorus which was so dear to her.

“The Lord hath need of me, His soldier I will be.
And so I mean to follow Him and serve Him faithfully.
Although the fight be fierce and long, I’ll carry on
He makes me strong.
And then one day his face I’ll see, and oh, the joy when He says to me.

Well done my brave Crusader.”

We thank God for her life and the privilege it has been to be part of it. We shall miss her but we also rejoice that she has at last gone home where there are no more tears or pain and her earthly struggles are over and she sees her beloved Saviour face to face

\[
\text{Thou wilt not leave us in the dust:}
\text{Thou madest man, he knows not why,}
\text{He thinks he was not made to die;}
\text{And thou hast made him: thou art just.}
\]

(Alfred Lord Tennyson)
REST IN PEACE

Jenny Fraser
24/7/1920 - 3/12/2015