



NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

In April and May of this year we held a number of Fellowship Gatherings for members and friends of Cambuslang Parish Church. It was good to take time to talk about the importance of faith for us as individuals and as a community. We also took time to talk about the things we appreciate about being part of Cambuslang Parish Church, and the things we could do better. All the groups recorded their responses, and now we have a good indication from the wider congregation of the things that are important to us.

We began our talk about faith with an affirmation that we are who we are because we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, because we believe that in him we find our life. Everything we do together flows out from this.

The things that are most appreciated are all built around relationships. We know that it has been hard work bringing people together over the past years, but many people in the congregation appreciated how well we have come together. People appreciate the care and concern of so many friends, the support they receive when times are hard; the sense that Church has become family for them. In worship, many of the groups said how much they appreciate the music, and the talents of those who sing and who play a variety of musical instruments. They spoke of how they enjoy the ability to worship at different times, and in a variety of styles. Messy Church, Church Unplugged and the Tuesday service give alternatives to people, without breaking the sense that we belong to one family. People appreciate the inclusion of children and young people, and the way in which they contribute to our life as a Church. They recognise that all of this is possible because so many people give of their time and their talents, often unsung and unnoticed. The responses gave a great sense of the riches we have and a desire to use God's gifts so that we might serve him more fully in our Church.

There were a number of common themes that emerged when people spoke about the things we might do better. We look forward to working more effectively with children and young people, building on the strong base we already have in this area.

Members also spoke of their desire to see our relationships with the wider community grow to extend our activity as a church into areas in our parish where currently there are few people attending, to look at ways of more effectively preaching the Gospel and of serving those who are most vulnerable. It is important that we do not simply decide what we are going to do, but to listen to the people we hope to work with.

Concerning worship, a number of groups said that they would appreciate more time for silence at the beginning and the end of the service. People also indicated that they would like a greater variety of hymns, especially remembering favourite traditional hymns that are not sung so much now. There were requests that new hymns should be taught, so that we can sing them with more confidence, enjoyment and conviction.

Some of the ideas are easily put into practice, and others will take more time and thought. Over the next few months we will work together to find ways of moving forwards as a congregation and responding to the feedback that has been given.

The Fellowship gatherings also gave an opportunity for us to think about the promises we make to God and to the Church community. It has been a really encouraging time, to hear about how important faith and Church is in the lives of the congregation, to express our thanks to those who give so much to enable everything that happens. We also are encouraged, each one of us, to think about the promises we have made to give of our time, talents and money to promote God's work in our parish and in the world.

With best wishes to you all

Leslie

News To The Pews

JUNE 2017

SALE OF THE OLD PARISH CHURCH KIRKHILL

The sale of The Old Parish Church at Kirkhill has now been concluded. Some articles (chairs, a table and the eagle lectern) have been placed around the church. Other artefacts and memorials have been put into storage until it is decided how to display them.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

One of the topics arising from the recent Fellowship Gatherings has been the realisation that there is a yearning amongst the congregation for times for reflection during the service. As the service is about to begin and during the Offertory have been recognised as such times which the vehicle of beautiful music can enhance. This seems to have been the case on Sunday the 28th May when Kyle played a lovely melody during the offering. We should rejoice in the opportunity for quiet reflection and recognise it as an important part of the healing of our souls. A time to commune with God in the presence of like-minded people.

Ministry Team Travels:

This summer our ministry team will be well travelled. Leslie will be leading a course for Church Leaders in Mozambique from the 29th May until the 14th June. You will be able to follow some of his adventures on the Cambuslang Parish Church Facebook page. Karen will be going to the international diakonia conference in Chicago from 28th June – 5th July. Members of Cambuslang Parish Church will also be travelling far and wide over the summer, so we wish all those who will be spending time on holiday or visiting family good travels and time for refreshment and renewal.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

CALLED OUT – Called out of the world to live for Christ;

CONFESSING - That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God;

CONSECRATED - Holy, dedicated, set apart - special.

CONVERTED - Turned around, thoroughly transformed and renewed in the heart.

These headings have assisted me during the past 4 editions of News To The Pews in providing an easily remembered framework for describing the attributes of Christians who are the Church; God's people; the Body of Christ. This month we come to our penultimate little study and this time the phrase to remember is **CHRIST CENTRED**.

What does it mean to be Christ Centred? The words are simple enough and state that Christ is at the centre of the Christian's life. This should be self-evident, but we do well to ask ourselves if this is the case in our lives. If we are to be faithful to our calling then we need to be able to answer truthfully who sits on the throne of our lives; more importantly and personally, who sits on the throne of *my* life?

We live in a materialistic and profane and pagan world. A world wherein the desire to acquire things and status and pleasure, are paramount. How often do we hear "*As long as it makes you happy – that's fine*"? or "*It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe something*". This is not what the Bible says.

The Bible says "**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.**" KJV Matthew 6:33

Ours is, by and large, a world that hates Jesus Christ. It is a world that laughs and jeers at the need for a Saviour who died as the sinner's substitute and rises from the dead as the guarantee that his sacrifice has indeed purchased the sinner's redemption. It is a world that denies the very existence of Almighty God and uses His holy name only as a blasphemous oath. The world of scientific research which should be the very hand-maiden of God revealing the wonders of creation and declaring His glory, sets up itself as the sum and substance and sole arbiter of its own existence and importance at the expense of God, declaring "There is no God".

Strangely, this is not new. The Psalmist writing about 500 years BC says in Psalm 14 ***The fool says in his heart "There is no God."***

But what does Jesus say about the kind of relationship He expects from his disciples, that is you and me? Turning to the gospel of Luke Chapter 14:26 Jesus says "***If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes even his own life – he cannot be my disciple***". NIV. Obviously Jesus does not want us to hate our families, but by way of emphasis and comparison he does want us to realise that He must occupy the very centre of our thoughts and actions. He will not accept second place to anyone or anything. We are to think like Him and be like Him.

As the apostle Paul finishes his first letter to the Thessalonians he says in Chapter 5:16 onwards, "***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ for you.***" ESV.

What does this mean? It means that our relationship to Jesus should be so close and intimate that we, as it were, are in dialogue with Him at all times. All our ways on this life's journey should be undertaken in the light of our ongoing companionship with Him and within the will of God.

One might ask how is this achieved? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who we receive if we believe in and on Jesus and trust in Him for salvation, brings it about. He, the Holy Spirit, stimulates us to prayer and inspires us to action. This relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is very clearly described in the 14th Chapter of the gospel of John reading from verse 15: ***If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he lives with you and will be in you.*** NIV. We do well to continue to read on through the wonderful 14th Chapter of John to appreciate this relationship those who are in Christ have with God.

DAVID BEVERIDGE



It is with deep regret we intimate the deaths of:
 Mrs. Agnes Young, 3 Milton Avenue, Cambuslang, G72 8BQ who passed away in the last week of April 2017
 Mrs. Jean Phillips, Mearnskirk Nursing Home, Glasgow G77 5RZ who passed away on the 1st of May 2017.
 Mrs. Mary Clark, formerly of 74, Cairns Road, Cambuslang who passed away on Sunday 21st of May 2017.

Betty Macgregor
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Thank you

Betty Macgregor would like to thank so many friends in the church who sent birthday wishes to celebrate her 80th birthday. She was truly overwhelmed and touched by such kindness. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all.

**Fellowship
 Team**

Wednesday 21st June - come and join us for an informal, friendly meal at the John Fairweather on the Main St. Come along on your own or with a friend - all are welcome. We will be meeting at 7pm for 7.30. If you'd like to come please give your name to Liz Harbinson by Sunday 18th June at the latest.

**Tuesday
 Services**

TUESDAY SERVICES: The Tuesday services continue to be an important part of our Church life and are particularly appreciated because they give time for prayer for individual people. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Tuesday 13th June. The last service before the summer break will be on the 27th June.

Holiday Club

This year Holiday Club will be held in Flemington Hallside Church from 31st July to 4th August.

The Holiday club service will be held in CPC on Sunday the 6th of August.

Notices for the September Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor, David Beveridge by the 27th August - d.beveridge@btinternet.com. Any articles for publication on the Website should be submitted to Richard Black - rblack2604@gmail.com.

Minister:- Rev Dr A L Milton : 0141 641 2028 : Deacon:- Karen Hamilton : 07514 402612

OLM:- Rev David Maxwell : 07561 42782

Session Clerk:- Janet Stewart - Can be contacted via the Church Office (as undernoted)

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