

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill Congregational Magazine

web address: www.stnicholasedinburgh.org.uk

January 2020



2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Communion Sunday 26th January 2020 at 10:30am

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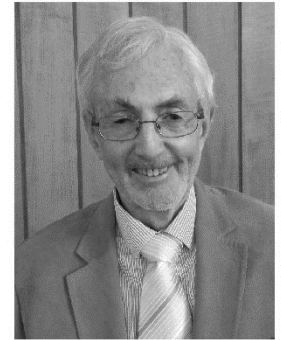
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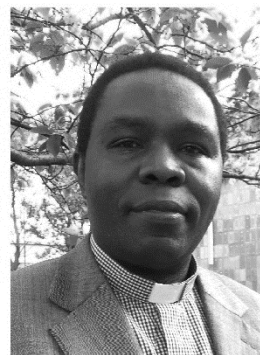
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BETHANY SEGIE
CHURCH'S SOCIAL MEDIA
SITES ADMINISTRATOR

Tom Kisitu writes from the manse office,

Marafiki zangu (Swahili for my friends), happy new year to you all. This is a heck of a year – not only because it has double digits, but because it is during this year that we will hopefully see numerous dazzling technological dreams turn into reality. These include:

- **a high-speed rail that will connect Beijing to London**
- **cars that will fly or drive themselves**
- **Commercial trips to the moon and asteroids (and mining enterprises on them!)**
- **biofuels becoming cost-competitive with fossil fuels**
- **humans controlling devices via microchips implanted in their brains**
- **a synthetic brain that will function like the real deal**

With big dreams like these in mind, I cannot help asking, **what dream do we, as a church, have? What dreams we hope to see come to pass in 2020?** We cannot afford to be left behind, while others make giant leaps forward. Can we? This is a good year, as one Christian optometrist suggests, for us to ask the Holy Spirit, in prayer, ‘for fresh lens to see our church and community’. Just as 20/20 vision gives us the ability to see clearly, **I pray** that we will become even more focused on the mandate to “reach out, make disciples and teach God’s people” in our parish and beyond (Matthew 28:19 – 20). **I pray** further that this year, we choose to devote more time and resources ‘*taking the message to people*’ than on the traditional church practice of ‘*bringing people to the message*’. Thankfully, we are now reaching out to more people in our parish through our five emerging ministry teams namely, **Faith Nurture, Community Outreach and Action Team (COAT), Finance/ Fundraising, Property and Church Administration**. **I pray** that these ministries/teams will grow in strength and help us to realise to realise our future focus dreams like:

- **developing** our pastoral and worship ministries to meet the growing needs of our member and others, in our parish, who have expressed keen interest to join us,
- our **becoming** a more missional, visible and community-oriented local church,
- **transitioning** from a model to unitary constitution (a vital part of an ongoing re-think of our leadership/organisational structure),
- **improving** our visual and audio systems in the sanctuary and church halls,
- **developing** our ministry to children, youth and families and asking God, in prayer, to bless us with a **Children and Families Worker** to build on our good work in this ministry
- **equipping** our current and identified future elders/ leaders with skills and knowledge needed, among other things, to future-proof our church.

Furthermore, **it is my prayer** that, this year, we set-aside space, resources and time, for a second worship service, on Sunday, aimed at reaching mainly the young people, young adults and young families who, as a friend in a neighbouring church appropriately describes them, ‘do not look like us, dress like us or talk like us’. Apostle Paul said he learned to be all things to all people in order to reach them with the gospel message (see 1 Cor. 9:19-23). There are many ways we have demonstrated our love for our community; many ways we have been ‘all things to all people in our communities’ (*I should add, many people in our parish continue to express their gratitude for the ways we have loved them, cared for them and come alongside them in their times of need*). **I pray** that we will continue to love, care, support and bless our parish in and through this second worship service.

Lastly, I **pray** that during this heck of a year, we all (as a congregation here at St Nicholas Church, Sighthill) see and understand more clearly God's plan for our local church and community. Part of this plan is mentioned in **2 Chronicles 20:20 (no pun intended!)**: **"Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."** The prophetic word, when it is accurate, gives us 20/20 vision. May this be our vision for 2020 and beyond. May God bless us all and make us a blessing for many. Amen.

12 Bible Verses for 2020

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Rev. 21:5

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lam. 3:22-23
"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Is. 43:18-19

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Phil. 3:13

"Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jer. 29:11

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Is. 40:31

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them..." Ez. 11:19

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Prov. 3:5-6

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Ps. 20:4

"You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths drip with abundance." Ps. 65:11

Back to Work Poem... shalomy new year

Written by Mark Greene

Here, and so here we are again, at the door.
And you wait, courteous as you always are,
to be invited in.

It's your place really.
And these your people too,
These people that you've given me,
Whose hearts I cannot see,
Whose thoughts I cannot read,
Whose pain I can only surmise
Whose lives from sunset to sunrise
Are hidden from my eyes.

No point really to go in without you.
How easily I forget.

Father, ripen in me your gifts of grace
To do all I do as for you,
To speak in truth and purity,
And greet every face
With love and generosity,
That they may taste and see
The wonder of your merciful majesty.
Lord, for your glory,
Here, be glorified in me.

"Come child", I hear you say,
"Let's get on with our day."

A Prayer for Peace in 2020

Father, I know that you are all-powerful,
that you are Sovereign and that nothing is too difficult for you. Yet, I still struggle with worry and fear, still carrying the same burdens leftover from last year. It's hard to shake it off even though I'm desperate to leave it fully in your hands.

Please lift all the things that are weighing me down, right off shoulders and heavy heart,
and give me the peace that only you can provide.

I know that you care for whatever concerns me, and your ears are open to my prayers. I know that you understand my struggles, and you see right where I am, even on the days I feel that no one notices. Guard my heart and mind in you, as I meditate on your words and truth.
In Jesus' name, Amen



Dear friends,

Tom Kisitu, Maureen Samuel, Margaret Weston and the planning and volunteer teams for St Nicholas Gift-sharing Day and Santa Run write to thank you all for supporting **St Nicholas Day Celebration** and **Santa Run**.

As the pictures on the opposite page show, we were graced by the presence, during our St Nicholas Day Celebration, of around 150 children (aged between 5 and 12) and their families. Most of these children live, play or study in our parish. They go local schools or attend various groups, clubs, events and activities, held during the week, in our church halls. They joined the young people (Navigators and JAM Teens) in our church, the congregation and several other guests to celebrate St Nicholas Day at St Nicholas Church, Sighthill. Everyone participated actively and many donated gifts of toys for our Santa Run event. Children enjoyed a visit to Santa's grotto, received a gift from Santa and participated actively in other fun-filled activities held, after a short children-led carol singing service, in all our halls.



We were happy and indeed privileged to see our children enjoying food, learning together and having fun in our church, alias **The Children's Church**. We were also glad to pass on to parents, during the Santa Run event held on 17th December 2019, over 500 presents, we received from members of the congregation and friends of our church and community. These gifts were well received and brought a smile to the faces of many children and families, during the festive season.

Parents and groups shared photographs and videos on social media, showing the many ways the children and their families had a great time during these two events and other celebrations we held during the Christmas season. They have asked us to thank you all for your continued generosity and friendship. Again, we are grateful for all the help we received and look forward to holding these two events again this year. *Asante sana* (Swahili for thank you very much). We wish you every blessing in your life, family work.

Tom Kisitu, Maureen Samuel, Margaret Weston and the planning and volunteer teams for St Nicholas Gift-sharing Day and Santa Run.

ATTEMPTED ONLINE FRAUD

The following message has been received from Allan Simpson, Data Protection Officer for the Church of Scotland with the request that it be passed on to members of the congregation:

“Some congregations have reported attempted online fraud recently. These attempts use enough data to appear to be plausible requests for payment. The fraudsters are using names of Ministers, Treasurers and Session Clerks in their attempts to trick members into making payments.

There are many variations on the theme, so the nature of the fraud attack will change regularly. However, these particular attacks all make use of real names. So far (at time of writing) the vigilance of those involved has thwarted the attacks.

The fraudsters are relying on Congregation members and office bearers wanting to be helpful. Especially so at this time of year, when everyone is busy, and the holidays make it very difficult to seek advice.

My advice to Office Bearers, Congregations and Ministers is as follows:

1. If you receive a request or demand for anything involving money or personal **data do not respond to it immediately. Stop and think.**
2. **Question everything.** “Is this a normal request?”, “Is it unusual?”, “Would this person ask me a question like this?”
3. **Verify everything. Twice.** Make sure you verify using a different method of communication from the one used to send you the original message. For example, if you receive an email asking you to respond using a telephone number, email address or web link – DO NOT USE IT. Instead, find information from a source you know you can trust and use that instead.
4. If you can't verify, DO NOT carry on satisfying the request or demand.
5. NEVER give your password for any online accounts you use to anyone. No competent and trustworthy service provider will ever ask you for your password.

I know some of this sounds obvious and simple stuff. However, this is the best way to keep fraudsters out. They are very clever; they know exactly how to prey on people and they can appear highly plausible. They are relying on people wanting to be helpful and they rely utterly on you not checking or verifying things before acceding to their request.”

John Wallace

Session Clerk

Gardening Report



We would welcome help from anyone who feels they would be able to do this. We usually meet at 9.30 on a Tuesday morning – work for an hour then have tea/coffee putting the world to rights – then work for another hour - this is very flexible. We are all getting on a bit – the average age of the Gardeners is 72. If you can help it would be great to have you join us.

The Gardening Tea

Used Postage Stamps

I am still collecting used Postage Stamps which are handed on to the Children's Hospice who in turn sell them. I would ask you to keep me in mind and save all your stamps.

Many Thanks.

Thelma Hunter

Wednesday Coffee Stop

Come and join us on a Wednesday morning anytime between 10.30 and 12.30 for coffee/tea and biscuits, bacon roll, roll with sausage or toasted teacake all at £1.00 each. Free tea/coffee refills. Bring along a friend or neighbour. Meet up with old friends or meet new ones. Everyone welcome.

Sunshine Bags

The final total for 2019 is £701.50 which is £62.50 more than last year.

The Finance Team greatly appreciates everyone who contributes to filling the Sunshine Bags having donated a total of £3004.40! over the last five years providing much needed funds for the everyday costs of the church.

A real "TEAM" effort.

Ian Sutherland & Kathleen Hogg

Flowers

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers or a donation to make our communion table colourful each Sunday. This year's flower list is at the back of the church.

Maureen Samuel





Together@lunch

JANUARY - JUNE 2020
ST NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH
THURSDAYS 12-1.30PM



January 9th & 23rd
February 6th & 20th
March 5th & 19th
April 2nd, 16th & 30th
May 14th & 28th
June 11th & 25th

More dates after the summer...



Free lunch & a chance to meet some of your community.

ALL WELCOME, including children.

Tel: 07890557398 Email:

felicityfyll@bethanychristiantrust.com



Session meetings 2020

Wednesday 4th March 7pm

Wednesday 3rd June 7pm

Wednesday 7th October 7pm

Congregational Board Meetings

Wednesday 12th February 7pm

Wednesday 6th May 7pm

Wednesday 5th August 7pm

Wednesday 4th November 7pm

Communion Dates

Sunday 26th January 10:30am

Sunday 29th March 10:30am

Sunday 28th June 10:30am

Sunday 25th October 10:30am

Creche during communion services



First Friday – Monthly

13:30-15:00hrs

Age up to P7

Crafts/games/stories/afternoon tea free

Weekly Schedule of Activities

	Groups	Time	Time	Location
MONDAY				
	ACU Training	09:30	12:00	Sm/Lge Hall
	Elite Dancers	16:00	18:00	Large Hall
	Rainbows (5-7yrs)	17:45	19:00	Small Hall
	Brownies (7-10yrs)	18:30	19:45	Large Hall
	Karate	19:45	21:00	Large Hall
	AA	19:30	21:30	Session Room
TUESDAY				
	Toddler Group	09:30	11:30	Large Hall
	Tuesday Group	13:30	16:00	Small Hall
	Rainbows (5-7yrs)	17:45	19:00	Small Hall
	Brownies (7-10yrs)	18:00	19:45	Large Hall
Every Quarter	SWI Meeting	19:30	21:00	Small Hall
WEDNESDAY				
	Coffee Stop	10:30	13:30	Small Hall
	Prayer Group	10:30	11:30	Vestry
	Deeper Christian Life Ministry	19:00	21:00	Small Hall
THURSDAY				
Fortnightly	Bethany Community Lunch	11:00	14:00	Small Hall
	Demarco Project Dance	17:00	19:00	Large Hall
	Karate	19:15	21:00	Large Hall
FRIDAY				
1 st of Month	Messy Church	13:00	15:00	Sm/Lge Hall
	Church Use	16:30	18:30	Large Hall
3 rd of Month	Remnant Christian Network	16:30	20:30	Large Hall
	Church Use	18:00	21:30	Large Hall
SATURDAY				
	Church Events			Reserved
	One Off Annual Events			Reserved
SUNDAY				
	Worship	10:30		Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:30		Small Hall
	Deeper Christian Life Ministry	14:00	17:00	Sanctuary

St Nicholas Church Door and Offering Duties

30 minutes before the Services

DOOR TEAMS

1	J. Wallace	W. Wallace	F. Winton	S. Agyapong
2	M. Macaulay	K. McLoughlin	I. Waller	M. Purdie
3	T. Hunter	S. Blyth	D. Dow	S. Smith
4	B. Buchanan	J. Buchanan	M. Mackay	J. Mackay
5	M. Cruickshanks	P. Mitchell	I. Smith	A. Mackay
6	G. Malloy	M. Dingsdale	D. Walker	A. Cross
7	N. Sutherland	William	W. Pitblado	A. Brown
8	I. Sutherland	A. Sutherland	K. Hogg	J. Flett

Those unable to attend please arrange a stand-in and notify the Team Leader

DATE	COUNT TEAM ROTA	DOOR TEAM ROTA	READERS	FLOWERS
05.01.2020	C	7	A. Sutherland	M. Weston
12.01.2020	D	8	N. Sutherland	M. Macaulay
19.01.2020	E	1	T. Hunter	J&B. Buchanan
26.01.2020	A	2	G. Malloy	Vacancy
02.02.2020	B	3	R. Ferguson	Vacancy
09.02.2020	C	4	W. Wallace	Vacancy
16.02.2020	D	5	D. Webb	Vacancy
23.02.2020	E	6	J. Wallace	Vacancy
01.03.2020	A	7	A. Mackay	Vacancy
08.03.2020	B	8	H. Seggie	J&B. Buchanan
15.03.2020	C	1	A. Sutherland	D. Carwin
22.03.2020	D	2	N. Sutherland	Vacancy
29.03.2020	E	3	T. Hunter	Vacancy