



NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

Many of you will have seen the improvements we have made to the Church Halls recently. These have been made possible by a generous gift in memory of Douglas Smith, Linda Wunsch's father. November is often a time when we look back with thanksgiving for the faith and witness of the people who have been influential in making us the people we have become and passing on to us the assurance of God's love in life, in death and in life beyond death. We look to the past to appreciate the trust, the courage and the love that comes from God, and we also look to the future, believing that God's faithfulness, which has been so real to us will continue to accompany us in our lives and in the life of the Christian community.

Kirk Session, with the Finance Team and the Fabric Team has been focussed on the future in recent meetings. Some of our future plans have to do with the buildings we are entrusted with to ensure God's mission in the world. We are planning future improvements to our Church buildings, flooring the corridors, decorating the Church. Most importantly, we are planning improvements to the entrance area of the Church, with additional accommodation and developments which will make our buildings more accessible to people with disabilities and more welcoming to all. We have resources which have come to us through the sale of properties which were owned by the congregation, and as we look to the future it is important that we invest in the future of God's Church in Cambuslang.

Having good buildings is a clear statement of our confidence in God's leading us in the future. We need to match that commitment with our own stewardship of our time, talents and money. As we plan for the future it is important that we seek renewal of our lives, of the leadership the Church offers. We need to equip people to be better disciples, and to encourage people to take leadership within the Church, including serving on the Kirk Session. With this in mind we are planning to have a study group for people who might be interested in serving the Church in new ways. This group will be starting up over the next month and will continue into the New Year. The group will help people explore why faith is important to them, think about our mission as a Church in Cambuslang and explore the gifts we have and how we might offer them in God's service. We will think about how people might express their gifts through the possibilities for service that we have in Cambuslang Parish Church, and think about whether people are being called specifically to be elders.

Here are some things you can do:

- Everyone can commit to praying, giving thanks for the witness of Cambuslang Parish Church, and asking for guidance for people who are thinking about deepening their commitment to Christ and to the Church.
- Ask yourself whether this is a time when you might wish to give more of your time and talents to the Church.
- Encourage others to see their gifts and how God might use them.

If you would like to take part in this group, or if there is someone you would like us to invite to take part, then please talk either to myself, or to Janet Stewart, our Session Clerk.

We are thankful for our past, even as we look towards our future. As we think about how we will make our buildings welcoming to the whole community, we remember, too the words of the Psalm: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain." (Psalm 127 verse 1).

Wishing you every blessing

Leslie

News To The Pews

NOVEMBER 2017

Advent is coming!

It seems early to be talking about preparations for Christmas, but already preparations are underway. Many of us are looking forward to special times with family and friends. In the Church we are also especially aware at this time of year, of people who do not find Christmas an easy or a blessed time. 2017 has brought difficult times to many of the world's poorest people, especially as a result of storm and floods.

Our Advent celebration will begin on the 3rd December with Holy Communion. On that day you will be able to take a small collection bag and at the end of each day you are invited to put your small change aside. We will send any money collected to the Disasters Emergency Committee through Christian Aid. The DEC currently has a special appeal to support those affected by the hurricanes which lashed the Caribbean Islands earlier this year. For those on facebook, I will post a short reflection each day to give a focus on prayer, on spiritual preparation for Advent and on the calling we all have to share in the compassion of God for our world. Bags can be returned at any service between Christmas Eve and the 14th January.

Leslie Milton

Advent Groups:

We have delighted in the growth of ecumenical relationships this year, particularly as the congregations of St. Bride's and St. Cuthbert's have wanted to share with us in the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year. Fr. Paul Morton's sermon on the 29th October was a call for us to work more closely together, not only in the big important moments, but week by week in our prayers and in our serving. Our three congregations are invited to take part in an Advent Study Group. These sessions will take place on Wednesday evenings in Advent, at 7:30 p.m. in the halls at St. Bride's. The dates are: 29th November and 6th, 13th and 20th December.

Leslie Milton

Flemington Hallside Parish Church

Our congregation has shared in the mixed emotions of our brothers and sisters at Flemington Hallside as their minister was inducted on the 26th October to the parishes of Aberfedy linked with Dull and Weem linked with Grantully, Logierait and Strathtay. A group of us had a great time attending his induction, not least because of the opportunity to appreciate the wonderful Perthshire countryside in the gloaming. There was a great atmosphere in the service and the presence of folks from Cambuslang gave a great sense of appreciation of Neil's work here. We sensed the excitement and anticipation of a new ministry starting in that part of the Highlands.

Please pray for Neil and all the family as they settle into their new life and for the congregation at Flemington Hallside as they seek guidance in choosing a minister and new directions for the future.

Leslie Milton

The “I AM’s” of Jesus

Last month we saw that Jesus absolutely affirmed his divinity in the Gospel of John Chapter 8: 24,28,58. Now we continue our studies by examining the first of His metaphorical statements in the gospel of John Chapter 6:35 - 37: **Jesus replied , I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

When we speak of bread we think of it as being a staple of nourishment. It is generally an essential requirement for keeping alive (even if we do not all eat bread). Proverbially we call it the “Staff of life”. It is synonymous with “food”.

If anyone alive in the world today, though they be the most powerful, the richest, the cleverest, the wisest, the most able, said the words Jesus said, we would laugh them to scorn. And quite right too!

But when Jesus says them, we listen and the words are not outrageous. When the Jews (Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, clerics) heard them they were in no doubt that, by using the words I AM Jesus was again affirming His divinity. And they were outraged. (See Exodus 3:14)

When Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life He means us to understand that He, Himself, is the spiritual food for the soul of a believer. Christ is food which will not leave the soul hungry. Christ satisfies the soul-hunger of the believer to the uttermost. But how are we to understand this spiritual nourishment? Notice the text says “**whoever comes to me**”. How does someone come to Christ?

Many, perhaps most people, think the initiative lies with them personally. We hear people say things like “I am interested in Jesus but I’m not ready - I’ll do something about it when I am ready”.

The answer is to be found in verse 37 which says “**All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out**”. Notice that the initiative is with God the Father. It is God the Father who **gives** to the Son those who are being saved. Notice also that they **will** come. There is nothing haphazard or dubious about this. Also take these wonderful words and wrap your soul in them if you are believing in Jesus – **and whoever comes to me I will never cast out**. Christ will never cast out anyone who comes to Him repenting of their sin and seeking forgiveness in order to be made right with Him. Moreover the second half of verse 35 says “**whoever believes in me shall never thirst**”. Most of us never experience real thirst for any length of time. But the agony of thirst is indescribable. Imagine being lost in the wilderness without water or being cast adrift in a boat on the ocean. Jesus uses this to describe the intense longing of the soul to be satisfied with real spiritual nourishment and to slake the burning thirst of yearning for soul satisfaction. (See Psalm 41)

In the gospel of Matthew chapter 5: 6 we read: **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.** So we see that this hunger and thirst is a yearning for being made right with God.

Jesus says “Blessed (or happy) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”. Why does He say that? Because the fact is that most people are not hungering or thirsting after righteousness. Most people are convinced they possess a righteousness of their own or are setting about establishing their own righteousness by their good works. They do not acknowledge their sinfulness or the fact that they are lost and in need of a Saviour. Those who yearn to be made right with God by faith in Christ Jesus are truly blessed for there is a promise that they will be satisfied.

It may be that as you read this you are aware that there is a deep longing and hunger in your soul which nothing will satisfy. It may be that you are struggling with sin which you cannot defeat or that everything in your life is falling apart. If that is you then this is for you. Come to Jesus and believe in Him who can fulfil all your longings, hunger and thirst, wash away your guilt and give you nourishment to your soul.

May I invite you to meditate on the wonderful words of one of our favourite Communion hymns by Horatius Bonar:

Here O my Lord, I see thee face to face; Here would I touch and handle things unseen, Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace, And all my weariness upon thee lean

Mine is the sin but thine the righteousness; Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood; Here is my robe my refuge and my peace- Thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God, Here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven; Here would I lay aside each earthly load, Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

David Beveridge



It is with deep regret we intimate the deaths of:

Mrs Mary Marshall of 32 Cadzow Dr, Cambuslang G72 8NF - died 22/9/17

Mrs Catherine Frame of Eastbank Care Home, 98 Gartocher Rd, Glasgow G32 0HA- died October 2017

Neighbourly

The Neighbourly meets in the Morryston Room every Wednesday at 2-15 pm. A very warm welcome is extended to everyone and we have a varied programme of speakers arranged. Come along and swell the numbers for our entertainers. No need to feel obliged to come back, but who knows, you may want to!

Alice Kewley.

Cambuslang Parish Church Pipe Band

We now have 5 young people who will soon be playing the bagpipes. Because of the wonderful generosity of our congregation, we will be able to furnish these young musicians with a set of bagpipes each. These have been ordered from MacCallum's of Kilmarnock at a cost of £480 per instrument. Some members of the pipe band will play at the Cenotaph on Remembrance day and the band has been asked to play at Tesco Rutherglen on 30th November, 16th December (bag packing) and 24th of December in the after noon of each day.

Pantomime 25th November 2017

Saturday 25th Nov 2017 - Family Panto Extravaganza . There will be a trip to see Sleeping Beauty at the East Kilbride Arts Centre. The pantomime starts at 11.00am and will be followed by a festive family afternoon tea and party games back at the church. Open to all, but tickets are limited. Cost including tea etc - £10 per person; concession rate £8 for under 16's & over 60's. Names and money must be in by Sunday 22nd October. For more info speak to Alison Thomson or Susan Young.

Quiz Night ??????

A Quiz Night and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday 18th November at CPC at 7.00 pm
Cheese and Wine Tickets £5.00

Notices for the November Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor, David Beveridge by the **nd of November 2017 - d.beveridge@btinternet.com Any articles for publication on the Website should be submitted to Richard Black - rblack2604@gmail.com.