

November 2012

Mure Memorial Church



The Link

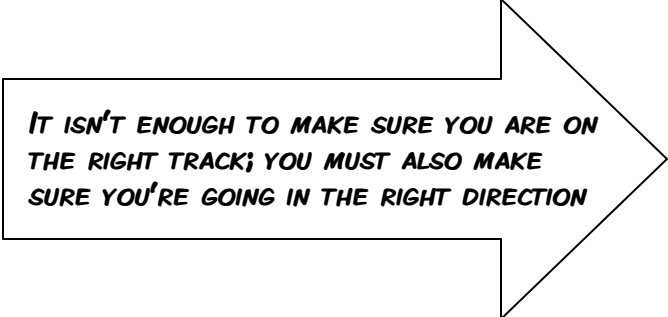
Dear Friends

How the mighty have fallen this past month. Revered as a great charity worker, knighted by both the queen and the Pope, Jimmy Savile's reputation as a good man far less a saint lies in tatters. Lance Armstrong, once the epitome of the world class athlete, a seven times winner of arguably the most challenging of all sporting agendas, the three-week long cycling Tour De France, has been reported by former team mates to be a serial cheat, drug user and drug peddler. Silvio Berlusconi, media mogul, football club owner and Prime Minister of Italy on three separate occasions, has been found guilty of fraud and given a prison sentence. There are of course some who say, "About time!" There were enough rumours and even knowledge around for any of them to be dealt with at a much earlier time, and possibly seriously cutting down on the damage they were able to do to victims, the wider community, and the communities in which they plied their trade. Unfortunately, with success, power and wealth comes not only responsibilities, but clearly also temptations, - temptations to abuse the status which society has given to you, often apparently well-earned. However also with the status comes an entourage, a group of followers who are either in awe, or bought by the same means - success, power and wealth. This following will either develop an acute blindness to the failings of their leader, or their silence can be bought in myriad ways, so that the harmful foibles of the leadership are kept out of the public domain.

The answer to all this, which will of course continue as it has done down through the ages, is for people of integrity, knowing the risk of personal sacrifice, even of life, if not of career, to be a WHISTLEBLOWER. The one or more who are able to say, "This is unacceptable. This has to stop. I am the one who has to do it." All of us at different levels of society are constantly challenged by the behaviour of others. Mostly we will happily look the other way, "It's just them, what else do you expect."

In the Christian Church and in society as a whole, some people, informed by the example of Christ, need to sensitively, and/or publicly bring to light the behaviours that so often caused damage and pain to others. People need to be challenged if they are harming others, or even themselves. Only then can real transformation and real leadership be seen in the church and in the public domain, so that our future leaders and heroes might remain so, in life and in death. Otherwise our future generations will never see past their X-box or Games Station heroes, because the reality of those in the real world is too difficult to bear.

Yours in Christ,  
Malcolm



***IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK; YOU MUST ALSO MAKE SURE YOU'RE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION***

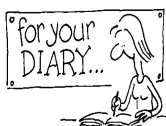
## FUNERALS

- 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Donald Murray:** We remember son Donald and all the family in our prayers.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Frank McKechnie:** We pray for wife Rena and the family.
- 1<sup>st</sup> October **Roy Drummond:** We remember Nan and the family in our prayers.
- 5<sup>th</sup> October **Margaret Shaw:** We remember husband William and all the family in our prayers.
- 12<sup>th</sup> October **Ray Gibson:** We remember the family in our prayers.
- 24<sup>th</sup> October **Margaret Drummond:** We pray for all the family.

## BAPTISM

- 14<sup>th</sup> October **Maria De Brito:** we commend Maria and her parents Rui and Elaine to our prayers.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



- 4<sup>th</sup> November **Baptismal Service** for Cole James McLeod Clark 10.30am  
**Afternoon Tea** for new members of congregation 3.00pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov **Property Committee Meeting** 7.30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Nov **Remembrance Sunday 10.45am**  
(Please note later start)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Kirk Session** 7.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Sunday Service** 10.30am

- 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Sunday Service** 10.30am  
**Evening Worship** 6.30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Congregational Board** 7.30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. **Sunday Service** 10.30am
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec **Worship Development Committee** 7.30pm

## Vestry Hours



The minister has established an office in the church to which he welcomes anyone who wishes to see him. The specific times he will make himself available are as follows:  
**Monday evening - 6.30pm – 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday morning – 10.00am - 12 noon**  
**Thursday morning – 10.00am – 12 noon**  
**Thursday evening – 6.30pm – 7.30pm**  
At present this will be about simply turning up during these times with no specific appointment, which means you may have to wait a few minutes. Other times can be made available by arrangement, as can home visits. The minister's phone number is **07740868181**. Please feel free to pass the times and phone number to anyone who may request them.

*I would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers, cards and visits I received during my recent illness. This was very much appreciated and I am now getting back to Church and Girls' Brigade*

*Myra McMillan*



*Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way,  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide.  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.  
Amen*

*Prayer is when you talk to God;  
meditation is when you listen to God.*

Jimmy Miller.

We were all shocked and saddened by the death of Jimmy Miller, a faithful member of the choir for many years-- Jimmy was singing in the choir when I came to be your organist 30+ years ago. His contribution to the tenor section and his sense of humour will be greatly missed. Jimmy always had a cheery smile, and he was good company. But most of all he was a loyal, valuable choir member who enjoyed singing and communicated his enthusiasm for music in all his performances of sacred and secular pieces.

Bill Russell



### **More favourite recipes**

#### CRISPY CARAMEL CAKE

2 Mars Bars  
2 Milky Way Bars  
2 oz margarine or butter  
2 Tablespoons of syrup  
2 Large cups of rice crispies  
½ lb of cooking chocolate

Melt Mars bars, Milky Ways, margarine or butter and syrup in pan. Add rice crispies and press mixture into a greased swiss roll tin. When set cover with melted chocolate.

“You can give  
without loving  
but you cannot  
love without  
giving.”

**Amy Carmichael**

## **DOOR DUTY – November**

**BEADLE: R McKendrick**

Door & Collection

<b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>
J Hunt	A Kavannah
Mrs Hunt	A Telfer
J Hannah	Alex Wilson
Mrs Hannah	L Strachan
M Brown	M McMillan
A Kenyon	A Forrester

<b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> November</b>
L Kennedy	A Pollock
I Malcolm	C Scotland
S Blackwood	J Davidson
C Robertson	A Borthwick
E Colquhoun	J Crawford
J McLaren	C Turnbull

## **DOOR DUTY – December**

**BEADLE: Moira Scott**

Door & Collection

<b>December 2nd</b>	<b>December 9th</b>
C Stewart	W Millar
R McLellan	Mrs Walker
N Collins	J McVittie
I Whitelaw	C McChesney
P McLellan	A Nicol
J Smith	E Nimmo

## **Flower Calendar**



Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers for our Sunday services during October. Thanks also to all who donated to the flower fund on 2012.

I will have the 2013 Calendar ready on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Anyone wishing to choose special dates can do so then. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Stuart for giving faithfully of her time and talents in arranging the flowers every week.

Agnes Nicol

<b>October</b>	
<b>October 7th</b>	<b>A Strachan</b>
<b>October 14th</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs J Hunt</b>
<b>October 21st</b>	<b>Mary Martin</b>
<b>October 28th</b>	<b>Mrs Cruickshank</b>

***The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.***

***Margaret Stuart and family would like to thank all her friends at Mure Memorial for the donations received for the Marie Curie Charity in celebration of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The magnificent total of £970 was received. Many thanks***

THE GUILD

An invitation to all has been extended by Glasgow City Group of the Guild to attend a service of thanksgiving in Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in celebration of the Guild's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Anyone interested in attending will be made most welcome

Helen Graham

**TAKE TIME**

Take time to THINK,  
It is the source of power.  
Take time to PLAY,  
It is the secret of perpetual youth.  
Take time to READ,  
It is the fountain of wisdom.  
Take time to PRAY,  
It is the greatest power on earth.  
Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED,  
It is a God-given privilege.  
Take time to BE FRIENDLY,  
It is the road to happiness.  
Take time to LAUGH,  
It is the music of the soul.  
Take time to GIVE,  
It is too short a day to be selfish.  
Take time to WORK,  
It is the price of success.  
Take time to DO CHARITY,  
It is the key to heaven.



I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and gifts that I received. Also all the visitors who gave myself and my family a lot of strength during my illness.  
Ann Frew

*A very sincere thank you to all our friends at Mure Memorial for the support and love shown to me and our family over the past few weeks. To all the many who sent cards and flowers and even visited with food parcels to make sure we didn't starve! Thank you also to all the people who attended Roy's service at the crematorium, many of whom I didn't get a chance to speak with. Special thanks to Malcolm for all his help with the service, which we thought was "just Roy", also for his spiritual support at a very sad time. As a family, we have been overwhelmed with kindness and know that we will have your continuing support in the difficult days still ahead.*  
*Sincerely*  
*Nan Drummond & Family*

### **What is missing from the church choir? UR.**

In the last issue of the "Link", I appealed to people in the congregation to consider joining the choir. I had hoped to report that some people have come forward, but sadly the response is nil! I find it disappointing that, while many of you tell me how much the choir is appreciated, nobody is willing to assist in the very valuable work of leading the praise.

Very few people cannot sing. If you would like to learn to read music, I can teach you (my fee is £20 per hour but for a limited period, I can offer 100% discount!) The choir are a very welcoming group and the practices are enjoyable.

When we do special services (Christmas and Easter) we are joined by friends from other churches, but not from Mure Memorial.

Why not join us this year and make a really large choir for Christmas--the more the merrier.

NB The Carol party is Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm



### **Presbytery Report**

The October meeting of Presbytery must be amongst the longest on record, ending at 11.10 pm.

The main item on the agenda was the report of the special committee set up to consider the future of St George's Tron Church of Scotland.

Towards the end of 2011, Presbytery had begun to deal officially with a request from the minister and elders of the congregation to leave the denomination. They had made it clear that it was their hope to acquire the building where they presently worship for their ongoing use as an independent congregation.

Article III of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland demands that the Church provides the "ordinances of religion" to the whole people of Scotland through a territorial ministry. Presbytery would, therefore, have to decide whether the building of St George's Tron was essential to fulfil the plan for mission of the Church of Scotland in the centre of Glasgow and, at its May meeting, Presbytery approved the appointment of a Special Committee under the leadership of The Very Rev David Lunan to investigate the possibility of maintaining a city centre ministry in the building of St George's Tron, should the majority of the present congregation decide to leave the Church of Scotland.

**LIFE ASKS OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL A CONTRIBUTION  
AND IT IS UP TO THAT INDIVIDUAL TO DISCOVER  
WHAT IT SHOULD BE.**

**VICTOR FRANKL**

The Committee was to report to the October meeting, but on 12<sup>th</sup> June, Presbytery received a letter from the Minister and Session Clerk of St George's Tron Church of Scotland announcing that the congregation no longer considered themselves to be part of the Presbytery of Glasgow or of the denomination of the Church of Scotland. This declaration was taken at the June Presbytery meeting to mean that the Minister had demitted his Charge and his status as a minister of the Church of Scotland, and that the elders had resigned as elders and trustees of the Church of Scotland congregation of St George's Tron.

The Committee's report came under three headings.

Firstly, the current status of St George's Tron Church of Scotland: It concluded that the congregation continues to exist, even if, at present, it is the name of a handful of members, its assessor elders and its Interim Moderator appointed by Presbytery, and that it is essential and integral to the life of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow. There should be no confusion of identity with the independent congregation which, for the time being, is still worshipping in the Buchanan Street building.

Secondly, the future vision for the rebuilding of St George's Tron, Church of Scotland congregation: The location of the building lends itself to being a hub for the ministry and mission to a range of sectors in society such as students, asylum seekers,

the homeless, shoppers and shop workers.

The report quoted the Rev Tom Allan as saying, "The Church is the hand of God reaching out to the world", and under his ministry St George's Tron was established as the "Church at the heart of the city with the city at its heart". The Committee believes that a vibrant congregation can rise again, however, this will not happen in the short or even medium term. The Committee, therefore, recommended that at the start of the process a Transitional Ministry be set up for a contractual period of time, possibly three to five years, with the possibility of the minister being inducted to the charge at the end of the period of transition, should the parties agree.

Thirdly, the consequences as a result of the actions of those who have now left the Church of Scotland: The title to the St George's Tron church building is held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees and in the event that the building was deemed to be unnecessary for use by the Church of Scotland, it would be incumbent on the General Trustees to seek the optimum value from the sale or lease of the property. The Manse is subject to trust conditions which were imposed when a previous manse was donated to the congregation. These conditions require that the house be used solely as a manse for the parish minister of the Church of Scotland congregation. The General Trustees have indicated that they could not see themselves entering into a legal agreement with the independent



congregation which at present is continuing to occupy the building. This congregation has broken faith with the Trustees by defaulting on its past payments to the Church of Scotland and is not considered a reliable signatory to an occupancy agreement. In the course of its work, the Committee became concerned by some accounts of how the congregation had been organising its internal affairs over the last few years and there were reports that members who tried to raise questions were simply encouraged to leave. The committee was therefore recommending that immediate steps should be taken to recover possession of all the properties and assets belonging to the Church of Scotland.

After the presentation of the Report there was lengthy discussion and many questions were raised, The Solicitor of the Church of Scotland was present at the meeting and was able to confirm the present financial situation. Those who have left the Church of Scotland have left behind unpaid contributions to central funds and to the Presbytery of Glasgow, together with an outstanding loan to the General Trustees, amounting to almost £1M.

The meeting finally agreed to accept the report and the various deliverances which it contained.

Janet Park

### **Men's Fellowship**

Our forthcoming meetings are as follows:

- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Alec Baird : Poetry
- 19<sup>th</sup> November – Pathfinder Dogs
- 26<sup>th</sup> November – Bill Russell : Slide Show
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Police Forensic Scientist
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Jim Taylor – Illustrated Talk
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Alastair Borthwick : Indo China

A warm welcome awaits all gentlemen from the congregation and their friends on Monday evenings at 7.45 pm.

### **From the Community Development Committee**

Thanks to all who attended the Thanksgiving Lunch we hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Our next event will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm when we will have a St Andrew's Night Ceilidh.

Tickets are £5.00 per person with a Family Ticket priced £12 and will be available from committee members.

Pie & Peas will be on the menu for the evening and BYOB.



## **FUTURE OF MURE MEMORIAL CHURCH**

Update on the Presbytery Plan.

As you will know, for the past two years the Presbytery of Glasgow has had to come up with a plan for its territory which would lead to the reduction of ministers by thirty across Glasgow. A plan published earlier this year had distributed this loss on a percentage system across the Presbytery with Mure Memorial being awarded 0.67% of a fulltime post, but if we joined with St. Andrew's: Baillieston, that could lead to a fulltime and a half-time post between the two churches. Fortunately the Presbytery saw the nonsense of percentage posts and the plan was dropped.

However, the Presbytery still had to shed 30 posts and a new team was formed, basing their decisions largely on the previous work. So in the new plan published last month, Mure Memorial was to link with St.

Andrew's leading to a full union, with a staffing complement of 1 fulltime minister and one half-time Presbytery Parish worker. Both congregations took up the right to appeal the decision. Both congregations thought the move to a full union between the two was undesirable and unworkable.

However whereas Mure Memorial leadership were wanting to look to retain a fulltime minister at our church, St. Andrew's had accepted the loss of ministry and agreed, reluctantly, to a linkage.

Leaders from both congregations met with Presbytery Plan representatives and everyone agreed to drop any reference to full union, and a number of options were

considered. The following is what is now on offer.

**Option 1: Immediate Linkage**, based on Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson being minister of the two congregations, aided by an Associate Minister. This Associate would be definitely guaranteed as a half-time post, but could be increased to fulltime if the two congregations could meet the shortfall in a fulltime salary. This would require Mure Memorial to find an additional £10,000 per annum, above the £55,000 we presently pay to Edinburgh. St. Andrew's would have the same issue, except that because an Associate Minister is not provided with a manse, St. Andrew's could find that income from the let of their manse. The respective duties of the two ministers would have to be decided by the leaders of both congregations, but Malcolm would be the line manager of the Associate.

For this to happen, the Presbytery would have to have agreement from Malcolm that he is willing to be the minister of the two congregations, and the joint parish. Mure Memorial congregation would need to agree to the linkage, and St. Andrew's would have to both agree to the linkage and to Malcolm becoming their minister. The Presbytery, before the approval of a fulltime Associate, would need to ensure the finances are in place for the additional half salary. All of this could be in place by March 2013.

**Option 2: Deferred Linkage.** Malcolm has three years left on his Tenure (contract) at Mure Memorial and could simply wait out those three years. In the meantime Presbytery would move to appoint a minister

at St. Andrew's and, when Malcolm's contract is up, will make the new minister at St. Andrew's the minister of the linked congregations. As it stands presently, Mure Memorial would have little or no say concerning the appointment. However, since Malcolm had come to Mure Memorial with the intention of retiring from the position and since St. Andrew's has largely been suffering from a couple of difficult ministries over the past eight years, Presbytery Plan leaders were asked to defer the Linkage till the end of Malcolm's ministry, allowing him to continue in place at Mure Memorial while giving a minister to St. Andrew's for a period of up to eight years in the hope of rebuilding the congregation.

While the Presbytery representatives did not rule this out they did note that it would be difficult to put into place. Firstly on grounds of finance, since the National Church would be asked to meet an additional half salary at St. Andrew's for a period of eight years. While Mure Memorial could help out with a commitment of £10,000 per year, St. Andrew's would have difficulty in raising a similar amount, since under this tenure, their minister would have to live in the manse, thus depriving the congregation from any income from letting the house. It would also be unusual (though not impossible) for a minister coming to the end of his contract to be given a further five year contract, when it is not in line with the Plan. Finally, although not mentioned at the time, European legislation would allow a retiring minister to continue beyond 65, and

thus the commitment from the National Church could be challenged to be extended and it is unlikely the Church would agree to this when an extension is a legal possibility. However it is still on the table for discussion.

Mure Memorial will discuss the issue at its Session meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, by that time they will also have had feedback from the discussions at St. Andrew's Session, and the Presbytery would like a response prior to a special meeting of Presbytery on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, which would seek to approve a Plan for the whole of Glasgow.

#### ***Invitation to all readers of the Link***

*The choir invite you to an afternoon of music making on Sunday 18th November at 3pm (until about 4.30pm). It is a chance to hear about the work of the choir and to meet your choir members over a cup of tea/coffee as well as to enjoy some of the pieces they are practising just now. If you have any suggestions for music to sing (but not on the 18th), that would be great. The afternoon is informal--and free! Your attendance would be much appreciated and a source of encouragement to us. We hope you will come on the 18th--enjoyment is compulsory.*



### **THE GUILD**

Our meetings for November and December are as follows -

**Nov. 6** St John's Singers Concert - Tickets are now on sale price £4 which includes tea and home baking. Everyone is welcome and you can pay at the door if you haven't a ticket.

**Nov 13** Our time in China – Mr and Mrs McLellan

**Nov 20** Mure Church Lunch (Guild Week) Afternoon Meeting

**Nov 27** Here's TAE US – Changed from Victorian Christmas

**Dec. 4** Senior Citizens' Dinner - Plus 4 (entertainment)

**Dec. 11** Carols by Candlelight

Why not come and join us. Our meetings start at 7.30 p.m. and you can be assured of a warm welcome and an enjoyable evening.

### **Prayer for the Day**

*Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here;  
Ever this day, be at my side  
To light and guard  
To rule and guide*

*Amen*

**"No one likes a change  
except a wet baby"**

Noel Coward

### **From the Pastoral Committee**

*A wheelchair and walking tripod have been donated. If anyone could make use of them, please speak to Moira Scott.*

### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE LINK**

If you have an article, news item or announcement for the Link please either email details to [link@mure.org](mailto:link@mure.org) or place a copy of the information in the folder outside the Vestry.

**Deadline for the next issue is  
28<sup>th</sup> November**