

*Stamperland Parish Church Magazine*

# *Focus*



*May 2014* Vol. 153

<http://www.stamperlandchurch.btck.co.uk/home>  
Registered Charity No SC003155

# **The Church of Scotland Stamperland Parish Church; Clarkston**

**Registered Charity SC003155**

**Stamperland Gardens, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 8LJ  
Church Telephone 0141 637 4999 (Answering Service)**

**(Interim Moderator) Gray Fletcher Telephone 0141 644 1578  
grayfletcher@virgin.net**

**Locum Minister Jack Drummond 0141 571 6002**

**Session Clerk: Norman Bolton  
3 Paidmyre Crescent, Newton Mearns, G77 5AQ  
Telephone 0141 638 3502**

**Treasurer: Kay Bolton  
3 Paidmyre Crescent, Newton Mearns, G77 5AQ  
Telephone 0141 638 3502**

**Roll Keeper: William Paterson  
1 Orchy Avenue, Clarkston, G76 8LS  
Telephone 0141 571 8652**

**Editor of Focus; Fraser Neilson  
56 Stamperland Drive, Clarkston G76 8HF  
Telephone 0141 586 0955**

**Life & Work & Focus Distribution: Sheila Mackintosh  
20 Tirie Place, Newton Mearns, G77 6UN  
Telephone 0141 639 1323**

**Gift Aid Convenor: Norman Walker  
66 The Oval, Clarkston, G76**

**Weekly Freewill Offering Convenor: Anne MacKenzie  
76 Randolph Drive, Clarkston, G76 8AP  
Telephone 0141 637 5576**

**A Message from our Locum Minister  
Reverend Jack Drummond**



Dear Friends,

*I am completing my first month as Locum Minister, and have already discovered over the Easter season that there are many willing, talented and capable people in Stamperland Church.*

*Now we move into May, when we think particularly about the work of Christian Aid. We are also invited to share in Christian Aid Week, either by volunteering to collect, or by making a generous donation. This year Christian Aid Week runs from 11th to 17th May.*

*Here is an old Sri Lankan fable which Christian Aid has used to illustrate the injustices and inequalities of life.*

***“Once upon a time an old man was dying, so he called his two sons and told them “I am going to leave you everything I have, but you must be sure to share it between you” In his will he left them a cow, a tree and a blanket.***

***The brothers decided that they should share all three. The older brother had the front half of the cow. The younger brother had the back half. The older brother had the bottom half of the tree. The younger brother had the top half. The older brother had the blanket by day and the younger brother by night!***

***However, things did not work out well. The older brother found he was spending all his money feeding the cow. The younger brother was getting all the milk. The older brother was putting all his effort into watering the tree. The younger brother enjoyed the fruit. The older brother spent the day washing and drying the blanket. The younger brother kept warm under it at night.***

***The older brother asked for a meeting and explained how unfair these arrangements were. However, the younger brother announced that he had no intention of changing anything because he was happy with the deal. So the older brother grew more and more despondent. He could not see the point in feeding the cow anymore, so he stopped. The cow died. Then he could not see what use it was watering the tree, so he stopped. The tree withered. Finally he lost the will to wash the blanket. The blanket got covered in mildew and was too disgusting to use.***

***When the younger brother realised that he was no longer getting any milk or fruit and that he was shivering by night, he demanded to see his brother. He was furious with him for stopping work. However, the older brother did not see it that way. He was angry with his brother for not***

***sharing the good things that the cow, the tree and blanket could do for them. The anger blew into a bitter quarrel. Then the brother's children and grandchildren continued the quarrel for the next hundred years"***

*The nations of the world have been quarrelling for much longer than a hundred years. From time to time the quarrels spill over into violence and bloodshed and war. In our quarrels and conflicts, poor people and poor nations always lose out.*

*Christian Aid is based on the teachings of the Bible and provides aid where it is needed to people of all religions or none. Christian Aid operates on the basis that "The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord" (Psalm 24 V 1) You and I are stewards of God's creation and we have an obligation to ensure that the resources of that world are freely shared.*

*Let us again this year take this obligation seriously by supporting and promoting the work of Christian Aid in a generous and sacrificial way.*

*Thank you for making me and my wife Barbara so welcome as I share with you in Sunday worship. May the Lord continue to bless you.*

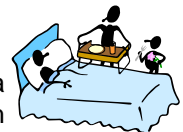
***Yours in Christ's service,***

*Jack Drummond*



### **Pastoral Care**

Although I am serving Stamperland as Locum Minister on a part-time basis, I would welcome information about Church members in hospital, in Care Homes, or about anyone who would appreciate a visit at home.



Please speak to me after a Sunday Service or phone me on 571 6002.

*Jack Drummond*

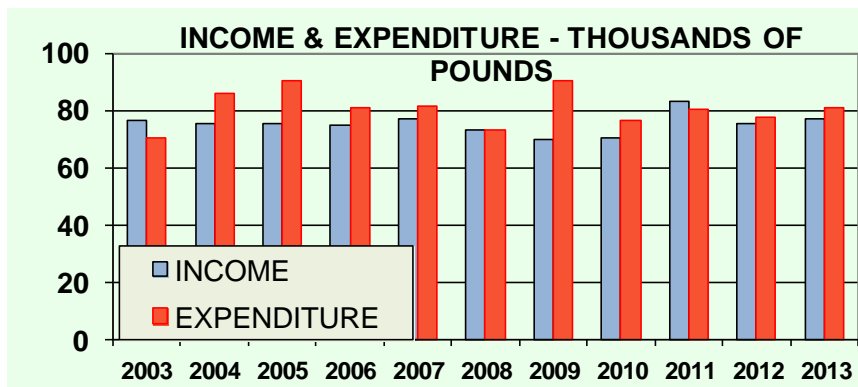
### **The Exception to Psalm 24 V 1**

***"The world belongs unto the Lord, and all that it contains, except the Western Isles, for they belong to, MacBraynes!"***



## Focus on Finance Income and Expenditure

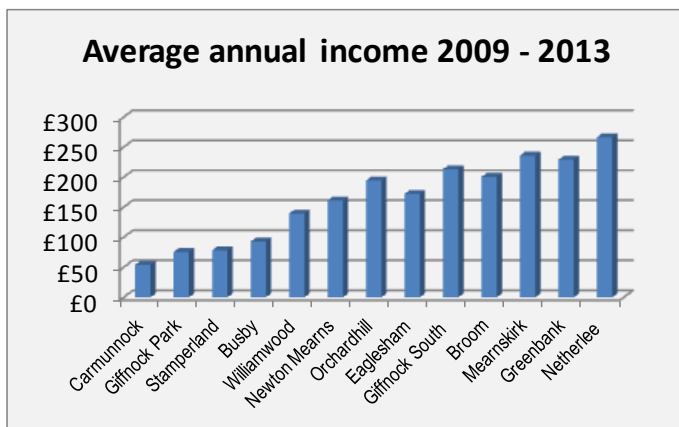
For almost all of the last 20 years our church's annual expenditure has been greater than our annual income. If our church hadn't received a number of substantial legacies we would find ourselves in a very difficult financial position.



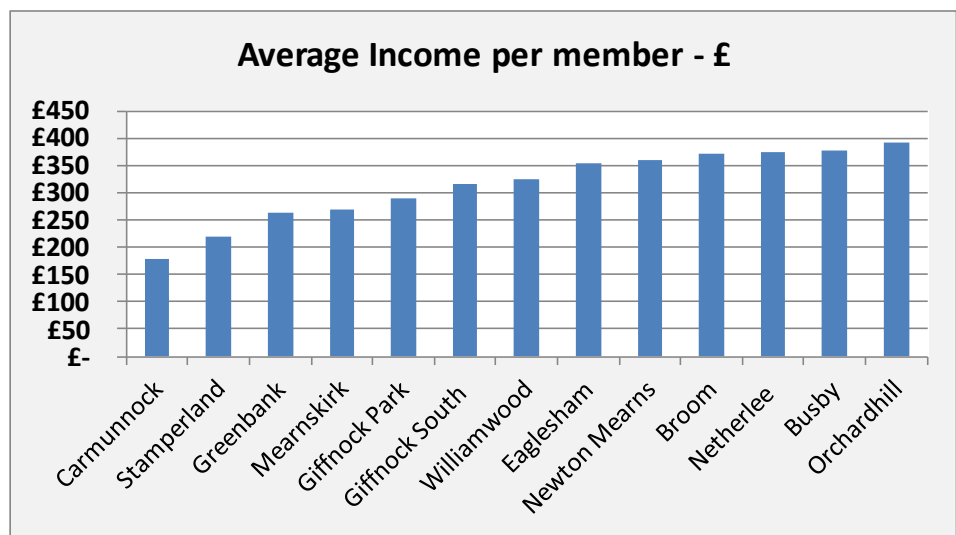
Because we run with a deficit, the Church of Scotland doesn't ask us to pay our full ministry costs. We are, in fact, subsidised by other churches in Scotland to the tune of about £2,000 per year. We are not paying our fair share of the costs of running our church and of the Church of Scotland.

### How does our income compare with our neighbours?

It is interesting to compare our church's income with some of our neighbours. The chart on the right shows we have the third lowest income of any of the churches in the wider Clarkston and Newton Mearns area.



The chart below shows the average income per member. We are second from bottom with an average of £220 per year per member.



However, the average income per member figure doesn't tell the whole story. Quite a lot of our income comes from sources other than our members. Last year these sources included rental paid by outside organisations (£8,468), fund raising events (£4,705) and donations (£5,423). The total given in *regular* offerings was £45,372 with a further £5,392 in open plate offerings. Income Tax recovered via Gift Aid amounted to £7,787. So, once we take account of other sources of income, our **average annual offering per member was £143**. Or expressed slightly differently, our average is **only £2.75 per member per week**.

Not all members give a regular offering. Although we had 355 members at the end of 2013 we know that quite a lot of these have not attended church for a rather long time and that quite a lot are not supporting the church financially. Unfortunately, the burden of supporting the church falls on a smaller number of faithful members than should be the case.

**WHAT CAN WE DO?**

Our church is facing challenges. We are not paying our fair share of the costs of Ministry and Mission. Compared with some of our neighbouring churches we are apparently much less generous in our support of our church. We are regularly in deficit at the end of the year.

Recently, more than 100 members completed a questionnaire entitled "Looking Forward". In responding to the question, "Would you be prepared to increase

your regular church offering by 10% to keep Stamperland Church operating as a church on its own?", 47 per cent of those who replied said they would be quite "very likely " to increase their offerings. A further 38 per cent said they would be "quite likely" to increase their offerings by 25%. In total, therefore eighty five per cent of responses, about ninety people, indicated they would be prepared to increase their offering by at least 10%. And 63 per cent indicated they would be very likely or quite likely to increase their offering by a quarter to keep the church going. These responses indicate a willingness to support the church financially. The responses are very encouraging. However, we need to ensure that this willingness is turned into action.

### WHAT WOULD EXTRA OFFERINGS DO?

We are more than a third of the way through the year 2014. We need to start increasing our offerings NOW to get real benefit this year.

If everyone increased their offering by 10% then, *in a whole year*, our church would gain an extra £5,000 income. If we start increasing offerings NOW then, by the end of the year we could probably have generated enough income to avoid a deficit. We would start moving from being "Aid Receiving" and not paying our full and fair share of Church of Scotland expenditure to being "able to stand on our own two feet".



If everyone increased their offering by 25% our church would gain an extra £12,500 income. This would really enable us to make a difference in lots of different ways. We could provide more support for the elderly in our congregation; for the youth who come around the church. We could do more for our community. We could better manage the maintenance of our church buildings and look to upgrading some of our accommodation and fittings.



Clearly not all members will be able to increase their offerings by 10% or 25%. However, if we want others to see value in our church it is important that we give offerings which show How much we value it. Our weekly or monthly offering shouldn't just be the spare change we have in our pockets or purse on a Sunday morning or the Standing Order we set up with the bank two, five, or even ten years ago.

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?

Try to remember when you last increased your offering. Was it at the start of this year? Or, maybe, a few years ago? Does the value

of your offering match how you value your church? Could you increase your offering? Then do it right away and don't delay. Our church really needs your support and its future really does depends on you.

**Weekly offering envelopes**

If you donate regularly each week using a pink or blue envelope all you need to do is put more money in the envelope each week. It is really that simple!

**Payment by Standing Order**

If you donate through regular Standing Order (usually monthly) all you need to do is tell your bank to increase the value of the Standing Order.

If you would like to start donating by Standing Order then simply ask Kay Bolton, Church Treasurer, for a form. Donating by Standing Order is simple and easy. You won't have to remember to have money available on a Sunday morning to fill your envelope. More and more members pay by Standing Order. It is convenient, easy, and helps the duty teams on a Sunday morning as they don't have to open envelopes and count money.

**Gift Aid**

If you or your partner pay any income tax at all, then the church can claim "Gift Aid". Gift Aid is a scheme which recognises the important work which charities perform. For every £1 which an individual donates to a charity, the charity can claim an additional 25 pence from the government.

So an offering of £8 per week effectively becomes an offering of £10 per week.

An offering of £500 per year gives the church an income of £625. It is basically **MONEY FOR FREE!** **Virtually everyone should donate by Gift Aid!**

*giftaid it*

To make sure your offerings are eligible for Gift Aid speak to Norman Walker and ask him for a Gift Aid Form. The only information you need to provide is your name and address - it really is as simple as that.

*Norrie Bolton*

+++++

**Church Bulletins**

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM.  
Please use the back door.



## Car Rota for Trust Housing



Date	Car 1	Car 2		Contact No's
May 4th	Margo	Evelyn		
11th	Donnie	Sheila		
18th	Gina	Grace		
25th	Sheena	Nancy		
June 1st	Donnie	Doreen		
8th	Margo	Nancy		
15th	Sheena	Grace		
22nd	Grace	Gina		
29th	Evelyn	Sheila		

Thank you for being willing to be part of this rota. Should you be unable to pick up on your allocated date, would you please change dates with someone else on the rota or contact Grace. Driver number 2 may not always be necessary, and I shall endeavour to let you know if you are not required any particular Sunday.

*Grace Scott*

### Flower Calendar

#### May

4th The Ferris Family  
 11th Mrs J Wright  
 18th The Robb Family  
 25th Mrs M Mathieson



#### June

1st Mrs A Charlton

### Church Bulletins



**Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.**

**The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"**

## **Holy Week 2014**

Planning a journey often requires boxes to be ticked and everything checked. Once that is done however, journeys are normally exciting and worthwhile. Allowing you to see something new and perhaps learn more about yourself.

That can certainly be said about Holy Week 2014 in Stamperland Church. Based around the ABC of Easter and concentrating on the main events of the last week of Christ, it was fulfilling to see the whole congregation pull together. Whether it was the readings from several members of the Congregation; Jane and her excellent musical accompaniment or Jimmy at the door in his usual cheery style, the whole week was fantastic.

Attendances during the week were also excellent, with a high on Thursday of 67 people packing into St. John's Chapel for the Shared Service with Netherlee. We also enjoyed a wonderful dawn service at 7am on Easter Sunday, with a fabulous breakfast afterwards and a lovely visitor from Busby who had simply 'found us online' and wanted to share in our worship.

Many members of the Congregation commented to us that 'Presbytery should know about this – the Church is alive and well' while we also hope to follow up on Alan Henderson's idea to put the sermons from the week on the Church website – before the book becomes a best seller! It was also lovely to see Jack Henry and his Choir join us on Maundy Thursday. Their contribution to worship was also absolutely fitting for the occasion.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention the lovely letter written by members of the Congregation to us, which Norrie read out on Easter Sunday. This was unexpected and found to be very encouraging. It rounded off a truly great week, with everyone coming together to reflect on and celebrate the Easter message.

Thank-you to everyone,

Scott, Steven and David

Scott, Steven and David

+++++

## **Funerals within the Parish**

**16th April 2014    Mrs Gloria Bannerman 22 The Quadrant**



T h e

month of April has again been busy in the lead up to our Annual Inspection.

On the competition front I am delighted to report that the Drill Squad were the victors in the District Drill Competition which was held at Moncrieff Parish Church.

The Squad put in a first class performance, particularly so, given we only had a single run through of the paper prior to the judging. In achieving first place we received one of the oldest shields in the Boys Brigade dating back to 1894!! – Well done Boys!

April also saw our Football team compete in the Battalion Cup Final at Glasgow Green. The Boys fought well and gave everything, however in the end, we just came up short with a final score of 4-2 against an excellent 205<sup>th</sup> side.

Still in all, getting to the final in our 1<sup>st</sup> season back in the league is an achievement not to be discounted. We of course hope to build on this for next year and perhaps go one better. I would also like to extend a note of thanks to Lt Scott Russell & Gordon MacKinnon who have given up their time and effort to coach the Boys.

At the time of writing the Boys will be embarking on our, now annual, sponsored climb – this year we are tackling Ben Venue – Hopefully the weather will be kind! – Look out for pictures on the Company Facebook site, in due course.

This year our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Inspection is slightly earlier than usual and was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. – Look out for the full prize winners list and review in the next *Focus*.

**Peter Dale (Captain) T: 07506681531**

+++++



Evelyn Graham would like to advise that the fundraising from her Coffee Afternoon for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice (in memory of her mother, Margaret Taylor) now exceeds £1000. Thanks once again to all who supported this event.

## Sharing in Prayer

### Mark 16 : 19 & 20

**“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.**

### THE RABBI'S GIFT

There is a story, perhaps a myth. Typical of mythical stories, it has many versions. Also typical, the source of the version I am about to tell is obscure. I cannot remember whether I heard it or read it, or where or when. Furthermore, I do not even know the distortions I myself have made in it. All I know for certain is that this version came to me with a title. It is called “The Rabbi's Gift.”

The story concerns a monastery that had fallen upon hard times. Once a great order, as a result of waves of anti-monastic persecution in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the rise of secularism in the nineteenth, all its branch houses were lost and it had become decimated to the extent that there were only five monks left in the decaying mother house: the abbot and four others, all over 70 in age. Clearly it was a dying order.

In the deep woods surrounding the monastery there was a little hut that a rabbi from a nearby town occasionally used for a hermitage. Through their many years of prayer and contemplation the old monks had become a bit psychic, so they could always sense when the rabbi was in his hermitage.

“The rabbi is in the woods, the rabbi is in the woods again,” they would whisper to each other. As he agonized over the imminent death of his order, it occurred to the abbot at one such time to visit the hermitage and ask the rabbi if by some possible chance he could offer any advice that might save the monastery.

The rabbi welcomed the abbot at his hut. But when the abbot explained the purpose of his visit, the rabbi could only commiserate with him.

“I know how it is,” he exclaimed. “The spirit has gone out of the people. It is the same in my town. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore.”

So the old abbot and the old rabbi wept together. Then they read parts of the Torah and quietly spoke of deep things. The time came when the abbot had to leave. They embraced each other.

“It has been a wonderful thing that we should meet after all these years,” the abbot said, “but I have still failed in my purpose for coming here. Is there nothing you can tell me, no piece of advice you can give me that would help me save my dying order?”

I am sorry," the rabbi responded, "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

When the abbot returned to the monastery, his fellow monks gathered around him to ask, "Well, what did the rabbi say?"

"He couldn't help," the abbot answered. "We just wept and read the Torah together. The only thing he did say, just as I was leaving – it was something cryptic – was that the Messiah is one of us. I don't know what he meant."

## **IN PRAYER**

In the days and weeks and months that followed, the old monks pondered this and wondered whether there was any possible significance to the rabbi's words. The Messiah is one of us? Could he possibly have meant one of the monks here at the monastery? If that's the case, which one? Do you suppose he meant the abbot?

Yes, if he meant anyone, he probably meant Father Abbot. He has been our leader for more than a generation. On the other hand, he might have meant Brother Thomas. Certainly Brother Thomas is a holy man. Everyone knows that Thomas is a man of light. Certainly he could not have meant Brother Elred! Elred gets crotchety at times. But come to think of it, even though he is a thorn in people's sides, when you look back on it, Elred is virtually always right. Often very right. Maybe the rabbi did mean Brother Elred. But surely not Brother Phillip. Phillip is so passive, a real nobody. But then, almost mysteriously, he has a gift for somehow always being there when you need him. He just magically appears by your side. Maybe Phillip is the Messiah. Of course, the rabbi didn't mean me. He couldn't possibly have meant me. I'm just an ordinary person. Yet suppose he did? Suppose I am the Messiah? O God, not me. I couldn't be that much for You, could I?

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off-chance that one among them might be the Messiah. And on the off, off chance that each monk himself might be the Messiah, they began to treat themselves with extraordinary respect.

Because the forest in which it is situated was beautiful, it so happened that people still occasionally came to visit the monastery to picnic on its tiny lawn, to wander along some of its paths, even now and then to go into the dilapidated chapel to meditate. As they did so, without even being conscious of it, they sensed this aura of extraordinary respect that now began to surround the five old monks and seemed to radiate out from them and permeate the atmosphere of the place. There was something strangely attractive, even compelling about it.

Hardly knowing why, they began to come back to the monastery more frequently

pray. They began to bring their friends to show them this special place. And they brought their friends.

Then it happened that some of the younger men who came to visit the monastery started to talk more and more with the old monks. After a while, one asked if he could join them. Then another. And another. So within a few years the monastery had once again become a thriving order and thanks to the rabbi's gift, a vibrant centre of light and spirituality in the realm. (by M. Scott Peck)

(From: 'A 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul')

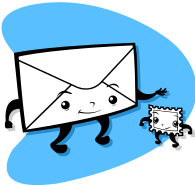
**Luke 24 : 49 & 52**

**“I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”**

**Then they worshipped him with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.**

+++++

**The World Mission Stamp Appeal**



**The World Mission Stamp Appeal in 2013 raised the sum of £4,072. The money was used for the Living Water Project in the Czech - Moravian Highlands. So once again, thank you for your support in the past and your continuing support this coming year. Please put all your used stamps in the box in the vestry any Sunday where they will be collected and forwarded to this worthwhile project.**

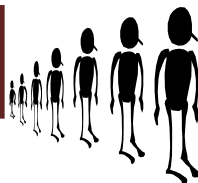
**G Robertson**

+++++



**Christian Aid Week is from Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th May 2014. We need lots of people to deliver and collect envelopes throughout the Parish. If you can help with either or both, please give your name to Sandra Cowie (585 7188).**

## **DUTY TEAMS FOR THE COMING MONTHS**



### **4th May Team 1**

Mr W Paterson (Con)  
Mrs M Young  
Miss E Robb  
Miss G Scott  
Mrs M Owens  
Mr D McKee

### **11th May Team 2**

Mr G Fairweather (Con)  
Mr G Robertson  
Mr R Russell  
Mrs J Silcock  
Mr D Brown  
Mr S Owens

### **18th May Team 3**

Mrs A Macfarlane (Con)  
Mr A Henderson  
Mrs S Bell  
Mrs R McNiven  
Miss J Stewart

### **25th May Team 4**

Mrs N Fisher (Con)  
Miss J Barr  
Mrs J Cranston  
Mr G Finlayson  
Mrs G Walker  
Mrs K Bolton

### **1st June Communion**

Mr R Allan (Con)  
Miss E Robb  
Mrs J Silcock  
Mrs J Cranston  
Mr A Henderson

### **8th June Team 5**

Mr R Allan (Con)  
Mrs J Herriot  
Mr J Curror  
Mrs J Curror  
Mr S Russell  
Mr K Walton

### **15th June Team 6**

Mr A Graham (Con)  
Mrs E Graham  
Mr N Walker  
Mrs M Neilson  
Mrs K Baird  
Mrs S Skelton

### **22nd June Team 1**

Mr W Paterson (Con)  
Mrs M Young  
Miss E Robb  
Miss G Scott  
Mrs M Owens  
Mr D McKee

### **29th June Team 2**

Mr G Fairweather (Con)  
Mr G Robertson  
Mr R Russell  
Mrs J Silcock  
Mr D Brown  
Mr S Owens

**Any duty member who cannot attend on any date allocated should arrange a substitute for that date and inform the Duty Convenor.**



## **231<sup>st</sup> Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade**

### **– Junior Section and Sparks**



The month of April is traditionally a short month due to the school holidays which the Boys have off from BB. The month, although short, is the last before our BB display so we are in full rehearsal mode.

I will start with the good news, our football team are League champions once again! We were delighted that the Boys won their last league game of the season 5-1 to secure the league championship, completing the double of league championship and 5 a side competition. We are now trying to secure the treble, which is a very difficult task. We wish them all the best and I will update you at the end of the season. Well done to the league winning squad which contained Blair Stoll, Robbie Kyle, Kyle Bremner, Levi Short, John O'Neil, Mark Monaghan, Kerr Mackie, Euan Menzies, Ewan McCall, David Lee, and Findlay Gordon. Well done to all the coaches as well and thank you for all your time, dedication and hard work.

All but one of our P6 Boys has now gained their Gold badge, this being the highest award that a Boy can gain whilst in the Junior Section. Many years of hard work have gone into earning these badges and we congratulate the boys in reaching this achievement. We hope they keep up the hard work in their badge work and achievements as they head in to the Company Section and hopefully pursue their Queens Badge in a few years time.

Our Sparks have been practising their marching skills each week and we are developing some marching experts. The level of marching performance is as high as I have ever seen it, and I am sure everyone who comes to see it at the display is in for a real treat! One night we were fortunate to have a quick and impromptu visit from our BB captain Mr Dale who was particularly impressed with the Boys drill and looks forward to them coming to the Company in a few years.

Our Sparks have enjoyed learning some more from the bible, particularly about the Easter story, before we broke up for our Easter holiday. The Boys made some chocolate nests which contained some eggs too. Some were planning to share these with people at home and others had them finished as they were walking out the door! The Boys all left knowing a bit more about the Easter story and enjoying themselves at the same time.

Our P6 Boys are looking forward to getting ready for their annual weekend away which takes place at the end of their time in the Junior Section. The Boys always look forward to their weekend away camp and take part in lots of fun activities that encompass team building skills and develop confidence of the individual too. All of our Boys from P1 – P6 are also looking forward to our annual Millport trip. This trip

is the highlight of the BB year with the Boys enjoying activities such as playing on the beach, buying toys, cycling round the island, football and many other activities. We, as always, hope and pray for the sun to shine and hope we have a great day.

Our annual display is going to be held this year on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. This year we have a change in venue from the Clarkston Hall to our Church hall due to the Clarkston halls cancelling our hall let at short notice. We invite all to come along to our large hall to see all the Boy's hard work and share in what will be a cosy atmosphere this year! We hope to see you there this year to support the Boys in all their hard work over the year.

Best Wishes

**Scott Russell (07917801622)**

On behalf of Paul Linich (Officer in Charge of Junior Section and Sparks)

+++++



*On behalf of my Mum, Fleanor, I would like to say a big thank you for the lovely flowers she received following her recent stay in hospital. Also thanks for the visits, flowers, cards, phone calls and all the well wishes sent, they are very much appreciated.*

*Jan Barr*

+++++



*Thank you for the lovely flowers and card that I received on the anniversary of my father's death.*

*Margot Young*

### *Just Checking in*

*A Minister passing through his Church  
in the middle of the day,  
Decided to pause by the table  
And see who would come to pray.  
Just then the back door opened,  
A man came down the aisle,  
The Minister frowned as he saw the man  
He hadn't shaved in a while*

*His shirt was kind of shabby  
And his coat was worn and frayed,  
The man bent down...and bowed his head  
Then rose and walked away.  
In the days that followed,  
Each noon -time....came this chap,  
Each time he knelt for a moment,  
His packed lunch at his lap.*

*Well the Minister's suspicions grew,  
With robbery a real fear,  
He decided to stop the man and ask him,  
"What are you doing here?"  
The old man said,  
He worked down the road  
Lunch was only half an hour.  
Lunch time was.....his prayer -time,  
For finding strength and power.*

*I stay only moments, see,  
Because the factory's so far away;  
As I kneel here talking to the Lord,  
This is kind of what I say:*

*I JUST COME DOWN TO TELL YOU, LORD,  
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,  
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP  
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.  
DONT KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,*

*SO JESUS, THIS IS JIM,  
CHECKING IN TODAY"*

*The Minister feeling foolish,  
Told Jim that it was fine,  
He told the man he was welcome  
to come and pray.....anytime.  
Time to go Jim smiled,  
As he hurried to the door,  
The Minister knelt at the Table,  
He'd never done that before,*

*His cold heart melted, warmed with love  
And met with Jesus there.  
As the tears flowed... in his heart,  
He repeated old Jim's prayer;*

*I JUST COME DOWN TO TELL YOU, LORD,  
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,  
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP  
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.  
DONT KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,  
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.  
SO JESUS, THIS IS JIM,  
CHECKING IN TODAY"*

*Past noon one day the Minister noticed  
That old Jim hadn't come.  
As more days past without Jim,  
He began to worry some.  
At the factory, he asked about Jim,  
Learning that he was ill.  
The hospital staff were worried,  
But he'd given them a thrill.*

*The week that Jim was with them,  
Brought changes in the ward.  
His smiles, a joy.....contagious.  
Changed people.....were his reward.*

*The head nurse couldn't understand  
Why Jim was always glad,  
When no flowers,...calls...or cards came,  
Not a visitor once he had.*

*The Minister stayed by his bed,  
He voiced the nurse's concern;  
No friends came to show they cared.  
He had nowhere to turn.  
Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up  
And with a winsome smile,  
"The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,  
That in here .....all the while,  
Every day at noon he's here,  
A dear friend of mine, you see,  
He sits right down, takes my hand,  
Leans over and says to me;*

*JUST COME DOWN TO TELL YOU, JIM,  
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,  
SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP  
AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN.  
ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY,  
I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY,  
AND SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS,  
CHECKING IN TODAY"*





## Dates for Focus Magazine

Edition	Copy Input on or before	Electronic Input on or before
June 2014 out 1st June	Sunday 18th May	Monday 19th May
July 2014 no publication		
August 2014 no publica- tion		

*Fraser Neilson*

+++++

### Guild Friendship Club

The Guild Friendship Club will be starting up again on the last Tuesday of each month, from April, and the dates are as follows;

April 29th    Talk from the Chairman of the Victoria Infirmary

May 27th    Fun Night

June 24th    Talk on The Leprosy Mission

July 29th    Irene - Waterways of the Tsars

Aug 26th    Sheena & Kennie - Musical Evening



Our meetings are held in the Session Room at 7.30pm, and if you find any of the above items of interest to you, please come along as everyone is made most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Ray McNiven*

+++++

## The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present day Seven Wonders of the World. After much discussion and a good deal of disagreement they decided.

Those which received the most votes were;

1. **The Great Pyramids of Egypt**
2. **The Taj Mahal**
3. **The Grand Canyon**
4. **The Panama Canal**
5. **The Empire State Building**
6. **St peter's basilica in Rome**
7. **The Great Wall of China**

*(clues here that they may have been American students?.)*

When the teacher was collecting the papers she noticed that one student was still writing. She asked her if she was having trouble. "Yes, a little" said the girl. "There are so many that I just could not make up my mind". "Well then, tell us what you've got and perhaps we can help you". The girl hesitated, but then she read "I think the Seven Wonders of the World might be;

1. **To see**
2. **To hear**
3. **To touch**
4. **To taste**
5. **To feel**
6. **To laugh**
7. **To love**

The room went so silent you could hear a pin drop. The things we overlook are so simple and ordinary. Yet the things we take for granted are truly wonderful, are they not?

This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by the hand of man or bought by any human being.

+++++

### **Church Bulletins**

***"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."***



## *I have a little Satnav*



*It sits there in my car  
A Satnav is a driver's friend  
It tells you where you are*

*I have a little Satnav  
I've had it all my life  
It's better than the normal  
ones  
My Satnav is my wife*

*It gives me full instructions  
Especially how to drive  
"It's thirty miles an hour", it  
says  
"You're doing thirty five"  
It tells me when to stop and  
start  
And when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never  
ever  
Safe to overtake  
It tells me when a light is red  
And when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively  
Just when to intervene*

*It lists the vehicles just in front  
And all those to the rear  
And taking this into account  
It specifies my gear.*

*I'm sure no other driver  
Has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock  
the car  
It still gives its advice  
It fills me up with counselling  
Each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?*

*Ah well, you see, it cleans the  
house,  
Makes sure I'm properly fed,  
It washes all my shirts and  
things  
And keeps me warm in bed!  
Despite all these advantages  
And my tendency to scoff,  
I only wish that now and then  
I could turn the so and so off!*

## **Focus Fun for the (not so ) Young**



**Q How do dinosaurs pass exams? -**

**A With extinction!!**

**Q What is the main ingredient of dog biscuits? A Collie Flour!!**

**Q What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes? A Doyouthinkysaraus**



**SPRING FAIR 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**We need your help to  
make the day a success.**

Help to set up on Friday. Help to serve on Saturday.  
Help to clear up on Saturday. Help with baking. Help  
with growing seedlings. Help with bringing books, DVDs,  
toys, games, bric-a-brac. Help with silent auction.  
Help with the tea room. Help with bringing bottles for  
the bottle stall. Help with games and quizzes. We need  
you to eat barbequed hamburgers, salad rolls, cakes and  
biscuits. To buy all kinds of stuff. Win coconuts, see  
the trains, hear the music, get your face painted, meet  
friends, drink tea, see pictures, bounce on a castle .....