

The Sentinel

**FEBRUARY
2011**

Volume 49 No 2



Black sheep of the family?



"I've got a nice furry coat too," says Boris



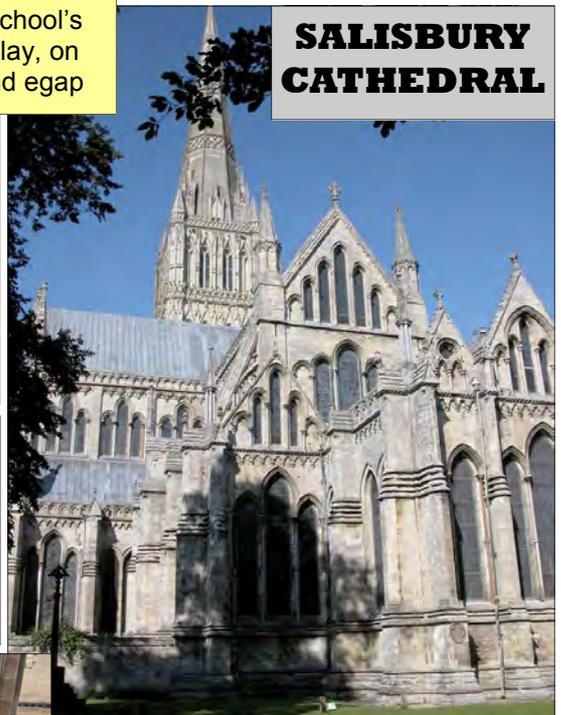
Magazine of Giffnock South Parish Church



See more photos of the cast of "Shine Star, Shine" the Sunday School's Nativity Play, on page 4 and egap

FAMOUS CHURCHES

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



For over 750 years pilgrims have come to Salisbury seeking inspiration in the glory and peace of its Cathedral and marvel at Britain's tallest spire; to be awed by the beauty of the interior or maybe to study the original Magna Carta.

The Book that changed the World

Scotland's influence P7

Read the second part of Rev Iain Campbell's narrative of his Italian sojourn. See page 6

This is what you do...

..at the Elders' Conference... see page 2



LEFT: The magnificent modern font reflecting the beautiful stained glass window at Salisbury Cathedral

Photos by Archie Robertson

THE VACANCY

What Happens Now?

This will be the procedure when the Nominating Committee chooses a minister as sole nominee:- Formal notice (an edict) will be read on two Sunday mornings announcing the date of the service when the candidate will preach after which the congregation will be asked to move from the sanctuary through to the halls where ballot papers will be available. It is important for the good name of our congregation and for the candidate that as many members attend on that Sunday and put their cross on the ballot paper. It would be a poor welcome for Eddie Simpson's successor if there was not a good response.

If the ballot confirms the choice of the sole nominee then over a period of no more than eight days members will be asked to sign the "CALL" to the candidate; effectively each member signifying a personal welcome to their new minister. Again it is considered essential, to maintain Giffnock South's reputation, that as many as possible (a target of 400 is aimed for) of the 786 members on the roll sign the 'CALL' as these figures are read out at Presbytery. There is provision for the Session Clerk to sign for any member who cannot call at the church.

Our nominating committee has worked so very hard for us and the time may be drawing near when a sole nominee will be announced. Please be ready to play your part in giving our new minister a warm and hearty Giffnock South welcome.

Contributions for the MARCH edition of the Sentinel should be sent to the office or emailed to alpark@talktalk.net by 13th February, please.



The Pastoral Letter

268 Dyke Road, G13 4QX
0141 954 1574

My Dear Friends,

The story is told of a young naval officer who was saved from dishonour in his first experience in battle. He was a midshipman still in his teens. The enemy gunfire was so terrifying that he felt as though he would die of fright. Recognising the young man's distress a senior officer came over to him and placing a hand on the young officer's shoulder said with a note of authority and confidence "Courage young man you will be alright; I know exactly how you feel, I recall being paralysed by the same kind of fear in my first battle." Reflecting on these words of encouragement some time later the young man confiding in a colleague said, "I felt as though an angel had come and given me new strength." From that moment on his fear was gone and he was as brave as the most courageous officer. That word of encouragement was exactly what he needed at that crucial time.

Although none of us are likely to find ourselves in situations like that, all of us from time to time experience situations that call for special strength and courage. At such times we appreciate a hand on the shoulder, a pat on the back, or a helpful word of encouragement. I'm reminded by this story of the Apostle Paul's words to his fellow passengers on a storm tossed vessel when they had given up all hope of survival. Paul told them he had been visited by an angel of God who assured him that not a soul on board would perish. Paul told them: "Take heart men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told to me."

Discouraged, disheartened, fearful people may well cross your path today or in the days ahead. The ministry of encouragement is what you can offer them in Christ's name. A sincere compliment, an expression of appreciation, a comforting word of reassurance; a simple 'well done' can make all the difference. The ministry of encouragement is something we are all capable of exercising. Look for opportunities today and see the difference it will make to you and others.

With best wishes, ERIC McLACHLAN.

editorial

Just back from the Elders' Conference and - wow! What a concentration of high-powered brains! The air was fair buzzing with ideas and suggestions. If only the energy could have been captured - it could have powered the whole of Giffnock! It was a seriously well-focussed occasion and Tony must be congratulated for providing not only food for thought - of which there was plenty - but also food for the body in the shape of tasty soup'n'sandwiches followed at half-time by goodies'n'coffee. Will we see the result of all the deliberations? Watch this space!

(Boris was not pleased as he was late getting his dinner.)



Not pleased!

CORRECTION

An 'R' of a difference! When we weren't looking Boris inserted an 'R' into 'quatercentennial' making it just 25 years since the Authorised Version of the Bible was first printed. Congratulations to Eagle-eye who spotted this bloomer in last month's 'Sentinel'.

No milk for Boris for a week.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

For now sits Expectation in the air.
Henry V—Shakespeare [1564-1616]



Thanks to Colin Devon for photos

LIFE AND WORK
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

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A DISAPPOINTING RESULT
LEFT & BELOW: Packing boxes for the Kwenderana Project. **BUT..** Much more could be donated and **YOU** are urged to take a look at the list inserted in last month's Sentinel and bring as much as possible to the church. Hand to Graham Morton or a member of the Outreach Committee.
SURELY GIFFNOCK SOUTH CAN RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE.

DEFT DEFINITIONS (Thanks to Rev J. S)
Spring: when budding branches cast shadows of impending bloom. **Home:** where a man is free to say anything he pleases because no one pays attention to him. **Politics** is the art of foretelling what will happen tomorrow, next month, next year and being able to explain why it didn't happen. **A gentleman** - is a man who calls a spade without any qualifying adjectives.
- who when alone at home uses the butter knife.
- who has never heard the joke before.
- who, though sleepy in company, never shows it.



The Guild



The Guild syllabus is full of variety and topics to suit all tastes, so please come along and sample them for yourself. If you like the look of the

subject don't be shy, come along even if you feel it may be a 'one off' - the welcome is always friendly and this includes gentlemen.

On **February 2nd at 2pm** Bob Marshall will introduce us to the Langside Heritage Trail which we may wish to explore ourselves when the weather improves.

February 16th at 7.30pm is the Annual Guest Night when we invite visitors from other churches. Our entertainment is a group of singers called "Sounds Familiar" and they really are excellent. Giffnock South visitors are also invited and the supper is very good!



On **March 2nd also at 7.30pm** Miss Tina Kemp will enlighten us on the subject of "The Press and the Pulpit", two influential factors in society.

Eastwood Court In February, on the 15th, Eastwood Court's service of worship features the patron saint of lovers, St Valentine, a martyred Bishop of Rome, one of whose relics is interred in Glasgow. Our hymns, readings and thoughts will all reflect the topic of love and respect for others. Everyone is welcome to share in our 30 minute informal service.

Eastwood Christian Concern

Meet Ken McIntosh MSP

Ken McIntosh, our MSP will be in our lounge on Tuesday 1st February at 8pm. In response to an invitation from

local churches he will be happy to chat with us about the work of the Scottish Parliament and answer questions of a general nature on topics of concern to church members.



At 7pm on **Sunday 27th March** over 40 voices (the joint choirs of Giffnock South and King's Park Churches) will present 'Music for a Royal Occasion'. This programme will contain music which has been sung in the past at Royal Weddings, Coronations or other noted Royal Occasions. Joining the choirs will be Christopher Liddell (trumpet), Peter Howard (organ) and Charlotte McKechnie (soprano) who used to sing in our church choir and went on to win (in 2008) Young Chorister of the Year prestigious award. Although this programme was planned many months ago the fact that there will now be a royal wedding in Westminster Abbey at the end of April makes this programme more appropriate and gives a taster of some great music to be enjoyed when the royal wedding is televised.



CHURCH CHOIR



The new rota for members who visit the Lodging House Mission on the first Sunday of each month should now be fully distributed, either by email, personal collection or by mail. Anyone not in receipt please advise Jim N. Scott. No visit took place in January, 2011. Those on duty for February and March subject to recent swaps are as follows:-

LHM Rota 2011

Sunday, 6th February - Mr. Alan and Mrs. Christine Gray, Mrs. Sheena Ireland and Mrs. Anne Smith.

Sunday, 6th March - Mr. Ronnie Macintosh, Mrs. Susan Harvey, Mrs. Carol Loudon and Mrs. Janey McFarlane

As always, it is recommended that the due date of anyone's duty is noted in their diary and anyone unable to go because of other events **MUST** find a substitute from the Members' list provided.

FAMILY GROUP CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

This has been fixed for Friday 25th February at 7.30pm in the Winton Hall and all organisations are invited to enter a team of four. Everybody is welcome and they can be allocated a team when they arrive.

Tickets: Adults: £4 Children: Free
Refreshments and snacks will be provided.



POLLOKSHAW'S PARISH CHURCH NEARLY NEW SALE

Every Wednesday 10-12noon
Contributions received on Tuesdays 9.30-11am

FOR YOUR DIARY

The cancelled Guild Christmas Fayre will now be held on Saturday 19th March from 10am to 12 noon and called.....

THE GUILD SPRING FAYRE

Tickets £1.50 from members



FEBRUARY DATES AT A GLANCE

- Tue 1st 8pm: Meet Ken McIntosh MSP
- Wed 2nd 2pm: The Guild with Bob Marshall
- Sun 6th 11am & 3pm: Communion Services
- Wed 9th 7.30pm: Board Meeting
- Tue 15th 6.30pm: Service at Eastwood Court
- Wed 16th 7.30pm: The Guild Annual Guest Night
- Fri 25th 7.30pm: Family Group Charity Quiz Night

MARCH DATES

- Wed 2nd 7.30pm: The Guild, Miss Tina Kemp
- Wed 9th 7.30pm: Session & Board Joint Meeting
- Wed 16th 7.30pm: Stated Annual Meeting
- Sat 19th 10am: Guild Spring Fayre
- Wed 23rd 7.30pm Sounds International
- Sun 27th 7pm: Music for a Royal Occasion



You will sense, as Gill and I do, that in some strange and wonderful way, each Sunday is a kind of Pentecostal experience as we all in our separate nationalities hear, and feel, the impact of "the Word". There is also real enthusiasm, respect and a long-forgotten but greatly-missed old-fashioned courtesy. Gill and I feel privileged to be able to share such an act of worship. The singing, with the African in-put, is "something else". As I stand there as their pastor and share the experience, I can tell you that I have now experienced for myself the new, third so-called "underdeveloped world" coming to buttress and rekindle the faith of the old, tired and often quite uncertain world that so often called them originally into being. Dare we forget that "new wine needs new wineskins"? Thanks and Glory be to God.

Last Sunday was "Reformation Sunday" and occasioned a joint service held in the Tempi – a huge over-arching, dignified but solemn building that is best described as comfortable but "plain", very much in the Reformed tradition. The local Valdesi congregation was joined by the ESC, Francophone (our French Speaking "Huguenot" counterpart) and local Pentecostals. The service was conducted (with some printed translation in the Order of Service) in Italian, French and English. Our meeting to prepare the service was conducted in French as the only shared language common to all. Over 400 people, with choir, orchestra and organ, worshipped together and shared in the Lord's Supper using a form almost identical to ours – save that those taking sacrament come forward and stand in a series of dissolving and re-forming semicircles in the chancel. I have to say that St. Giles has this practice and I think I prefer it to the serried ranks we are used to. I read the familiar pre-ambles from Corinthians and assisted Paolo, the Valdesi Pastor. A most moving and inspiring service, not least as we said the Lord's prayer in numerous languages and all sang the "The Lord's my shepherd" to Crimond as part of the communion. Another moment of gained gladness and insight for me and good for my moments of remembered dis-spiritedness. Over 100 remained for a full lunch –with wine ! – cooked and prepared in the church hall (salonino) by Mario, a retired Valdensian chef who regularly supplies some of us with a 3-course lunch on a Friday for €6. This is Italy !

On a more austere note, part of our weekly routine is to assist the local Valdesi with their work for immigrants and refugees. Gill, particularly, has been much involved in this. Twice in the week, the hall is open and staffed with volunteers ready to help immigrants etc with clothes for their families. Back to these sound, stable middle-aged women again - and a fair number of men. The hall becomes like a bazaar offering free clothes of all types and sizes. Measuring tapes to the fore, men and women man the counters.



Upstairs in another hall, there is coffee, tea etc and sandwiches along with a small team of trained advisers in work-permits, transport etc.

Again, all volunteers are led by Pastor Franco Taglieri and his outreach team. I participate, very much on the margins, of this.

The main task is to befriend and listen; speaking English and French is useful but not for all those who speak only Arabic, Portuguese and a host of other languages. One is reduced to hand gestures and eye contact for some of it. It is hard and often deeply frustrating work.

Here is "Fortress Europe" – if not with a vengeance, certainly with a hard edge ! Italy is one sea-coast EEC border for Africa and the Middle East. There are countless refugees, immigrants etc who arrive here. Most are without means, some with children, some sick. . . but all in need of some kind.

The Roma people are much in the news with the French Government really deporting them with a €500 hand-out. Italy is equally unwelcoming and we see dozens of men, women and children who are reduced to begging in the streets. The men come here and sit looking at the walls and one another. The EEC rules do not make it easy (maybe rightly!) for these European people already largely disenfranchised by much of Europe or easy for us to offer any substantial support. I find this the hardest part of the week. Not for the first time, I confront my own utter powerlessness. Another pointed reminder for my sometimes flagging spirit.



Roma people



Valdesi Tempi

Into this, with a major contribution, has come the Valdesi Church. Some decades ago, it united with Methodism here thus giving it access, for the first time, to the "Church Tax". However, they refused to use it for entirely church-centred purposes and devote it entirely to their social-outreach programme which is considerable and similar to the C of S with its traditional input to hospital, schools, hostels etc. This is an increasing part of that outreach; but it is fighting a losing battle as the needs far outweigh the resources - an all-too familiar story to many of us!

Amid it all, we often think of you all and wonder how things fare and proceed. Nothing really ever stands still .. despite our sense of the opposite. "We remember Giffnock South in our prayers" as they say, and ask that you might spare the odd prayer for us and all who work here. This is a serious place of service and largely unknown to so many. We hope and believe, for our part, that you too, with a very different set of challenges and a quite different environment, will continue to move forward and to serve in the future you prepare, under God, to embrace. Go well.

Iain Campbell

Deaths of Members

Name	Address	Date of Funeral
Mrs Jessie McGaugie	Williamwood House, Netherlee	14th January

Parish Deaths

Name	Address	Date of Funeral
Mrs Grace Fraser	Flat 2B, 1 Hutcheson Court, Berryhill Road, Giffnock	7th January

Baptisms

Name	Address	Date of Baptism
Emma Sarah Wilson	14 Kintyre Crescent, Newton Mearns	16 th January

Members Leaving

Name	Address	Dis
Mrs Gillian Kyle	1 Matherton Avenue, Newton Mearns	14

Duties

Date	6th February	13th February	20th February	27th February
Office Bearers	Communion	Team 9	Team 10	Team 11
Tape Recording	Bill Spalding	Alastair Campbell	Tony Ireland	Neil Grimmond
Cafe	Margaret Whyte	Marjorie Grimmond	Bett Coutts	Margaret Loudon
Flower Delivery	Communion	Sheila Dunbar	Anne Gilchrist	Elsbeth Turnbull

Anyone unable to be present **MUST** find a replacement and advise the office

**CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**

The church office is now open in the afternoon instead of the morning— from 2.30pm to 4.30pm weekdays
Tel:- 638 2599.

Email: giffnocksouth@btconnect.com
Session Clerk: Tony Ireland

0141 639 6532 Home
07831525513 Mobile
01563 522137 Work **mornings**

GIFFNOCK UR CHURCH

Enjoy our midweek activities! Every Wednesday there is a Lunchtime Service at 11.30am with Lunchbite at 12.15pm and Leisure & Learning at 2pm..

CELEBRATING THE 400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTHORISED VERSION

Did you know ?

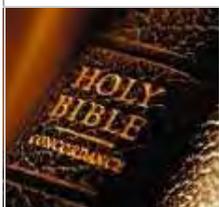
The AV Bible was Conceived in Scotland.

As we celebrate 400 years of the Authorised Version (AV) (or the King James) Bible we can be proud of Scotland's influence. How did this come about?



Because of plague in Edinburgh, the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland had to be held elsewhere in 1601 and Burntisland in Fife suited the king, James VI of Scotland, as it was near the lodge where he was hunting and on the 12th of May it convened in his presence. The proposal was put forward at this assembly that a translation of the Bible was necessary and crucially in English rather than Scots, a decision which has caused some bitterness ever since as it dealt another blow to that tongue. On the other hand, being in English meant that its influence spread rapidly world-wide to reach every corner of the globe.

In 1603 the union of the crowns took place with King James VI of Scotland becoming king also of England. It was when he acceded to the English throne that the matter of the translation of the Bible was returned to with some urgency and the finest Biblical scholars of the day were assembled and tasked with this mammoth but rewarding work which was going to change the world.



In 1611, after years of labour, the job was finished and apart from a few changes this is the version we can read today in all its glory. It remains one of the most, some say the most, influential book in history and certainly the best selling despite being superseded by many later versions, none of which have the sheer beauty and lyrical musicality of the Authorised Version which was conceived here in Scotland all these years ago.

egao

I try to take one day at a time...



but sometimes several days attack me at once



Thanks to Colin Devon for these memories of the Sunday School's Nativity Play—"Shine, Star Shine"



BRAINSTORMING at the Elders' Conference



I'm a boxer !

THE DEFINITIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME OF CRICKET

Cricket: is a game in which you have two sides, one out in the field, one in. Each man goes in, and when he is out, he comes in and the next man goes in until he is out. When they are all out, the side that has been out in the field comes in and the side that was in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. When they are all out, including the not-outs, that is the end of the game.

JS