

An aerial photograph of Glasgow, Scotland, showing a dense urban landscape. The central focus is St George's-Tron Church, a large, ornate stone building with a prominent clock tower. Surrounding the church are various other buildings, including a large red-brick building to the right and a modern glass-fronted building at the bottom. The streets are visible, and the overall scene captures the historic and modern architecture of the city center.

Summer

# Tron Times

Newsletter | St George's-Tron Church Glasgow | July 2011

**p2-3** News from home and overseas

**p4-7** Dr Philip responds to decisions taken by the General Assembly.

**p9-10** Meet the **22** New Members!



# Home News

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

Round 1 results in Group X of last year's World Cup?

France	2	Spain	2	Holland	3	Serbia	1
Germany	2	Chile	4	Israel	2	Sweden	2
Italy	4	USA	2				

No, just a sample of overseas visitors on a fairly ordinary Monday in the church! The BET team hone their language skills and with the help of all the written and spoken resources available, do their best to make visitors from all corners of the globe welcome and, if possible, share the gospel with them. What a strategic and privileged location we have and we thank God for it!

**Euan Dodds** and his team continue to reach out to a wide range of 'internationals'. In March a number of Iranian friends prepared a delicious 'New Year' lunch complete with goldfish (to eat? ed). There was a live Iranian band and a local man who preached the gospel in Farsi. A number went with Euan to **New Word Alive** in Wales and were much encouraged by the teaching given and the opportunities to think through issues they will face on returning home.

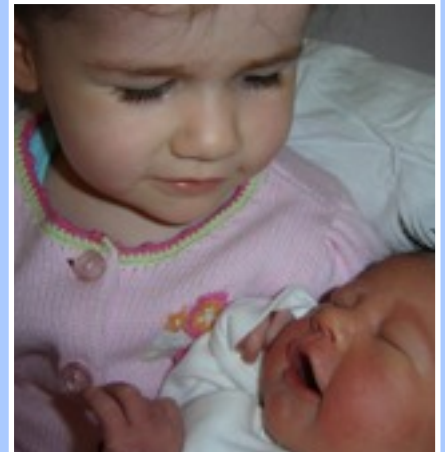
We are sad to say goodbye to **Chris** and **Rachel Lawton** who are moving to live and work in New Zealand. And farewell, too, to **Daniel Murfin** who has been appointed Lighting Director with the National Theatre in London. They will be sorely missed.

We warmly congratulate two couples who have become engaged — **Alasdair Walker** and **Pamela Paterson** (wedding on 16th July) and **Robin Macdonald** and **Kirsty Fowler** (wedding in October). Other July weddings are those of **Christine Adams** and **Adam Gundry** (30th), **Andrew MacIntyre** and **Lesley McNae** (29th in Baljaffray Church) and on 16th September **Debbie Angus** and **Andrew Mountford**. We welcome to our church family some new arrivals — **Joshua Haffey** to **Mark** and **Cara** in April, **Rachel Bedford** to **Alex** and **Catherine** in May and **Phoebe Hunt-Taylor** to **Rupert** and **Jen** in June. Congratulations to all these families.

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Rupert and Jen  
Hunt-Taylor with  
new daughter  
Phoebe



Alex and  
Catherine  
Bedford's  
daughter Ruth  
with baby sister  
Rachel



Mark and  
Cara Haffey's  
new baby son  
Joshua with  
big sister Ellea

## Other Ministries

**Jonathan** and **Judith Keefe** have had much to encourage them in Robroyston, not least that thirty eight people came into membership and that numbers have increased at their various prayer meetings. Several innovative ventures need lots of energy and perseverance and their youth work — The Hub — needs a replacement worker for Sam who has just left.

**Alex Bedford** has been working with the leaders of Allander Church in helping them assess their evangelism and outreach. He has many preaching engagements but is hoping for further opportunities to

run the (now revised) Christianity Explored course for which he has considerable experience and expertise.

Christianity Explored takes place on Tuesday mornings in Glasgow Free Church under the auspices of **Chanan (Hugh and Maggs McKenna)** and a large group come regularly as a kind of follow-up to the 'street work' of Monday nights. Their work with mothers and children and the July holiday camps continue as do the Friday morning bible studies in Barlinnie Prison which have been so encouraging.

▷ Home news *continued*

Sadness is never very far away from us, however, and we have grieved with **Kate Airlie** over the death of **David** at the beginning of May and we lovingly uphold her. We were saddened, too, to hear of the death of one of our long standing members, **Mabel Meikle**, and of **Col. Dick Begbie** who was such a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ.

On most Fridays the church is 'alive with the sound of music' either in the Wynd where **Mainly Music** for mums and toddlers is attracting a fairly full house, or in the church itself where the latest **Music at MIDDAY** concerts have just finished. **Anne Macgregor** has presented a series of twenty-eight concerts of a very high standard with a clear witness being given by these christian artistes.

Also on Fridays the **Road to Recovery** group meets with **Terry McCutcheon** and **Phil Copeland**. Although this is slow and painstaking work there have been real encouragements for the team as they have seen one or two wonderfully freed from their addiction to various chemical substances.

We greatly value the regular faithful preaching of the Word from our minister and others on the church staff. It is a pleasure, too, to welcome visitors to the pulpit — **David Jackman**, **Alan Pursar** (of Crosslinks) **Andy Gemmill** and **Dick Lucas** and we thank God for them.

Many of our number are going to camps, beach missions and holiday clubs this summer and several are going further afield — **Lynn Clark** and **Fiona Porter** are in Thailand at the Kwai River Christian Hospital where **Scott** and **Nok Murray** are; **Andy Baxter** goes to Taiwan with OMF; **John Taylor** along with **Esther MacDonald**, **Megan Bryce**, **Mariann Rummy**, **Euan Dodds**, **Terry McCutcheon** and **Dan McKinlay** is going in August to Levice, Slovakia where **Csaba** and **Darina Tolnei** are working. Joining them is **Zofie**, a Hungarian girl who formerly worshipped with us. They plan to run English conversation classes and inject a bit of Scottish culture to attract teens and twenties in the town into the church cafe. **Rachel Porteous** goes to Teen Ranch camp in Cobbitty, NSW Australia where she will work as a volunteer for eight months and 'Camp Sankanac' (a bit like SU) in Pennsylvania USA is the venue for **Sarah** and **Esther Mason** where Esther will camp for a week and Sarah will be a camp leader for six weeks.

We miss **Susan Constable** who is recovering slowly from surgery. We also miss some of our older members who have been unable to worship with us regularly — **Dorothy Begg**, **Irene Clarke**, **Sophie Lowe**, **Mungo Orr** and **Evelyn Watson** — and we assure them that they are not forgotten.

## Away News

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

**Carol Whipp** has just returned to Wolverhampton from a two-month visit to her home country of Australia. She has been much encouraged in her Neighbours Worldwide ministry recently, but illness of some of her close family is causing her to consider afresh where the Lord would have her be.

A wet and slippery road, a sheer drop, a car out of control, a family of five.....could have spelt disaster. In the mercy of God a car coming up the hill prevented disaster for the **Murray family** in Thailand. We praise God that the occupants of the other car were unhurt and that **Cara**, **Shane** and **Ray** are all recovering well from their injuries. Thank God for the rain! Not the words of most Glaswegians but certainly those of **David** and **Julie Rowbory** with **Rebekah** and **Elizabeth** in Jos Nigeria. The hard-baked ground and constant dust was dramatically transformed into lush vegetation. David is now very involved in translation work while Julie has taken over some admin work as well as helping the children to settle and developing good relations with the locals.

**Bill** and **Margarer Dunlop** have just completed another year at Westminster Theological College in Uganda. Their constant desire is that the wide range of nationalities represented in their

students will all have as their primary goal a desire to know God better rather than merely a diploma or degree in theology. Bill and Margaret are now home for a break. Their son John who was baptised in the Tron thirty years ago gets married this month.



Bill and Margaret Dunlop in Uganda

# Women's Evening

*These are the thoughts of Rebecca Philip, Katie Piggot and Ruth Hodgson who recently spoke at a women's evening looking at identity, singleness and contentment.*

We only have to glance at our TV and read the press to see the challenges and issues faced by women today. The message is consistent — happiness and contentment can be found in that dream wedding or in finally achieving that ideal figure.

Thinking about life in this way can set a number of dangerous traps. On one hand it is so easy to make beauty our God, obsessing with how we look and spending so much money on all the latest health and beauty products. On the flipside some women are driven to the despair of eating disorders, believing true happiness can be found in changing how we look.

Not all the things which give us our identity are bad things: being a good mum, a godly wife, a loyal employee, or even trying to look the best we can, are of themselves all good. But our identity isn't anything outside of Christ. We are created in God's image and we are made to glorify him. (Romans 15:6)

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve chose autonomy over participating in the mission of God and we have been doing the same thing ever since. We choose to satisfy our flesh and our pride at the expense of glory, the very thing we were created for. Before sin, Adam and Eve experienced life together, in communion with God. But since the Fall, creation is cursed, and this shame distorts and perverts everything. Having ruined the most important relationship — the relationship with God — all our other relationships are a bit of a mess. The power struggle is on: the battle of the sexes has



begun and we are all affected by it. But the news is not all bad. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and we can triumph with him. Sin is still with us and all the sorrows that go with it but sin's power is broken. Singleness need not be endured with the bitterness of spirit that Satan intended. In marriage and in singleness the Christian can declare God's glory in a fallen world and can show that God himself is enough for the human heart.

As women, the beauty of our identity being in Christ is that we don't have to compare ourselves to other women. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and God has given us certain gifts and has called us to certain things. When we stand confidently in our identity in Christ, the overflow is an expression of our biblical femininity and personality. Our confidence in Christ allows us to freely be who we were created to be. We are called to 'walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.' (Colossians 1:10) The One who has chosen us and who calls us to live like that is the One whose abundant grace alone makes it possible to be completely fulfilled.

## The Mark Drama Andrew McIntyre



The team with Andrew Page the writer of the drama (far right)

**'Awesome...Amazing...Powerful...Moving!'**

These were just a few of the comments heard when several hundred people gathered in the church over two separate nights to see the Mark Drama, a powerful presentation of Mark's account



Rehearsal inside the church

of the life of Jesus. It was theatre-in-the-round! With no props, no costumes and no professionals fifteen members of the congregation performed the entire gospel in ninety minutes. The unforgettable and deeply emotive experience of those taking part seemed to be matched by the fresh light and understanding that many of the audience felt they had been given. 'I felt I was actually there,' someone said.



# Walking Away from Jesus

Response to decisions taken at  
the General Assembly of the  
Church of Scotland May 2011

*Dear Friends*

*'Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in ... ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ ... scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. ... It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.' [Jude 1:3-4, 18,19]*

I write in the immediate aftermath of our General Assembly, where the debate on the issue of same-sex relations in the ministry resulted in a resounding defeat for those, like ourselves, committed to the orthodox, historic Christian gospel, to the absolute standard of authority upon which the Church of Scotland was founded, the Bible, and to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the principal subordinate standard of the Church of Scotland.

Let me quote directly from the official News Release from the Church of Scotland on Monday evening (called *Good News from the Church of Scotland* which is an ironic misnomer if ever there was one):

'Commissioners voted by 351 to 294 to adopt deliverance 7B, which means a move towards the acceptance for training, induction and ordination of those in same-sex relationships for the ministry. The Assembly also voted to allow ministers and deacons in same-sex relationships ordained before 2009 to be inducted into pastoral charges (by 393 to 252.)'

[these are very decisive majorities as far as our GA is concerned — often votes are very close]

'A theological commission will be set up to bring recommendations to the 2013 General Assembly, as well as considering whether ministers should have freedom of conscience to bless civil partnerships and possible liturgy for such occasions.

Speaking after the debate, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Right Reverend David Arnott, said.... "We as the National Church will continue to provide guidance and spiritual leadership for the people of Scotland".'

That the last paragraph will be greeted with astonishment by Christian people who must wonder what kind of guidance and spiritual leadership can possibly be given by a denomination that has thus departed so dramatically and decisively from its moorings in the historic, reformed and biblical faith.

The Church of Scotland was established as we know it today when the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church

of Scotland in Matters Spiritual were declared lawful by Parliament in the Church of Scotland Act 1921. The first declaratory Article states clearly:

'The Church of Scotland adheres to the Scottish Reformation; receives the Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as its supreme rule of faith and life and avows the fundamental doctrines of the Catholic faith founded thereupon.'

“What kind of guidance and spiritual leadership can possibly be given by a denomination that has thus departed so dramatically and decisively from its moorings in the biblical faith?”

The Scriptures of both Old and New Testament, our 'supreme rule of faith and life', speak with one voice and unequivocally on the issue of same-sex union. Sexual sin is not the unpardonable sin, but like all sin, must not be acquiesced in — far less celebrated as holy — but must be repented of, or else one cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, that is, cannot find salvation.

***'Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practise homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.'* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)**

When the church faces controversial questions, The Westminster Confession of Faith (which the Second Declaratory Article states is 'the principal subordinate standard of the Church of Scotland') is clear about how these things are to be resolved: 'The Supreme Judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, *can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.*' [WCF I.X.]

The Confession realistically acknowledges that people will often try to justify sinful behaviour, and warns us presciently: this is not a secondary matter; to use the language of Christian freedom and love to justify sinful behaviour in fact destroys the gospel itself, because the gospel's whole purpose and goal is that we are saved from sin for holiness and righteousness: 'They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practise any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end [goal] of Christian liberty; which is, that, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.' [WCF XX.III]

Thus, the decision of the General Assembly this year has set a clear 'trajectory' (to use the words of the Special Commission) that leads away from the Christian Scriptures, the Christian gospel, and the love of Christ himself, for Jesus said ***'whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.'*** (John 14:21)

It is not that the voice of the truth was not heard; faithful brethren articulated clearly, competently and graciously the

truth of God, and warned against the consequences of such a departure. Many interventions were made. But every attempt to amend the deliverances — even those which would have served simply to give more time and discussion — was defeated heavily. In the end, the revisionists won by a large and decisive majority.

If there is some comfort in all this, it is that God has now granted great clarity as to the true position and direction of our denomination. Those who have been naively deceiving themselves about the severity of the situation must now see the truth as it really is. We must all face the facts that some have been reluctant to acknowledge hitherto: the so called 'win-able middle ground' of the church simply does not exist. There is no middle ground.

In so rejecting the Scriptures and the reformed confessions, the 'middle', the centre of gravity of those who claim to represent The Church of Scotland today, has drifted to the point of now no longer being recognisably Christian in the sense understood by all Christians

historically, and the majority worldwide Christian Church today.

Nor are these simply impersonal 'forces' dividing the church, as if people were caught helplessly in the midst and we can all 'work together for unity'. No. The rift is being caused by many — the majority, it seems — of

people choosing wilfully to walk away from the biblical gospel, and walk apart from those who cannot and will not likewise abandon the faith once for all delivered to the saints, the faith of our fathers, the faith of the worldwide Church, and of our Church.

As the debate went on and I watched online (I was not a commissioner this year) it was as if, with Ezekiel, one could see the glory of God departing. One after another, speeches of increasingly blasphemous character seemed to indicate the withdrawal of all divine restraint, the Lord giving this institution over to self-destructive folly, and the inevitability of self-inflicted disaster. In the days of Samuel, when wicked corruption of priesthood and people was left weakly unopposed by good but feeble Eli, in the end the Ark of the Covenant — representing God's holy presence — was removed from the midst, leaving people crying, 'Ichabod': The Glory has departed.

**The centre of gravity of those who claim to represent the Church of Scotland today, has drifted to the point of now no longer being recognisably Christian.**

This week I was reading my father, James Philip's bible readings, and came upon these words, on 1 John 5:16,

'There are some sins in believers which bring them to their death. God is more honoured in taking them out of the way than in healing and restoring them.... All human sin is an admixture of ignorance and wilfulness, and one can visualise the possibility of sinful attitudes becoming more and more wilful and deliberate and presumptuous, and less and less partaking of the ignorance that makes sin 'forgivable' (see 1 Timothy 1:13) until the possibility of forgiveness is past, and the irrevocable step has been taken which puts a man beyond the reach of the grace of God... 'the sin unto death' concerning which John says "I do not say that one should pray for that"...'.

He went on to speak of the corporate application of this same principle, citing the example of Jeremiah, where repeatedly the prophet is explicitly told by God *not to pray* for a people confidently proud of their status as 'the national church' with their mantra 'the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord', but whose hearts were far from the God whose temple it was (see Jeremiah 7:16, 11:14 and 14:11).

'In the experience of Judah there came a point beyond which God would have no more to do with them. They had by the persistence of their sins passed the point of no return, and nothing then would have availed to turn away the threatened doom. And nothing did; for the people of God were swept away into captivity in the judgment that came upon their 'sin unto death'.

So, it seems, in today's Church of Scotland, his merciful hand of restraint has been lifted. As the apostle Paul describes in Romans chapter 1,

*'Claiming to be wise, they became fools...Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.... And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:22 .... 28)'*

Where, then, does this leave our church fellowship in St George's-Tron? Alas, it seems, greatly at odds with the clearly expressed official will of the denomination to which we are affiliated. But, notwithstanding the deliberations and decisions of even the highest court of our denomination, we are simply not at liberty to *walk away* from Christ and his gospel, or *depart* from the historic foundations of our Church or *separate* from communion with orthodox Christian believers globally. To do so would be sin against God, and sin against our Christian brothers and sisters worldwide, many of whom are facing great persecution for their adherence to the truth. It would be to *choose* fellowship (koinonia) with the works of darkness and *break* fellowship with the worldwide believing church. This we cannot do. It is an instance when we must obey God rather than men. Our own Westminster Confession is plain here also:

'God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it *free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in any thing contrary to his Word*, or beside it in matters of faith or worship. So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commandments out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience; and the requiring an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also. [WCF XX.II]'

Dear friends, as has become increasingly clear over recent months in the hostility we have already experienced from our presbytery, we are entering days of uncertainty and difficulty as a fellowship when our faith is going to be tested in many ways, some of which we cannot easily anticipate. This should not surprise us. Jesus said 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me' [Mark 8:34]. He warned that to be faithful would mean being at odds with many in the world and in the religious establishment, and indeed this has been the history of the church throughout the ages, and in our own land also.

Having lived for generations in days of peace we have forgotten that those who have stood for the biblical faith in Scotland have often been persecuted; just visit the graveyards of the Covenanters in Ayrshire for a reminder of the terrible 'killing times' of the 17th Century when

**We are simply not at liberty to walk away from Christ and his gospel, or depart from the historic foundations of our Church or separate from communion with orthodox Christian believers globally.**

many of our forebears gave their lives for the faith we proclaim today. The original Wynd Church, the antecedent of our present-day congregation, was itself formed in 1687 in dark days, by a determined group of believers who would not bow the knee to the imposition of high church episcopacy by the establishment, and courageously stood for their evangelical biblical faith against the odds. We thank God that we are unlikely to face the extremity of violence of those times. But violent opposition we may well have to endure, and we shall need great grace, courage, and unity if we too are not to be found unfaithful in facing the challenges the Lord is allowing us to meet in coming days.

We are not alone, of course. There are other churches in Scotland who feel as we do, grieving deeply over the decisions of the General Assembly and mourning together with us over such defiance of his Word. Grieving together, but also standing together, and acting together. I am sure that Dick Lucas is absolutely right in the words of encouragement he sent to us this week:

'I see one thing in your favour ... a clear cut and final decision, even if it is to embrace depravity. This at least means for you that no biblically minded Minister or congregation, can temporize over the matter.'

We commit to praying and supporting all such, as many congregations now enter days of uncertainty and great difficulty and the rupture of communion becomes evident. We must pray for ourselves and for all with whom we unite in solidarity that we shall have courage to make whatever stand our Lord calls us to, however difficult and misunderstood it may be by some. May we all, as Faber's hymn says, 'learn to scorn the praise of men, and learn to lose with God', that being found faithful in word and deed, the name of Christ may be honoured in us and through us.

Much prayer is needed. But not prayer alone. Having cited two of my chief mentors in life and ministry, let me quote from the third, William Still. Both he and my father, though greatly loyal to the Church of Scotland ministry, spoke to me often of a day when faithfulness to Christ and loyalty to the denomination could (and very probably would) come into such conflict that one would have to give way to the other. Neither was in any doubt where their loyalties would lie. They also saw clearly how it is that real cleansing and change is effected in a corrupted church. Writing in his

Congregational Record as long ago as 1970, Mr Still's words could hardly be more apt today:

'I am amazed at the ineptitude not only of individuals, but of whole schools of thought, and even denominations, in respect of evils which beset and bedevil their work. ... *What the Christian church needs in so many situations is great rows! The Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles is not afraid of disturbance. Sometimes it is necessary....* Major evils, radical departures from biblical orthodoxy, deep corruption, bitter feuds, and adamant worldliness *may not be dealt with by prayer without action....* If anyone ever used the Word of God as a hammer to break the rock in pieces, or as wildfire to set the straw, or as we say in Scotland, the heather, on fire, it was Jesus.'

This week, indeed, the touch-paper of such a fire of disturbance has been lit. Let us pray that through it what

William Still called *the real Church* of Jesus Christ in Scotland would grow and be strengthened even as a result of all that has happened, and that these things, which seem calamitous, would 'really serve to advance the gospel' as Paul's own trials and imprisonment certainly did (Philippians 1:12).

Finally, beloved in the Lord, in all that lies ahead, in all we may be required to do, and in all we may have to face, let us remember and cherish the command of the apostle we were considering together the very week of the General Assembly:

**'Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.... Do not overcome evil by evil, but overcome evil with good' [Romans 12:21]**

and also the comforting words of our Lord Jesus himself:

**'In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world!' [John 16:33]**

Yours, in the truth that is in Jesus Christ, who alone is the Divine King and Head of this Church,

*William J U Philip*

28 May 2011



**I see one thing in your favour ... a clear cut and final decision, even if it is to embrace depravity. This at least means for you that no biblically minded Minister or congregation, can temporize over the matter.**  
Dick Lucas



# SPOTLIGHT on

## ... Linda Campbell



### Linda Campbell reflects on how living as a whole Christian requires devoting the whole of our lives to God.

Few people realise it but once a week Buchanan Street becomes a ballroom and Parish Outreach provides the dancers. Let's call it 'The Tron Tango'.

Linda Campbell, who by day works as a Principal Teacher at a busy east end secondary school, at weekends employs nifty footwork (learned as a one time Latin American dancer) weaving in and out the crowds on the street. What is she doing? Promoting the Gospel! But before we proceed, let me assure readers that dancing skills are not compulsory for parish outreach, they may just help.

'On Sunday evenings a small group go on the streets for half an hour criss-crossing Buchanan Street inviting people to the evening service. There are two parts to Parish Outreach though, and at Christmas and Easter pairs go round every house in the parish with fliers telling of special events and inviting folks to church.

There is very little hostility and much of the usual Glasgow banter. Some are apathetic, some are interested and many say, "I once went to church". I can tell them I once was in their shoes.'

Linda was a church attender from babyhood thanks to her mother and grew up to confess Christ at the age of seventeen but the seed of faith lay dormant.

'I went to university, I was busy studying and not growing in my faith; I was never a wild child or turned away but I was distracted from my devotion to Christ.

At age thirty I had a personal crisis in my life. That was a turning point spiritually. God made everything absolutely clear,

**"Oh no not Africa! Lord, please don't make me go to Africa! I hate snakes!" But the east end of Glasgow is just as much a mission field — people need to know Jesus there too."**

I had a foot in both camps and was compromised. I learned that being a Christian is not a bit of you, it's all of you.

After that realisation I was compelled to share the gospel, I had no choice. True conversion means you go forth and tell. At first I was thinking, "Oh no not Africa! Lord, please don't make me go to Africa! I hate snakes!" But the east end of Glasgow is just as much a mission field — people need to know there too. Part of me wanted to be an RE teacher, or to ditch work and study the bible which I looked into. Then I thought, "The Lord has given me talents and skills, and schools provide an opportunity to shine and let people see the gospel in action."

It's important for my colleagues to know I am a Christian, and I know they watch, which can be tricky! I have been involved in SU in the schools for the past twenty-five years and more recently have been involved with a charity called Junction 12 based near Smithycroft Secondary School visible on the M8 beside junction 12. The charity was started by an SU worker and works alongside the school groups but with a drop-in centre that runs behavioural groups and a chill-out area for kids after school. Working in schools can feel like you are pouring out your energies and you don't see the return. But when a child says thanks

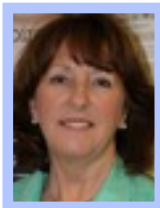
for being there for them, it makes it all worthwhile.'

Parish Outreach is a part of Linda's whole life view of discipleship. 'I look out over the city and think of the people. Why should I keep this news to myself?'

Outreach stops people for a moment and makes them think. We can then point them to the building or website to hear the message. The church family backs us up in our apparent weakness. There is no formula, we are all different. Even a smile with a leaflet can help point someone to the love of Christ.'

*Be part of the Parish Outreach Team. Speak to Linda or any of the Church staff. Dancing skills are not required.*

in conversation with Kieran Dodds



# New Members

Meet the 22 new members of the church family in this handy facebook-let.

Why not invite them round for lunch now you know the basics?



**Mat and Tam Yeaman**

met at St Andrews Uni and came to Glasgow thereafter. Tam came into the church for a rest while shopping and met some volunteers. Over the last year both have been attending church, RTW, small group studies and Christianity Explored and have wonderfully discovered just how amazing grace is. They now want to put their roots down in the Tron which is a great encouragement.



**Eleanor Watson**

Eleanor comes from Surrey and is studying medicine at Glasgow Uni. Her pastor from home told us she was coming before she arrived in first year and she's loved being part of the Tron ever since! She's a trainee leader in RTW and is looking forward to going to Slovakia with the team this summer.



**Mina Allan**

came to faith in Christ when a teenager, served as a nurse in the Congo and Ivory Coast in the 60s/70s enduring extremely difficult circumstances before returning to work in Hamilton. She's been coming to the Tron for about 2 years and is part of the Ladies' Fellowship and Monday bible study group.



**Kak Pratchaypong Yasri**

was a non-practising Buddhist who had never heard of Jesus when he went to study in Bangkok. His room-mate was a Christian and invited him along to a concert where he received Christian books. He started going to Church and became a Christian in 2002. Kak is studying for a PhD in Glasgow and helps at the English class and international bible study.



**Peter and Joyce Paterson**

were both members in the Tron during the 80s and 90s and it's a pleasure to welcome them back. Peter is a retired doctor and they both enjoy looking after their grandson several days each week.



**Naomi Hull**

comes from Ireland and studied French & Spanish at St Andrews. She's currently doing the Relay programme with UCCF in Glasgow. Naomi loves cooking for people. Her Sunday roasts are particularly good.



**Stephen Kirya**

comes from Africa and is an engineer having worked in renewable energy. Due to difficulties in his home country he is seeking asylum in UK but his wife and four sons still live there. He first passed the church on a Thursday and couldn't believe the doors were open. He believes the Lord has planted him in our fellowship where he is growing as a Christian.



**Clare Sutherland**

is a graduate service engineer working on wind turbines who recently came from Cambridge. She became a Christian in 2nd year at Uni after a friend gave her a Mark's Gospel to read over Christmas and invited her to various CU events. She's enjoying RTW and helps out at Monday's English class.





**Jenifer Wood**

studied biochemistry at St Andrews and is currently doing a PhD at the Beatson Institute. She went to Christianity Explored as a student which proved really helpful. She comes from Aberdeen and goes to RTW.



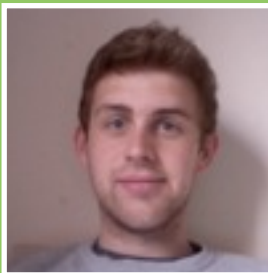
**Wendy Shui**

works in IT for one of the banks and has been attending the church for about eighteen months. She went to the Chinese church with her Mum for many years and is involved in RTW and helps out at the English class.



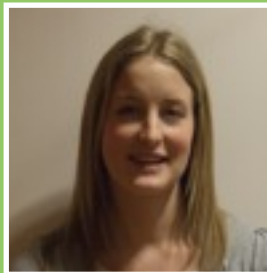
**Pamela Paterson**

works as a doctor in Lanarkshire and has been coming to the Tron for about two years. She was a member in the past but studied in Aberdeen and worked down south and we're delighted she is returning to join the church family again.



**Andy Ritson**

comes from Carlisle and became a Christian four years ago having been invited to attend Abernethy camps by a school friend and also then going to a youth group Bible study. He is a 3rd year medical student and helps lead a group at RTW as well as playing the euphonium in the music group.



**Katherine MacPherson**

We're so pleased that since marrying Donald in the autumn, Katherine and he have decided to make the Tron their home church. Katherine comes from the Highlands and works as a special needs teacher in Glasgow.



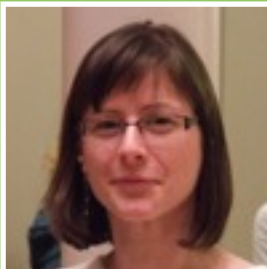
**Iain Kerr**

has been coming to the Tron since he was a baby and it's a great joy to John and Lynn as well as the Church family for him to be professing faith and joining the fellowship. He's in 4th year at secondary, plays in the church music group and is actively involved in Tron Youth.



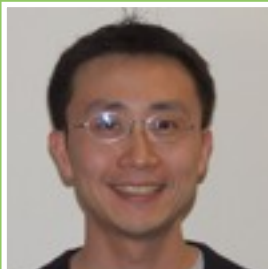
**Megan Bryce**

is studying Community Education at Strathclyde and comes from Nairn. She's was baptised at age fourteen and is part of a RTW group. Megan is in Strathclyde CU and is looking forward to going with the team to Slovakia this summer.



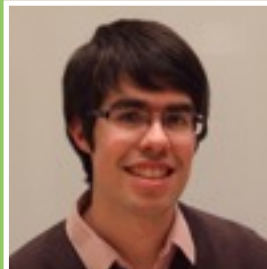
**Kristen McNie**

became a Christian four years ago when at Caledonian Uni studying physiotherapy. Kristen is currently applying for jobs and considering horse physiotherapy. She is part of a RTW group. Kristen has lived in Jordan, Oman and Kuwait but is enjoying Glasgow and loves horse-riding in her free time.



**Kwang Sic Chung**

is doing a PhD in Naval Architecture at Strathclyde and comes from Korea. He's been coming to the Church for 6 years and now wants to join the fellowship.



**Andy Baxter**

is one of our apprentices, was brought up near Livingston and studied at St Andrews University. Being involved in the CU there and then as a UCCF relay worker in Aberdeen were very significant for him spiritually and helped him to grow as a Christian.

## Baptisms

**Elaine McBurney**

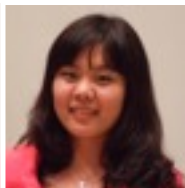


Elaine comes from Ireland and works in Glasgow. Although she went to church back home, she

recently attended Christianity Explored which she found really helpful and is part of a small group bible study and a home group.

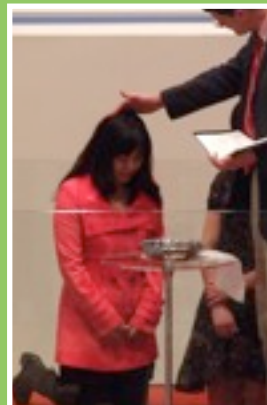


**Tanya Ge**



Tanya is from China and studies Finance at Strathclyde Uni. She came into the church on her first weekend in

Glasgow, was introduced to the English classes and eventually the international Bible studies. She recently came to faith and says the best thing about coming to Glasgow is becoming a Christian!



# As easy as ABC

Are you afraid of people? Probably not I imagine. Most of us may have an odd relative we'd rather avoid, a mean-spirited boss we try not to cross, or we fear our parents finding out what we really get up to at University. But put it this way: Do you crave social acceptance? Are you a people-pleaser? Are you anxious about what others think of you? Conversely, are you buoyed up

by the praise of others? What about Evangelism? Afraid to tell the Gospel? Do you fear Man, when you should be fearing God? If so the Fear of Man is stopping us from loving people. The antidote? A healthy, biblically-taught, fear of God.

**WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG AND GOD IS SMALL - EDWARD WELCH**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This is a book to teach how the right view of God gives us the right view of people so we can love them properly.

**WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF IT?** This book has been instrumental in teaching me the right way to love God and people!

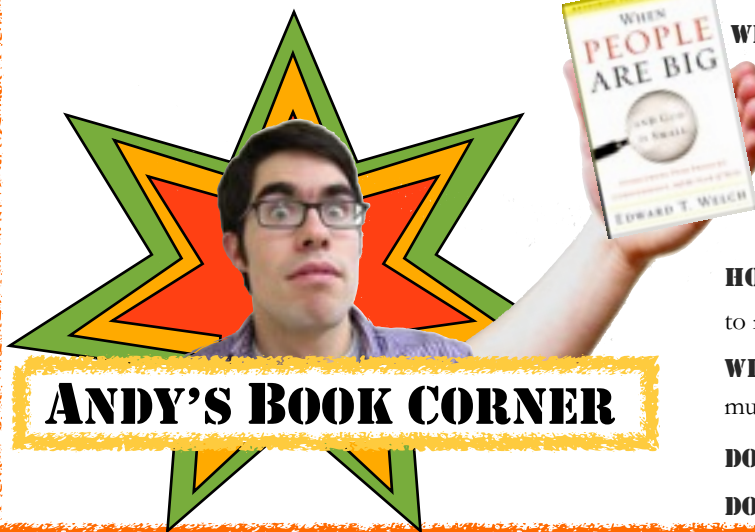
**HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO READ?** Give yourself an hour to read a chapter at a time and to process it.

**WHO'S IT FOR?** Anyone who finds themselves influenced too much by others' opinions rather than God's Gospel.

**DON'T SAY:** People are big.

**DO SAY:** God is BIGGER!

On sale in the  
Epaphras Book Room!



## ANDY'S BOOK CORNER

## Social Scene



Jazz Evening with the Jason Harms Quintet



Celebrating Persian New Year



Westmont College Choir California — Charity Concert

## Date for your diary

Church BBQ Saturday 3rd September

Editorial Team: Ruth Hodgson, Eileen Cullen, Caroline Dodds, Kieran Dodds & Andrew McIntyre

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