

Kilsyth Anderson Parish Church News

March/April 2022



Dear Friends

There are no words to describe what we are witnessing in Ukraine. We are all totally shocked and appalled. I'm sure that you will be upholding those poor people in your prayers and supporting them in any way that you can. The images that we are seeing of devastation is hard to take in. They are certainly going through a season of hard test.

This is the season of Lent and preparation for Easter. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13 v5 "Assess yourselves to check that you are living in the faith. Test yourself to make sure."

Lent calls on us to reflect on our discipleship and to ask ourselves if everything is as it should be. None of us are perfect of course, and the last thing that God wants is to encourage a spirit of negative self-criticism. Rather he wants us to conduct an honest self-appraisal, and then to seek his gracious help in bringing inner healing and renewal.

No doubt there will be a lot of soul searching amongst the Ukrainians – what have we done to deserve this? For many, this will be the most painful lent season ever, when everything has been stripped away and they are left with nothing.

At this time, we remember our Lord Jesus and how he faced his season of testing. Driven out into the desert, by the Spirit to fast for 40 days, and then to face his tests.

He was alone, very alone. The landscape of the Jordan desert is devastation, that's the Jewish name for it. The hills are like dust heaps, the limestone looks blistered and peeling; the rocks are bare and jagged, it was in this awesome devastation that Jesus was to face his great tests.

He is severely tested in three areas:

Firstly, distrust your Father's providential care. Turn stones into bread!

Secondly, the concession was small, the promise was large. Bow down and worship me and I'll give you worldly power and authority.

Thirdly, jump from the Temple and the angels will save you.

Three favourite weapons of the devil – unbelief, worldliness, presumption. The principle behind the three temptations was rebellion of God. Jesus's defence three times was the Word of God.

When all is stripped away, God remains and God was with Jesus. God is with the poor and marginalised. God is with the victims of war and our prayer must be that those victims are assured of God's love and protection in the midst of their great testing.

Whatever tests that you are facing today, go ahead trusting in the love and care of God and look to the cross and see our God suffering for the sin of this world and see his healing and redemption for all who trust in Him,

With every blessing,

Rev John MacGregor

Interim Moderator



How often have we prayed something like, "O Lord, be with cousin Billy now in a special way"?

Have we stopped to consider what it is we're requesting? Imagine that you are a parent who is preparing to leave your children with a babysitter. Would you dream of saying, "O Betsy, I ask you now that you would be with my children in a special way?" No way. You would say, "Betsy, the kids need to be in bed by 9 pm. They can have one snack before their baths, and please make sure they finish their homework. You can reach us at this number if there's any problem. Any questions before we go?"

We are very specific with our requests and instructions for our babysitters. We want them to know specifics. It should be no different with prayer.

Boys' Brigade

The Company has been back in the Church 'as normal' since the beginning of February. We continue to follow our badge work programme. Over the past few weeks, the Company have been talking about Ukraine and following the Boys' Brigade activities around Ukraine. We have a busy few months coming up with all sections taking part in the Battalion events.

The Anchor Boys are going to Innoflate for a Bounce Party, the Junior Section are also going to Innoflate to take part in a Nerf Gun event and the Company Section are going bowling. All these events are happening at the end of May.

In May, we should hopefully be able to host our annual Parents' Night, the first in 2 years! Also in May, we will be taking our Junior Section Boys and Company Section Boys to Dalguise for our annual BB Camp. Again, the first BB Camp in 2 years!

Our Seniors continue to support our Company and are working hard towards achieving their President Badge, Queen's Badge and Duke of Edinburgh.

John Paterson

Church and Manse Gardens

To all keen gardeners: the garden team would like to recruit new members to help out with the manse garden.

We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm onwards to 3-30 pm .

If you are able to come along please do, even if it is only for one hour—every little helps, you could have your own small plot to attend to and maybe come up with some new ideas.

All are welcome, speak to **Marion Cowie**



Letter from Presbytery

Dear Friends

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”

What is our purpose to be in these times? That is the question which the Presbytery Plan Creation Group (PPCG) is now dealing with. I think this is a time to face facts, to pull up and to plant, to build on what has been done and to continue that work urgently.

- Time to face facts: The 2021 General Assembly instructed all presbyteries to review and update their mission plans by the end of 2022.
- Time to pull-up and plant: The Presbytery of Glasgow has been allocated a total of 84 ‘ministry’ posts. We currently have 123 charges, and many church buildings
- Time to complete work already begun: The Presbytery Mission Plan Review Group and last year’s local focus groups have given us 21 principles to abide by.

Now, we all have work to do: The PPCG has to bring a draft Mission Plan before Presbytery for approval by September and the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees by December. It is important to us that we consult with local churches and take their comments and concerns into consideration.

We are a diverse Presbytery; we are coming from different starting places and our congregations each have their own characters and histories. There will be change. Change both excites and threatens us and I can relate to both reactions.

We face hard choices. No parish or post is ‘immune’. As in bereavement, when we feel shock, numbness, anxiety or denial, we react with denial, defensively, even angrily. After all, we are experiencing loss shared, personal and cultural. However, I do wonder where will defensiveness lead? Denial might deliver a short-term payoff; a committee given a bloody nose; a

hard choice left for another day; the illusion of business as usual.

We could split into parties ‘for and against’ or argue over the inheritance. All very understandable and very human, but is there another way? What if we own these feelings? What if we say, “Yes, I do feel threatened. We are angry and resentful” and go on to say, “Alright, we won’t pretend that this is what we’d choose normally, but we have to deal with it. This is the time.”

This cannot be wished away. Much has already been done and now we have to see it through. Your PPCG will work conscientiously to bring a draft plan before Presbytery. Then Presbytery will decide.

Over the coming weeks and months we will make every effort to maintain regular contact with you. It is important that you know how we are progressing and it is equally important to us that we know about your comments and concerns.

What can you offer in this shared effort?

Yours in Christ

Roy Henderson

Convener, Presbytery Plan Creation Group

Kirk Session

It was a disappointment when our sole nominee drew his verbal acceptance to the call to be our minister in the middle of December, giving us no time to pursue any other applicant. Because of this, our right to call a minister fell, as was the case across Scotland.

A special appeal to allow us an extension to this right was made and upheld by Presbytery on 22nd February. Our appeal has now to be considered by the Church of Scotland Faith Nurture Group in Edinburgh.

Keep praying, please.

Thanks to Rev. John MacGregor, our interim moderator, for all his support during the past year and for his being able to organise our pulpit supply. We have had interesting and challenging preachers.

Christine Johnston, Session Clerk

Drop in

Numbers at the Drop in last year were smaller because of the restrictions. However, those who came were very generous in their donations. Because of the amount raised we were able to upgrade the two entrance ways to the halls – both have been painted a lovely shade of blue, they have new strip lighting and new flooring has been laid.

Thanks to all who serve at the Drop in and to all who support it.



Editor's Note

The Editor should be largely absent from the pages of the newsletter however I must thank Margaret Waddell most sincerely for providing me with 20 years' worth of back issues to look through for ideas to get started. It's given me a much better understanding of all sorts of things about KAPC! Thanks also to Anne Lauder for printing and her advice.

This is **your news** so please let me know what kind of things you do (or don't) want to see in it—or better still write a short article about something connected to the church or local area that you're interested in and send/give it to me, chances are everyone else will be interested too.

Thanks also to all the people who have contributed articles at such short notice for this edition—keep them coming!

Rona Dawson

Ukraine

Everyone can do something, however small, in the face of this horrible war. Leaving everything behind people are fleeing, creating a huge refugee crisis in Europe. Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across the country have had devastating consequences for ordinary people. Homes have been destroyed. Families have been separated. Lives have been lost.

The DEC brings together 15 leading aid charities including Christian Aid, Tearfund, Cafod, Oxfam and Save the Children to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. In these times of crisis, people in life-and-death situations need help and their mission is to save, protect and rebuild lives through effective humanitarian response. If you haven't already donated you can do so online at <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

Collection points are springing up all across Glasgow for clothes, blankets and other supplies. The Glasgow World website <https://www.glasgowworld.com/> gives details of a few of these.

Above all pray for the poor people of that land who have had their world turned upside down and been forced to flee or fight. Christian Aid have some prayer resources on their website at <https://christianaid.org.uk/resources/pray-ukraine>



Glasgow woman Pauline McWhirter decided to use her crocheting skills to create a cover for the Duke of Wellington's cone in the yellow and blue of the Ukrainian flag, with sunflowers emerging from the top. Throughout Ukraine's history, the flower has been used as a symbol of peace.

Photographer Francesco Malavolta was at a train station at the border between Poland and Ukraine when he captured a photo of empty prams left by Polish mothers for Ukrainian mothers fleeing the Russian invasion.



Scripture Union Ambassador

Our local Scripture Union (SU) Regional Worker for Lanarkshire is Valerie Sim. As the link person for SU and our church I would like to ask you to pray for the many people involved in SU in the Ukraine. Some with children have left their homes for safer places within Ukraine, some to other countries, but some have stayed helping those who are fleeing with shelter in Church halls.

Please remember the SU Easter and Summer camps in the UK that will be happening this year, and that many will be able to attend. Some SU groups have been allowed to meet in their schools already and SU are hoping, with the relaxing of rules, that many more groups will be able to reopen. Zoom gatherings have been a blessing particularly for teenagers during the last 2 years but to meet in person regularly again will be even better.

Jean Ewen



SU Scotland

A Prayer for Ukraine

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives
of their loved ones,
Change the hearts of those set on violence and
aggression,
Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths
to peace,
Please Lord come and have your way in your world,
May your will be done here, on earth as it is in
heaven,
May your peace reign. Now and always,
We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do
more than we can ever ask or imagine,
In the name of Christ our saviour,

Amen

Come Back to Church—we've missed you!

On 20th March we are going to remove the ropes cordoning off some of the pews but, as has been done in other Churches, we will keep a few at the back downstairs for anyone who wishes to remain distanced from those in other households. We hope that masks will go at that time too and we look forward to seeing everyone back on a Sunday morning again.

We have been able to re-introduce tea and coffee with a selection of wrapped chocolate biscuits. Now that this is served in the large hall it has become popular with many of the congregation staying for a chat and fellowship after the service.

A special invitation is given to all the young people of JAM Club age or older.

Minibus

Don't be put off if you haven't got transport—we have been trying to get the minibus back up and running on Sunday mornings and hope, very soon, to be able to restart this service. Come with a friend—let someone know if you would like to be collected and your name can be added to the list.

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life

17 th February	Annie McGinnes
2 nd March	Thomas Blain
3 rd March	Margaret Hamilton
10 th March	Stewart McBurnie

There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere. Possibly somebody would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The Manse

One Sunday at church I overheard a conversation that Christine Johnston was having with someone else about how she would get some boys from the B.B. to dismantle the old units in the Manse utility room. I heard Christine say that she would probably give them a big hammer each and let them get on with it, I think she was joking, but just to be on the safe side I volunteered my services.

On the day of demolition I was introduced to the two young men who were there to help dismantle the units and worktops as part of their Badge work. Lewis and Fraser, after being given powered screwdrivers and some advice, set about the task in a very mature and diligent manner. They removed the doors from the units, then removed all the units from the walls and then all the fittings from the units and stacked the wood neatly in the garage ready to go to the tip. The task was completed in less than two hours, these two young men were a credit to the Boys Brigade.



Many weeks later after the walls were plastered and new electric sockets were installed I became involved in a discussion on how to set about preparing, constructing and decorating the utility room and at that meeting I gleaned much information from my new found pal Ian McFadyen. On Ian's advice I set about preparing staging for the new units to stand on as the stone floor was extremely uneven.

Next, papering the ceiling seemed the obvious choice so I enrolled my son Jonathan as my obedient assistant: every tradesman needs one. Then papering the walls, Ian did his share of this task too. I then built and fitted the units, Jonathan helped me to build and erect a larder unit which was a two person job.

Ian helped me to build and fit a second larder unit along with the sink and worktop. I know the overall task seemed as though it would never finish, partly due to me having to babysit my two grandchildren 3 days a week, which is my number one priority in life, but now the floor covering has been laid by Graham BellJob done!

P.S. I'll need to stop listening into Christine's conversations in future!

Jim Miller

2nd Kilsyth Girls Brigade

We have really enjoyed being back with the girls since August after having been not allowed to meet because of Covid. We have had to meet in 'bubbles' which has made life a bit more difficult.

We are so very thankful for Christine Johnstone for helping weekly with the Explorers as without her we would not have managed.

Brigaders are now allowed to help with the Explorers and Emma and Erin, as well as the little girls, are enjoying this.

Two of our Brigaders Emma and Lucy now have gained their Silver Duke of Edinburgh and have started their Gold. Well done to them both. Mhairi is starting her officer training while Anne Lowe (who is helping with the Juniors) and Emma have become trainee leaders.

We are missing Lynne and Helen who were officers in the company and we are looking forward to Jacqueline returning but at present Margaret and myself are the only officers. If there are any previous officers or ladies willing to help with the Girls' Brigade please get in touch with either Margaret Brown 01236 XXXX or Jean Ewen 07816 XXXX

We would appreciate your assistance.

Jean Ewen



Our Bible Study and Prayer Meeting is held on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We are currently conducting our meeting using Zoom and it works very well for us.

Our discussions take on a variety of Biblical topics. We recently did a study on Paul and the Thesalonians and we are presently looking at various aspects of Christian life in Church and beyond.

The meetings begin with a short prayer and we close with prayers for those close to us at home and in the community for whom we are concerned. We move on to thinking of the wider world where is so much need for prayer.

We enjoy fellowship and faith with each other and a few laughs are also shared.

We would love to welcome more of you to join us, even if you just want to listen in.

The address ID for Zoom is XXXXXX and the password is XXXX.

Please give this your consideration. Thank you.

Dorothy Barrowman.

Dear Christine,
Heartfelt thanks
from the LHM



I am writing to acknowledge and thank you and the congregation of Kilsyth Anderson for your generous donation of £300 collected during your recent Christmas Eve service in support of our winter appeal. As you are aware your donations will greatly assist us in our work with people experiencing homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion at the LHM here in Glasgow.

We are delighted to share news that our partnership with Street Soccer Scotland has led to the creation of a footballing activities programme beginning in February. There is the opportunity for teams to play in the pop up pitch in our church space or to join the minibus team as they travel to the local 5-a-side pitches for coaching, addictions support and team building. Our activities programme is a vital part of our engagement with guests, many of whom have complete support needs and chaotic lifestyles; by building relationships we increase the opportunities for intervention and harm reduction.

We are always happy to hear from volunteers who might be interested in supporting our activities programme with golf, curling, bowling, darts and other activities. If this is of interest to your members please get in touch with Mark Smyth by calling 0141 552 0285.

We know none of our work would be possible if it were not for the support and prayers of individuals such as yourself so please accept our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you as you have blessed the least of these brothers and sisters of Christ.

Deacon Claire Herbert.

Chaplain to the Lodging House Mission

Prayer is not the least you can do for someone, prayer is the most you can do for someone.



Six Steps to Calvary—a Lenten Bible study series from Alex Fleming

At this time of year, with Easter approaching, and with many Christians celebrating Lent it is natural to think about Christ's life, and how he changed from being regarded as a popular preacher and healer to being a condemned criminal heading to the cross.

As we read the Gospels it becomes clear that as time goes on, Jesus, in obedience to God's plan and purpose is sure that to do the work God has given him will take him into dark places and finally to the giving of his life - He will become a suffering saviour. In this edition we will set down six steps that are turning points in Jesus ministry and together tell the story of his pathway to victory. For memory verses then, simply read the passages referred to, and in the order given.

Step 1 - Jesus Baptism (Matthew Ch 3 Vs. 13 - 17)

Jesus wants to be associated with the work God is doing through John. So Jesus comes to John seek-



ing baptism. At first John hesitates, but Jesus insists and at last John agrees to baptise him. As Jesus comes up out of the water the Spirit descends upon him and the voice of God speaks to him declaring that he is God's son and that God is well pleased with him. So Jesus is sure that God is at work in him and has given him this task to do. Thus Jesus commits

himself to be obedient to God and to do whatever is required of him.

Step 2 - The Temptations (Matthew Ch 4 Vs. 1 11)

No sooner has Jesus been baptised than he is confronted by the Devil who proceeds to tempt him. Now much has been written about these temptations but it is possible to find a common theme. Matthew lists three temptations, but doubtless there could have been more. Each of them is similar in that it is very much humanly based. All of them try to tempt Jesus to use his divine power in an almost show-biz fashion. Jesus realises that this would be a totally wrong use of his gifts and so he rejects each one. In every case he refers back to Scripture - saying that Satan must not try to get Jesus to fall into this trap. All the time Jesus is quite clear - he will be obedient to God's plan for his life - where ever that might lead.

Step 3 - Jesus Proclaims His Manifesto (Luke Ch. 4 Vs. 14 -22)

At the start of his ministry Jesus is preaching in Nazareth and he takes up the theme of what his message is to be. His message will be good news - even to the poor, it will be about freedom for the captives, and release for the prisoners. But it also involves the recovery of sight to the blind. Most of all it will be about the year of the Lord's favour. Now Jesus work includes many of these things literally, but we must also interpret Isaiah spiritually - the message is for the poor in spirit, for those in the prison of sin, and those blind inwardly and spiritually. So on one level we understand his message easily but at the deepest level we must wait to learn what this means and what it involves and what it will cost Jesus

Step 4 - Jesus Goes to Jerusalem (Mark Ch.10 Vs. 32- 34)

As we read the Gospels we see quite clearly that Jesus performs many miracles. His prediction that he would restore sight to the blind is fulfilled literally and with it others too are cured of a variety of conditions such as leprosy. He even raises others from the dead. He also enjoys great popularity as a preacher for he sometimes seemed to win debates against the leaders and the Pharisees. Jesus has to get to Jerusalem where real power lies and where the real work must be done. After Simon Peter had acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ he surprises them by saying that he will ultimately be rejected and will die for his cause. The same point comes up in this passage where Jesus has set his face sternly towards Jerusalem and as he marches along his disciples are getting afraid. What will happen in Jerusalem and will he be persecuted and will he die there? Having been determined to be obedient to God in his ministry Jesus now acknowledges that he must pay the price. The Chief Priests and teachers of the law will see to it. So the scene is set for a final showdown.



Step 5 - The Triumphal Entry (Matthew Ch. 21 Vs. 1- 11)

Jesus marches on and arrives in Jerusalem. Getting there he mounts a donkey and enters the city in humility and as one come in peace. Astonishingly he is welcomed with open arms. Crowds gather and some cut branches from the roadside trees and others put down their cloaks for Jesus to pass over. It looks at that moment as though Jesus prediction of his death is not to be fulfilled.



Now, no doubt there was hope that Jesus popularity might inspire him to lead a revolt and maybe get rid of the hated Romans - if talk of him being the Messiah is true. Now Jesus goes to the centre of religious life in the city and arrives at the Temple. He doesn't like what he sees there for there are money changers and people selling sacrificial doves and this causes Jesus to say that the Temple should be a place of prayer not a house of trade. He overturns the tables of the money changers and sets the doves free. He then leaves and as he does so he is a marked man, for those in power whom he had offended will not forget this action and Jesus will have to pay for it. The scene is set for the final show down.

Step 6 - Betrayal in Gethsemane (Matthew Ch. 26 Vs. 36 - 46)

The week passes till the Thursday evening when Jesus is troubled. After supper he takes Peter and James and John and they go to a lonely place called Gethsemane where Jesus wants to be alone. He obviously realises the end is getting near. His enemies are collecting against him. He withdraws and goes away from the others to pray. It is here that he is confronted by the truth of his decision. By being obedient and by accepting God's calling his destiny is sealed. He is going to die. Frankly , Jesus is afraid and asks God if there is another way. Might this cup pass from him.. He is sweating blood and is near breaking. In the end he accepts the situation with the dramatic and courageous words 'Never the less not my will but thine". As he goes back to his friends Judas arrives with a large crowd. Identifying Jesus and pretending to greet him Judas leads the crowd to their man and Jesus is arrested and taken off to judgement. Next morning he is crucified. His prediction has come true. He has paid the price of being a faithful and suffering servant. What is not clear at this point is that even in death Jesus has actually won the day.

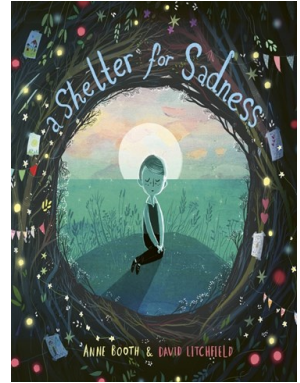
Good Friday (Jesus's death) ultimately leads on to Easter day, and Jesus's resurrection. The six steps have been taken. The journey is complete.

Thanks be to God.



Book Review

*Sadness has come to live with me
and I am building it a shelter.
I am building a shelter for my sadness
and welcoming it inside.*



A small boy creates a shelter for his sadness, a safe space where Sadness is welcome, where it can curl up small, or be as big as it can be, where it can be noisy or quiet, or anything in between. The boy can visit the shelter whenever he needs to, every day, sometimes every hour, and the two of them will cry and talk or just sit, saying nothing. And the boy knows that one day Sadness may come out of the shelter, and together they will look out at the world, and see how beautiful it is.

A poignant and heart-warming picture book exploring the importance of making space and time for our own griefs, small or large, sensitively visualized with David Litchfield's stunning illustration.

Anne Booth was inspired to write this book by the words of Etty Hillesum, a Holocaust victim who wrote: 'Give your sorrow all the space and shelter in yourself that is its due, for if everyone bears grief honestly and courageously, the sorrow that now fills the world will abate...And if you have given sorrow the space it demands, then you may truly say: life is beautiful and so rich.'

This book can be borrowed as an e-book via <https://glasgow.overdrive.com/> and search for the title.

Walk of witness — Good Friday



It has been decided to hold the Walk of Witness this year but depending on whether we as a church can have the parade in the church hall is still in question at the time of publishing this newsletter

It will start from St Patrick's church as usual but may stop at Burngreen and have a short service there depending on the situation.

Helen Provan will be able to provide more information nearer the time.

Church Diary

Sunday	11am	Morning worship (fellowship in the hall after)
Monday	7.30pm	The Guild
Tuesday		Girls' Brigade
	6pm	Explorers (P1-3)
	7pm	Juniors and Brigaders (P4+)
Wednesday		Boys' Brigade
	5.45pm	Anchor Boys (P1-3)
	6.30pm	Junior Section (P4-6)
	7.30pm	Company Section (P7 & Secondary)
Thursday	7.30pm	Midweek fellowship via zoom
Friday	10am	Drop in Café - Wyper Hall

Last deadline for May/June edition: Sun 24 April in church or Tues 26 April by email

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com (note new address) or give your articles to Rona Dawson on a Sunday

Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Intimations	Flower donations
Mar 13	Mr & Mrs	Margaret Brown	Team 1 (Sat)	Jean Ewen	
Mar 20	C McIlwain B Reynolds	Ann Sneddon	Team 2 (Thur)	Dorothy Barrowman	
Mar 27	I McFadyen	Elizabeth Strang	Team 3 (Thur)	Olivia Brittain	
Apr 3		John Gordon	Team 4 (Sat)	Ian Ross	Nan Kinvig
Apr 10		Kathleen Ross	Team 5 (Thur)	Margaret Brown	Ann McCallum
Apr 17		Ian Ross	Team 1 (Sat)	Bill Smith	Anne McManus
Apr 24		Ann McManus	Team2 (Thur)	John Weir	Dorothy