



COME All Who Are Thirsty



Allan Park South
Church of Scotland

Sunday Services

23rd Dec 10.30am – Readings and Carol (APS Worship Team with live String Quartet)

24th Dec 5pm – Family Christingle & Carol Service
Bring a Christingle if you can – see
<http://bit.ly/Christingle>

30th Dec 10.30am – APS Worship Team

Each Sunday at 10.30am. We are in the process of confirming who will lead services in January and February.

Kirk Session - Wed 13 February 7pm
Communion – Sun 3 March 10.30am

CONTACTS

Interim Moderator:

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From Jane

I attended the Go For It (GFI) conference on Tues 4th Dec in Glasgow. 170 people were there from churches throughout Scotland who had either received GFI funding or were seeking to apply for funding to GFI. Go For It currently fund our Bairns Rock, Lunch Club and Choir projects.

It was wonderful to hear from many of the projects about the fantastic outreach work they are doing. Much focus of the day was on where the Church of Scotland is currently positioned within its community and a real feeling that it is crucial that we as a Church have community at our heart, as it was recognised that we are not necessarily automatically at the heart of the community any longer. We must get back to being a key resource within our community and working with community partners will be key to our success in delivering much needed services.

Jane Steel, Session Clerk

HAVE WE GOT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? If you're not receiving emails but would like to do so, please let Jane Steel or Jane Harris know by emailing office.apschurch@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: Mon 18 February. Please email the office or hand material to Jane Steel or Jane Harris.

THE FUTURE OF ALLAN PARK SOUTH CHURCH

Following the recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee established to consider the future pattern of worship within the centre of Stirling, Stirling Presbytery agreed on 6th December 2018, to the union of Allan Park South Church (APS) and St Columba's Church congregations, and it has been agreed that Allan Park South Church, having a strategic location in the heart of the City Centre will be appointed as the Missional Community Outreach Centre for Stirling City Centre.

This is great news that supports the work of APS and has the agreement of APS Congregation. It endorses the continuation of the good work already being carried out and includes recommended expansion of these works together with future funding and Ministerial resource.

Summary

1. St Columbus and Allan Park South congregations will union and have the right to call a minister under a 7 year reviewable tenure.
2. St Columbus Church building will become the main place of worship on a Sunday morning for the united congregation
3. A Basis of Union must be drawn up and agreed by both congregations before a minister can be called, or changes to worship locations are made.
4. Considering the strategic location of APS to the Stirling community, a working team will be formed from all parties to look at how the APS Church building can be further developed as a missional outreach centre for Stirling City.
5. Areas of mission and outreach for consideration are:
 - Partnership with local charities, local authority, and social enterprises.
 - A variety of future styles of worship
 - Multi use of the APS facilities to host Sanctuary First office, Stirling Presbytery office, a range of clubs, a Community centre, Social Enterprise Café and a Family centre.
6. To continue the works already started and to build and expand upon those works and community activities where they support City centre Mission and Outreach.
7. Create a funding support model for a Missional Outreach centre in conjunction with future partners, Church of Scotland, Sanctuary First, Social Enterprise, and other charities
8. A longer term goal to form a single Stirling City Centre church was also agreed, to encompass into union all four City Centre churches.

MRS WINNIE WATTERS We were sad to learn of Winnie's very sudden death on 27 October. She was baptised and married in the South Church where she also taught in Sunday School. After the union she became an elder and was a faithful member at Allan Park South. Her family have gifted the collection at her funeral service to the church, making it up to £1000. We extend our thanks and sympathy to them.

GIVING Many thanks to those who have increased their regular giving, started GiftAid or made one-off donations recently. The church finances are looking better as a result.

Pause for thought

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7)

After travelling for hours, night was falling. Suddenly, there was a large thump and the car jolted. We kids held on tightly while Dad steered the shuddering car to the hard shoulder. We were powerless – all we could do was wait for the AA. Huddled together in the cold, cars zooming past, the wait seemed endless. Eventually, out of the darkness there was light. The headlights gave a halo to our hero, who was carrying a spare tyre and a spanner.

Sometimes that's what life is like: a sudden interruption to our plans and we're left in the dark, waiting, powerless. For me, it was chronic illness that stopped me in my tracks. For the past eight years I've been mainly bedbound, waiting to recover. For you it may be unemployment, financial trouble, relationship breakdown, workplace bullying, caring for a relative. Globally, too, there's recession, wars, and terrorism. The world seems a little darker. We all want someone trustworthy to look in our eyes and promise, 'It's going to be okay'.

Even if right now you're merrily speeding along in life, you know it could some day be you in the darkness. That's why people sign up for roadside assistance: it's a safety net. Where does our true security lie? The right answer is 'Jesus', as it was for the people of God in Isaiah's day. They were facing great uncertainty and darkness; Isaiah promised future light and a new leader. They shouldn't trust in Assyria for security but in the King to come. We know Jesus should be our security, but it's often so much easier to lean on something else without realising. Try finishing this sentence, 'One day, I fear that...' What disaster do you imagine might happen? This will give you a clue as to where your security lies. If nothing comes to mind, try, 'I don't fear disaster will come because...', which may also give you your answer.

What are you leaning on? This week, whenever you're travelling somewhere, take some time praying through what you depend on: money, family, work, intelligence, friendships, networks. These are all good gifts. But they cannot be the heroes that fix us nor the staffs we lean on. As you consider your future this week, discipline yourself to remember Jesus as leader, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God. Put your future again in his hands.

Tanya Marlow Author of [Those Who Wait](#) (Used with permission of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC))

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: To help in Bairns Rock; Music; Admin/office, PowerPoint/sound on Sundays; Flower rota; Tea and coffee on Sundays and Monthly Tea Dance.

THE MANSE is almost ready to rent out, with repair work at the completion stage.

Allan Park South – Mini News Update – December 2018

What's on each week (Finish on 20 Dec and resume week of 6 January)

Mon	11am-12.30pm	Knitting & Sewing Group Come along and try knitting or sewing in a relaxed informal group. For all abilities and ages.	Pillar Hall
	6-9pm	Music Jam Night Come along & play along with Jim Steel, John Perry and other budding musicians	Sanctuary
	5.30-7pm	Bible Study – Currently reading the books of the Old Testament. All welcome. See Jane for details	Jane Steel's house
Tues	9.30-11.30am	Bairns Rock A pre-school group for children and their carers. Enjoy free play, craft time, bible story, songs and snack time.	Large Hall & Pillar Hall
	7.30-9pm	Wellbeing Choir Come, sing and feel better. For all abilities!	Pillar Hall
Wed	2-4pm	MONTHLY Tea Dance – 2 nd Wednesday of every Month with live band, light lunch and refreshments	Large Hall
Thurs	9.30-10.30am	Prayer Meeting	Prayer Room
	12noon-2pm	Lunch Club For older people to enjoy the company of old and new friends and enjoy lunch together within a safe, warm environment.	Pillar Hall
Fri	10.30am to 12noon	Bible Sketching & Art Group – come along and draw bible related drawings with a bible reading or create art work	Pillar Hall
	1- 2.30pm	Life & Prayer Group – Come along and 'do life' with us – meet, talk, pray together	Pillar Hall
	6.15-9.30pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (P1-P3) 6.15-7.30pm Juniors (P4-P6) 6.30-8.00pm Company Section (P7-S6) 8.00-9.30pm	Large Hall & Pillar Hall

SUNDAY ROTA

	Welcome	Reader
6 January	David and Mary Boyd	Natalie Forshaw
13 January	Jennifer MacMillan and Kristin Johnstone	Jane Steel
20 January	Klaire Campbell and Sally Forshaw	Hugh Buchanan
27 January	Jane and Phil Harris	Colleen Sharp
3 February	Anne and Arthur McDonald	Sally Forshaw
10 February	Christine Purser and Bill Jamieson	Phil Harris
17 February	Colleen Sharp and Raymond Phillips	Paula Freck
24 February	Audrey Mitchell and Hugh Buchanan	Lorna Shaw

If you can't do your slot, please swap with someone else and let the office know (office.apschurch@gmail.com). The welcome team also assist the Finance Team to count the offering money plus any takings throughout previous week.