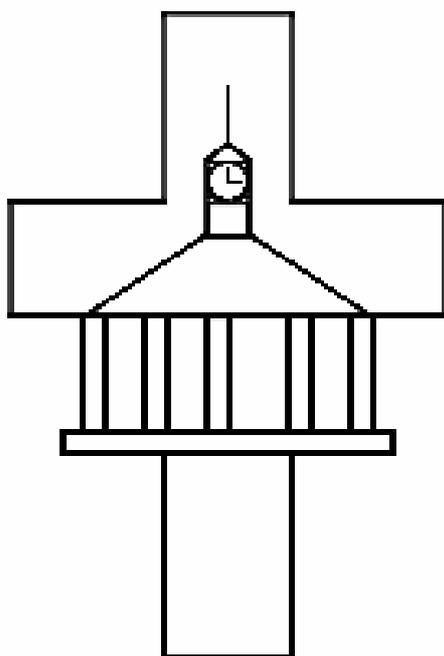


# CHALLENGE

## **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: 0141 556 2830

Minister: Rev. Howard Hudson, Tel: 0141 587 8667  
Session Clerk: Mr James Gibson, Tel: 013552 41377  
Church House: 22 Queen Mary Street, Bridgeton

[www.bridgetonstfrancis.org.uk](http://www.bridgetonstfrancis.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis](https://www.facebook.com/bridgetonstfrancis)  
Scottish Charity SCO12535

**SPRING 2020**

## **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,

How do you react to suffering?

When you find life hard and sore, do you just let it pull you down?

Or do you blame God for it and fall out with God?

Or do you let it push you closer to God so you share it all with God, looking to God to help you and see you through it?

For, as many, many people have discovered, the best way to deal with suffering is not to let it pull you down but instead to trust yourself to Jesus and share it all with God, looking to God to help you and see you through it. Because as we keep looking to God, sharing it all with Him, not only do we grow closer to God, but God gives us the grace we need to patiently endure what we are going through. And as we keep patiently enduring what we are going through with the help of God, the rough edges of our character are knocked off and we become more mature and more and more like Jesus, looking more and more to God and less and less to ourself. For when life is going well for us, we tend to stay pretty much the same. It is when we are going through times of suffering and problems and difficulties, and throw ourself on God to help us, guide us and see us through, that our character matures and our faith grows stronger as we depend more and more on God.

And as we keep trusting Jesus and throwing ourself on God to help us, guide us and see us through, not only does our faith grow, but we find in God all that we really need to keep going, and we become more and more confident that God is with us and won't let go of us now and for ever, and so this gives us, and strengthens in us, the sure and certain hope that we will end up with God for ever in heaven, and that all this is part of God preparing us to share His glory in heaven.

And so when we see our problems and difficulties and suffering like that and deal with it like that, what a difference it makes. As Romans 5:3-5 says, we can rejoice in it, not because we enjoy suffering but because, as we share it all with God, we know that God is working through it for our good. And that these problems

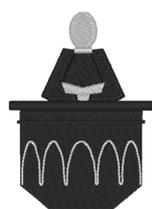
and difficulties and times of suffering will not go on for ever and will be well worth it in the end.

So although it might be difficult, when you are going through times of suffering, keep trusting Jesus and throw yourself on God to help you, guide you and see you through it, and rejoice that God is with you and won't let go of you now and for ever. For, as many, many people have discovered, this is the best way to deal with suffering.

Yours in His love,  
Howard.

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## MINISTER'S MENTIONS

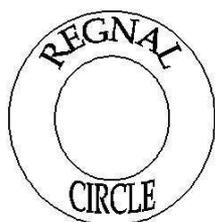


- God willing, my mother will be 95 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and I will be on holiday from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May till Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May when Rev. Stewart Smith will be taking our Christian Aid Week Service. If you need the help of a minister while I'm on holiday, please phone Rev. Peter Davidge at 07765 096599.

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## REGNAL

**Mondays at 7.30pm**



This years Annual Regnal Conference, which is normally held at Swanick in Derbyshire, will be held in Dundee. It will be hosted by the Sidlaw Regnal Circle from Fri-Sun 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March. Bridgeton Circle will go for the full day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, arriving 1215 and staying till late for the social night Ceilidh. We are looking forward to this and we a sure to have good time.

- *Robert Humphries*

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## ROLL KEEPERS REPORT

We have 70 members on the church roll. We have lost 2 of our members since the beginning of 2020.

- *Betty Glassford* (Roll Keeper)

# CRÈCHE ROTA

|                      |                  |                 |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Henrietta Ndabai | Betty Glassford |
| Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Betty Glassford  | Margaret Miller |
| Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> | May Livingstone  | Nancy Humphries |
| Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Henrietta Ndabai | Margaret Miller |
| Mar 29 <sup>th</sup> | Betty Glassford  | Margaret Miller |
| Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>  | May Livingstone  | Nancy Humphries |
| Apr 12 <sup>th</sup> | Henrietta Ndabai | May Livingstone |
| Apr 19 <sup>th</sup> | Betty Glassford  | Margaret Miller |
| Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> | May Livingstone  | Nancy Humphries |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Henrietta Ndabai | Nancy Humphries |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup> | Betty Glassford  | Margaret Miller |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup> | May Livingstone  | Nancy Humphries |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup> | Henrietta Ndabai | Betty Glassford |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup> | Betty Glassford  | Margaret Miller |
| Jun 7 <sup>th</sup>  | May Livingstone  | Nancy Humphries |
| Jun 14 <sup>th</sup> | Henrietta Ndabai | Betty Glassford |



Anyone willing to help with the crèche please speak to Betty Glassford. Thank you.

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## QUIET TIME

Every time we pick up a newspaper, switch on our TVs or radio it would be difficult to avoid confronting the fact that our communities, our churches, our country and our world are much in need or prayer. This is true too for many of our families, friends and neighbours. It is particularly true at times of illness, distress or bereavement.

On the first Sunday of every month there is an opportunity to join with others of the congregation in a quiet time of prayer. We meet around 10.20-10.30am in the Billiard Room. Everyone is most welcome to join with us either for the occasional time or every month.

Even if you are unable to come along but would like someone or some issue included in the prayers please let us know.

- *Helen Knight*

# 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. Donations are as follows:

## NOVEMBER

*"In Loving Memory of Bill & Jack" from May Cross*

## DECEMBER

*"For Our Wee Treasure Lee" from Grandma E*

*"In Memory of Family" from Jean*

*"In Loving Memory of Dad" from May & David*

*"For Tam, Beloved Husband, Dad & Grandad"  
from Mary Wilson & Family*

## JANUARY

*"For Irene, Always Missed" from the Bunton Family*

*"In Memory of Mum" from Betty Glassford*

*"In Memory of My Sister Helen" from Isabel Gemmell*

## FEBRUARY

*"In Memory of My Wife Margaret" from Jack Russell*

*"In Memory of My Sister Cath" from Isabel Gemmell*

*"For Tommy, Love & Miss You"  
from Helen Rankin & Family*

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## FUNERALS

*19/12/19 Mrs Betty Bryce*

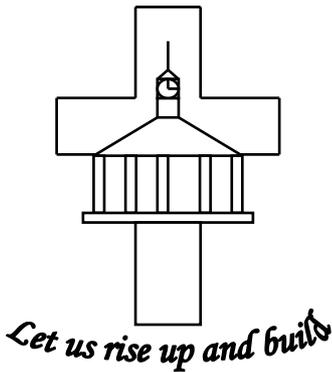
*04/01/20 Mrs Liz Norman*

*21/01/20 Miss Ann Ross*

*17/02/20 Miss Jessie McPherson*

## SERVICE OF SONGS

*22/02/20 Mrs Cecilia Okoafor*



**Bridgeton, St. Francis-in-the-East  
Church of Scotland**

*(Scottish Charity No. SCO12535)*

26 Queen Mary Street, Bridgeton

**invites You  
to our Easter Services**

***ENTRY***

Palm Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 11am

***CHALLENGE***

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

***QUESTIONS***

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

***THE FUTURE***

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

***BETRAYAL***

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm (with Communion)

***SUFFERING***

Good Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

***RESURRECTION***

Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 11am (for all ages)

***RECOGNITION***

Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30pm

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

# **BRIDGETON ST. FRANCIS IN THE EAST FINANCE UPDATE**

By the time you read this article in the March magazine the Church Trustees will have approved the accounts for the year to 31 December 2019 and the Auditor will have signed them. I know that the accounts are sent to all households in the congregation but hopefully this brief article will help you all be informed about the key information the accounts contain without having to plough through all of the detailed reports.

Bridgeton started 2019 with a total of £40,189 of funds and ended the year with a total of £31,362. This reduction was entirely due to the cost of the major roof repairs carried out during the year. Excluding the roof repairs total funds actually increased slightly by £610. This is quite an achievement in these days where there is great pressure on family incomes and when costs seem to go only one way – up!

Over the many years I have been privileged to be your Treasurer it has given me great pleasure to praise the ongoing generosity of the members of Bridgeton St Francis in the East. 2019 was no exception. Income from members including tax remained the same as the previous year and costs excluding the roof repairs were actually slightly down from the 2018 level. One key figure in our accounts is the income derived from Hall Rentals. Although income from this source was £1,854 lower than 2018 the amount raised of £2,671 was a very welcome contribution to our finances.

My conclusion is that 2019 in financial terms was a very satisfactory year for Bridgeton. We should all give thanks to God that this has been possible.

Looking ahead will, I believe, present some significant challenges for Bridgeton for a number of reasons, not least because 2020 will be a year of significant change for the church. I have been asked by the Congregational Board to write another article for the June magazine when I will try to address the financial position looking forward to the end of 2020 and beyond.

In the meantime I look forward to meeting many of you at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and, hopefully on other occasions as well.

With very best wishes

- *Duncan C McGhie* (Treasurer)

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## **STAY FOR OUR AGM**

After our 11am service on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** there will be a very important meeting of our congregation – our church’s AGM. It’s short. It gives you the opportunity to find out more about what’s happening in your church and, if you wish, to ask a question or make a comment on anything to do with our church. And if you are a member of our church you can play your part in electing members of the congregation onto the Congregational Board. However, please remember that out of common courtesy and to avoid embarrassment no-one should nominate anyone for the Board unless they have spoken to that person in private first and made sure that they are happy to be nominated. So please talk to people in advance about this.

If you attend our church services or are a member of our church, you should receive with this magazine a copy of the minutes of our last AGM and the annual accounts for 2019. Please read them and bring them along with you to this very important meeting.

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## **CHRISTIAN AID**

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support for Christian Aid year after year while I have been the Christian Aid Rep for our church, but I am standing down this year and handing over to Edith Watt. I hope you will continue to support this worthwhile cause for many years to come. Christian Aid week this year is 10-16 May, with our church holding a special service on Sunday 10 May at 11am.

- *Nancy Humphries*

We would like to thank Nancy for all her hard work over the years as Christian Aid Rep. ☺

## **You and the Congregational Board**

It's that time of year again. The AGM is just around the corner, and once more we need to elect (or re-elect) new members to the Congregational Board. We hope that this piece will inspire more people to come forward and serve on the Board, or at least encourage every member of the congregation to attend the AGM and not rush out after the service and before the meeting starts.

So what is the Congregational Board? Essentially, the Congregational Board is responsible for 'the temporal affairs of the congregation' (while the Kirk Session oversees 'the spiritual affairs of the congregation'). The Board, therefore, has responsibility for the congregation's finances and its members are the Charity Trustees of Bridgeton St Francis-in-the-East Church during their time in office. The maintenance of the fabric of the church building – the bricks and mortar – is also the responsibility of the Board. In practice in our congregation, the Board works closely with the Kirk Session in serving the congregation and parish in many ways, from doing door duty on Sundays to organising fundraising events.

The Congregational Board consists of the minister, a number of elders and a number of elected members. The minister and elders are appointed rather than elected to the Board. The elected members are full communicant members of the congregation over the age of 18 and they are elected for a term of 3 years at an AGM. There cannot be more elected members than elders elected to the Board at any time.

So if you are a full communicant member of our church, you are eligible to serve on the Board. Serving on the Congregational Board is one way of taking seriously the vows of Church membership that you took when you joined the Church. It is an opportunity to help out in a very practical way, and more than that, it is a way of helping to run our church. Like any organisation, our congregation needs people to run it. Somebody has to take the decisions, solve the problems, find the solutions – from paying the bills to organising who will make the tea; from big fund-raising events to handing out the hymn books on a Sunday. Without people offering their time and talents to the congregation, nothing would get done. Without people there wouldn't even be anyone to turn the lights on and off!

Maybe its time you considered serving on the Congregational Board? Board meetings will not take up a great deal of your time. There are only normally five meetings a year, at present from 7.00-8.30 p.m. You would probably be surprised at how much good humour there is at Board meetings and how interesting meetings usually are!

Even if you are not interested in serving at the moment, don't let the thought of being nominated to the Board put you off coming to the AGM this year. We are keen to put an end to the practice of putting anyone 'on the spot' at the AGM. Not only is this unfair on the nominee, it is certainly not the best way to choose committed people who want to serve on the Board. So as a matter of good practice and common courtesy, no one should nominate anyone at the AGM for the Board unless they have spoken to that person in private first and made sure they are happy to be nominated. No one should feel they would rather miss the AGM than be embarrassed by being nominated and having to turn it down. That way everyone can relax and attend the AGM without worrying about it, and we can all play our part in serving God and His kingdom.

## LHM UPDATE

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated sugar and diluting drinks for the LHM appeal, our support has been gratefully appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas cards on behalf of LHM, total raised was £128 with an additional £107 from the Christmas table and LHM envelopes. This support assists LHM in their work with homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded persons at the LHM in Glasgow. Be assured it will be spent wisely to improve the lives of those LHM strive to help.

LHM day centre is open 7 days a week 354 days a year offering shelter and vital sustenance which is often the gateway to supporting individuals in other ways with multiple complex problems they face. LHM continue to offer activities such as choir, pool and outings in their minibus. Most of all people come because they know at LHM they will not be judged and can always find warmth from the very cold winter weather and can always find a friendly welcome.

LHM are very aware that they can only carry out the work they do at LHM thanks to the generosity of Bridgeton St Francis in-the-east together with supporting churches. On behalf of everyone at LHM please accept their grateful thanks for your kindness which helps them to make a difference to the lives of those experiencing homelessness and social exclusion across Glasgow.

I would like to give my own personal thanks to everyone for their support, for no matter what the LHM appeals have been you have always given so generously and it is gratefully appreciated. THANK YOU.

Please continue to keep LHM in your thoughts and prayers. God bless.

- Jackie Hughes (LHM Rep)

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Donations to The Poppy Fund for 2019 were £61.98. In 2018 donations were over £80. That is quite a lot less. Hope we can be more generous this year for a very worthy cause. Thank you.

- Maida Donaghy

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot chose the colours  
He weaves so steadily.

Oft' times He weaveth sorrow,  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.

Not `til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skilful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.

*(Written by Corrie Ten Boom, 1892-1983, a Christian who survived a Nazi concentration camp but whose sister did not.)*

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INNER EAST END PARISH GROUPING?**

### **Parish Grouping Palm Sunday Service**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm in Calton Parkhead Church,  
Helenvale Street.

### **Parish Grouping Pentecost Service**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30pm in our church hall

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## **FOODBANK**

### **Every Thursday 11.00am to 1.00pm**

A big thank you from volunteers and clients for all the gifts donated for the Christmas bags, the clients' were delighted with them. We still require toiletries as the number of clients attending is still on the increase - Betty Arbuckle

## 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 [\*\*hhudson@churchofscotland.org.uk\*\*](mailto:hhudson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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.

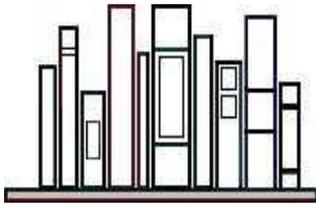
Thinking about joining the Church? Or wanting to know more about living for Jesus? Then please see the minister as soon as possible so that he can arrange a new series of the **Enquirer's Group** at a time that suits you. The Enquirer's Group meetings are very informal and open to anyone, whether a member 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 want to see the minister on a Sunday, please see him after the service.

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.

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.

## 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. In fact, there's something there for everyone including children. Just make a note in the jotter of anything you take, and enjoy your book. Remember the library is there for you.

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## GUILD



The Guild is having a "Coffee Morning" on 21 March 2020 between 11am and 1pm. Tickets will be £3 and will include tea and hot or cold rolls. We will also have bottle, crafts and home baking stalls. We look forward to as many people as possible attending so tell friends and family.

- Edith Watt

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## YOUNG FRANKIES

Recently, in Young Frankies, we have been using Minecraft to build some of the stories from the Bible. Minecraft is a videogame made in 2009 that lets the player build almost anything they want. Within the game there are hundreds of different materials and items that allow for an almost infinite amount of building possibilities. So far we have made a scene of Jesus walking on water and are in the process of creating Noah's ark with different animals and hopefully a flood.

- Adam Collins

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COME AND DISCOVER WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO US TODAY  
THROUGH THE BOOK OF JUDGES  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 7.30PM IN THE UPPER HALL**  
EVERYONE VERY WELCOME!



Come along to our next Messy Churchy in Church House, 22 Queen Mary Street on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm when our theme will be "Big Family of God".

Messy Churchy is a different kind of church that meets at a time that suits those who normally would not be able to, or not want to, come to a regular church service. All ages are welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult) and together we enjoy crafts, fun activities, a time of celebration and a meal. It is completely free. Come exactly as you are - no cost and no expectations for who you are supposed to be.

We are also in need of some more people to help at Messy Churchy so if you would like to help, whether with the food, the crafts, the games, the celebration, or just setting up or clearing the hall please have a word with Howard. And one way we can all help is by praying for God to lead, guide, bless and work through Messy Churchy for His glory and the good of all who come.

If you want to find out more about our Messy Churchy, please look at our Facebook page:

**[www.facebook.com/MessyChurchBSF](http://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchBSF)**

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

### EVERY SUNDAY

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Service        | 11.00am |
| Crèche         | 11.00am |
| Young Frankies | 11.00am |

### EVERY MONDAY

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Mens Regnal Circle (until Mar 30) | 7.30pm |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

### EVERY TUESDAY

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| The Guild (until Apr 7) | 1.30pm |
|-------------------------|--------|

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| See the Minister | 1.00pm |
| Unlock Judges    | 7.30pm |

### EVERY THURSDAY

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Food Bank | 11am-1pm |
|-----------|----------|

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## MARCH

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 6  | World Day of Prayer Service (Parkhead Salvation Army) | 2.00pm             |
| 8  | AGM   | After 11am Service |
| 8  | Messy Churchy (in Church House)                       | 3.00pm             |
| 19 | Congregational Board                                  | 7.00pm             |
| 21 | Guild Coffee Morning                                  | 11.00am            |

## APRIL

|      |  |                |
|------|--|----------------|
| 5    | Palm Sunday Service                                  | 11.00am        |
| 5    | Parish Grouping Palm Sunday Service(Calton Parkhead) | 6.30pm         |
| 6-10 | Holy Week Services                                   | 7.00pm         |
| 12   | Easter Sunday Services                               | 11.00 & 6.30pm |
| 16   | Kirk Session   | 1.30pm         |

## MAY

|       |                                    |         |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------|
| 10    | Christian Aid Service              | 11.00pm |
| 10-16 | Christian Aid Week                 |         |
| 28    | Congregational Board               | 7.00pm  |
| 31    | Pentecoste Service                 | 11.00am |
| 31    | Parish Grouping Pentecoste Service | 6.30pm  |

## JUNE

|   |                                 |        |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| 7 | Messy Churchy (in Church House) | 3.00pm |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|

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

[barbara.jennings1@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.jennings1@ntlworld.com)

The deadline for the Summer 2020 magazine will be

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**