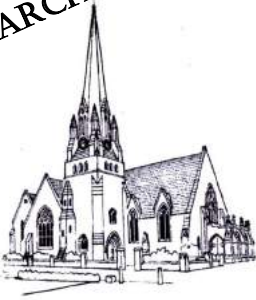


MARCH 2016



HELENSBURGH PARISH CHURCH

CONNECTIONS COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

1st Anniversary

From the Manse...

Birthdays are always a cause for celebration and here at Helensburgh Parish Church we're thrilled to be celebrating our first! On the 26 February 2015 Helensburgh Parish Church came into being.

The first year is always so important in terms of development milestones. In life we watch babies flourish from newborn to active toddler, growing and changing at an incredible pace and every month brings new and exciting developments. In the first 3 months babies learn to live in the outside world; by the fourth to sixth month they are learning to reach out and to manipulate the world around them - they're mastering the use of their hands and they're discovering their voice; by seven to nine months babies have discovered how to move forward, or backward. By ten to twelve months a baby starts to look and act more like a toddler - it really is quite the transition! Many of you of course have experience of this - I only read about it in psychology textbooks and take the word of the many parents I know (just in case some of you thought I was getting the male version of broody!) It did get me thinking that in many ways our beloved Helensburgh Parish Church is not too dissimilar from the newborn baby in terms of development milestones. As a new creation we are very much busy thinking about how we connect with and remain relevant to the outside world; we recognise the importance of reaching out and inviting people in; we strive to find our voice in an increasingly secular world, and of course we are, or should be, focused on moving forward and never backward!

Our Open Day was of course a huge milestone in our first year and the success of that is worthy of much celebration. We have a fantastic complex from which to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community of Helensburgh and beyond. Let's celebrate all the successes of our first year and look to future developments with optimism, hope and most of all with faith. I leave you with some words, on page 2, of Teresa of Avila which have been an encouragement throughout my ministry and one of the chief reasons we extend the Right Hand of Fellowship to one another in worship every Sunday.

With every blessing,

David T. Young

Worship March 2016

Sunday 6th	9:30a.m.	Easy Worship (in the large hall)	Rev. David T. Young
	11:00a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev. Malcolm Wright
Sunday 13th	9:30a.m.	Easy Worship (in the large hall)	Rev. Ian Miller
	11:00a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev. David T. Young
Sunday 20th	9:30a.m.	Easy Worship (in the large hall)	
	11:00a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev. Mark Dalton
Sunday 27th	11:00a.m.	Morning Worship	Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev. David T. Young

April

Sunday 3rd	11:00a.m.	Morning Worship	Associate Minister
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The Guild	Link Group
1st March Afternoon tea at Antartex	7th March My Leading Ladies Mrs. Barbara Urquhart
4th March (Friday) World Day of Prayer	21st March AGM and supper
8th March AGM	7th April Dinner

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks
 Compassion on this world,
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to
 do good,
 Yours are the hands, with which he
 blesses all the world.
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
 Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
 Christ has no body now but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks
 compassion on this world.
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Church Flowers - March/April

Church members offer to donate the flowers on a specific Sunday. A group of ladies willingly arrange them each week. After the service they are distributed to the bereaved, ill or housebound.

Date	
6th	Woman's World Day of Prayer
13th	Diana Macintosh
20th	Elizabeth McIntyre
27th	Katharine Liston

If you wish to donate flowers please contact **Dorothy Reid** - tel: 673546 or put your name and telephone number on the Flower Calendar in the church vestibule. If you know of anybody who you think should be receiving flowers please contact **Liz Glover** - tel. 671068

On Palm Sunday, the 20th March, at 7.30 pm, the Helensburgh Oratorio Choir, with orchestra and soloists, will perform Bach's sublime *St Matthew Passion*, a work that Bach himself especially treasured. It is twenty-five years since this work was performed in what was then the West Kirk and it is a fairly safe bet that it will be many years before it is performed again in Helensburgh Parish Church.

Bach wrote on one of his manuscripts that "where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His presence" a sentiment that may not be theologically correct but one that will resonate with many. Bach poured all his incomparable skill, his genius, his gift for beautiful melody and his strong personal faith into the work, described by Mendelssohn as the "greatest of all Christian works". Bach wrote at the end of manuscripts he particularly treasured *Soli Deo Gloria* – to God alone the glory. Based on the account of Jesus's betrayal, arrest and crucifixion in Matthew's Gospel the work stands at the apex of Bach's immense contribution to the musical life of the church.



We're into the season of Lent. Did you commit to "give something up" during Lent? It's a common practice during the Easter season, but it certainly be a challenge to give up a long-held habit or activity, whether the change is major (giving up a deeply-ingrained habit) or relatively minor (staying off of Facebook).

If you're already wavering on your Lent commitment, perhaps a simple shift in perspective will help. We should stop asking "What should I give up for Lent?" and instead ask "What can I **gain** during Lent?" The whole purpose of a Lent commitment is to *gain* a closer relationship with Jesus Christ—and that makes the sacrifice of a habit seem minor in comparison to what you're receiving in return.

There was a request for transport to "Sunday at Seven" at the Open Day on 6 February. Anyone wishing a lift to these Concerts should get in touch with Diana Macintosh (675767) and she will arrange this for you..

Report on the Tapestries

The six tapestries depicting 'The Creation' in Genesis, Chapter 1, are now in position in the corridor leading to the Large Hall and they look magnificent!

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation firstly to John and Margaret Christie, who so kindly called to take the tapestries to Helensburgh for me and who looked after them until they could be hung. Secondly I must congratulate Douglas Sammon on hanging them. This was a daunting task and I thank him and his helpers for a superb job.

Lastly, a word of renewed appreciation to the six ladies who did the needlework. I know they all enjoyed doing the tapestries which adds greatly to my pleasure in the whole project

KATHARINE M.E. LISTON

Crèche Rota - March

- 6th** Audrey Walker & Barbie Paterson
- 13th** Louise Hughes & Barbie Paterson
- 20th** Morag Kesson & MaryBurn
- 27th** June O'Neil & Lindsay McKechnie
- April**
- 3rd** Louise Hughes & Audrey Walker

It's our first anniversary!

We all know the song 'What a difference a day makes' but the title could be changed to 'What a difference a year makes' This time last year we became Helensburgh Parish Church - with Park Church and St. Andrew's Kirk uniting to become one church. Lots of questions were going through folks minds – how would we all get on, would there be enough room for everybody, what massive changes would need to be made, how would we cope with all this without a minister etc. We were very fortunate in having Rev Ian Miller as our Interim Moderator and The Very Rev. John Christie taking on the role of Locum Minister both of whom were valuable assets and clearly helped in the uniting of both congregations. We are also deeply indebted to Rev. Dr. Charles E. Stewart and Rev. Malcolm Wright to name but a few, who stood in, and still do, taking services.

So what has happened in the first year? Well no sooner had we celebrated the union and had our first ever communion service on 1st March 2105. The first meeting of the Helensburgh Parish Church Kirk Session was constituted and held later that day. This was quickly followed by our first General Stated Meeting on 15th March to form the Congregational Board by announcing the appointed Elders and also electing congregational members to serve on the Board. As you are aware, we at HPC don't do anything by half and we also heard the nominations for those willing to be on the nominating committee and we took a vote. Our Nominating Committee was formed and their search for a new minister was started and the rest is History. We now have our Minister of the Charge, Rev David T. Young, and work continues behind the build our Ministry Team.

There has been plenty more but I only a few lines left. We have a new Church Officer, John Stephens, however, there is a little known fact that the role is not restricted to carrying the bible in and out of Church it in fact requires time spent over for the whole weekend therefore, our thanks must go to those who dedicated their time to fulfilling that role during its vacancy. The Kirk Session and Board have had managed their way through the large tasks in hand and are dedicated Trustees of HPC. Despite everything the normal running of Church, including more than one service on a Sunday, has happened thanks to an army of volunteers giving what time they could to make it so. As David has said, we are just at the start of our journey growing, together as a congregation.

Lastly but by no way least, I would personally like to say a big thank you to Building Development Team, they have been a pleasure to work with, the work continues but this 1st year has seen us beginning to use our new halls enabling us to carry forward our Vision and Mission into the years ahead.

Well done everyone!!

Karen Lyall

Session Clerk.



Our first service as Helensburgh Parish Church



The opening of our new halls



Dedication Service of Halls cutting of cake



The Open Day



First Easy Worship Service in the large hall

Flush away Poverty

The Young Church chose Toilet Twinning as their 2015 charity to benefit from the sale of their Christmas Cards.

2.4 billion people (a third of the world's population) don't have a safe, clean and hygienic place to go to the loo.

Toilet Twinning, is a partnership between two international charities, Cord and Tearfund. It invites people to "twin" their toilet with latrines in poor communities. This is a way of raising funds to enable people in the poorest nations to have clean water, a proper toilet and to learn about hygiene.

In December The Very Rev. John Christie, spoke to the young people about the importance of toilets and hygiene education to those in desperate poverty. After the service Mr Gordon Burgess expressed great interest in the project due to the work of his son Dr Craig Burgess.

Sophie Reid of the Young Church then interviewed Mr. Burgess who provided the following information:-

Craig was working in Vietnam with UNICEF and funding was provided by the World Bank.

The word toilets is perhaps not what we think of. Flush toilets are regarded as inefficient and wasteful. The toilets he was involved with were drop toilets (holes in the ground) three metres deep but with concrete surrounds. Apparently they allow matter to be absorbed into the ground, have some form of ventilation, and can last for more than thirty years.

In Vietnam it was discovered that many girls left school about 10 because of the primitive nature of the toilets. School attendance improved dramatically with improved sanitation facilities

The sale of the cards raised £600 and this will provide 2 toilet blocks for schools and 2 village latrines. The young people asked for the church toilets to be twinned with toilets in Sierra Leone to continue their support of this poverty stricken country. When the toilets are completed the church will receive framed photographs of their "twins"

Toilet Twinning is a simple quirky way to solve a serious problem and save lives.

Young Church

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	Helensburgh Parish Church
	Link Group
	Coffee Morning
	Saturday 12th March, 2016
	at 10:00a.m
Usual Stalls	Tea/coffee and small sausage rolls
Adults £2	Children 50p 

Save the Children is holding a Musical Evening with students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on Friday 15th April at 7.30pm in the Gathering Room of HPC. Tickets, £15, include a canape style buffet and can be purchased at the church office or by contacting Diana Macintosh, 675767.

Pastoral Register

Baptisms

Let the little children come to me



7th February Daisy Susannah Heenan & Clara Mary Heenan

New Members



12th January Eleanor Travena from Largs: Clark Memorial Church

Disjunctions

Lorraine Warren, Dennistoun Cres, Helensburgh
Jean Graham, Dennistoun Cres. Helensburgh
Mary Drake, Glenfinlas Street, Helensburgh

Deaths

I go to prepare a place for you



23rd November Elspeth Williams, East Clyde Street, Helensburgh
27th December Elsie Muir, South King Street, Helensburgh
10th January Christine Kinnear, Strathclyde Court, Helensburgh
14th January Willie Wilkie, Dennistoun Crescent, Helensburgh
6th February Patricia Drayton, Drumgarve Court, Helensburgh

We extend our deepest sympathy to those who know the pain of loss

Please Support Traidcraft

The Traidcraft stall will be open once a month in the hall during coffee fellowship. It is run by the Young Church and all the money goes to Traidcraft, helping producers work their way out of poverty.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group meets the first Thursday of every month. 1:30pm-3:30p.m. in the Gathering Area. At present we are knitting Twiddle Muffs and Dammit Dolls. We would like to welcome new members to the group. Yarn, needles and pattern supplied.

The Rev. David T. Young's day off is a Monday. To contact to him at other times please use the mobile number 07508628133 or e-mail minister@helensburghcos.org



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Helensburgh Parish Church

Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Scottish Charity: SCO12053 www.helensburghcos.org

Church Office, Colquhoun Street,

HELENSBURGH G84 8UP

Open: Monday—Friday 9:30am –12:00pm

Thursday 5:30pm-7:30pm

Tel: 01436 67880 E-mail: office@helensburghcos.org

