

Campsie Parish Church

LENT NEWSLETTER

Prayer Fasting Works of Love



40 Days



February – March 2018

From the Editor

*Thank you to all who have
contributed to this Lent Newsletter*

This is Your Campsie Parish Church Community Newsletter. There are lots of activities and matters of interest, and perhaps concern happening in and around us which we would like to incorporate into the Newsletter, but can only do so, with your assistance.

So be it a fun activity, a request for assistance or information that would be helpful to our community, please let Rev Jane Denniston or myself know so that we can incorporate your requests or stories. This information will be very much appreciated, and can help us make a difference within the community.

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Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,



As I write this the snow is lying thick on the ground, cars are slipping all over the roads, and people are reluctant to leave home for fear of trials of the journey. By the time you read this I anticipate that the snow will be gone, snowdrops and crocuses will be beginning to poke their heads through the dark and bare earth and we will be becoming aware of the first rumours of spring. Winter sometimes seems very long but spring always comes, it never lets us down. And this reminds me of a verse in the Psalms: in Psalm 30: 5 we read, *"Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."*

This is from a modern version of the Bible, but I like translation in the King James Version, *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."*

The first reason I like this older version is that the word endure is much more evocative of the pain of prolonged weeping. When we feel deep pain, for whatever reason, when we cry and sob in sorrow and grief until we feel there are no tears left to cry, only the word endure can properly describe our condition. We have indeed endured. The second reason I like this version is the use of the word, "joy", rather than rejoicing. Rejoicing is something that springs from within us. We rejoice because we feel happy, perhaps we feel like singing

Weeping may well endure for a night but I wonder how many of us, of ourselves, would feel like rejoicing with the dawn. The word, "joy", on the other hand, describes to me something tangible, rather than a reaction. It is as if it is a gift, and a gift given by God. In the midst of our weeping, and sorrow, God is there, and in his presence, secure in his love, we may have joy, in spite of the pain which has caused our

weeping. God promises that our pain will not endure for ever, but that he will once again give us the gift of joy.

Throughout the Psalms, the psalmist expresses his pain, pain which arises from a variety of sources. Sometimes he is anguished because of his own faults and failings. Sometimes he is angry because he feels abandoned by God. Sometimes he is suffering because of his enemies. The psalmist does not hold back taking all these concerns to God, even when he is angry with God himself! But each Psalm ends on a note of hope. The psalmist has faith that even when he feels abandoned, God is actually still there.

Even when he feels hopeless, God will remain faithful. Even when he feels distraught over his own frailties, God will have mercy. And so, in the midst of heartache, the psalmist affirms, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

The coming of spring is an affirmation of this truth: that even in the darkest times, God does not abandon us. Even in the hardest circumstances, God walks with us. Even in our most hopeless of moments, God is there, bringing light into the darkness. As we go through the dark days of Lent into the light and joy of Easter, I pray for you, that you too, will know the presence of God in everything.

Your friend

Rev Jane Denniston





Rainbow Café

Please come and support our next Rainbow Café which will be held on

Saturday 24th February

12.00-2.00pm.

Serving light lunches, Home baking and tea and coffee

There will also be a baking stall at this Café and all donations for this stall will be gratefully received.

***Rena and all the Rainbow Café
team look forward to seeing you.***

All profits from this café will be donated to



Lenten Studies

During Lent, on Wednesdays at 7.00pm, from 21 February; there will be a series of Bible studies, in the church



However, in a twist on the usual Lenten practice of giving up chocolate, this Lent we are going to take up chocolate, or at least, "Chocolat!" Our Bible studies will be based on the film *Chocolat*, which, of course, is itself set during Lent. Using the film as a starting point for exploring issues about God, the world, and what it means to be human, we will make our way through 6 group sessions, beginning with the whole film, following that up with 5 sessions on the themes of: Giving up - the prelude to change; Giving out - the power of a gift; Getting wise - the possibility of change; Getting real - the power of acceptance; Growing up - the process of change.

Each session includes extracts from the film, group discussion questions, exercises and meditations; suggestions for individual reading, and related Bible passages. The study considers various characters within the film, their attitudes to church and faith, together with appropriate Bible passages. It challenges our own characters and attitudes in a light- yet very real and penetrating way. The questions are thought provoking and, perhaps unexpectedly, the film lends itself to this kind of exercise. Hopefully we might also find the time to have a cup of tea or coffee, and a chocolate treat or two!

Come along and join us - when else will you be offered a trip to the movies and chocolate to eat.

Prayer Life at Campsie



Prayer activities at Campsie continues to be well supported and we are encouraged when we witness amazing answers to prayers, or when we hear from folks who have been comforted by our prayer support.

The Prayer Circle regularly receives requests for prayer and those who seek prayer have the assurance that their requests are always treated with strict confidentiality. It is indeed a privilege to be asked to pray for any and all concerns.

Our Prayer Tree in the Sanctuary is also proving to be very popular, with many folks leaving anonymous requests. All requests are included in our monthly bulletin....and the members of the Prayer Circle continue to pray over these until we receive answers! We continue to P.U.S.H.....we "Pray Until Something Happens"!!!

In November we held a Prayer Breakfast in the church to mark the National Day of Prayer (Scotland) and our guest speaker was Mr. Graham Fender-Allison from Church of Scotland (Edinburgh). Graham shared lots of 'Prayer' ideas and disciplines and the morning was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

We plan to hold more Prayer events during 2018 and would encourage anyone interested to contact Jane or myself. As we approach this season of Lent let us all pray that this coming Easter will be a time of renewal and a time of revival.

Joan Thomson
Prayer Secretary

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From the Session Clerk

Being on a duty team

We're looking for new members for our four duty teams. This is a really good way of giving service to your church, and helping to offer welcome and fellowship to everyone coming to worship with us Sunday by Sunday. It's not difficult and you would be part of a team so you would never be on your own. Teams are on duty for three months a year (four or five Sundays at a time), and the rota is adjusted so that one team doesn't always end up with December! There are usually six people on each team, so that if you can't make every Sunday in your month, there is normally enough capacity to cover absences. Each team has an experienced leader, who makes sure that all the jobs needing to be done are covered.

Tasks include

Meeting and greeting in the foyer before the service – this may include handing out the order of service, being at the front door, and helping people with mobility difficulties.

Laying out the pew Bibles before the service and collecting them up afterwards

Count the collection – this is done in slightly different ways by different teams, but it involves counting cash from the open plate and opening and counting cash from the freewill envelopes, sorting the money, preparing it to be banked and

recording the amount received each week. Not everyone from the team is necessarily involved in this every week.

Of these tasks, welcoming people coming into church is the most important; but it is also by far the most rewarding and I encourage anyone who feels they might be called to become part of a team to think and to pray about it. If you are interested, please talk to me.

Church Roll Data Base

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be having a drive to add email addresses and telephone numbers to our church roll database. With email now so popular, it seemed to the Session that it would be a good way of communicating news and announcements to members and friends of the congregation – as well as being fast and efficient, it can also help in reducing the amount of paper used for notices and various communications. So when the forms appear in the church, please fill them in and return them either to me or to any member of the duty team.

Each form will contain a Data Protection waiver, so that the church is legally allowed to hold, and of course, if you do not wish for us to hold and use this information, that is understood, but we do hope you will be willing to participate.

Andrew Wale



How I admire this elderly female!

Most days part of my walk with the dogs is along the banks of the Glazert water from the old Greystone Dam to the Road Bridge near East Lodge (on Glen Road). This short walk takes you through a particularly beautiful wooded area which is subject to some of the most dynamic and lovely morning light. The area has so many different trees and other natural assets and is extremely colourful (even on a dull day). These trees include Beech, Ash, Oak, Chestnut, Sycamore to name but a few.

When the sun bursts through the trees, some parts including the river get lit up to such a vibrant level that even a camera cannot do justice. The river vividly reflects all the colours around including lovely blue and white patches of sky and clouds.



A little bit of heaven!

I always see some kind of wildlife which can include Dippers playing on the river, sometimes Deer on the south bank, some Mallards and sometimes Goosanders and very occasionally a Kingfisher flying along at great speed (appearing as a streak of turquoise). I do also get to see Herons here once in a while.

On the forest floor there are a few decayed trunks of fallen trees which over many years have created their own small ecosystems supporting some new trees growing out of them, flowers, ferns, fungi and lots of bright green mosses.

During the course of the year this short woodland walk also sees lots of wild flowers including spectacular Wild Garlic, Bluebells and some colourful Narcissi in spring with many other wild flowers throughout the summer. Autumn then brings a major colour change to the foliage of the trees before leaf drop. Much of the floor is permanently covered in fallen leaves giving a very rich reddy-brown appearance and adding to the colourful ambience of this wonderful place.

I thank God every day for this privilege of being amongst this small part of his fabulous creation. What a blessing given by his grace!

Every time I go this way I meet an elderly female who is very cultured and refined although she does have age related blemishes on her otherwise perfect appearance. I have always been very curious to know how old she is and I have even had the cheek to ask her on a few occasions. She always declines to answer!

After seeing a similar issue revealed on TV where it was disclosed that age can be calculated with a simple measurement I was keen to try this out.

Apparently a simple measurement of her girth at chest height is converted to inches and for each inch measured you allow one year. Her measurement came in at 13 feet and six inches. This equals 162 inches which means she is 162 years old - **WOW!**

My elderly female friend is of course a majestic Beech tree!

Yes! I talk to the Trees!

Robert Neilson

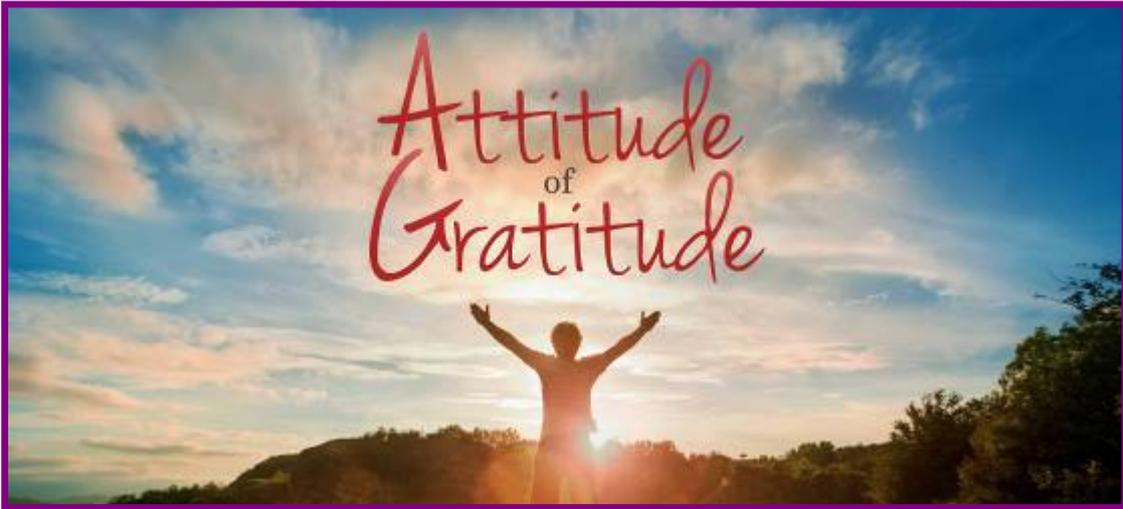




A thoroughly enjoyable family service where the theme of forgiveness was the focal point. Singing, crafts and a general fun time with the children. Not to mention the incredible hospitality, enjoyed by all after the service.



See Church Facebook page for more Photos



Things To Be Thankful For.....

The mess to clean up after a party

Because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

The taxes I pay

Because it means I have something to do.

The clothes that fit a little too snugly

Because it means I have enough to eat.

My shadow who watches me work

Because it means I am out in the sunshine.

A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing

Because it means I have a home.

All the complaining I hear about the government

Because it means we have freedom of speech.

The space I find at the far end of the parking lot

Because it means I am capable of walking.



Upcoming Services

Date	Service Details
Feb 4th	5th Sunday after Epiphany
Feb 11th	Transfiguration Sunday
Feb 11th	Evening Service, 6.30pm, <i>Taizé style service. A very reflective service, with a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. Caroline, who is leading this service, will explain the background to, and structure of the service. There will be reflective singing and times of silence</i>
Feb 18th	1st Sunday in Lent
Feb 25th	2nd Sunday in Lent, Communion after 11.00 service
Mar 4th	3rd Sunday in Lent
Mar 11th	4th Sunday in Lent
Mar 11th	Evening Service, 6.30pm, <i>Alternative Worship – a different kind of service with an opportunity to engage with different aspects of worship, at your own pace and in your own way. Prayer, reflection, image, music, creativity... Come and see!</i>
Mar 18th	5th Sunday in Lent
Mar 25th	6th Sunday in Lent, Communion after 11.00 service



Campsie Parish Church Guild

We were saddened by the death of Norma Neilson, a faithful member of the Guild. We gave thanks for her life at recent our meeting.



The second half of our Session started on a nostalgic note as we remembered Hogmanay in days gone by with Ron Rodger and we enjoyed singing many old favourites.



Later, we will hear of the work of Prospects; chosen by the Guild nationally as one of the projects. So far £81,847.30 has been donated by Guilds all over Scotland to make a positive change to the lives of people with learning difficulties.

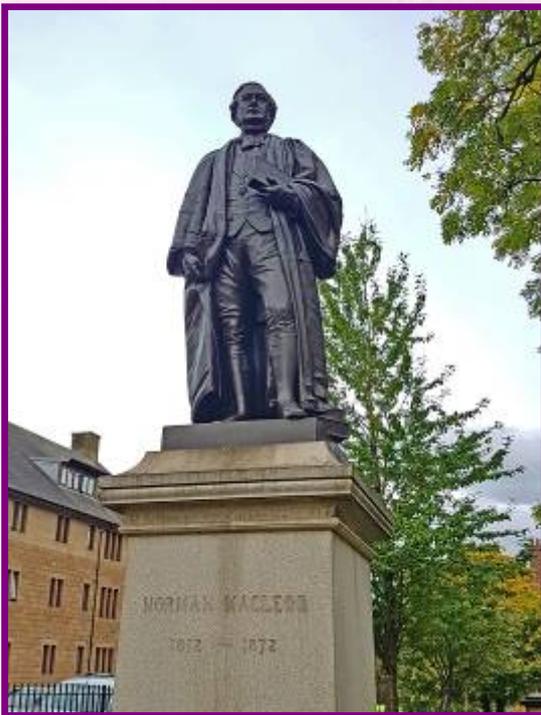
In February we look forward to hearing of the work of RVS and the history of the Tenement House in Glasgow and in March we look forward to holding the World Day of Prayer Service with the residents of the new nursing home.

Margaret Tindall

Rev Dr Norman MacLeod

1812-1872

I was interested recently to see a photo on Facebook taken by Alan Douglas. It shows the memorial to Norman MacLeod and nearby there are other memorials to this distinguished family. As you stand by the cross look to the hills and remember this man who had dreamt of building a home for his old age next to the Campsies, and who spent his formative years among them.



Cathedral Square, Glasgow

In fact Norman MacLeod spent his childhood in Campsie as his father, who bore the same name, was the local minister. Many of the Macleod family were distinguished in the ministry and this Norman was the grandfather of Rev George MacLeod who founded the Iona Community. Norman had an outstanding ministry in the Barony Church in Glasgow, which had a parish of more than 87,000. Many lived in dire poverty. He extended the parish school, set up evening classes and provided a Sunday school for 1400 children. There were penny banks and refreshment rooms for the sake of cheap but wholesome food.

His brother wrote a memoir in which he describes the funeral in 1872 which was held in Glasgow. As the coffin was carried out it was preceded by magistrates, representatives of royalty, and other dignitaries, and behind it relatives and three thousand people.

His brother writes, 'As the funeral approached Campsie, it was not only met by many friends, but as business had been for the time suspended in the town, and the shops closed, the entire population united in paying respect to the honoured dead, whose ashes were to rest in the old parish where his childhood had been spent.'

Memoir of Norman MacLeod by his brother Donald MacLeod DD



Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxton

“You didn’t choose me! I chose you! I appointed you to go and produce lovely fruit always, so that no matter what you ask for from the Father, using my name, he will give it to you”

John 15 : 16

Campsie Parish Church



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