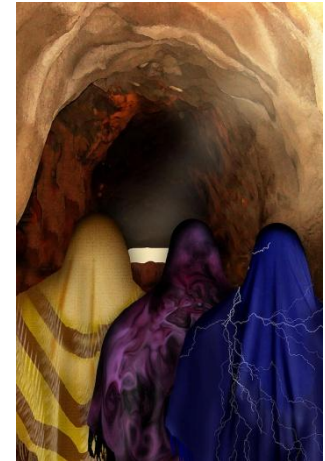


April 2016

Dear Friend

Every ending is a new beginning. It seemed to the disciples and many others that everything was over at Calvary when Jesus was crucified. His life was over. Time with their closest friend was over. The threat that the religious leaders perceived Jesus to be to them was over. It was an ending, but not many truly believed it could also be a beginning and yet it was. The resurrection was the beginning of Jesus' risen life amongst his disciples and followers. It was the beginning of a deeper understanding for them of all that Jesus had come to earth to achieve. When the temple curtain was torn in two it was symbolic of a new beginning in terms of access into God's presence.

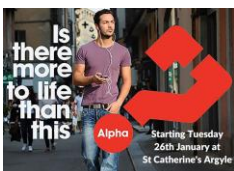


For the disciples it was the beginning of life as witnesses to Jesus in all the world. For the women who went to Jesus' tomb it was a new beginning as evangelists charged and commissioned by Jesus to tell the good news that He is risen. It was the beginning of life empowered by the Holy Spirit. It was the beginning of a great adventure that would take them out of their comfort zone and into the world with the specific task of enabling others to be disciples of Jesus and of course it was the beginning of the Christian Church. What amazing beginnings came out of the ending of Jesus' life!



Endings are important and are to be marked and acknowledged, but despite the emotions that accompany them, endings are never to mask or overwhelm the adventure that beckons with the new beginning opening up before us. A new beginning full of God's promise and hope-filled is one into which Jesus invited his followers then and invites us now.

As this in between time in St. Catherine's Argyle comes to an end now, God opens up a new beginning. It is a time of leaving what is past behind and a time of welcoming a new adventure. It is a time of leaving for me, as your locum and a time for you to welcome your new minister, Stuart and his family as they are the ones who under God and led by His Spirit will move with you into all that is part of this amazing beginning. Every ending is a new beginning - may you find much blessing in the beginning before you now.



Alpha Course - We have enjoyed meeting together over the last few months to explore what the Christian faith is all about. We have covered issues such as:
Why did Jesus die?

How can we have faith?

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Does God heal today?

What about the Church?

Our discussions have been lively and lots of challenging questions have been asked and explored.

A short follow-up to Alpha is taking place on Tuesday evenings in the Church, looking at some Bible passages and learning to read the Bible and pray together. Thanks to all who have supported the course prayerfully and practically.

"I liked that it raises the big questions about life and how we can live it more fully... it is inspiring, challenging and rewarding... in an open, fun setting full of interesting people." Lee

"Alpha opens a new door for me and let's me see God's garden behind the door." Jessica

Preparing to Welcome the Rev. Stuart Irvin

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new minister and his family to St. Catherine's Argyle at the end of April. It was lovely to meet them all in March when Stuart preached as nominee. They have sent us a little update as to what's happening before Stuart begins his ministry amongst us.



"We are all really excited about starting the next chapter and have been so encouraged by all the kind words and well wishes that people have shared since preaching as Sole Nominee. With my post at St Andrew's, Arbroath now being finished I find myself in an 'in between stage' however, with two small boys to run after I am not short of things to do. As a family we have been enjoying the extra time to catch up with friends and extended family. Shortly we will be making a trip to Taiwan to see my brother and his family. We would be glad of your prayers for safety and fun as we travel and spend time together. Likewise, please pray for us as we

prepare to make the move to Edinburgh. Lynne, Douglas, Gregor and myself are all looking forward to getting to know you as we start out at St Catherine's Argyle."

The Presbytery service for Stuart's induction will take place on Thursday 28th April at 7pm in the Church and will be followed by a time of fellowship together immediately afterwards. You are warmly invited to join us for that service.

Property Update

Over the winter months the Trustees have been keeping on top of various work that has needed done in the Church building. We are extremely grateful to David McEwan for organising most of this and dealing with contractors and workmen. Here are some of the things that have been happening:

- A new remote control system for the church heating has been installed, allowing us better control of which areas are heated and when, thus making heating more economical.
- New locks have been installed in the church and keys rationalised.
- A new wash-hand basin has been installed in the toilet to the rear of the sanctuary.
- Trees at the back of the manse have been removed and the manse drains cleaned.
- Some more work has carried out in the church, enabling us to meet the very stringent Fire Safety demands that have been placed upon us.
- There has been a leak in the tower which will be repaired in due course and one in the vestry which has been repaired and Gary Millie has been re-decorating the vestry for us.
- Work will take place soon to repair the leaning wall at the rear of the Church on Lovers' Loan.
- The trustees are currently working out a programme of upgrade and decoration for the manse.

As you can see the list is quite long and there have been other property repairs and maintenance ongoing too. This all takes time and it would be great to have some more help and support from anyone in the congregation who would like to be a part of caring for and maintaining our buildings.



The cleaning of our buildings continues to be done by a few members of the congregation - and as you know, it's a lot of building to clean! They undertake this work on your behalf and doubtless there are some of you reading this who even if you can't help on a regular basis, could volunteer a couple of hours a month to help with this. Cleaning can be done at your convenience and it would be great to share this out amongst more members of the church. Do let Alyson McEwan know if you are willing to help in this way.

Saying Goodbye

I suspect we are all experiencing lots of emotions at St Cath's. There is excitement and anticipation looking forward to a new phase in God's mission, but also sadness too, as Jane Howitt, who has been with us for the last 18 months full time, and on a few occasions before then conducting services, leaves us for pastures new.

It's my pleasant duty to thank Jane for all that she is and has done in that short space of time. Jane joined us a few months after the split, when we were very much trying to find our feet, and has carefully and graciously guided, led, inspired, and challenged us when necessary, through her ministry. She has been our locum, but a whole lot more than a locum too.



Aside from her pastoral work - which I know many in the congregation have appreciated - and very creative services, she has quietly and steadily rebuilt relationships with our community, school and care homes, led the website development, Alpha (alongside Rory, Ros and others) and so on. She has an extremely thorough knowledge of the sometimes Byzantine workings of the Church of Scotland, and her participation in Session has been invaluable, especially to someone as fond of administration as me.

We owe Jane a great debt of thanks. Thank you. You go with our blessings and prayers. Please keep in touch and we can all help restore that most difficult of all relationships Glasgow-Edinburgh!

And lastly, please, please, please, stay upright.
Angus Grant - Session Clerk

Moving West

It has been a great joy and privilege to be your Locum Minister over these last 18 months or so and we have experienced so much of God's grace, his healing power and his love together. A real sense of church as family has developed and week by week God has faithfully taught us from His Word and allowed us to grow in our knowledge and love for him. Thank you for allowing me to experience that with you. My time as Locum Minister with you will end on the 15th of May and the last services I will lead are on the 24th April.

On the 23rd May I will begin a new ministry as Transition Minister at St. Rollox Church of Scotland in Sighthill, Glasgow. Transition ministers lead congregations through significant periods of change and everything is changing at St. Rollox. The whole area the church serves is being regenerated. That means flats and houses are being demolished and new housing will be built. The church



building has been compulsory purchased by Glasgow City Council and they will be responsible for funding the construction of a new Church in the community. The congregation is multi-ethnic, as many of the original asylum seekers in the 2000s were housed in Sighthill and went along to church. I'm looking forward to working with Africans, Asians, Eastern Europeans and the Glasgow folk too who make up the congregation. Even more so, I am looking forward to seeing how God will lead us as a congregation to reach out into this brand new community being built around our new church building.

As well as all that is involved with the congregation and the new building, 20% of my time is given to working for Glasgow Presbytery leading some research, reflection and networking around issues raised by new builds, cultural diversity and changing communities.

It looks like being a big challenge and I will certainly have my hands full trying to manage all the extras as well as being Parish minister to the congregation and community. Needless to say, I will be grateful for your prayerful support in this new role and will look forward to seeing some of you at my service of introduction in June.

Services in April

- 10th April - 10.30am Communion Service
17th April - 10.30am We will welcome new members at this service
17th April - 2.30pm Short afternoon service at Glencairn Renaissance Care Home
24th April - 10.30am This will be our locum minister, Jane Howitt's, last morning service with us.
We will be having lunch together as a church family after the service.
24th April - 6.30pm We will have our evening service
28th April - 7.00pm Induction service for the Rev. Stuart Irvin

Church Register

We were delighted to baptize Oscar Murray and Helena Easterbrook last year, welcoming them into the church family at St. Catherine's Argyle - apologies for not mentioning you sooner in the newsletter! We have also welcomed Dr. Jennifer Easterbrook, Judith and Norman MacSween and Calum Martin into membership at St. Catherine's Argyle.

On the 17th April we look forward to Kenny Kemp and Catriona Lodge becoming members of our fellowship and the Church of Scotland.



Services at Glencairn Renaissance Care Home

Our friendship with the staff and residents at Glencairn Renaissance Care Home has gradually been growing over the last months. A small number from St. Catherine's have been going along to lead a short service of worship on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2.30pm. As a Kirk Session, we are delighted to have this ministry to our neighbours and would ask you to join us in praying for these services each month and the residents and staff who come along to them. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Scott Murray.

Congratulations!

We ran a food hygiene course in February and March with participants coming from across the Presbytery. We are delighted that the following folk from St. Catherine's obtained their food hygiene certificates with flying colours:

- ❖ Christine Lambourne
- ❖ Catriona Lodge
- ❖ Rory MacKenzie
- ❖ Peter Stark

We're looking forward to them cooking for us soon!

At this ending and new beginning, I pray for you in the words of Paul: "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Eph 1, 16-19)



Jane

The Rev. Jane Howitt
Locum Minister

On behalf of the Kirk Session of St Catherine's Argyle Church of Scotland SC: 009379

We meet every **Sunday** at **10.30am** to worship together. A crèche and activities for children of primary school age are provided.

On the **last Sunday** of the month we have an **Evening Service** which begins at **6.30pm**.

Every **Wednesday at 8pm** we have our **Midweek Focus**. This is a time to pray for the needs of our world, parish and congregation.

Through the week many **community groups** and uniformed organisations meet in our halls. More information about them can be found at **www.stcaths.church**