



October 2015



Mure Memorial Church



The Link

Mure Memorial Church is the known name of Glasgow : Mure Memorial,
Church of Scotland,

Scottish Charity No SC002220

Friends,
Having spent a month on the Isle of Coll, reading, walking, golfing, relaxing and reflecting, I also returned to my last profession as a Hairdresser. Every year I come here, I end up cutting lots of hair. I came to realise in speaking to some folk who use the Island as a form of escapism, that they have never visited church and are often the first to ask me questions about faith. This may well be because there is not a permanent Minister on Coll and they have to rely on visiting Clergy during the Summer Months.

Sometimes people get faith confused with certainty. It says that faith is the assurance of things hoped for. It does not say that faith is a clear as day certainty. We get confused between our faith in the vision and our faith in the God who gives the vision.

God offers us so many promises if we will respond in discipleship; salvation, resurrection, eternal life, fulfilment, wholeness, reconciliation, etc. But it is God that we need to grow to know, not the details of the promises.

I get bored out of my wits by people who want to argue about what heaven is like, or about what life after death will be like, or even about what the new creation will be like, because most of it doesn't matter. What matters is that we trust God, and follow the signposts God puts before us.

You see I don't believe in God because he promises me good things, I believe there will

be good things because I trust in God. Faith is not the certainty about what we will find at the end of life's journey, it is the belief in the goodness of God that assures us that the journey will be worthwhile.

We are people who worship together and pray together and work together to bring Christ's love and healing to those who need it. We have a bigger vision of a world where God's will is done on earth as in heaven, and our society and the whole world are characterised by love, mercy, peace and justice.

God has given us a sense of direction, and a sense of destination. Our faith is shown in our willingness to embark on a journey in that direction. The concept of worship groups and mission groups and all the other things congregations discuss and decide about is all very well on paper; however we need to take the step of faith that starts living them.

What is constant is the God we serve, made known to us in Christ, and experienced among us in the Spirit. It is in God that we put our faith, not in any promise or any structures or any short term vision. For no matter how clear a vision may seem to us now, a bit further down the road we will see that we only had part of it, or maybe we weren't even seeing straight. But our faith is in God and God leads us on.

Because we keep travelling forward in faith, because we keep searching and hoping for the fulfilment of the vision of what is to come, therefore God is not ashamed to be called our God.

We receive God's approval as we take each faltering step in obedience to the Spirit's leading and in pursuit of the glimpses of the vision that God has given us. Christian faith is not about taking Jesus into our heart, or about opening the door to let Jesus in. It is about opening the door and going out and letting Jesus take us places.

Here in this community at home that is something we do together. On Coll during Winter, services are locally led by the Session Clerk and other Elders, and the Interim Moderator may go out once a month. There are quite a few people on Coll ready to take this step, this leap of Faith, so I would ask that you remember them in prayer as they come to know the love of Jesus in their lives.

I've told them being a member of church is not a goal or a destination. It is taking a leap of Faith as they set out on the journey. I pray we are people of whom God is not ashamed, because we hunger and thirst for God's love, peace and justice in the world as we follow Christ in seeking its fulfilment.

Every Blessing,
Yours in Christ,
Alex.

FUNERALS *“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes - Rev 21”*

22nd Sept Margot Kerr: We remember sister Jenny and her nephews in our prayers

BAPTISMS *“Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them – Mark 10”*

6th Sept Skye Mary Elizabeth Godfrey: We wish every blessing on parents Emma and Ben

VESTRY TIMES

Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm Mure Memorial
Tuesday 10.00am-11.00am Mure Memorial
(Thrift Shop and Café available at same time)
Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm St. Andrew's
Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am St. Andrew's
(Pop-In Café available at same time)

No specific appointment is necessary. 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.

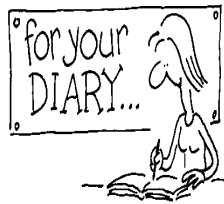


Rev Malcolm
Cuthbertson

Our Assistant Minister, Rev Alex Stuart's phone number is **07901802967**



In times of difficulty, Lord, we appreciate the support and encouragement of others. In better times we feel stronger and more secure. Remind us then to co-operate with other people and look out for the needs of others, being ready to offer a smile, a word, and other support and encouragement.
Amen



- Monday 5th Oct Senior Citizens resumes 2.15 pm
Men's Fellowship resumes 7.45 pm
- Tuesday 6th Oct Guild recommences at 7.30 pm
- Sunday 11th Oct Harvest Thanksgiving Service 10.00 am
- Wed 14th Oct Kirk Session meeting 7.45 pm
- Sunday 18th Oct Morning Worship 10.00 am
- Sunday 25th Oct Baptismal Service for Jayden Willock 10.00 am
Piano and Organ Concert 3.00 pm

- Sunday 1st Nov Baptismal Service for Kayla Brothers 10.00 am
- Sunday 8th Nov Remembrance Sunday Service **10.45 am**

The Refugee Crisis

Situations such as the current refugee crisis can bring up lots of questions that can make it difficult to pray. As we are faced with issues of suffering and human tragedy, we can often struggle to find God in the midst of it all. The Church of Scotland has put together some prayers to help us and the following is one of them.

Then the fugitive shall be taken into the city, and given a place, and shall remain with them. ~Joshua 20:4b~

Thy will be done.
Fugitives from injustice
deserve sanctuary,
inviolable refuge
from persecution or oppression.
Each asylum seeker
given welcome and fair hearing.

And as those bloodied feet in ancient times fled along safety-seeking roads, so the flights continue in the desperation-driven refugee suffering the suffocating darkness of the ship's hold or bearing the battering in the hidden depths of the lorry's load.

And then arrival!
 Bent figures –
 hungry, thirsty, bewildered, frightened and
 with
 nothing
 but a hope, a dream
 that things might be better here!

No room at the inn of the city –
 Christ, those words after such journeying
 but we have a place round the back.
 You may call it a stable
 but we call it a detention centre.

Surely new life can begin anywhere?
 Isn't that what the Gospel's about?

O God, help us to make our city
 one of Your cities of refuge and justice.
 It's the least we can do in Jesus' name.
 His cruciform arms embrace
 every asylum seeker
 and there is room for everyone.
 Amen

Flower Calendar



Thank you to everyone
 who has donated flowers for our Sunday
 services during September.

Sept 6th	Ann Carmichael
Sept 13th	Flower Fund
Sept 20th	Betty Pollock
Sept 27th	Bob Clelland

DOOR DUTY OCTOBER

BEADLE: G Leiper
 Door & Collection

October 4th	October 11th
R Colquhoun	A Pollock
I Malcolm	C Scotland
S Blackwood	J Davidson
M McEwan	A Borthwick
E Colquhoun	J Crawford
J McLaren	C Turnbull

October 18th	October 25th
I Whitelaw	I Main
R McLellan	J McVittie
N Collins	C McChesney
A Miller	A Nicol
P McLellan	S McKibbin
J Smith	M McLachlan

DOOR DUTY NOVEMBER

BEADLE: R McKendrick
 Door & Collection

November 1st	November 8th
E Boyd	Jack Hunt
C Rodgers	E Clark
A Stuart	M Brown
D Rodgers	Jeanette Hunt
B Graham	S Brown
A Graham	A Kenyon

Senior Citizens



Calling All Seniors!

The Senior Citizens recommence on Monday 5th October at 2.15pm. We have a varied and entertaining programme. I look forward to seeing all members once again and new members are very welcome.

Our programme for October is

5th Open Day

12th Mr Swing

19th Alan Johnstone – Holiday Slides

26th Carol and Stew – Guitarist and Singer

Cathy Dent (President)

Gift Day

At recent Board meetings our treasurer, Stuart Mckibbin, has highlighted the considerable reduction in income which we are experiencing during the current year. At the end of July, our cumulative income had decreased by 11% compared with the same period in 2014. If this were to continue until December we would see a deficit of £6500/£7000 for the whole year.

The Finance Committee always budgets to show a balanced position at the end of each

year but, clearly, this will not be achieved on this occasion.

In an effort to avoid such a situation in December, the Board has decided that we should hold a Gift Day to give members the opportunity to make an additional contribution towards church funds. This will be held on Saturday, 31st October, between 10am and noon. Tea and coffee will be provided and our minister, Malcolm Cuthbertson will be in attendance. Donations will also be welcome on Sundays following the event. Envelopes, specifically for the Gift Day, will be available before and on the 31st October.

Our situation has been further exacerbated because, since that Board meeting, our boiler has broken down and will require to be replaced, incurring unexpected expenditure of almost £5000. As you will appreciate, this job has to be undertaken immediately to ensure that our building is adequately heated during the approaching winter.

Our last Gift Day, held in November 2013, raised the magnificent total of £6827 which included £1140 from the Gift Aid scheme and the Finance Committee feels it necessary to seek once again your generous support to enable us to adequately look after the church's assets.

Finance Committee

Men's Fellowship

Our new session will commence on Monday 5th October at 7.45 pm. We meet in the Guild Room. We invite men from our congregation to consider joining us at our weekly meeting- if however you are not available every week we are happy to welcome visitors.

Our meetings for October and the start of November are as follows;

Oct 5th Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson
Oct 12th Douglas Taylor
Oct 19th Rhona Hughes – Song and Story
Oct 26th John Irvine – Hymn Karaoke
Nov 2nd Eleanor Kelly – Song and Story
Nov 9th Donald Murray – The Women who flew Spitfires

*Every accomplishment
starts with the
decision to try.*

Anon



Our meetings for October are

4th Oct Dedication Service
6th Oct Irene Dick
13th Oct Project – FGM
20th Oct Street Pastors
27th Oct Halloween Party

3rd Nov Acting Up (Fund Raiser)
Ticket on sale soon
10th Nov Elspeth Carss – War Graves
17th Nov Alex Stuart
24th Nov Life and Times of Robert
Service

Our Meetings start at 7.30 p.m. and new members are always welcome. We have a very varied and interesting programme this year so why not come along for an enjoyable evening, good company and a nice cup of tea.



Lodging House Mission Quarterly Prayer Letter

"I thank my God every time I think of you; whenever I pray for you all, my prayers are always joyful, because of the part you have taken in the work of the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil 1: 3-5)

Dear Friends,

The apostle Paul wrote the words above to the church in Philippi to inform the believers there how much he prayed for them but also how much he valued their prayer support for him. Paul was in no doubt that he needed the Philippians' support and that of many of the other churches he visited too, if the good news of the gospel was going to advance and have a changing impact on people's lives.

This is why we value the partnerships that have developed over many years with so many churches in and beyond Glasgow Presbytery and why we encourage you to pray for everyone who is involved in the work of the LHM.

Prayer Issues

* Give thanks for the wonderful day at Kelvingrove Park for our Family Fun Fund Raising Day last month. For the fine weather and the friendly atmosphere. Give thanks that

the day went smoothly and safely. Give thanks too for everyone who raised funds for LHM by walking, jogging or cycling and for everyone who donated home baking, prizes, money or their time to make the day a success.

* Give thanks for all our volunteers, tutors and external agencies that enable us to provide a variety of services for our service users.

* Give thanks for the small group of service users who are faithful in attending Bible Study.

* Give thanks for our volunteer, Eric, who is steadily working away in the LHM food store, devising a system to ensure that no food has to be discarded because it is out of date.

* Pray for all our service users who are experiencing hardship due to changes in the Benefits System.

* Pray for all those who are rough sleeping and for those who are constantly being rejected when applying for accommodation.

* Pray for some of our regular service users who are serving some time in prison.

* Pray for a good response to our Harvest Appeal, on which the LHM is so reliant to build up our winter food stock.

* Pray for Neil as he manages the day-to-day running of the Day Centre and for Mark as he oversees all the hall activities.

* Pray for the Board as they seek financial support through new partnerships with charitable trusts.

May God's blessing be with you all.

Gus McKay (Chaplain)

Harvest Thanksgiving



Our Harvest collection this year will go to our Tearfund Connected Church Appeal to support the work of the Self Help Groups of the Kale Heywet Church in Ethiopia. Envelopes will be available and it would be much appreciated if you could Gift Aid your donation, if possible.

The Sunday School and the children of Garrowhill Primary School will be sending their gifts to the Lodging House Mission and any additional gifts will be very gratefully received.



"Can I text just one last message?"

Musical Afternoon

Bill Russell will be playing a selection of Organ and Piano music in the church on the afternoon of Sunday 25th October at 3.00 pm. All proceeds will go to a group called Venture Medical UK. They are planning a trip to Nepal next April and their aim is to take medical supplies and offer medical training to the local people to enable them to cope in times of disaster such as the dreadful earthquake which the area experienced this year.



Presbytery Report

We have had to find a new meeting place as major rot problems have been found in Govan and Linthouse Church and so for the remainder of this year our meetings will be held in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's whose minister, the Rev Tom Pollock, is the Moderator this year.

The Business Committee intimated that the Overture amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships Act which was sent down to Presbyteries from the General Assembly, will be discussed at our December meeting.

They also raised the question of Strategic Spending. For some time, a sum of 3% of Ministry and Mission Contributions from charges in the Presbytery has been made available to Presbytery. This was used to share across all the charges in Presbytery to help reduce the Ministry and Mission Contributions, but the central church then put restrictions on its use and, more recently, it has been used to reduce the contributions for charges struggling financially, to support Creative Outreach through a special fund and to write off shortfalls in certain circumstances. This year, the sum increased to 4% and next year it will rise to 5%, an additional amount of some £120,000 making around £300,000 in total in 2016. While there are restrictions on how this can be spent, it is intended to allow an element of decision making to be devolved to Presbytery. The Business Committee had considered various options, and brought three to Presbytery for their consideration. All the options are intended to support and develop

the work of the church within the Presbytery. The first was to make more funding available for Creative Outreach and review the criteria for grants from it. This fund is to help congregations to start new missional initiatives such as church planting or community engagement.

The second was to offer more Funding for Presbytery-wide Support Staff and provide extra paid support for congregations in specific areas, such as

- Advice for treasurers
- Extra time for buildings officers to enable deeper inspections and improve prevention of rot, etc
- More youth work support
- Funding application advice
- Local Church Review support

The third option was to make more funding available to create three new full-time posts within Presbytery to be allocated to support congregations, groupings, or areas.

A decision will be made at the October meeting.

The Community Responsibility Committee brought a report on Funeral Poverty. The cost of funerals has recently been highlighted in the media. These costs have soared by 80% in the last 10 years while at the same time Government Grants have dwindled. This can cause great distress to families or individuals who get into debt to pay for what they consider a 'decent' funeral for a loved one or even a distant relative or friend. Funeral packages

can be expensive and confusing and it is extremely difficult to challenge costs in the emotional crisis of any bereavement. Many organisations, including the Church of Scotland, are coming together to try to address the situation. The Fair Funeral Campaign was set up in 2014 to invite Funeral Directors to sign up to offering a more affordable package and to clearly display all costs. The committee wished to highlight this situation and encourage congregations to ask their local Funeral directors if they are aware of this campaign and encourage them to sign the 'Fair Funeral Pledge'. Consideration could also be given as to how congregations could perhaps provide practical as well as emotional support to anyone in the community e.g. in keeping the costs down by providing a Funeral Tea in the church hall, or a car to transport folks to the funeral.

Janet Park

Life and Work Magazine

We will shortly be placing our order for Life and Work magazine for next year. The Annual payment is £26.40 but this will not be due to be paid until the end of January. If you are in the habit of receiving a copy and no longer wish to continue, or if you would like to start receiving a copy, please speak to Mary Martin by the 15th November.



A minister was being constantly criticised by a member of his congregation.

After six months of this, the poor man could stand it no more. He went out on a nice hot summer's afternoon for a drive in the countryside. He wound down the windows and after about an hour of driving, began to feel much better.

Driving down a narrow country lane, however, he was horrified to see a car careering towards him out of control. As it approached, he realised with greater horror that the lady driving the car was the very woman who had been harassing him.

As they passed within an inch of each other, the woman shouted, "PIG!"

Months of built-up tension got the better of the minister and he shouted back, "COW!"

Then he drove round the corner and hit the pig.

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J John and Mark Stibbe. Monarch Books.

So, four months in post and what is the not so new Children, Young People and Family Worker doing with his time? As a result of the Holiday Club, two groups have been identified, and these groups will both be started when you come to read this. The first group is an 18-30ish fellowship group. We meet once a month for social events and our first two meetings have involved going out for dinner and playing crazy golf. It is open to anyone in the 18-30ish age bracket and I'm happy to pass on details of when we meet. The other group to come from the Holiday Club is a Youth Fellowship. This started on Sunday 4th October and is open to any young person S1-S6. We meet in the church hall on a Sunday evening 7-9pm. We start each evening with a Bible reflection, then the rest of the evening is socialising and fellowship. Come along to find out more. My hope is the Youth Fellowship will feed into the 18-30ish group, which will then feed into the leadership of the church.

Within the church I have now visited all the youth organisations in the church. The first thing that has struck me is the dedication of the volunteers in all the organisations. They deserve

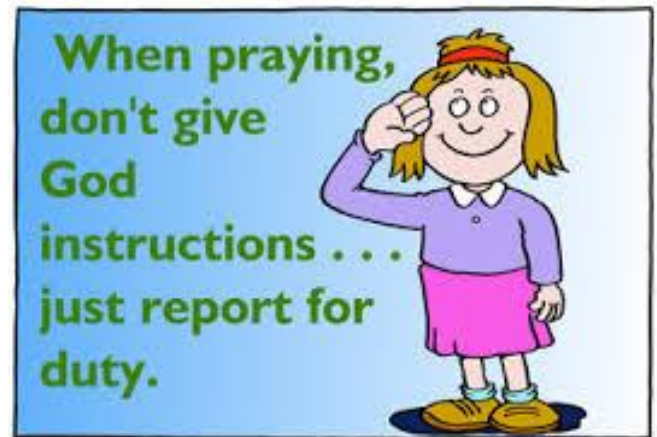
tremendous praise for the unstinting work they do within the church. Everyone that helps shows tremendous dedication to the young people in their care, and this is a fantastic base to build from here at Mure Memorial Church.

Outside the church, I have been busy in schools. After the October school break there will be a Scripture Union Group in Garrowhill Primary on Thursday lunchtime. This will be open to any child in P6-P7 initially, but if there is a demand, I'll certainly look at setting up similar groups for younger pupils. At Bannerman High I have got involved in setting up the Scripture Union Group there. It is open to any pupil in S1-S3 and is on a Wednesday lunchtime. At the moment we have 6 young people who have attended the group, so this gives great hope to build this group in the future. At the end of October I shall be helping Scripture Union at their Glasgow East weekend away, which includes some of the young people attending this group.

Douglas

Bible, in 50 words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.



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 or place a copy of the information in Post Box 35 in the Session Room

**Deadline for the next issue is
Wednesday 21st October**

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From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J John and Mark Stibbe,
Monarch Books