

GALLOWGATE PARISH CHURCH

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024

Minister:

Reverend Peter Davidge

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Sunday Services: 11.15am in the Calton Parkhead Church Hall, Helenvale Street. Followed by tea/ coffee and cakes.

Tuesday Prayer Meetings: 7.00pm for revival prayers, reflection and chit-chat.

Thursday Mid-Week Services: 7.00pm in Church sanctuary. Includes Sacrament of Communion.

ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulaions to Peter on being a Minister for twenty years. Peter was ordained in November 2003 in the Calton Parkhead sanctuary, with his St Thomas's Gallowgate Church being deemed too small for the occasion. It is serendipity that Gallowgate Church (the successor to St Thomas's) now worships in the Calton Parkhead building. Peter has commented that a favourite memory of the ordination was the setting off of fireworks in the street to mark the occasion. (Do



Ella having Festive Fun in the Church.

not tell Peter but the fireworks may have been Guy Fawkes related.)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: If we have not got through all of the Carols in the hymn book it is not for want of trying.

While we all have our favourites the late Isobel McFarlane, our much missed church friend and senior elder, used to complain bitterly everytime we sang *The first Nowell*. She said that it was the most dreary of the Carols and went on for far too long. Peter seemed to always choose this hymn when Isobel was in church. With a bit of luck there will still be a sprinkling of Carols in early January.

NEW HAT SHOCK: Peter, our Minister, has been spotted wearing a nifty new blue/ green bunnet. Unfortunately no photographs currently exist. This is bound to be brought up at our next Kirk Session as no prior approval has been granted for this rather flamboyant item of attire.

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

GIFTS: Thanks go out to all the generous congregation members who handed in hats, gloves and socks in response to our Christmas appeal. Ted and Linda passed the donated items to the Lodging House Mission and were warmly thanked, with it being emphasised how important it is for their clients to be warm in winter.

OUR TREE WAS BETTER: There is surely no harm in a wee bit of petty one-upmanship. Our (Gallowgate's) Christmas tree had lights which flashed on and off in different sequences. Calton Parkhead's were static. Our top star was illuminated. CP's was unlit. That made our tree officially better.

MINISTER'S REFLECTION:

Russian generals used to say that they always kept their two best generals in reserve when resisting invading armies – Generals January and February. January and February are usually two of the bleakest and coldest months of the year across Northern Europe. In Scotland, January was historically enlivened by Burns Night towards the end of the month; and February

is brightened up internationally by St Valentine's Day.

This year, however, St Valentine's Day coincides in the Church's calendar with the start of Lent, which feels rather a negative season – traditionally a time of 'giving things up'.

How do we get through January and February? One helpful thing to remember is that every day we receive two extra minutes of daylight, which means that over these two months the days become two hours lighter. Also, February has the helpful quality of being the shortest month of the year. In the Church, January and February take us from the fringes of Christmas to the threshold of Easter. They are the link months of the Christian calendar, when we leave behind the stable of Bethlehem and travel with Jesus from Galilee towards Jerusalem. It is a road we can travel together.



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Please contact Linda Robertson, our Treasurer, on 07708 61800 if you have any queries or wish donation envelopes sent to you.

NEWSLETTER: If you are happy for future newsletters to be sent to you electronically, please send your e-mail address to Martin Dean at

martin.dean7@sky.com

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