



**2 March**

## **Presbytery Mission Plan**

**As you know, we have been living with the development of the mission plan for some time now. It has gone through a great number of versions and the final draft, to be debated at Presbytery, has just been published.**

For ourselves, let me simply offer you the rubric from the plan without any comment. The session will be discussing this in the next week or so before the presbytery meeting.

The original proposal for us to unite with Bearsden Cross has been augmented to include Cairns. There are historical links with Cairns given they left the congregation and became New Kilpatrick Relief Church setting up in Milngavie a long time ago.

The hope would be that two ministers would remain available to the three congregations by the end of the lifetime of the plan (five years) working as a team. New legislation of Team Ministry will hopefully be in place by then (there is no legislation for team ministry in the church at the moment!).

This will take some time to negotiate and put in place and we have the lifetime of the plan in which to do so. This process will require a spirit of openness, cooperation and collaboration for this to be missionally fruitful.

We have said that we wish to explore ways in which we could modernise our suite of buildings. Should we be allowed to do so, it is hoped that during such refurbishment work, ourselves and the Cross would worship together, allowing for opportunities for the three Ministers to preach in one another's churches, thus allowing for relationships to develop across the three congregations. As part of this process, the three churches, collectively, should assess all our buildings to determine how best to encourage and enable Mission in the first instance.

NOTE: In the event of a vacancy in either Bearsden Cross or New Kilpatrick, within the lifetime of the plan, then the relevant congregation will be allowed to call a Minister with representation from both congregations on the Nominating Committee.

My only comment for the moment is that there are a number of "hopefullys" and "should this be allowed" in all of that, which illustrates that the future shape of the church in our area is yet unknown, and we have been given the five years of the plan to develop that. During that time, there will be other changes in the church locally and

nationally which will have some impact on things, but perhaps we can see this as a very real opportunity to grow a creative group of congregations, working together to make a real difference again in our community.

Other parts of the plan, locally:

Killermont and Westerton should unite with a building at Killermont and a presence in Westerton which is being negotiated at the moment.

Baljaffray and St Luke go into a deferred union based in Baljaffray, with St Luke's land being developed.

St Paul's and Baldernock continue as a link but perhaps a union in due course.

The Presbytery debate is on Saturday 18th March and, if it is agreed then, it will be taken to Faith Nurture team at 121 and the General Trustees to be agreed. If that happens, then the plan comes back to Presbytery to be noted and becomes the Presbytery Mission Plan from that moment.

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## **Worship Collective**

**What about worship that speaks with the many voices of those who come on a Sunday?**

What about worship that holds the diversity of words and imagination and the poetry of the whole worshipping community? Does it feel we share a deeper sense of worship when we have a couple of other voices leading our worship rather than the minister's dulcet tones?

Without retiring the minister early (though given presbytery plans that might be quite attractive) we would love to explore the possibility of an informal worship group that would meet monthly, look ahead at the stories we will be telling, and perhaps take part in worship by reading contemporary readings, offering prayers, or other ideas that help us engage more fully with the story. There is also the chance for people to pick up a story and reimagine it through their own words, or the eyes of some lesser character in the story. The idea is to gently stretch our worship and move it a little. Indeed 'liturgy' is a Greek work which describes 'the work of the people' through worship and prayer.

There is no pressure to do any of that, just come along to think ahead and be part of developing our worship in a variety of ways. It is also an opportunity to engage folk more deeply through the diversity of life .../

experiences, questions, and voices we now bring to worship. It will also be fun.

It is not something anyone needs to come along to every time, but when you feel able, creative, tired of the same pattern, or feel you have a place in leading worship with your voice and experience.

The first get together of the Worship Collective will be Thursday 9th at 7pm in the Hall.

## Coffee Pot

**The Coffee Pot is open tomorrow from 10am in the hall.** Home baking. A lovely place to meet.

## Lent Series - "The Chosen"

**Our Lent Series is based around the very popular series "The Chosen".**

Next Tuesday, 7 March, we will be watching and discussing episode 2 of season 1, with some light refreshments.

Our discussion will begin about 8pm, following the video; but, if you are unable to be there for 7pm and would like to see the episode before the discussion, here is the link:

<https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/3e794d54-9609-442b-ac6f-af5e33438f54/season-1/episode-2/shabbat>

The series introduces us to fascinating characters and allows us to discuss what we have seen and to share opinions in a relaxed environment.

We would be delighted if you could join us each week as we journey towards Easter.

## Lent Booklet

**We have created a booklet that offers some words to shape a daily moment of reflection and pause for each day of lent.**

It is based on 'The Chosen' which we are using for our weekly discussion but offers a daily reading of a few verses from the Bible and a single comment to reflect on. It is there to create a simple moment of Lenten reflection.

You can pick the booklet up from the halls or after worship, and it offers something for each of the 40 days of the season, or you can visit our 'lent moment' webpage ([nkchurch.org.uk/lent-moment](http://nkchurch.org.uk/lent-moment)) where each day is posted. You can also download the booklet from there if you wish.

## World Day of Prayer

**A service to mark the World Day of Prayer will be held in Westerton Parish Church tomorrow, Friday 3 March at 2pm.**

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

The focus is Taiwan, and the theme is 'I have heard about your faith'.

## Friendship Group

**The Friendship Group is a chance for those who have been bereaved to drop in for coffee/tea and a friendly chat with others in similar circumstances.** The next meeting is on Monday, 6 March, 10.30am in the hall.

## Wellbeing Group

**We meet for the first time this year on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm until 9pm.**

Again, our venue will be the wonderful Massimo's private function room at the back of the Restaurant.

If you have any questions or ideas, please get in touch with me in the church office or on my email, [amaccallum@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:amaccallum@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Talk on Refugees and Homelessness

**The Lenten series at St. Andrew's Bearsden continues on 16 March with a discussion of the plight of the homeless, particularly those left destitute as victims of war and climate change, who have been forced to seek refuge here in Scotland, particularly East Dunbartonshire.** This event provides an opportunity to meet community resettlement officers from East Dunbartonshire Council and representatives from the Wayside Club and the Refugee Survival Trust, to learn more about what they are doing and the challenges they face. Much of the time will be given over to answering questions from the audience. All are warmly invited to attend the Upper Hall, St. Andrew's Bearsden at 7pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

## Turkey and Syria

Donations can be made through the Disasters Emergency Committee, of which Christian Aid is a part. ([dec.org.uk](http://dec.org.uk))

**Mary's Meals** have been serving meals at schools in Aleppo since 2017. Since the earthquake, their partner, **Dorcias**, is offering meals to thousands of hungry people. You can donate through the website <https://donate.marysmeals.org/int>

## St Gregory's Food Bank

All non-perishable food items are most welcome - e.g., tins of meat/ tuna/baked beans/ fruit, pasta, jam, custard, and cooking oil. Also, baby essentials such as baby wipes and nappies. Monetary gifts are also most acceptable. St. Gregory's does NOT take clothes. The Halls are open Mon - Fri (9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.) and Sunday mornings. If you are housebound and wish to donate, please contact Muriel Salmond (942 8484) and one of our team will be happy to collect.

Some photos of St Gregory's Food Bank, taken by Alex MacCallum on a recent visit:



## Kelvingrove Recital

**Chris Nickol is giving the 3pm recital on Sunday March 5th.**

### Those we have lost

**We record their names here and celebrate what they have been to us.**

**Elizabeth Findlay,**  
Antonine House Care Home (23.02.23)

**Christina (Chris) Burns,**  
Ledcameroch Park (23.02.23)

### Diary

#### Thursday 2 March

**Daybreak** 1.30pm in the hall

#### Friday 3 March

**Coffee Pot** (Warm space) 10am in the hall

#### Sunday 5 March

**Morning Worship** at 10.30am:

**A Labyrinth Service** 6.30pm in the hall

#### Monday 6 March

**Friendship Group for the Bereaved**  
10.30am in the hall

**Wellbeing Group, Massimo's** 7.30pm

#### Tuesday 7 March

**The Guild** 1.30pm in the hall  
'I See You' - Alex MacCallum, our Probationer

**Lent Bible Study (The Chosen)** 7pm in the hall

#### Wednesday 8 March

**Midweek Service** (warm space) 11am, hall

#### Thursday 9 March

**Daybreak** 1.30pm in the hall

### Date for your Diary

#### Saturday 25 March

Guild Coffee Morning, 10am in the hall.