



THE GIFT OF GIVING

Christian giving is a response to God's gifts of life and love. It is a response to the Good News of God's love and saving grace in Jesus Christ. Christian giving is an opportunity to enable the sharing of the gospel through the worship, fellowship, mission and service of the Church, within our fellowship, local communities and beyond.

The gift of giving is certainly a beautiful and a wonderful gift. We know how fully and completely Jesus gave Himself for us. Christ gave Himself as a ransom of our sins and He is our benchmark and model for giving.

God has been so generous to us. The word give is mentioned in the Bible so many times you may think that God has a lot to say about giving, but if you look at all the references you will see that the vast majority of these are referring to what God has given to us.

As Christians, we know we are accountable to God for what we do with all our money, all our time and all our talents – not only the money, time and talents we give as an offering to support the work of the Church, but the stewardship of all we have and how we use it in our daily lives. The way in which we use our time, talent and money is a fundamental part of our Christian living, our Christian discipleship.

Paul said if we have the gift of giving then we should do this generously and here at St Andrew's we are blessed to have a congregation who embrace this wholeheartedly. At St. Andrew's the level of regular giving whether by bringing an offering every week or by standing order through the bank or by other means has, over many years, been exceptional. Nonetheless, this is just enough to pay the bills.

The Bible also tells us that we are to give lovingly and willingly from our hearts. God never wants a person to feel pressured in giving to Him. Whatever you give to God, you should always give willingly and from your heart, and with love.

Now the beautiful thing about this is that YOU, the congregation of St Andrew's, have a heart to give and as a result, you have given wonderfully for the previous annual Gift Days. As a result, YOU make a difference to the lives of those around us in Arbroath and further afield. Now that is the spirit of giving! When God moves upon the hearts of people to give, it really is an exciting thing - because when we open our hearts to give unto the Lord it is beautiful and we see God at work, impacting on lives of those who give and those who we reach out to. For example, through the work we do with children and young people, reaching out to those for whom poverty or substance misuse press in on their lives, or those who in their later years find ill health limiting what they can do. There are many other ways, of course, in which

we positively impact on people's lives, often quietly in the background.

So, on Sunday, 25th November, we will have our Annual Gift Day. This is an opportunity for you to support our ministries and mission and ensure that our work is well resourced and effective in reaching out to meet the spiritual and practical needs within our communities. We ask you to consider £50 as a starting point. You should however, only give that which you can give willingly from your heart - an amount which is 'loose change' to one person is the 'widow's mite' to another!

Gift Day is also an opportunity to reflect on our financial giving in a broader sense. For example, if finding a one-off gift is difficult, pledging an increase in monthly giving may be a better option. The starting point as we move towards our Gift Day should of course be prayer – seeking God's guidance in our stewardship of the gifts He has given us, our finances, time and talents, and how we use these in all areas of our lives.

Beginning with prayer: *"We thank you, God, for all your gifts: for life in your wonderful world; for space and time to enjoy your gift of life; for talents that bring us a sense of fulfilment."*

We thank you, God, for coming as Jesus: to show us how much you love us; to forgive us through the cross of Calvary; to raise us with Christ to new life with you.

We thank you, God, for your Holy Spirit: your presence to guide us day by day; your power to support us day by day; your assurance of your continuing love."

Gift Day is about giving to God and experiencing then the reward, the joy, and the blessing of having a part and a share in God's work and in God's kingdom. It is part of building God's Kingdom on earth, meeting immediate needs and investing in the future for the next generation of God's people.

Yours in Christ,

The Finance and Administration Core Group

[Did you know?... If you are already giving and pay tax to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have you considered Gift Aid (GA)? If you are not already giving by GA but you pay tax, joining means an immediate 25% increase in what the church can receive without any additional contribution or commitment from yourself – we make the claim from HMRC. It's easy to sign up for this, just speak to Linda in the church office.]

CHURCH OFFICE : 431135**ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter : 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

MINISTER

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Ian Gray : 01674 677 126

SESSION CLERK

Clerk Team : 431135

TREASURER

Heather Black:

CHURCH OFFICER

Janis Clark : 878594

YOUTH WORKER

(Adele Marr : 07762 740 317)

Carla Ingram : 07762740317

**HAVILAH PROJECT
LEADER**

Tracey McLeod : 434088

**HAVILAH PROJECT
WORKER**

David Cohen:

**HAVILAH SUPPORT
WORKER**

Karen Reaney : 434088

FABRIC CONVENOR

Ray Reaney : 07803 235 418

SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

Iain Robertson : 877519

SAFEGUARDING

Eleanor Jakobsen :

01382 477318

FLOWER CONVENOR

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

PRAYER PROMOTERS

Judy Spink : 872395

Anne Matthew : 876008

SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Janis Clark : 878594

BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Linda Hunter : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records****October 2018****Baptisms and
Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Elizabeth Brown, Ian Scott,
Lex Moore

Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted other funerals though none were of members of our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

IMPORTANT DATES**DECEMBER EDITION**Handwritten/typed articles should be handed in to the **OFFICE** by the **FIRST** date and **NOT** to Editor.Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent **directly to the Editor** or **via office** by **second** date.Please **DO NOT** embed articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 16th November (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th November (Word-Processed file)

Service Core Group**Use LED**

Not only do LED light bulbs last longer than conventional bulbs, they're far more efficient too! This means that you'll be using less power and having to replace your light bulbs less frequently – everyone's a winner. What's more, they're available in a range of brightness and designs so you can really tailor the lighting to your needs or to suit the room.

Soup Lunches - 25 November - Havilah**Organisations will alert members when groups resume after holidays or when changes to venues are made.****SUNDAY**

10.15 am – Gathering for prayer.

11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee after. Creche – up to age 3. Infants – ages 3 to 5. Juniors – ages 8 and 9. Seniors – ages 10 and 11

Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238). Teen Scene – S1 to S2

7.30 to 9.00 pm – Youth Group - Adele Marr (07762 740 317) but, until further notice, also contact Carla Ingram on 07762740317

Monday to Friday - 12.00 – Havilah : Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088)**MONDAY**

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Shona Kemp (878526)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

THURSDAY

9.30 am – Parent and Toddler Group – M Laidlaw (07840 966 438)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – J Lonie secretary (07712 538 306)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.00 pm – Church Prayer Group

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Martin Fair

November 2018

Dear Friends,

During this last week, I've spent time with three separate individuals who have started attending our church in the last few weeks and months. All report that they've felt themselves very welcome and that lots of people have spoken to them and introduced themselves. That's great to hear! Everyone should enjoy that sense of feeling 'at home.' We all need to feel that we belong and churches should, at the very least, be families in which all can know themselves valued.

This is something that we generally do quite well at – nonetheless, we must not rest on our laurels. We need to work at it until there's not a single person who feels left out. As minister, I can do my bit but really, this is the work of the whole congregation. As much as is possible, we should each play our part, being ready to say 'hello' and to engage with folks we haven't noticed in church before. This doesn't come easily to all of us but pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones is the only way to ensure that no-one is 'missed'.

It's also true, of course, that the street runs two ways and that folks need to avail themselves of such opportunities as exist to meet and get to know new people. Even so, it's for those of us who already belong to take the initiative.

Here are another couple of things about congregational life; there shouldn't be anyone who is not in church for want of help getting there and there shouldn't be anyone who ends up having to take public transport to, for example, Ninewells for an appointment. Of course, in the case of the hospital appointment, there might be a perfectly good reason why someone wants to make their own way – but the reason should never be that they would have preferred a lift but didn't know anyone who could take them. We have people in our congregation who would be only too happy to provide a lift, whether to Ninewells or to worship on a Sunday. Please let us know if we can help in these or other practical ways.

All of this is about working our socks off to build community; to make sure that 'love one another' is a reality and not just an empty ideal, never realised.

As minister, I can do my part. Our elders and other leaders can do their part. And you can do your part.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mary Slessor

A sculpture of a Presbyterian missionary considered by many as one of the most inspirational, compassionate and determined Scots who ever lived has been unveiled. Mary Slessor (1848-1915) will be immortalised as a figurehead in the Hall of Heroes at the National Wallace Monument near Stirling following a public vote.

The bust, made out of jesmonite injected with marble dust, was unveiled at a ceremony at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh in October. It will take its place in the Hall of Heroes next Spring, joining 16 famous men from Scotland's history including Robert Burns, James Watt, Adam Smith and Sir Walter Scott, ahead of the Monument's 150th anniversary since its opening.

Ms Slessor, a Dundee mill worker, was inspired by the legendary explorer, Dr David Livingstone, to work as a missionary in Calabar, Nigeria in Western Africa in 1876. Despite several bouts of illness and constant danger, she

lived with the tribes, learned their language, and traditions, earning their respect and putting an end to some barbaric practices, such as the killing of twins.

When Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, she became the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire and a skilful diplomatic emissary.

Dona Robertson, a member of The Steeple Church in Dundee, which bears a bronze plaque to commemorate the missionary's work, attended the unveiling. "This is an amazing tribute to Mary Slessor and quite incredible that it has happened after a public vote to finally have a woman in the Hall of Heroes," she said.

"She was an amazing woman, far removed from the Victorian women missionaries of her time in the way she befriended and lived with the local people she worked alongside."

She was much loved, and, as we see today, still very much remembered."

(Extracted from the Church of Scotland website.)

Ask Theophilus

Question :

These are verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 35:

Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them away!
Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!

This sounds just awful! The psalmist is praying against his enemies. But did Jesus not teach us to turn the other cheek?

Theophilus answers :

This is a most important question about (what is called) an imprecatory psalm. It is important to study the whole Psalm to get the full picture. Several points.

First, David is speaking about a former close friend (most probably King Saul). David says in verses 13 and 14 that in the past, when this person was unwell, he had worn sackcloth as a sign of his grief, and had afflicted himself by fasting and praying for his friend to recover. He had truly been a faithful, loyal friend to this man.

Second, he tells us in verses 11 and 12 that his former friend had turned against him. He had deliberately invented vicious lies and produced false witnesses to make baseless allegations, returning David's goodness with evil. Thus David had been left utterly alone, with everyone against him.

Third, David also says in verses 15 and 16 that he is now an outcast, friendless, hunted for his life, mocked and despised throughout the land. In verse 7 he says that this former friend had set traps for him, intending to capture and kill him.

Fourth, notice carefully that throughout the whole Psalm, David implicitly refuses to take any action himself. He is not strapping on his sword and going out to ambush his tormentor. Rather he is casting himself upon God's providential care. He commits his cause entirely to God's just judgement.

Fifth, he is complaining to God about wickedness. In the secret place, alone before God, he is deploring the dishonesty, treachery, hatred and profanity of this man who has gathered a coterie of equally wicked men around him. David is deeply grieved by such evil, and is convinced that God is grieved also.

Finally, as with many of the Psalms, David's suffering and persecution foreshadows the persecution and suffering of Jesus himself. Remember how when Pilate offered to release a prisoner in honour of the great Feast of the Passover, men who claimed to serve God chose Barabbus, a murderer and a robber, and cried out for the gentle, inoffensive Christ to be crucified. So Jesus died in place of a murderer, and Barabbus went free. But what a choice! See on the one hand, the wickedness of men's hearts, and on the other hand, the grace and love of Christ's heart.

What profound mysteries are unfolded in Psalm 35!

David Searle

Youth Group

We are now well into the swing of our youth group programme for this year! This past Sunday (21st October), the Youth Group painted poppies with the plastic bottles we have been collecting over recent weeks. This is to take part in a community project led by Heather Cottage Crafts and Interiors which is located on the High Street. This project is looking towards Remembrance Sunday with the shop creating a poppy display on the front of their shop to mark the occasion. Our Havilah Project also took part in this craft activity and overall our church has been able to complete around 170 poppies to be included in the memorial!

As we progress towards Christmas, we are currently planning our annual Edinburgh Christmas Market Trip which will take place in the afternoon/evening of Sunday the 16th of December. We will have the opportunity to visit the Christmas market and the young people will also have the choice of activities between Ice Skating in St Andrews Square or taking a ride on the Big Wheel in Princes Street Gardens. This will be a great trip and will allow our young people to build stronger relationships as they socialise together.

Again, if there are any young people from the school

years of S1-4 who would like to join our Youth Group, you are very welcome to join us in the Church hall on a Sunday evening 6.30-8pm. Our Young Adults are continuing with the Youth Alpha programme which is for those aged 17-21 at my home on Sunday evenings 8.15-9.45pm (contact me for details). The cost is £1 each week to cover our trips and resources - however, the first week is free!

We are now beginning our programmes with the schools in Arbroath after the October holidays. I will be going into Warddykes Primary School on Friday lunch times to run a lunch club. This group has had so many members sign up that we will have to run the same programme over two terms to include everyone who wishes to take part! I am now also taking part in the senior assemblies with Dave from the Mission. Finally this term, we are beginning to look towards the Bubblegum & Fluff programme with Primary 5 pupils from Warddykes, Hayshead, Ladyloan, Timmergreens and Muirfield Primary Schools. This is such an exciting outreach which will mean that 192 children will come into our church from the 4th-7th of December to hear about the true meaning of Christmas.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our youth work!

Carla Ingram (07762740317)

GUILD NEWS

Our new session began with the Dedication and Communion service led by our minister, Martin, on the 10th of September. This was a time of reflection and encouragement. On the 24th of September we invited Martin back as our speaker, and his evening was entitled 'One foot in front of the other'. This was a wonderful evening of 'following' Martin on some of his walks and climbs into beautiful scenery acknowledging God's creation and being aware of God's presence.

As the Guild's theme is 'One Journey, Many Roads', we felt it only right to start at the beginning...and invited Fiona Mineard to come and tell us about 'The First Journey' from a midwife's perspective! This was another good evening, with quizzes and Bible readings and hearing the different ways mums can choose how their baby's first journey can begin.

Last night (22nd October) the Guild did something different. We met at the Library where June and Karen (Library staff) with the aid of powerpoint, photos and old

Arbroath Herald annuals etc., showed us old Arbroath and there was much laughter and chatter as folk were remembering what was where and who lived where...a very good evening. We then went round to the Townhouse for tea/coffee and shortbread.

Earlier in the day, eight ladies from our Guild attended the Guild Roadshow, when a team from Guild Office in Edinburgh came through to Arbroath to meet the Guilds of Angus East to give us news, information and resource material for our Guild meetings. This was a good event and it gave us a chance to meet up with the other Guilds and also meet the folk from Edinburgh. As the Roadshow was going to Forfar the next day they stayed overnight at the Townhouse and so they joined us at the close of our evening.

As you will see we have a varied programme and we would be very happy for you to join us. A copy of the programme is on the Guild Noticeboard in the Main Hall, so take a look and come along.

Always remembering -

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Vision Conference

In September, we hosted an afternoon conference through which we sought to assess the current climate and to clarify what is required of the church to most effectively operate in such a climate. Almost fifty people attended the conference and all had opportunity to contribute thoughts and feelings.

Our minister opened proceedings with a presentation outlining just how drastically society has changed in recent years and, most certainly, since the 'golden age' of the church in Scotland. In its heyday, in the mid 1950s, the Church of Scotland had 1.5 million members. Now, the number is around 340,000 – and worryingly, the rate of decline has increased sharply in the last ten years. But even more worrying, the Church is 'older' than ever before; that is, it has all but lost contact with children and young families across large swathes of our country.

It hardly needs saying that we can't go on in this way.

Over 200 congregations are without a minister, on average one church closes every week, and at this rate the Church of Scotland will cease to exist within 25 years. (Readers will recently have learned that Arbroath's Knox's Church is soon to close.)

And yet despite the seriousness of the situation, our conference was not hope-less – far from it.

Our conclusions? Well these will be worked out over coming weeks and months but for now we can say this:

- 1) We must be ready to adapt and change how we do things – clinging to former ways is no longer an option.
- 2) Reaching out to share our faith must become our absolute priority.
- 3) And in all of this, we must learn to trust God perhaps as never before.

Watch this space.

Toddlers

After a few months of lying 'fallow,' we're delighted to announce that our toddler group is soon to be re-launched! Sessions will run on Thursday mornings from 10-11.30pm with the opening day being 15th November. The group will be drop-in in nature with a suggested donation of £2 for each session.

We're further delighted to confirm that our own Kirsty Napier will be at the centre of things and as the group takes

off, Kirsty will coordinate the forming of a new steering committee.

It's interesting to note that half the toddlers groups in Britain are run by churches! Interesting, but not surprising. What better than that churches offer nurturing support to young families – what better than that our buildings are offered as safe spaces for tiny tots beginning to develop their playing and social skills.

Please put the word out! St. Andrew's Toddlers – launching Thursday 15th November 2018, 10am.

Dalitso Project News

Our next big night is our annual Murder Mystery on 10th November at 7pm. If you are reading before this date get in touch for tickets. It is normally a sell out so be sure not to delay. The title this year is The Diamonds, The Dagger and One Classy Dame with tickets available at £14. An enthusiastic bunch of actors and actresses are preparing under the watchful eye of Joanna Cooper ready to tell the story of the death of the Mayor of Casablanca.

The container continues to make good progress, this year taking a different route down the Eastern side of Africa. It has already travelled through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea before stopping off in Dubai. It is on track for a pre-Christmas arrival so please do pray that it does not come across any delays. It would be great this year to have the children celebrate Christmas on the 25th and not over a month later like last year.

It Can Happen

In last month's Quest we published the story of a family who were in danger of being deported. As a Christian family, they feared for their lives if they were sent back to Pakistan. Our Moderator and others took up their case and it would appear that there is now some hope for the family. Here is an extract on the continuing story, taken from The Church of Scotland website. -

The case of two teenage brothers facing deportation from Scotland will be reviewed, Theresa May has promised.

The Prime Minister told the House of Commons today she would ensure that the Home Office "looks again" at the plight of the Umeed Bakhsh family, who have been living in limbo for nearly seven years.

Somer, 15, Areeb, 13 and their parents, Maqsood and Parveen, moved to Glasgow from Faisalabad in Pakistan in 2012 after their father was subjected to death threats from Islamic extremists due to his Christian faith.

The family's case was raised at Prime Minister's Questions today by Paul Sweeney, MP for Glasgow North East who urged her

Our Christmas preparations are well under way with our updated Alternative Catalogue being ready for launch in the next couple of weeks. These will be available from any Dalitso member or through Facebook or email. We are also making Alternative Gift Crackers where inside each is a piece of paper telling you what your cracker has given to a person at one of our projects. On a day that can be so much about presents and eating this is a simple way to remember those that have less and do something about it. Prices will be advertised in the bulletin or by again contacting us directly.

Normally at this time of year we are publicising our Pamper Weekend. This is to take place in February in the run up to Valentine's Day. Again this will involve Becky Dunphy (Physio) and Leonie Atalay (Nails) along with Mo Broomfield (Nails) and Rachel Stewart (Dietitian). Vouchers will be available for Christmas Gifts to be used at the weekend. More details next month.

Charis

to meet with the family.

He told MPs that the boys live in "constant fear of deportation" to a country that they fled in fear for their lives.

But Mr Sweeney said a petition, calling for them to be given permission to stay in the UK which has been signed by nearly 90,000 people and handed over to Home Office officials in Glasgow, had been met with "callous indifference".

He told the House that Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn was "appalled by the lack of compassion" shown to the boys whom he met at Possilpark Park Parish Church in Glasgow recently.

Mr Sweeney said: "Will the Prime Minister now review this case and meet with these boys to witness firsthand what life is like at the sharp end of this government's hostile environment?"

In response, Mrs May said: "Every case in relation to people's right to stay here in the United Kingdom is looked at extremely carefully.

"I will certainly ensure that the Home Office looks again at this case."

LOOKING AHEAD

NOVEMBER

Sunday 4

11 am - Worship Service;
With special guest, Robert Allan from Falkirk

Sunday 11

10.45 am - Worship Service, beginning with Act of Remembrance

Sunday 18

11 am - Worship Service; main service followed by short celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 25

11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - Messy Church

DECEMBER

Sunday 2

11 am - Worship Service
All-age Advent Service, with welcome to new members and Communion.

Sunday 9

11 am - Worship Service;
Inc. Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 16

11 am - Service of Lessons
and Carols

Sunday 23

11 am - Worship Service

Monday 24

6.30 pm - Nativity and
Christingle Service for all
the family
11.15 pm - Traditional
Watchnight Service
(with coffee and mince pies from 10 pm.)

Tuesday 25

11 am - Christmas Day
all-age service

Thursday 27

6.30 pm—Service of
Memorial and Thanksgiving
- Worship Service

Sunday 30

11 am - Closing the Year
Worship Service

Midweek services, lasting
approx. forty minutes, take
place every Wednesday at
10.30am (followed by coffee.)

The evening services will,
for the time being, be
replaced by 'Big Night Ins' on
approximately a termly
basis.

Wanted - Knitters

The Police are appealing for knitters to make Trauma Teddies. These teddies are to be given to children who have experienced a traumatic event.

The pattern seems quite simple and shouldn't be a challenge to the knitters of St Andrew's Church.

The Police would appreciate any help given. So, if you would like to knit a teddy, the pattern is available from the office or contact Noela Watson.

Please hand in the knitted teddies to the office or give to Noela.

Thank you.

Church Alive!

From time to time, we highlight another congregation from elsewhere in Scotland – that we might be encouraged by what God is doing and that we might lift others up in prayer. This time, a congregation from one of the most deprived areas of Scotland and yet a congregation very much alive and prospering!

The congregation of St Rollox Church of Scotland came together last Sunday for a special service of celebration and thanksgiving as they prepare to say farewell to their church building and move to new premises.

Around 200 people of all ages attended the service and sat down together over a feast of a lunch prepared by congregation members.

The congregation has been forced to move out of the current building because it stands in the way of a new road into Glasgow City Council's £250 million Sighthill regeneration area. It will be the fourth time St Rollox has had to move church buildings.

Since receiving a compulsory purchase order in late 2014 the congregation has been working with the council and the Church of Scotland General Trustees to commission and build a brand new worship centre and community building.

The new church building, just half a mile away from the existing church within the 800-home regeneration area, is now under construction and on schedule to open next summer. In the meantime the congregation is moving to temporary accommodation next to the site.

Kenneth Lawani, a researcher in construction at Glasgow Caledonian University and St Rollox' session clerk, said the congregation has gone through a range of emotions about the move. "Moving to our temporary church home will be a change but it is not a shock," he said. "Construction never goes exactly the way you imagine it should and the time frame is not absolute. Now we can see the new church building growing up the congregation is ready to move forward. We are not excited about our new building yet but we are getting there."

In most construction projects the Church of Scotland General Trustees are on hand to advise the congregation as it manages each stage of construction. At St Rollox, after the compulsory purchase order arrived and the complexity of the project became clear, they agreed to play a bigger role. Raymond Young, Chair of the General Trustees, told

the gathering that he would walk with them on every step of their journey. "This is a remarkable congregation and a remarkable place," he said. "I will always remember the warmth of your welcome and the quality of your hospitality. Today we have celebrated more than 30 Christ-like years in this community, being a light to people who may be in a dark place. That is why we are building the best possible building for you. I think when you have crossed the Jordan and entered into your new home, I think God will encourage you and you will be able to do things you have never done before. We are the people of the Resurrection."

St Rollox has a long history of outreach work with asylum seekers and refugees, a legacy that has made its congregation one of the most diverse in Scotland. Longtime church members who grew up in the Sighthill area worship alongside new Scots from all over the world. Anna O'Neil, who has volunteered in the church charity shop for 17 years, said she has many happy memories in the building. "I am not really looking forward to going to a new church, but we have to change," she said. "I was baptised here and now I am a member and I believe in God. My life has changed since I came to this church. I have so many friends of different nationalities. I couldn't do without it. "This new church will be for the whole Sighthill community and I hope the atmosphere will be the same."

Naheeda Phillip came to Glasgow with her family in October 2001 after fleeing religious persecution in Saudi Arabia. An elder, as is her husband William, Naheeda has been involved with prison ministry as a volunteer. "When we came to Glasgow, we needed some spiritual support and we knew immediately that we had found it when we came into St Rollox," Naheeda said. "This is the most welcoming place. We love the church and we love the people. We have moved twice since living in Sighthill, but we have stayed with this church. The church is not the building; it is the people." Joyce Davidson, clerk to the congregational board and a member of the project group that is coordinating the construction project, has been attending St Rollox since she was a child. "When we learned we had to move we made it very clear that we did not want to move more than once," Joyce said. "But it has turned out that we will have to spend some time in temporary accommodation before our new building is finished. On reflection I think it will be a good opportunity for us to get to know people in the new housing beside the construction area."

"A lot of people have an idea about Church that is stuck in the past. Our Church today is something quite different and this will be an opportunity for us to reach out to people and show them who we are now."

(From the Church of Scotland website.)

More in pictures

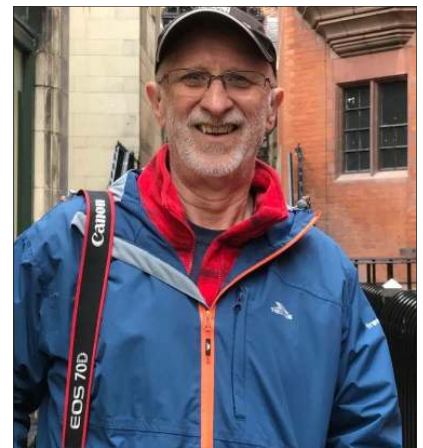


Above - Callum reunited with his parents in Australia.

Below - BB Officers at the rededication service.



Poppies that our Youth Group produced for inclusion in a memorial for Remembrance week



Two of our forthcoming guest speakers - Rev Robert Allan and Rev Tom Gordon