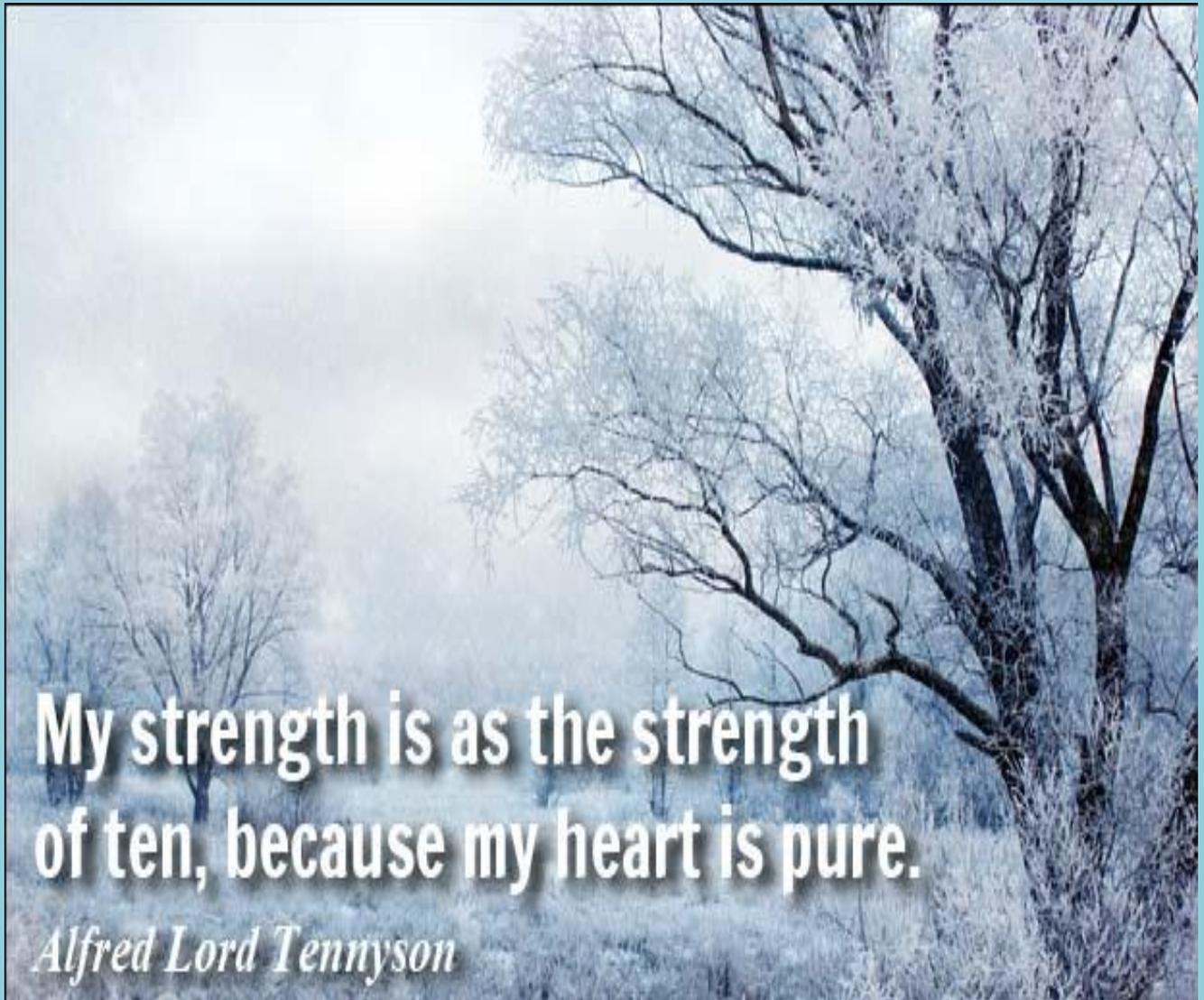




The Messenger

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ROLLOX CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JUNE 2015



**My strength is as the strength
of ten, because my heart is pure.**

Alfred Lord Tennyson

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Locum Minister

Rev John P F Martindale, BD
92 Castle Court, 47 Broomburn Drive Glasgow, G77 5JE
Tel: 01416397311, Email: john.martindale472@o2.co.uk

INTERIM MODERATOR:

Rev Richard Buckley
50 Highfield Drive, Glasgow, G12 0HL
Tel: 01413392870, Email: richardbuckleyis@hotmail.com

SESSION CLERK & PASTORAL ASSISTANT:

Ms Margaret Woods
29 Balvaird Drive, Rutherglen, G73 2PU
Tel: 0141647 6046/07778514386, Email:m.woods29@yahoo.co.uk

FINANCE CONVENER:

Mr Ian Thomson
1 Allander Drive, Torrance, G64 4LA
Tel: 01360 622 785

ORGANIST

Monica Palsauskaite
Tel: 07523330152, Email:mpalsauskaite@gmail.com

'MESSENGER' EDITOR:

Kobina Andoh, BSc (Hons), LLM
0/1, 36 Gairbraid Place, Glasgow, G20 8DN
Mob: 07403446365, Email:ankoben@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Christine Murray
41 Rose Street, Methil, Leven, Fife, KY8 3EW
Tel: 0141558 1809, Mob: 07774 028010

CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR:

Rev. Norma D. Stewart
127 Nether Auldhouse Road, Glasgow, G43 2YS, Tel: 0141637 695

Church Office

9 Fountainwell Road, Sighthill, Glasgow, G21 1TN
Tel: 01415581809

Website: www.strollox.co.uk

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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 -11:00 am- Drop-in-shop.

10:00 -12:00 pm Computer/Internet café.

10:00 -12:00 pm Sewing Class.

1:00-3:00 pm English Class (crèche available).

1:30 -2:30pm (fortnightly) Bible Study

7:30-8:45pm Prayer Meeting

Fridays: 6:00pm Men's football at Townhead pitches,

Contact Paul Wilson-07533989802 for details.



For Your Diary

Sunday 7th June – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - 11am.

Monday 8th and 22nd June; 1:30 – 3:00pm - Ladies fellowship meeting.

Sunday 14th & 21st June – Worship led by Rev Malcolm Duff.

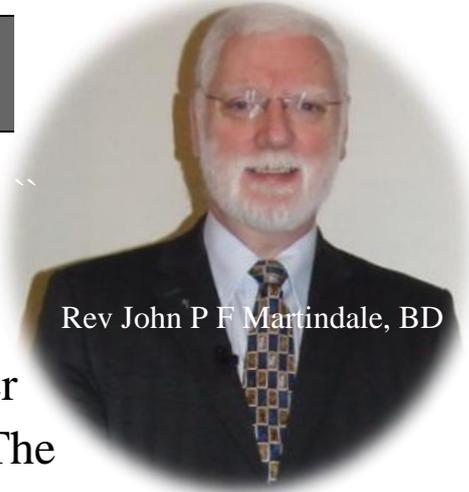
Wednesday 24th June – Outreach Project closes - The church will remain open on Tuesdays for the Drop – in Café, Food store and Citizen's Advice.

Sunday 28th June – Family service followed by Ghanaian meal.

Tuesday and Wednesday 18th and 19th August – Outreach Volunteers Training Days.

Tuesday 25th August – Outreach Project reopens.

From the Pulpit



Rev John P F Martindale, BD

My Dear Friends,

I write in the aftermath of an earthquake that has devastated Nepal. The current death toll is over seven thousand souls and will only increase. The suddenness of this disaster brought back a memory following the outrage known as the Bali Bombing on the first of October, 2005. On that occasion 20 lives were lost (and hundreds injured) in an instant. I received a postcard from Bali about a week after the incident which had been posted before the event. It had come from my nephew who had been there since the September. It turned out he was less than half a mile away when the bomb went off. It brought home to me just how much we take for granted. And that is the feeling I have with this earthquake too: how precarious is our grasp on life.

The following words may help us to consider how we treat people, in the light of the fragility of life:

*If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly, and pray the Lord your soul to keep.
If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss, and call you back for just one more.*

*If I knew it would be the last time I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would tape each word and action, and play them back throughout my days.*

*If I knew it would be the last time, I would spare an extra minute or two,
To stop and say, "I love you," instead of assuming you know I do.*

*If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.
For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight,*

And we always get a second chance to make everything just right.

*But just in case tomorrow never comes, and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you, and I hope we never will forget.
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.*

*So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day
That you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss,
And you were too busy to grant someone, what turned out to be their one last wish.*

*So hold your loved ones close today, and whisper in their ear,
That you love them very much, and you'll always hold them dear.
Take time to say, "I'm sorry," "Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.*

Norma Marek, *Tomorrow Never Comes*, 1989 Adapted

If this is true for us at a human level how much more do we need to think at the spiritual level. If this be the last letter I get to write to you. What should I say? Go with Christ; live for Christ; Christ be in you and with you. Or do I ask: Have you told Jesus how much you love Him? Or do I ask the questions: Do you know Christ? Are you His?

In posing these I aim to show my love for Him and care for you. Read Acts 20^{18ff} to see how the Apostle Paul put it.

Let us make the most of the time God has given us, living and working for Him and having no regrets about today.

Lovingly yours in Christ,

Pastoral Report



Pastoral Report

I am glad to be back in your midst and though my fracture is not yet fully healed I am mobile and able to drive. I seem to have lost two months and it feels like yesterday I was writing the last report from my armchair.

I am only now able to fully take up the role of Pastoral Assistant once again and think it necessary to clarify that I hold two separate roles in St Rollox. The one I am paid to do and feel called to do is to be the Pastoral Assistant. This is a three day part time post, originally funded for two years but due to the tremendous generosity of our own congregation that of Torrance and numerous individuals, is now in its seventh year. The fact that we continue in a vacancy means the demands of this role have greatly increased and has become almost a full time post. I do not say this to complain, as I know this is my calling for such a time as this, and want to continue to give all of my time and commitment to serving the Lord and the congregation in this role. However this leads me to explain my resignation from my other major role.

Session Clerk

Like every other establishment the church is being held more and more accountable on many legal issues involving a great deal of administration. The responsibilities continue to increase and demand a considerable amount of time. As some are aware the job of Session Clerk was never something I agreed to do but fell heir to in the last vacancy and have been left to do for over ten years. After much prayer and soul searching I am convinced the time has come for me to resign this post and have given my resignation to the Kirk Session as from 31st August 2015 so that I can continue to spend all my energies in the role as Pastoral Assistant.

However someone must undertake this administrative task and the Kirk Session will require to elect a new Session Clerk.

Ladies Fellowship

Sadly due to a large backlog of Session Clerk work it has taken some time to recommence the Ladies Fellowship Group as my priority was firstly to catch up with the housebound folks. It was encouraging that the ladies missed these meetings and God willing we can now recommence regularly. We would be delighted to welcome some of the new ladies in the congregation. We have a short Bible study, prayer time and fellowship over a cup of tea. We meet twice per month on a Monday from 1.30pm till 3pm and at present are continuing our studies in New Testament Characters.

Our Church Building

At present the General Trustees are exploring further with Glasgow City Council the option of a proposed site for the new St Rollox building. We hope to hear the outcome of these discussions in the very near future.

Transition Ministry

As announced to the congregation a few weeks ago the Kirk Session have agreed and applied for St Rollox to be considered for Transition Ministry.

What is Transition Ministry?

Transition Ministry is a type of Ministry for an area where the existing situation needs to change. Transition Ministry is a 3-5year placement across an area which will enable the shape of ministry in an area to change and will enable the sustained future mission of the church. A Transition Minister is an employee of Ministries Council and is not called by the congregation.

Why might Transition Ministry be appropriate for St Rollox?

St Rollox has been in the middle of an area that has experienced vast amounts of change in recent years. This has included the demolition of the high flats to make way for redevelopment and a compulsory purchase order being placed upon the building. Alongside the external changes St Rollox has now been vacant for an extended period of time.

If Ministries Council approves Presbytery's application for a Transition Minister, what happens next?

In consultation with the Kirk Session a job description will be drawn up and advertised in the autumn.

Forward Focus

We are delighted to welcome Rev Malcolm Duff into the St Rollox family. It was a great encouragement to hear from Malcolm that he felt called by God to come and support us at St Rollox. His experience working with so many different cultures is invaluable and he has been asked to chair a small group whose task is to consider how we take the work of Roots and Shoots forward. This group will be known as Forward Focus, considering how together, we move forward as a congregation into the future facing all the internal and external challenges.

Malcolm explains further in the article Food, Fellowship and Future Focus.

Prayer News



Items for Prayer

- Interim Moderator -please remember Rev Richard Buckley, his family and the congregation at Trinity Possil and Hendry Drummond Church in your prayers. Richard will be undergoing surgery on Monday 29th June and will be off for at least two months while he recovers. Please pray for a full recovery and that he will be able to rest and be wise about when to return to work.
- Give thanks for Malcolm Duff's leadership of the Forward Focus group. Pray for wisdom and guidance for this group as they seek under God to help the congregation move forward together.
- Pray for Ministries Council as they consider our application for Transition Ministry.
- Pray for the Local Church review of the congregation to be carried out very soon by the Presbytery.

- Pray for the immanent completion of the Social Housing and for the residents as they move from the high flats to their new homes over the next few months.
- Pray for our regular clients who will miss the routine activities of the Outreach over the summer.
- Remember our students completing their studies and the need to find employment.
- The need for members to commit to working alongside our Treasurer to share his workload.
- The need for a Session Clerk.
- Our elderly housebound becoming more frail and feeling isolated.
- Sarah Scott waiting for a permanent Care Home placement.
- Eddy Berefo, bedridden with a pressure sore and the added complications that brings.
- The strain for many parents over the school holidays

End

Margaret Woods

Birthday of a Centenarian



Hip Hip Hip!!! Hurray!!!!!!!!!!
It was with great joy that Betty, flanked by Mr and Mrs White (pictured) celebrated her 100 years birthday on Tuesday 5th May. Mrs Elizabeth Hosie was 100 years old on 5th May 2015 having been born on 5th May 1915.
Having visited her on that

evening, I can assure you she was lasting the pace better than the younger friends and family. Betty Hosie is a wonderful lady and will be well remembered by the members of St Rollox whose connections with St Rollox date many years ago. Her husband Bob was very active with the church football team back in the late 1950's. And having been a member of the team I can testify that he was resolute and will not take no for an answer.

The Hosie family and Taylor did a tremendous lot of work for many years both in the old church building and the building we presently occupy. I have no doubt it was Betty's guidance that promoted all the work they did.

Betty has many friends and the number of cards and good wishes she received is ample testimony to this fact.

Research indicates that Betty was active under the preaching of 5 Ministers at St Rollox (or even higher if not because of memory lost according to her).

Those of us who grew up in the presence of Bob and Betty can never repay her for the exemplary life that she led and we give thanks for all that she meant for St Rollox. A few of us have ever met a hundred years old person, but what a privilege it has been to wait for such an occasion.

God Bless you and May you live to be 110 years old.

From all Past and Present at St Rollox.

Alistair and Betty White

Tribute to Mary Trotter

When Mary (pictured below) was born she lived in Port Dundas. She had a sister, Rachael and a brother Richard. Sadly when Mary was only 6 weeks old her father died and as Mary grew up she took the responsibilities for helping her Mum to provide for the family very seriously. She would go round the shops looking for the cheapest foodstuffs and was known locally as the wee lassie with the big memory as she never forgot anything she was required to get.

In 1966 when the new high flats in Sighthill were ready Mary, Rae and her mum moved to Fountainwell Terrace. A brand new house with a bathroom

was a sheer luxury. Mary lived in Sighthill for 40 years until the buildings were being demolished and then moved to her flat in Balgrayhill Road where she stayed till three years ago when due to being less steady on her feet she moved to Torrance to live with Rae and Alex.

Mary spent most of her working life with Morris, a furniture company where she was highly respected. The company recognised and celebrated her 50 years of dedicated service but Mary was not ready to stop working and indeed continued for another 7 years before she was forced to stop, having had a fall and broken her hip at the age of 81. Mary was a lady of faith and since she moved to Sighthill in 1966 she has been a member at St Rollox. She was one of the six nonagenarian ladies in our congregation. Sadly only Mary and one other lady were still able to come to worship, the rest being housebound. Of course Mary latterly was only able to come because her daughter Rae could bring her. Everyone was always delighted to see her and she got all the hugs while poor Rae stood on the side lines.

She was much loved and we will miss her cheery smiling face. Since 5th February Mary has been in the Royal Infirmary where she was given excellent care. But it



soon became obvious that she would not be able to return home. Even then her concern was not for herself but for Rae. She did not fear death, she knew where she was going and passed away peacefully minutes after a visit from the hospital chaplain who prayed and read the scriptures to her. We give thanks for a wee lady with a big smile and an amazing spirit and will continue to remember her fondly.

SUNDAY CLUB

Update

As a newcomer to the St Rollox Sunday Club team, I have been asked to give a few first impressions, as well as a short update on what has been happening – in that highly secret time from when the children file out of church to when you arrive in the (calm, orderly?!?) hall for a cup of tea.

We started 2015 by studying Isaac, learning from the how God is faithful to all his material from a series called each week gives a suggested activities and crafts for the our case ranging from ages 3 We then spent a few weeks and the amazing reality that save us. We ended the Easter term with a creative bang - as Catherine organised a dazzling array of different crafts so we could all take home (or just eat, there and then) some reminders of the Easter message.



Noah, Abraham and stories in Genesis about promises. We are using “On the Way” which lesson and a selection of different age groups, in to 11.

thinking about Easter Jesus died and rose to

We are really happy to have the teenagers of the church joining us on a Sunday and helping, especially with the younger ones – so thanks a lot to them! But of course we would also like to offer something directed more specifically towards them, and would value your prayers in this regard.

Impressions

So what are my first impressions of Sunday Club? Well firstly it is a lovely group of children and young people who are keen to learn and share about God and who are always ready to have lots of fun in the process. Secondly it is a very encouraging group where everyone is willing to share and help one another along. Finally many of the children have excellent memories (not that we old leaders are jealous...) and it is a joy to see how their bible knowledge is building up and sinking in even at a young age. Finally, the kids have a great sense of humour and are really good at doing animal impressions!!

Prayers

We rely with deep gratitude on your prayers for all the children in Sunday Club, that they



(L – R) Linda, Anne, Catherine, Joy and Sophia

would grow in their love and understanding of God and the bible, and that this would spill over into their friendships at school, amongst family and in church. Please pray also for the leaders and teenagers, that we would all become wiser as we spend time teaching and encouraging the children. We would also be grateful for more helpers as we trust God to send more children to be part of Sunday Club.

As we pray for more volunteers/helpers may we pay a fitting tribute to the past Sunday club leaders (pictured above) who laid the good foundation of which we are building upon today.

Thank You!!!!

Kerri Bates

Financial Report on 2014 Year End

Whilst the 2014 Trustees Report and Accounts will be issued towards the end of March after they are approved by the Trustees and the Independent Examiner, I am conscious that I was required to address the congregation last September to inform you of the critical position of our finances.

So I am very pleased to be able to say that the response to the crisis was tremendous, quite amazing! You may remember that at that time in early September, we were estimating that we would be £7000 short in meeting our church commitments at the end of year if there was no increase in givings. The response was great: several one – off donations totaling £10,500 and one of these donations was for exactly £7000. It was an extraordinary response and we are thankful to the Lord for speaking to the hearts of those whose generosity allowed us to meet our commitments

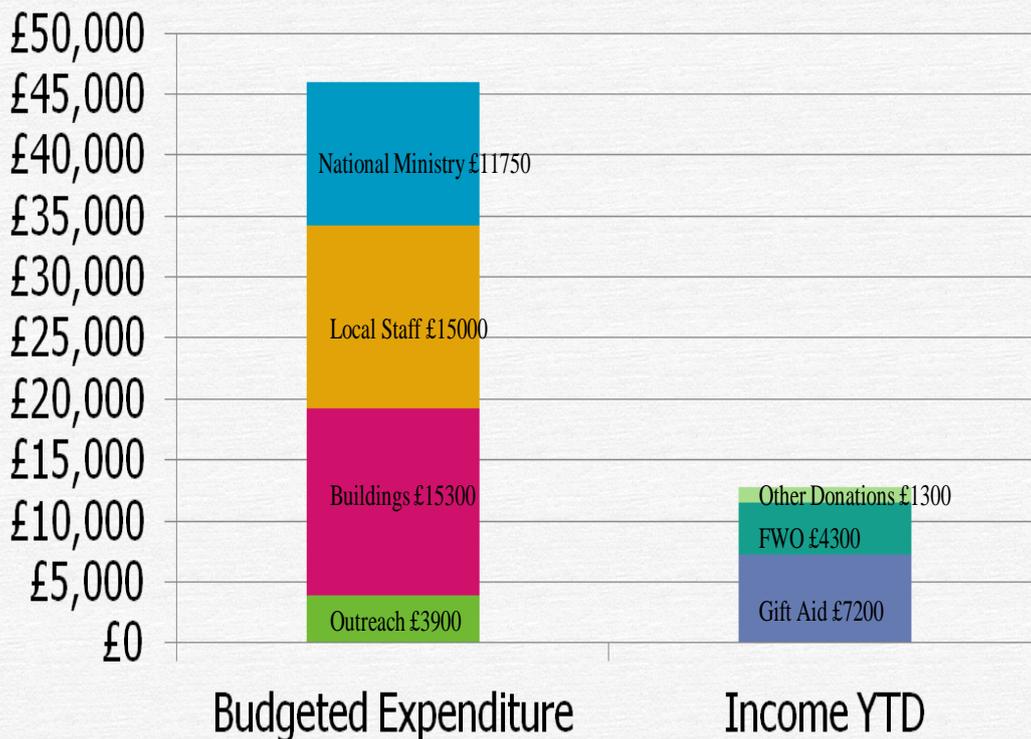
Additionally, you will remember back in February last year, we were running out of funds to support the Pastoral Assistant role. Again, through God's amazing Grace at work in someone's heart, we received a donation of £15,000 therefore providing us with funding for the remainder of 2014 and part of 2015. So this note is just to express again our grateful thanks to those folks who gave so generously in support of St Rollox Church during 2014.

Ian Thomson, Treasurer

The Messenger
Finance Report

As you will know, 2014 was another difficult year for St Rollox. We required the generosity of several ‘one off’ gift donations towards year end to ensure we met all our commitments. Unfortunately, this position was the continuation of a trend across the previous 3 years. We are now well into 2015 and so it is timely to give an update and also to give you opportunities to consider where you may help ease the financial problem.

An analysis of budgeted expenditure with actual income as at
10 May 2015



■ Outreach ■ Buildings ■ Local Staff ■ Nat Ministry ■ Gift aid ■ FWO ■ Others

St Rollox Church of Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity (SC015459) and is part of The Church of Scotland Church of Scotland Congregational Reference Number 161018

Financial Update as at 10 May 2015

The **General Fund** is currently showing a small surplus. Additionally comparing with 2014, Income is very slightly ahead of the same period in 2014 – a welcome trend that we hope continues, whilst Costs are slightly less than the same period last year.

The **Pastoral Development Fund**, which resource our Pastoral Assistant Role is in good shape with sufficient funds to meet costs for the whole of 2015.

Nevertheless, we must not become complacent as the chart above shows that our current income meets only 28% of our budgeted costs though we are now 5 months into the year.

Helping to increase income:

Knowledge helps!

At the recent Congregational Meeting there was a proposal to inform the church members of the desired weekly giving amount needed per member to meet our costs. I am a little uncomfortable with this idea as, often as not it leads to complacency as much as acting as a challenge. However, in the interest of finding positive ways to encourage each member to maximize their own giving, here are some numbers around our monthly income needs.

Monthly Income required to meet annual costs: £ 3443 per month (approx £860per week).

Actual Monthly Income in 2015 to date:

January £1868: February £3113: March £3862: April £2816

So only 1 month out of four have we achieved the minimum required income to meet costs.

Gift Aid scheme

As St Rollox Church is a registered charity, one method of increasing our income without the donor having to increase the donation is the **Gift Aid scheme**. This is a Government scheme where donations made to charities by taxpayers have the tax paid on the donation refunded to the charity.

So if you are a taxpayer, the church can re-claim from the Government (HMRC) an additional 25% of the value of your donation. So if you donate

£20 per week, we can reclaim a further £5 per week giving the church a total of £25 per week.

Signing up for the Gift Aid scheme is easy: assuming you are a UK Taxpayer there are only 3 possible steps:

1. Sign a declaration form so that St Rollox can reclaim tax on your contributions. This declaration is in place until you cancel it.
2. You will receive 'White' envelopes to replace 'Blue' envelopes
3. If you require to cancel either because you no longer pay tax or you pay insufficient tax compared with the amount we would reclaim, you need to inform St Rollox in writing.

It really is this simple – we do the rest of the paperwork. So if you are a current UK taxpayer and you are not using the Gift Aid scheme, please contact either myself, Angela Oppong or any of the Finance Team Leaders and we shall provide you with the Declaration Form.

To give you a sense of the position within St Rollox Church:

- We have 76 members of whom approximately one third are working and therefore possibly paying Income Tax.
- We have 21 folks using Gift Aid of which 18 are members and 3 are non members. Of the 18, 5 are new GA participants in 2015 and 6 are 'pensioners'

Bank Standing Order (SO)

One further consideration if you give regularly, say, weekly or monthly: consider setting up a **bank standing order** and make your donations to St Rollox this way. There are many benefits,

- St Rollox receives your donations regularly,
- It much reduces the counting time and personnel needed to count the income each week.
- It reduces the number of envelope packs we require to purchase reducing that cost.

Again it is a very straight forward process:

- Obtain details of St Rollox Bank Account from myself, Angela or any Finance Team Leader.

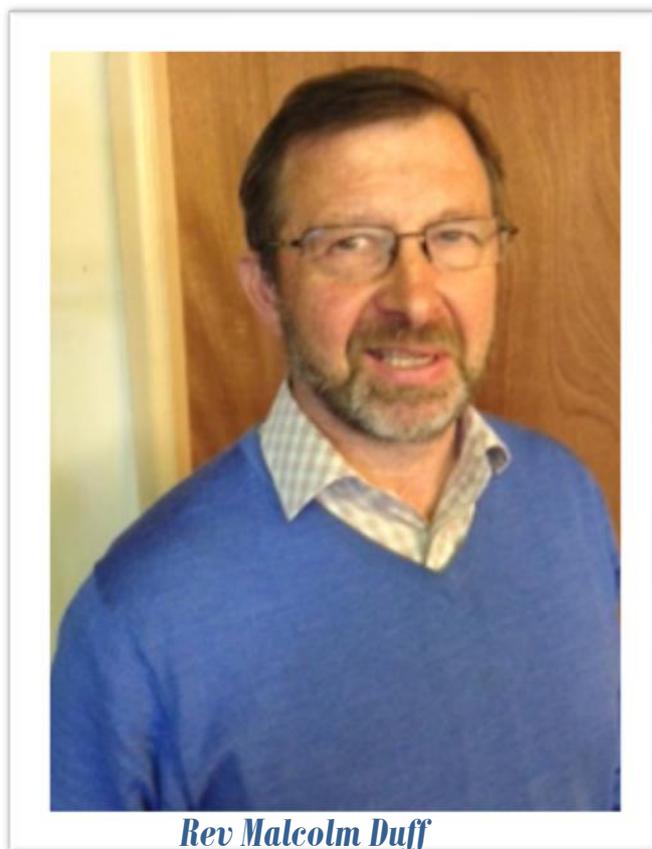
- Contact your bank and complete their required form to set up the S/O.
- Provide me with a copy of your instruction to your bank.
- Inform Alistair White and he will cancel the FWO envelopes whether white or blue.

Finally, I'm pleased to advise that Glasgow Presbytery has approved our Annual Accounts for 2014 so we can now proceed to submit them to OSCR

Ian Thomson, Treasurer

Food, Fellowship and Future Focus

If Irn Bru is Scotland's "other national drink", then it could be said that Chicken Tikka Masala is Glasgow's "other national dish". South Asian food is commonplace in the West of Scotland and it's interesting not only to see how Scots enjoy spicy food, but also to see how Indian cooking has adapted to accommodate European tastes. Indian menus here, for example, often include food that you would never find in the subcontinent, like haggis pakora and tandoori salmon!



Rev Malcolm Duff

On Easter Sunday we had a lovely South Asian meal of chick pea curry, dal and rice, beautifully prepared and served by Raj, Chandra, Vimala, William and Naheeda. And although it was a little less spicy than you would get in Chennai or Lahore, it was real "desi" (homestyle) cooking and I think everyone enjoyed it. This was the first of what will be a series of international meals at St Rollox, prepared by our own members to share something of their culture with us all. The next lunch will be on June 28th,

and will be provided by our Ghanaian members, who will also lead us in prayer, Bible reading and music in the service.

These events are the first step in our “Future Focus”, aimed at helping us to bless each other with the variety of gifts God has given us, and creating deeper understanding and fellowship among ourselves as members of the body of Christ. The idea to start with food came from the Kirk Session, who have asked me to lead a small group to provide fresh vision for St Rollox as we face many changes and challenges ahead. It’s been a joy and a privilege to become part of the church here, and I believe that great things lie ahead of us if we face the challenges ahead in obedience to his will and dependence on his grace. St Rollox is the most multicultural congregation in the Church of Scotland, and while that presents its own challenges, it also brings great blessings that should enrich our worship, fellowship and mission. In my view the following points will provide us with a strong foundation as we seek God’s will for our future vision.

1) Our diversity enables us to discover our true unity in Christ.

In Galatians 3:28 the apostle Paul writes, *“In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.”* That means that whatever cultures we come from, whatever bonds and experiences we share with people from our own background, these are nothing compared to the spiritual bonds that exist among Christian believers.

The New Testament describes Christians as *“the body of Christ”*, *“the family of God”*, *“a royal priesthood”*, *“no longer aliens or strangers”*, but *“a new humanity”*. And when someone told Jesus that his mother and brothers had come, he pointed to his disciples and said, *“Who do you think my mother and brothers are? Look closely. These are my mother and brothers. Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys my heavenly Father’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”*

It may be natural to gravitate to people like ourselves, who speak our language, eat our food and understand our problems, but following Christ means making new friends whose cultures are different, but whose faith binds us together so that we treat them as our closest family. These bonds of love enable us to examine our faith and focus on what is universal, while leaving aside what is merely cultural.

2) Our diversity enables us to grow in Christ.

Christian unity across cultures does not mean that our own human cultures don't matter. In fact the opposite is true! Our different cultures are God's idea, and they express the rich tapestry of his amazing creativity. Our cultures express who we are, and when we come to Christ we come clothed in our background and history and offering all that we are in his service. Unlike most religions, which spread by imposing the same buildings, rituals, language and food all over the world, Christianity takes root in each culture, and expresses itself in the language, food and culture of those who receive it.

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul addressed a church where Jews and Gentiles had discovered unity in Christ, and in 3:18 he makes the point that it is "*together with all the saints*" that we can discover and experience "*the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge*". Jews and Gentiles, men and women, enslaved and free men did not cease to be what they were by nature, and their new unity was one that affirmed their diversity. In a similar way we in St Rollox need to affirm each other's cultures if we are to grow in our love and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Our international meals and services are not some exotic "extra" for special occasions, but should become the DNA of our congregational life as we hear one another's stories, eat one another's food and sing one another's songs. For our next meal we plan to have name badges, and to make sure that we all mix with people outside our own cultural group. This will help us to learn more about each other and pray for one another more effectively, and thus grow together in our common faith.

3) Our unity in diversity is a powerful message to a divided world.

In a world where people are often divided on the basis of race, colour, sex or nationality, the Good News of Jesus Christ is a powerful message of reconciliation and hope. Christianity is a deeply personal faith that challenges individuals to commit their lives to serve God, but it is also a corporate faith that proclaims peace with God and peace with our fellow men and women.

In God's plan, St Rollox has become a place where people from all over the world are welcomed and accepted, and where they can contribute their gifts and talents to the mission of the church. The fact is, our church cannot continue the way it has been going, and unless we can harness the commitment and abilities of ALL our members we will not survive. We face a huge challenge if we are to maintain a Christian witness in our parish, but there are tremendous opportunities for us to find a place at the heart of the new Sighthill community and to reach out with the Gospel to those who will make their home here.

I don't know what St Rollox will look like in ten years time, but I do know that it will be different from what it is today. It will reflect the commitment and gifts of its members, and I hope and pray that this will be a commitment that is outward facing, bringing a powerful message of hope to the world around us. But we have to start now with groups offering to provide meals after the summer holidays. Any volunteers.....?

Rev Malcolm Duff

Industrial Revolution – Glasgow's Contribution

Glasgow helped to power the industrial era,

manufacturing steam engines for producing cotton textiles.

Marine engineering, ship building and

locomotive drove the city's growth.

(Source: Buchanan wall, Buchanan Galleries)