

# Gorbals Parish Church Chat

## March 2022

Dear Friend,

Judith has asked me to take over the writing of the church newsletter in my new capacity as Community Development Worker. I can't tell you how surprised and delighted I am to find myself in this role. I am hoping to bring the church and the community closer together by using our building to offer activities directly run by us. More below.



*Liz adds some spring colour to the front door*

### Prayers for Peace for Ukraine

Following a suggestion from Muriel we held Prayers for Peace for Ukraine as the invasion began. We have a (battery-powered!) candle burning in the window as a witness to our continued concern along with two prayers which passers-by can read. Here is one of them from the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum.

Living God,  
Creator and giver of life to all people:  
We ask that you would hear our prayer for peace among the nations  
And for ending the conflict in Ukraine.  
Lord in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Who shall judge between the nations:  
We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace  
And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Who has inspired faith across the ages:  
Grant peace in the midst of war  
And bring harmony to the commonwealth of nations.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Who gave his only Son that we might have life:  
We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit  
And inspire in us hope that peace will be renewed.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.



*Our window to remember the people of Ukraine*

## Lent

Now that we're in the season of Lent the church has been decorated in purple by Jo, Judith, and Iain with more being added each week as we journey towards Easter. We were able to hold communion standing in the round on 6 March led by David Lunan who asked, 'What do we hunger for?' Themes for the rest of Lent are:

March 13<sup>th</sup> What do we weep for? Led by Graham and Karen

March 20<sup>th</sup> What do we hold out hope for? Led by Frances and Carol

Lunch and parish walk

March 27<sup>th</sup> What brings us home to God? Led by John and Karen

April 3<sup>rd</sup> What is our devotion? Led by David and Jim

April 10<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) What do we shout about? Frances and Graham

April 17<sup>th</sup> (Easter Day) What is coming alive in us? Jo and Carol.



*First steps in Lent*

## Save the Date!

When Ian retired in September, we promised to have a proper get-together in April when we could all be together. The date for that is **Saturday 23 April in the church 2-4pm**. Ian wants a chance to chat to people properly so this will be a drop-in affair with sparkling drinks and nibbles. We'll re-show the slides we put together of his long ministry with us. We hope as many as possible will make it for what should be a happy afternoon.

## Presbytery Mission Plan

Some of you will be aware that the Church of Scotland is undertaking a drastic downsizing of staff and buildings in the face of a shortage of ministers and funds. In Glasgow the Presbytery has been divided into 5 zones. We sit in Zone 5 and right on the borders of Zones 1, 2 and 4. We have been asked to consider with which other parishes we might share resources, and Session Clerks have been called to Zone meetings on **Saturday 19 March** to discuss this further. Our meeting is in our church in the morning. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom for all concerned as to the way ahead.

## Church Community Worker Activities

And finally... As most of you know I am passionate about using food to build community and I hope to redevelop our kitchen/café space as a community fridge and kitchen. This means that no one needs to have money to come through the door. I would also like us to offer a short mid-week service and a prayer time. I have been approached about using the space at the side of the church for planters to be tended by local people which will bring some much-needed green to our surroundings. I see myself as the community worker *in* the church rather than *for* the church and I hope that people in the congregation will find something that they want to participate in or help with, so we can strengthen our links with our neighbours.

On **Sunday 20 March** we will have lunch and a walk round the parish to learn more about what's going on in the area. At the last meeting of Kirk Session, we also agreed that I would step back slightly to become Depute Session Clerk supporting Douglas rather than sharing the role. If you want to chat about something community-related I'd be delighted to organise that on a week day as I try to hold the boundary between my work life and personal life. My work contacts are phone: 07933789819 and email

[CMilligan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CMilligan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Until next time...

Warm wishes,

*Catriona*

Catriona Milligan, Church Community Development Worker



*Helen helping to test the church kitchen oven*