



# Cathcart United Free Church of Scotland

7 Struan Road, Glasgow G44 3AT

Scottish Charity: SCO01573

11 November 2022

Dear Friends

## Where are we going as a congregation?

Recently a few of us attended a very inspiring evening when Tommy MacNeil, a Church of Scotland minister in Stornoway, introduced his book 'Sleeping Giant: A Call to the Church to Awake and Arise!' I would encourage folk to read the book – maybe you would like an opportunity to meet and discuss what it says? He writes 'The Church of Jesus Christ has the potential of being a giant, a friendly giant, a giant in how we love God and those around us, a giant who works for the good of others and ultimately for the glory of God. But we've allowed ourselves to be bound; we've allowed external forces to dictate the direction of our lives.'

As elders we believe God has plans for his Church locally as part of what he is doing across Scotland and beyond. Together as a congregation we can discover more about what he wants us to be and do in this bigger picture. We hope you will journey with us as we pray and explore the way ahead!

Some time ago the elders agreed we should focus on several areas of the work to build on what has been happening in recent years. As a result, we have set up four small teams involving elders and others. These are **Ministry** to help us develop services etc, **Discipleship/ Growth** to help us with small group studies, prayer etc, **Community Engagement/ Outreach** – to help develop what we do in and for the local area and **Pastoral Care** to ensure there is good care and support for everyone.

We believe we should seek to have a minister (full-time or part-time) to share with us in the work and to encourage, stimulate and support us in moving forward together to become the church God wants us to be and to serve him faithfully in the local community and in our personal lives.

Progress on the buildings project has been slow but we now have the necessary building warrants and other permissions for the work to go ahead. We hope soon to have detailed quotations for the various parts of the project and we can then decide on how best to proceed and seek the additional funding we will need.

Please continue to pray about all of this, for one another, for the community around us and for our fellow Christians locally. Pray that God will bring other people to join us as he has done in recent years but that we will also be ready to go and engage with people where they are. There is a **special opportunity for prayer** with on Saturday 26 November from 10 – 11.30 – details on next page.

Thank you to everyone who shares in the life and work of our congregation and it is such a help when everyone plays their part as they are able. Let's look forward with anticipation of the next steps God has for us!

Yours sincerely

*John Fulton*

*Interim Moderator*

## Upcoming events

**Saturday 26 November 10 – 11.30** An informal time to explore prayer together starting with tea/ coffee and a brief conversation around what is scary about prayer. Then there will be a time of praying together (prayer points will be provided) but not necessarily out loud. There will then be time for folk to pray on their own if they wish.

**Sunday 27 November 11 a.m.** Service includes Communion

**Wednesday 30 November 10.30 a.m.** Time for reflection with Communion  
(Services every Wednesday except 28 December and 4 January)

**Saturdays 3 December & 7 January 8.30 – 10** Prayer Breakfast (in Cathcart Trinity)

**Monday 5 and 19 December 2- 3.30** Moments (Dementia friendly) Café in Trinity open to everyone

**Each Monday from 9 – 10** Rest and Restore at Cathcart Baptist Church, Merrylee Road. An opportunity to rest and pray within the sanctuary of the church – stay for a short time or longer.

**Each Tuesday from 10 – 11** Quiet Space in Trinity: Come in for a time of reflection, simplicity and stillness

**Each Thursday 10 – 12** Renew Wellbeing in Cathcart Baptist: A chance to unwind, find peace, to be apart or with others as you choose, time to make or unmake, to pray or not to pray, a time to be and to be renewed - with coffee etc

### Tuesday 6 December

**Strathclyde University Chamber Choir** is delighted to be returning to Cathcart Trinity Church for its 2022 Festive Concert. On Tuesday 6 December at 7:30pm the choir will bring a varied programme to celebrate Christmas, ranging from traditional carols to choruses from Handel's Messiah, and from modern festive 'classics' to singalong carols for the audience to join in. Admission is by payment at the door of £10, including a programme and half price for concessions (young and old).

### Friday 2 December and 6 January

**Starlight Café** from 7 – 9 in the garden of Cathcart Baptist Church, Merrylee Road. A space to relax and chat in the open air - coffee van will be there selling a variety of drinks.

### Wednesday 21 December 7.30 – 8.30 in Trinity

Joint Prayer Meeting – spend time with others locally

## Christmas Events

### Sunday 18 December 11 a.m.

Service on theme of Preparing for Christmas

Followed by soup and bread lunch and an opportunity to give to Tearfund

### Sunday 18 December 6.30 p.m.

Carols and reflections in the UF with the 3 local churches.

**Thursday 22 December from 6.30** Meet at Merrylee Primary  
Carol singing around streets in Merrylee

### Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 December

**2 p.m.** All age Service in Cathcart Trinity

**6 p.m.** Garden Carols in Cathcart Baptist Church Garden

**11.30 p.m.** Watchnight Service in Cathcart Trinity

### **Christmas Day**

**11 a.m.** Café church service in UF as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in a relaxed and joyful way

### **New Year's Day**

**11.a.m.** Café church service at the start of the year – an opportunity for us to look back with thanks and to look forward with hope and share it all with God who journeys with us