Boris says...

"A Happy New Year to One and All!"

SEE PHOTOS OF ALL THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

ON PAGE 2: THE GUILD CHRISTMAS FAYRE
ON PAGE 7: THE CENTENARY CEILIDH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTIES
ON EGAP: BELLSHILL SALVATION ARMY BAND AND OPEN DAY AT THE MANSE & THE CHOIR

I spec you saw us at the Sunday School Nativity Play. More photos next month

As ‘The Sentinel’ went to print before the Nativity Play we could only show some photos from the rehearsals

Fairies-in-waiting

Why’s this funny big beardy dressed like me?
Once again we are deeply indebted to all those brilliant snappers with their cameras at the ready to enable us to bring you a pictorial record of all that went on leading up to Christmas—and there was plenty and such a variety to suit all tastes. We had the religious and the secular, the joint churches Advent Service and the Lessons and Carols Service on the one hand and a wonderful sound from the new community choir, ‘In Harmony’ accompanied by the men’s brilliant close harmony and Alastair McDonald followed by Bellshill Salvation Army Band on the Thursday. A veritable superabundance of enjoyment and all those responsible for these and the other events deserve our sincere thanks. Ed

Contributions for the FEBRUARY edition of the Sentinel should be sent to the office or emailed to alpark@talktalk.net by 13th January, please.
Happy New Year to One and All!

After all the rush and bustle of Advent and Christmas, here we are now in the Season of Epiphany; many of you may wonder – what is Epiphany? The church is very good at using these names that no one really knows any more! It is actually a time when we remember the coming of the wise men to see Jesus. We all know the carol, We Three Kings of Orient are… it is interesting to see what the Bible really says about these three kings.

Firstly, they weren't actually kings. The Bible calls them Magi – wise men. They were probably priests who travelled from Persia and whether they came on horseback or on camels as our Christmas cards show – who knows.

Secondly, we are never actually told there were three. Some old legends say there were twelve, but these days everywhere seems to come down to three. Maybe that's because there just wouldn't be enough old dressing gowns and tea towels to go around if the Sunday school had to kit out twelve of them – of course in Giffnock South this year we had three wise women! I wonder if it had been three wise women the Christmas cards would have been quite different. Many more practical than Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh! My guess is there are three because three gifts are mentioned – for we assume they must each have brought something.

The most important thing for me, however, is not who they were, how many there were, or even what they brought to Jesus, the important thing is that they were searching for something. Reaching out beyond themselves for something, somebody, to give meaning to life – even after 2000 years that's what Jesus offers us, not just in Epiphany but throughout the year!

We have had a brilliant centenary year with a host of events so a huge thank you to all who have taken part in any way whatsoever. This coming year in Giffnock South we will continue together to reach out to those around us. May I wish every one of you a joyful and peaceful New Year.

With every blessing, Catherine.

**CENTENARY CEILIDH REPORT**

Group organised a Ceilidh, as part of our Centenary celebrations. The age of participants ranged from babies through to our youngest 90 year old, May Watson. The solo piper, our own Adam Black, braved the elements to warmly welcome all to the Carmichael Hall venue where the Rusty Nails band entertained us with many traditional tunes and some very interesting ‘dancing sets’ coupled with games for the younger age group. The buffet supper went down well, to be followed by our own folk group who treated us to several well known Scottish numbers featuring some amazing backdrop shots of our beautiful country that matched the lyrics of the songs. It was a very enjoyable evening and the Family Group would like to thank everyone for their support and contributions to a very interesting and entertaining evening.

**TEXT OF THE MONTH**

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples.

For great is His love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

(Psalm 117)

**SUPPORT THE PRINCE & PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPICE**

**ENJOY AN EVENING WITH THE CITY OF GLASGOW CHORUS**

**UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GRAHAM TAYLOR, PERFORMING FAURE’S ‘REQUIEM’ AND OTHER CHORAL CLASSICS**

**AT GIFFNOCK SOUTH PARISH CHURCH**

**ON SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7PM**

**TICKETS £10 OR PAY AT THE DOOR**
The first meeting of the Guild for 2013 is on Wednesday, 9th January, at 2pm, when we will learn about the charity “Chicks” which gives six-day respite breaks to children who suffer extreme poverty and provides full-time carers. The break allows them to relax, meet new friends and recharge their batteries. Patrons include Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Alan Titchmarsh and Kate Winslet.

On Wednesday 23rd at 2pm, Ms Anne Royale will tell us all about “Pathfinder Dogs” and on February 6th at 7.30 pm, Mrs Margaret Anderson will return to the Guild to give us the “Sites & Sights of Glasgow Part II”. As always, all church members and friends are welcome at all our meetings.

The Guild thanks all for being so generous at our Christmas Fayre when we raised £1105 for Church of Scotland projects. One project, dear to our members’ hearts, is “Passage from India”. Thirteen women, including Catherine learned of how self-help groups among Indian women overcame poverty and now the Church has established six Self Reliant Groups in Glasgow. These groups work together to develop skills to lift women out of poverty and are already proving very successful, building confidence and self-respect. The Church wants to support 50 such groups throughout Scotland in the next three years. Another project is “Out of Africa—into Malta”. Refugees fleeing conflict in Africa arrive in Malta destitute and miserable. St Andrew’s Scots Church in partnership with other charities is providing food, clothing and shelter as well as helping people into meaningful employment to restore health and hope.

These are two of three projects the Guild will support this year; the third will be announced later and, as usual, the full list of the Guild’s charitable giving will be published in the June Sentinel.

We reproduce here the full text of one of the two interesting projects being funded by the Church of Scotland referred to in the Guild article above.

**PASSAGE FROM INDIA**

“The Self-Reliant Group is a good way of getting something off the ground...it’s a good idea to get a group of women together and to put ideas into a pot and see what comes out. I never expected all this to happen so quickly...” (Liz, Provanmill SRG)

**Passage from India** began with a life-transforming journey by 13 women to India in January 2011. They interacted with women who did not allow the harsh poverty to crush their aspirations for a better life for themselves and their families or wait for someone else to make change happen for them. Following their return, the women began six Self Reliant Groups (SRGs) in Glasgow based on the Indian model. Some 40 women—many of whom are on benefits—are involved in the SRGs and the increase in the levels of self-belief, resilience and confidence has been amazing! The ethos of the SRGs is built around the notion that those who are striving to overcome poverty have a greater chance of doing it collectively and that women have a key role to play in the economy, their families and communities. The project aims to establish 50 SRGs (involving over 500 women) over the next three years and support them by providing training in life skills, business planning and small business loans (called microcredit). It also aims to build the capacity of other organisations to start similar SRGs across Scotland.
We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season with your many Congregational and district events and we wish you a very Happy New Year from all of us in Pollokshaws to our friends in Giffnock South.

First of all, on behalf of the organisers, thanks to all those who came along to our Christmas Fayre and helped make it an enormous success. The sum raised was £2,408 which was a wonderful result.

Secondly, with regard to our vacancy, we have now formed our Nominating Committee of 13 including two from Giffnock South namely: May Robertson and Ronnie McIntosh. Strictly speaking their appointment to our Committee was a Presbytery decision but we are delighted to have two friends on board who have such close connections with us and we look forward to their contribution to our work. We would ask you to be thinking of us as we begin the task of seeking the right person for the ministry in Pollokshaws and to remember us in your prayers.

Lastly, some news concerning our Twinning. Both Giffnock South and Pollokshaws were approached by the Transformation Team of the Church of Scotland who are making a DVD of their various activities with Priority Area Parishes, one aspect of which is Twinning and who else would they turn to but us? Actually, we are asked from time to time to speak to others about the success of our Twinning experience! We thought it would be a good idea to highlight an activity supported by both of our Congregations rather than discussing Twinning generally and it has been agreed to feature the Sewing / Textile Group which has members from both our Churches as well as ladies from other neighbouring Churches and one or two from the local community. The filming will take place in January and we can all look forward to viewing the completed film either on the DVD or on the website in due course.

Having spent the past few weeks trawling through some other church magazines we discovered the following gems which are reproduced for your delectation.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference this week includes all meals.
Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.
Bring your husbands.
Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* in the Church basement on Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
**Funeral:** Well done thou good and faithful servant. Rest safe in the Lord

On 21st November Betty Gates
On 11th December Phyllis Wighton
On 21st December Alistair Robin

**Baptism:** Suffer the little children to come unto me.
Phoebe Kitty Scott on 2nd December 2012

**Joining:** We extend a warm welcome to:
William and Anna Dalby.
(Apologies for typing error last month)

**Leaving:** We say goodbye to:
Bev Abel

To ensure that we comply with the Data Protection Act, we will no longer publish addresses in Sentinel. Anyone who requires further information about any of the intimations above should contact the Roll Keepers.

- If any of your personal details change, please notify the Church Office at:
  4 Greenhill Avenue, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6QX
  telephone 0141 638 2599
  email: giffnocksouth@btconnect.com

**Date** | **Office Bearers** | **Tape Recording** | **Café Rota 1** | **Café Rota 2** | **Flower Delivery**
---|---|---|---|---|---
6 January | Team 10 | Alastair Campbell | Lesley Burgess | Christine Gray | Eileen Crawford
13 January | Team 11 | Neil Grimmond | Margaret Whyte | Alison Fenton | Sheila Dunbar
20 January | Team 12 | Tony Ireland | Bett Coutts | Robert Beattie | Anne Gilchrist
27 January | Team 1 | Charlie Hunter | Sylvia Miller | Robert Beattie | Margaret Gray

**Leaving:**
- Bev Abel

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The Lord’s Day or Any Other Day?
Thomas Baldwin asks whether Sunday is still special in Scotland

A Faithful Band
Church of Scotland Deacons celebrate 125 years of ‘a ministry of service’

Diplomat, Evangelist and Missionary
Jackie Macadam explores the life and legacy of Saint Columba, who arrived in Scotland 1450 years ago this year

A Musical Ministry
Jackie Macadam meets Thursday’s Child – two ministers who are using music to engage with important faith questions

The Forgotten Fathers
In an introduction to a new column, the Rev Angus Morrison explains why history matters

Compassion Above All Else
The Rev Scott McKenna introduces a series examining challenging passages of scripture

‘A Listening Ear’
The Rev Laurence Whitley highlights the importance of preparation in leading prayer in worship

The Rhythm of Rest
The Moderator calls on us to make time to relax

Plus all the regular columnists, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £2.
You're never too young to enjoy a ceilidh (or too old!)

AT THE CENTENARY CEILIDH

Here's a haun

Tartan's appropriate

But it's awful tiring this dancin'

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY TIME

Would you look at these Chrismassy cupcakes!

We love parties!
The choir pictured after their successful rendering of carols at the Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 9th December.

The Bellshill Salvation Army Band gave a popular carol concert on Thursday 13th December.

It was open day at the Manse on Sunday afternoon, 16th December and the lucky visitors enjoyed mulled wine, coffee, tea, mince pies and other goodies.

Gyles Brandreth eat your heart out. How about this Alpaca creation from South America modelled by our Jack?

Seasonal cupcakes

Thanks to the many talented photographers for these images.

Bye, folks.