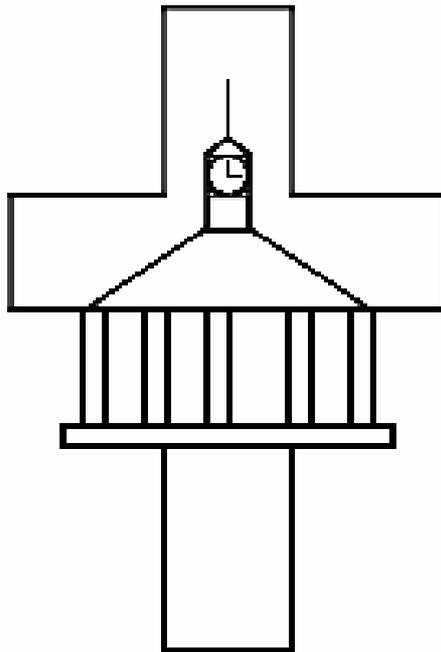


CHALLENGE

**Bridgeton St Francis-in-the-East
Church of Scotland
Parish Magazine**



Let us rise up and build

Church: 26 Queen Mary Street, Glasgow, G40 3BB,
Tel. 556 2830

Minister: Rev. Howard Hudson, Tel. 587 8667

Session Clerk: Mr James Gibson, Tel. 013552 41377

Church House: 6 Boden Street, Bridgeton

WINTER 2015

www.bridgetonstfrancis.org.uk
Scottish Charity SCO12535

WE HAVE A DREAM...

We have a dream of a church that is full of people of all ages including the young, from the district and beyond, enthusiastic, willing to play their part, keen to know the Lord, praising and thanking God from the very bottom of their hearts, willing to share their love, caring for others, both inside the church and outside it.

We have a dream of a church that is hungry to be led by God, to serve the Lord, study the Bible, grow in faith, communicate clearly, worship, spread the gospel in the community, pray, and live in fellowship with each other.

We have a dream of a church made up of tolerant people between whom there are no barriers of class, colour or creed, age, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, criticism, wealth or poverty, appearance, health, sex, status or position.

We have a dream of a church that is inclusive and open to everyone, no matter who they are or what they might have done, whether they are like us or not, and that is open to ways of working in the community.

We have a dream of a church that has a heart for the community, our neighbours, pleasing God, other people's needs, friendship, mission here at home and abroad, and has the courage to take the flack for being Christians.

We have a dream of a church in which God's Spirit is present, is really believed in, and is working in us to fulfil our commitment to Christ, leading us, always near, felt, transforming us more and more into the people God wants us to be.

We have a dream of a church that is excited and passionate about Jesus, the gospel, praising and worshipping God, prayer, evangelism, reading the Bible, full of hope for the present and the future.

This is our dream for Bridgeton, St. Francis-in-the-East Church. Will you share it with us? Will you help us make it a reality?

- Your Kirk Session

Message from the Manse

Dear Friends,

We live in a dangerous world as the terrorist attacks in Paris and the Russian plane being blown up over Sinai have made clear. And many are wondering what and who will be next. Some are even talking about a Third World War. And we are coming up to Christmas which many people say should be a time of peace.

But Jesus wasn't born into a peaceful world. He was born into a country which had been taken over by the Romans where terrorists would attack Roman soldiers. And it was the hated Roman overlords who forced Mary and Joseph to make the 70 mile journey from their home town of Nazareth to Bethlehem because everyone had to register for a census in their ancestral town. And before they could go home to Nazareth, they had to flee as refugees to Egypt to get away from King Herod's death squads who were out to kill Jesus. When we realise the reality of the world that Jesus was born into rather than the fairy-tale world of so many Christmas cards, we realise that in many ways it was not that different from today and that Jesus was born into a dangerous world too.

Yet part of the good news of Christmas is that Jesus, the baby born for us, is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He was born into a dangerous world to bring peace, peace with God and peace with ourselves so that we could live at peace with others. And to make that possible He had to end up dying as one of us for us on a cross to pay the price of sin. For what cuts people off from God and makes them God's enemies and what leads to people falling out with each other and even killing each other is sin. For sin is living as we want rather than as God wants. And we all do that. We all at times live as we want rather than as God wants. We all sin. And the bible says that the price of sin is death, being cut off from God and from all that is good for ever in what the bible calls Hell.

But God loves us so much that He even gave His son, Jesus, to leave all the riches of heaven and be born as one of us so that as one of us He could end up paying the price of our sin. But we can only be forgiven and set free from our sin and its price by turning from living as we want and trusting ourself to Jesus and letting Him rule us as the Prince of Peace so that we seek to live as He wants, looking to Him for all we need to be able to do this. And when we do, we have peace with God and can be at peace with ourself so that we can live at peace with others.

So part of the good news of Christmas is that Jesus, the baby born for us, is the Prince of Peace, and if we want true peace, peace with God and peace with ourself so that we can live at peace with others, we need to turn from living our own way to trusting ourself to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and live His way, looking to Him for all we need to do this. And once we have turned from living our own way and trusted ourself to Jesus then we need to help others to do so too. For this is the only way that people will know true peace and that this peace, God's peace, will spread.

So this Christmas will you turn from living your own way and trust yourself to Jesus and let Him rule you as the Prince of Peace so that you seek to live as He wants, looking to Him for all you need to do this? And will you help others to do so too? Will you play your part in bringing true peace to our world? For people will only know true peace, God's peace, and the world will only be truly at peace to the extent that people do this.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year,

Yours in His love,

Howard.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th November. We raised a total of £788.40. Well Done! 😊

FLOWERS

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the church's Flower Fund. Your donations are always appreciated. If there is anyone else who would like to put flowers in the church, perhaps in memory of someone or an anniversary, etc, please speak to either Rita McKenna or Sharon Miller. May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. Donations are as follows:

SEPTEMBER

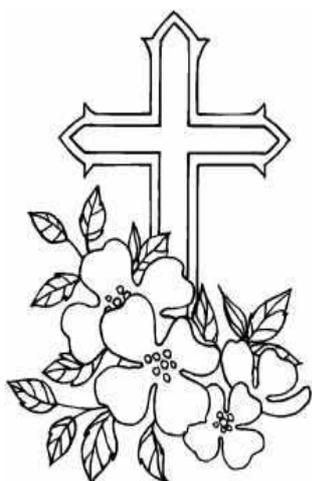
"For our Anniversary Jackie" from Pearl
"For Mum & Dad" from Sandra & Willie

OCTOBER

"For Mary, Forever in our Thoughts & Prayers" from Jim & Family
"For my Husband George" from Sadie
"In Fond Memory of Dad" from May & David
"For my Mum, Nancy" from Elaine
"I Miss You, Walter" Love Grace

NOVEMBER

"In Loving Memory of Willie & Bill" from May & Family
"For Robert" from Jeanette
"In Fond Memory of Mum" from May & David
"For Our wee Treasure Lee" from Granma E



FUNERALS

08/09/15
24/09/15
01/10/15

Mr John McPherson
Mr Malcolm Campbell
Mrs Isa Russell

What's happened to the Janitor's House?

It has come down as part of the work to build an annexe onto our church building to rehouse Church House. The old dining hall behind it is staying up to become the Games Hall for Church House and a new building will link it to the church building. All going well, the building will be completed next May.

By the way, talking about the Janitor's House, did you know that our oldest member, Elsie Carswell, lived in that house from the age of one till she got married? She was very keen to have one last look inside the house before it came down and was delighted when the contractor made that possible. As she went round the house, she kept saying, "It's so small." Well, I suppose when you're a toddler, everything seems much bigger.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, MARGARET!

Margaret Beaton retires from working in Church House on 31st December. She first started going to Church House when she was 15 years old and has been going there ever since, helping out as a volunteer and then a full time worker.

We are most grateful for all Margaret has done in Church House and as a deacon in our church and wish her all God's blessings and a long and happy retirement. The good news is that she will be continuing to be a member at our church.

COME BACK TO CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS!

Sometimes when people have not been attending church for a while the thought of coming back can be a bit daunting. Of course, people are welcome to come back at any time, but what better time to come back than at Christmas? After all, it's a time when other people who don't normally come to church attend, and so people do not stand out so much in the crowd. It's also a time when we sing together the well-known carols and remember what Christmas is really all about. So don't keep away, come back and be part of us once again!

REGNAL CIRCLE

Monday night is Regnal night!

The Men's Regnal started back in September with the Parish Grouping Beetle Drive which was great fun. Thanks to all who supported it and helped to make it a great success. We're looking forward to our Christmas lunch in Greenock and a trip to Dundee in January 2016. We're always happy to welcome new members to join our group, so why not give it a try on a Monday at 7.30pm!

- Robert Humphries

GUILD

The Guild has been enjoying some interesting speakers since October and has a varied line-up to look forward to next year. You're welcome to join us at **1.30pm on Tuesdays**. We wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

December 15	Christmas Tea
December 22	Carols By Candlelight (7.00pm)
January 19	Armchair Keep Fit
January 26	Burns Tea
February 2	Home Front (WW2)
February 9	Bible Study
February 16	Guild Project – Ascension Trust
February 23	Caledonia Tours
March 1	Guild v Regnal Quiz
March 8	Guest Afternoon
March 15	A.G.M.

- Betty Arbuckle

*"A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler.
He will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

12 Christmas Prayers

1 Faith

Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith – this is not ourselves, but a gift from you – not our works.

Ephesians 2:8-9

2 Hope

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. **Romans 15:4**

3 Love

Help us to love because you first loved us. **1 John 4:19**

4 Forgiveness

Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9**

5 Mercy

Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. **Luke 6:36**

6 Kindness

Let us be kind and compassionate to one and other, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus you forgave us. **Ephesians 4:32**

7 Generosity

Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! **2 Corinthians 9:11**

8 Compassion

Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers and be humble. **1 Peter 3:8**

9 Joy

Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

10 Salvation

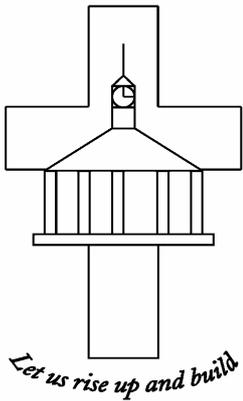
Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to you. **John 14:6**

11 Obedience

Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. **James 1:22-25**

12 Life

Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. **John 10:10**



Bridgeton, St. Francis-in-the-East
Church of Scotland
26 Queen Mary Street, Bridgeton
(Scottish Charity Number SCO12535)

Christmas 2015

GOD'S LOVE

Sunday, 20th December at 11.00 a.m.
(all age service)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Tuesday, 22nd December at 7.00 p.m. in the Hall
(hosted by the Guild)

GOD'S GIFT

Thursday, 24th December at 11.15 p.m.
(with community carol singing from 11.00 p.m.)

GOD WITH US

Friday, 25th December at 10.30 a.m.

GOD'S PEACE

Sunday, 27th December at 11.00 a.m.

*Everyone is invited to join us this Christmas as
we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

You will receive a very warm welcome!



LODGING HOUSE MISSION

LHM Harvest

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated food towards the LHM larder store, and to those who made a monetary donation, Bridgeton St. Francis managed to raise a whopping £298.80 towards the work and witness of the LHM. THANK YOU.

When I was visiting LHM just after harvest I noticed it was a lot quieter than usual and asked the reason. I was told drug dealers who hang around LHM had been arrested by the police and sadly some visitors were being caught up with the dealers, but as the cold spell hits the city the number has increased once again.

LHM – Christmas

Once again LHM Christmas cards are on sale in the hall every Sunday up until Sunday 20 December. There are some new designs this year, also on sale are other Christmas items, so please stop at the LHM table, all monies raised will go towards the running and upkeep of the work done at LHM. Hopefully there may be something different on sale when I return from New York.

Christmas carol service at LHM will take place on **Friday 18 December 2015 at 2pm** - ALL WELCOME.

On 1 December LHM will open its doors for a night shelter; this will be run in conjunction with City Mission. The idea came from Gus McKay, LHM chaplain and City Mission when they were looking for premises to give some night winter shelter to the homeless and most vulnerable at this very cold time of year. A warm, safe secure place for those homeless men and women to spend the night and receive some breakfast in the morning. The idea will work as the daily visitors leave for the day; City Mission staff will arrive and prepare LHM for a night shelter, and in the morning set back up again for the daily visitors. Nancy Humphries who is on the East End Drugs and Alcohol council has managed to retain a grant of £500 towards

this new project for LHM. This money will go towards bedding, pillows etc.

Once again this year the doors of LHM will open to give the very most vulnerable a Christmas lunch, a time to enjoy a good meal, have some company and everyone will receive a Christmas gift.

Gus McKay still remains the chaplain of LHM and will continue to do a dual role for the foreseeable future.

The computer room still remains the most popular activities at LHM helping those trying to update a CV, or help visitors apply for positions online and very much more.

Please take a note that Homelessness Sunday will take place on **Sunday 31 January 2016**. A day to reflect and remember those men and women who live on our city streets every single night.

Gus has asked me to pass on his special thanks and appreciation to everyone at Bridgeton St. Francis for our continued support and especially our prayers, these mean so much as this helps keep the doors of LHM open to continue to help those much less fortunate than ourselves.

I would like to pass on my own THANKS to you all for always responding to your giving to the LHM, as I see first hand the work done at the mission, which sometimes can be very challenging to the staff, but always rewarding.

GOD BLESS & MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

- Jackie Hughes (LHM Rep)

ROLL KEEPERS REPORT

We have 77 members on the Church Roll. At the October communion 45 members communicated.

- Betty Glassford (Roll Keeper)

A Homeless Christmas by *Larry Linville*

Where do you hang your stocking
in your little cardboard home
which you have insulated
with some discarded foam?

Even if you had a chance
and it was given you for free
where underneath your bridge
would you put your Christmas tree?

How does it feel to hold your
"will work for food" sign
as most people drive by
to go home where they dine?

Do you know you're like Jesus
and he was just like you?
There is no room in the inn
so he was homeless too.

One Christmas holiday Sherlock Holmes and Mr Watson went on a camping trip. They lay down in their tent for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned. Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Logically, I deduce the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow." "Is that all?" Holmes asked. "Yes." Watson replied. "Why have I missed something?" Holmes was quiet for a moment, then spoke. "Watson you idiot! Someone has stolen the tent!"

The lesson: This Christmas don't forget the obvious.
CHRISTmas is about CHRIST!

GLASGOW NORTH EAST FOOD BANK

The Food Bank has been running all summer and autumn thanks to our willing volunteers. We are open on **Thursdays from 11am -1pm**. The food is handed out to people with the appropriate letter of referral from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Social Work Department or Job Centre and there are food parcels appropriate for each person according to their circumstances. If you are willing to help us any Thursday, you will be given the training and help that you need. If you would like to find out more about helping, please speak to Betty Arbuckle or Nancy Humphries.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INNER EAST END CHURCHES?

Make a note in your diary for Sunday 20th December to come to the Inner East End Churches Christmas Service in Gallowgate Parish Church at 6.30pm.

If you would like to write something for the next issue of the Inner East End Churches magazine (deadline is **14th February 2016**), then please email Michelle MacLeod at bridgetonstfrancis@gmail.com or phone the church on 0141-556-2830. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Why not give this a try?

Evening Service – Sundays 6.30pm in our main hall.

'Unlock Hosea' – Wednesdays 7.30pm in the upper hall.

It may be better than you think!

Are you interested in **joining our church** or looking again at the vows you took on joining the church? If so, you are not the only one. A group for all interested will be starting in January 2016. If you would like to be part of it, please tell our minister, Howard as soon as possible. Thanks!

CHURCH HOUSE UPDATE

After the school holidays, all our groups went back to the usual days and times, some of our young people moving groups and settled in very well. Our older group got the chance to take up a 6 week block of **kayak & cook sessions** on Friday nights, they were so lucky with the weather, every session was sunny at Pinkston Watersports Centre unlike our summer holidays. The young people learned new skills in the kitchen cooking their meals from scratch, some young people trying some of the ingredients for the first time and then sitting down together to enjoy the meal that they had prepared. On the water they are now confident in their kayaks paddling, falling in, being rescued and most of all having fun.

Our 6 week block of **Jui Jitsu** continued on Friday and once again lots was learned by all the young people in attendance. Not only were they taught some of the skills of Jiu-Jitsu but involved in the work was also lessons in team-work, bullying and respect.

Church House of Horrors, as this was our last Halloween in Church House, one of our young volunteers organised a scare tour, he did everything from organise the story for the tour, to getting donations for decorations and food, and organising the staff and volunteers. It was a great success with everyone involved enjoying the night.

It has started! The contractors for the new building are on site, very exciting. Hopefully the building will be completed by the summer 2016 if our good Scottish weather is kind to us.

Margaret Beaton our Early Year's Worker who has been involved in Church House for over 40 years has decided to retire in December 2015. I know what you are thinking "she is far too young to retire" but I am sure you will agree that Margaret thoroughly deserves to enjoy her retirement to the full after she has dedicated her life to Church House supporting many families and young people within the community. We look forward to Margaret 'forgetting' she is retired in January and coming along as usual to Church House, we are happy to support Margaret through this time of 'forgetfulness' and let her

work in groups until she realises that she should not be at Church House and she should be enjoying her retirement. We wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her journey.

A reminder of our groups:

Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm Primary 6 & 7

Tuesday 7.30pm – 9.00pm S1 – S3

Wednesday 11.00am – 1.00pm Parent & Toddlers

Thursday 4.00pm – 5.30pm Primary 1, 2, 3

Thursday 6.00pm – 7.30pm Primary 4 & 5

Friday 4.00pm – 6.00pm Cooking (6 week block)

Thank you to all the people who help and support our work with the young people, it is much appreciated and valued, please keep up the good work. Also the financial support we receive from other Churches enables us to give more opportunity to young people.

- *Angela Molloy*

THE WELL



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and prayers for The Well over the years. With your help, we have been able to open our doors to many people from the local community who have come to us for help, advice and support. We are very grateful for your partnership with us in this way.

In the past year we have been able to help, encourage and support many people in a variety of ways. Teaching many to do online applications; teaching skills and spending time with women in the Craft Group; supporting and encouraging women through our Mum's & Toddlers Group; supporting vulnerable women in difficult circumstances; showing love through support, prayer and practical help, and much more.

Thank you again for your encouragement, support and prayers. We would particularly appreciate your prayers this Christmas season as we take the time to share the meaning of Christmas as opportunities arise.



HOW TO GIVE MONEY TO OUR CHURCH WITHOUT IT COSTING YOU MORE

If you pay Income Tax and want any money you give to your church to be worth more, whether it's through your offering, gift envelopes or whatever, then please make sure that you sign a Gift Aid form, and then put the number on your planned giving envelope, on every gift envelope or on a sealed envelope containing any other donation you give to the church.

That way **for every £1 you give, we can reclaim 25p from the Inland Revenue.** If you would like to sign a Gift Aid form or if you would like more information regarding any of this, please see Jim Gibson. Remember:

1. It is very easy to do. Anyone, young or old, retired or working, can do this, as long as they pay income Tax, no matter how little. You only need to sign a Gift Aid form once.
2. For each pound you give the church receives another 25p.
3. Gift Aid costs you nothing. The extra money has already been paid by you in tax, and is simply being reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, which treats the church as a charity for these purposes.
4. There are no tricks, pitfalls or difficulties involved. It's all open and above board. It just means extra money for the church at no cost to you in time, money or effort.

CHURCH CLEANING

We are desperately short of volunteers to clean our church. Could you spare **one hour a week** on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday between 12noon and 5pm. If you can help, please contact Michelle. Church office on 0141-556-2830 on the above days. Many Thanks



NOTICEBOARD

Please remember to let the minister know about any of our members who are seriously ill or in hospital. He will never know about it unless someone tells him.

Remember to keep looking at our church notice boards near the lane door, above the hall piano, and in the corridor between the kitchen and session house.

Please remember to look at our table of **FREE LITERATURE** near the front door of the church and take from it anything you want.

If you have an email address, please let Howard know at **howard.hudson@ntlworld.com**

Please remember to **CLOSE ALL DOORS** behind you when you come into church to keep in the heat.

A very **BIG THANK YOU** to all who donate tea, coffee, etc. It is greatly appreciated - Helen

If you want to see the minister on a Sunday, please see him after the service.

Thinking about joining the Church? Or wanting to know more about living for Jesus? Then please see the minister as soon as possible so that he can arrange a new series of the **ENQUIRER'S GROUP** at a time that suits you. The Enquirer's Group meetings are very informal and open to anyone, whether a member of the Church or not, whether wanting to join the Church or not. No pressure is put on anyone to join the Church.

If you are housebound and would like to receive a tape of our Sunday service each week, please let your elder know. We can supply a tape recorder if you don't have one.

There is a **SUGGESTION BOX** on the table at the front door of the church. If you have any helpful suggestions to do with our church, please put them in the box. All suggestions will be carefully considered.

CRÈCHE ROTA

Dec 6 th	May Livingstone	Cathy McNealy
Dec 13 th	Margaret Miller	May Cross
Dec 20 th	Betty Glassford	Nancy Humphries
Dec 27 th	May Livingstone	Cathy McNealy



Jan 3 rd	Margaret Miller	May Cross
Jan 10 th	Betty Glassford	Nancy Humphries
Jan 17 th	May Livingstone	Cathy McNealy
Jan 24 th	Margaret Miller	May Cross
Jan 31 st	Betty Glassford	Nancy Humphries



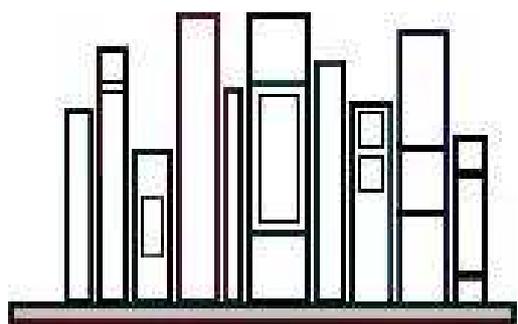
Feb 7 th	May Livingstone	Cathy McNealy
Feb 14 th	Margaret Miller	May Cross
Feb 21 st	Betty Glassford	Nancy Humphries
Feb 28 th	May Livingstone	Cathy McNealy



Mar 6 th	Margaret Miller	May Cross
Mar 13 th	Betty Glassford	Nancy Humphries

More helpers needed for the crèche rota. If you can help, please speak to Betty Glassford. Thank you.

CHURCH LIBRARY



The Church Library is open each Sunday, just next to the piano in the main hall, for everyone to use. A wide range of Christian books are available for borrowing, including books on Christian history, biographies, practical books to help you pray, or read your Bible, as well as theology books for anyone wanting to study that bit deeper. Don't forget we also have some videos and tapes available, and that there's something there for everyone including children. Just make a note in the book of anything you take, and enjoy your book. Remember the library is there for *you*.

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

Service	11am
Crèche	11am
Young Frankie's	11am
Evening Service (in hall)	6.30pm

EVERY MONDAY

Church House (P6-P7)	7.00pm
Men's Regnal	7.30pm

EVERY TUESDAY

The Guild	1.30pm
Brownies	6.30pm
Church House (S1-S3)	7.30pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Parent & Toddler (CH)	11.00am
See the Minister	1.00pm
Unlock Philippians	7.30pm

EVERY THURSDAY

Food Bank	11am-1pm
Church House (P1-P3)	4.00pm
Church House (P4-P5)	6.00pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

20	Christmas All-Age Service	11.00am
20	Parish Grouping Christmas Service (GP)	6.30pm
22	Carols by Candlelight (hosted by Guild)	7.00pm
24	Christmas Eve Service	11.15pm
25	Christmas Day Service	10.30am

JANUARY

21	Congregational Board Meeting	7.00pm
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FEBRUARY

11	Kirk Session	7.00pm
28	Communion Services	11am & 6.30pm

GP = Gallowgate Parish Church, David Street, G40 2UH.
 CH = Church House, 6 Boden Street, G40 3PU.

Anyone wishing to submit material for the *Challenge* magazine should hand it to Barbara Jennings or email it to:

barbara.jennings1@ntlworld.com

The deadline for the Spring 2016 magazine will be

Sunday 14th February 2016