MINISTER'S LETTER



Rev Judith Tatton-Schiff writes:

This year has finished somewhat different to how it started – in January I was minister to 2 churches and now, in December, I'm minister to 3.

For Giffnock URC, the difference is in the shoring up of the Southside Cluster.

We are one of 6 Cluster churches, now sharing 2 ministers of Word and Sacrament.

These sorts of changes may sound purely administrative, and therefore a little boring! However, our challenge becomes one of how we see ourselves, as a church.

Who are we?
Why are we here?
What are we for, as a church?

The Southside Cluster is now a part of how we answer these questions. As a church, we need to have matrix-like thinking – looking in 3-dimensional ways at our Christian calling. We are

called to look after those within our own congregation, in pastoral care and fellowship. We are called to reach out into Giffnock, and we must continue work to ecumenically (and tirelessly!) with our sisters and brothers in the other churches of Giffnock. We are called to work across Glasgow and Strathclyde, with the other **URCs** (and Local Ecumenical Partnership at Mosspark) in Southside Cluster. our sharing resources and strengths whenever we can.

We also have responsibilities to our Synod (the URC's Synod of Scotland.) In fact, we have responsibilities to every other church in the world. As a part of the Body of Christ, we are

automatically linked to every other church, and every other Christian – even those who seem to have little in common with us.

So... who are we, and what are we for, when we see ourselves through these multiple lenses?

If we believe that God has a purpose for us in Giffnock, as well as "in house" even globally, then the of overlapping matrix callings and clusters, responsibilities find we ourselves in need not feel like a burden.

Instead, we can see ourselves as part of an army – an army of volunteers, of moral support, of prayer, of fun and of fellowship! These connections and

relationships can be sources of strength and energy, instead of failing as though they may drain our reserves!

The more we see ourselves within these parameters, the better we may be able to see possibilities for growth or outreach that we may not have been able to imagine before.

My prayer, for our year ahead, is that we are renewed in energy and vitality, as we enjoy the opportunities opened to us, through these multiple sources of personnel, finances and imagination.

God is moving, in often mysterious ways, and our job can simply be – to enjoy the ride!



THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!



Please do support all the church's events, by coming along, volunteering to help, or simply by holding the church in your prayers. If you're able to, please do make a special effort to come along to our Friday morning Prayer Meeting,

Wednesday morning service and twice monthly Bible Study – these are so important to the spiritual life of the church.

Every Sunday morning we meet together for **worship** at 11am. This includes Sunday School.

We also support the evening services of the other Giffnock (and beyond) churches – particularly Park Church (1st Sunday of the month), Giffnock South (2nd Sunday of the month) and Thornliebank (1st & 3rd Sundays of the month).

Every Wednesday morning meet together for we **worship** in the informal Lounge. And, during the winter months, we join with friends from across Giffnock for our popular Lunchbite Café - do come along and join with us for fantastic rolls, soup and home baking.

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, we have our church **Bible Study**. The evening starts at 7.30pm and there is always tea and coffee, not to mention a warm welcome!

Our weekly **Craft Club**, which previously met every Thursday afternoon, at 2pm, now meets after Lunchbite on a Wednesday, at 1.30pm, in the Lounge. In order to

give space to our new Sunshine Café (read on for more info!) the Craft Club has moved its time. Bring your knitting, needlework, painting, card making... or just yourself, and have a natter over coffee.

The **Sunshine Café** is the new name for our dementiarespite lunch project. We meet together for lunch, from 11.30am, followed by crafts and games, then tea, home baking and a singsong. If you care for someone with dementia, or are living with the condition yourself, please do get in touch for more info, or just come along! The charge is just £4.00.

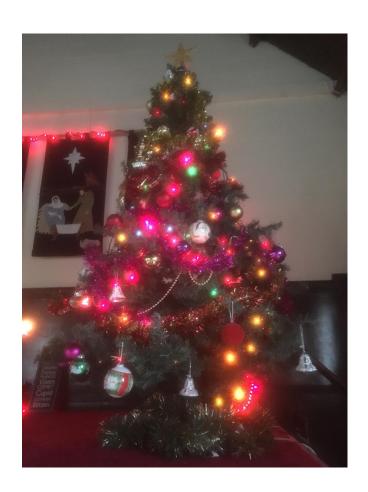
Every Friday morning we meet together for prayer at

10.00am in the Vestry. This is change of day from our previous Thursday, so please update your diary! We'd love to see more people coming along prayer is backbone of Christian life! And don't forget, you can still your prayer pop requests in the box outside the Vestry at any time. A big thank you to those of you who have been keeping us up to date with prayer needs - you can be assured that we have held your suggestions and requests up before God faithfully.

Also on Friday, in the afternoon, at 2pm, we meet at the "Vets" carpark, at Rouken Glen Park, for a walk.

All levels of fitness are welcome, and we enjoy a coffee after our walk, at the Boaters café.

Our regular Saturday Coffee Morning has continued with great success throughout the winter months, but takes a break, from December 9th.



SPECIAL DATES for Your Diary!

Christingle Service

December 17th

11.30am

Special All Ages Worship as we celebrate the "Christingle" together.

Cake and Carols

December 19th

2.00pm

A fun time of great cake, good singing and a wee bit of festive fun.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th

11.30am

Ordinary worship for all the family.

Watchnight Service

December 24th

11.15pm

Hot Chocolate served from 11.15pm, followed by worship as we "see in the bells" together.

Christmas Morning Worship

December 25th

10.30am

A short, service of Carols and thanksgiving, for all the family.

Christmas Lunch

December 25th

1.00pm

A full Christmas dinner, served in the Small Hall. All are welcome, there is no charge (although donations are welcome) and lifts can be arranged.

Get in touch with Judith or your Elder for more info!

Giffnock URC's 2nd Annual CHRISTMAS DINNER



Dinner was a great success, with donations from local businesses, other churches and private individuals – making for a fantastic feast!

We welcomed "old friends," friends from neighbouring churches, and many folk who had simply seen our posters, and taken us at our word.

You don't need to be old, or lonely, struggling on your own, or worrying about the cost of Christmas to join us in 2017... although, if you are, then please make a bee-line for Giffnock URC on Christmas Day! Rather, this is a day for anyone and everyone.

All those of us who took part agreed – it was one of the most fun Christmases we had ever had. We all made new friends, ate great food, felt really relaxed and had plenty of help with the washing up! Judith also appreciated ducking out of the dishes, as she sloped off to give folk lifts home!

So, do consider joining us for Christmas Dinner this year, or passing on the invite to others – all are welcome, and it will be a great party!

Giffnock Community

Christmas Dinner



December 25th, 1pm

You're Invited!

No charge, lifts can be arranged, all are welcome no matter faith, status, health, age or any else!

The 145th GLASGOW SCOUTS



In the summer of 2017 our Scouts and Explorers headed off to Switzerland, for a great adventure together. Activities included bobsled racing, along with all sorts of other outdoor experiences.

Being a Scout isn't only about having fun though, you know! Several of our Scouts have recently achieved the coveted "Chief Scout's Gold Award." This is the highest award that a Scout can attain, and demands a great deal of work from those who attempt it.



Next year, the Scouts will be fundraising, to send some of their number to the International Jamboree. Being selected for Jamboree is a great honour, and we know the lucky Scouts selected will have an

incredible time, as they make new friends from all across the world and learn lots of new things. If you get a chance, please do support the Scouts, with donations, attending events, and holding each of our sections and their leaders in your prayers.

WHAT'S ON: Giffnock Churches



Park Church

Ravenscliffe Dr, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 7QS

Tel: 0141 620 2204

STACK-A-SOCK

Red socks are in the church vestibule awaiting donations of new, warm socks, hats, gloves and scarves for the Lodging House Mission. All donations are gratefully received.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 13th December
In Orchard Park Hotel, Giffnock, at 1.00 for 1.15 p.m.
Ticket £16.00.

Contact Helen Brown 569.7635.

EASTWOOD CHORAL SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS, and ALL THAT JAZZ
Sunday 17th December, 3pm, Park Church
Tickets adults £8, children £4 available from members.

FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE & CHILDREN'S GIFTS SERVICE

Sunday 17th 11am

CAROLS AND LESSONS SERVICE

Sunday 24th @11am 7pm - Family Carol Service 11.30pm - Carols by Candle Service



Orchardhill Parish Church

12 Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6JR.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ Orchard Cafe

Tuesday 12th December

10.00am - 12.00noon

STEPPING STONES AND CROSSWORDS SERVICE

17th December 10:30am

CHRISTMAS WITH SOUNDWAVES

17th December 6.30pm

GIFFNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL WINTER SERVICE

Wed 20th December 1.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY WORSHIP - 24th December 10:30am

KIDS TIME CHRISTMAS 6pm - 7pm

MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES 10:45 pm

Community Singing with the Choir 11.15pm

Watchnight Service 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE 10:00am



Giffnock South Parish Church

2 Greenhill Ave, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6QX

GIFFNOCK COMMUNITY CHOIR

In Harmony are holding their concerts in Giffnock South Church on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £5 are available from choir members or Giffnock South

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Bellshill Salvation Army Band
Friday 15th December 7.30pm
Giffnock South Church
Donations for the work of Salvation Army on the night.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE

24th December 11am
Favourite Carols Service
6.30pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Watchnight Service

CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY SERVICE

25th December 11am

Christmas Word Search

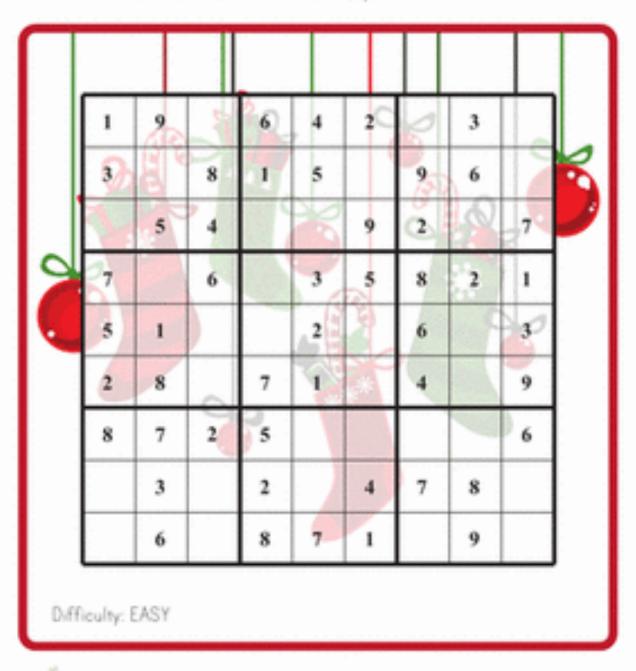
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BELLS	CANDY	SANTACLAUS	STOCKINGSTUFFERS
CANDLES	CANES	BLITZEN	STOCKINGS
CARDS	FRUITCAKE	COMET	TIDINGS
CELEBRATE	HAM	CUPID	REINDEER
GREETINGS	SWEETPOTATO	DANCER	SLED
HOLIDAY	MISTLETOE	DONNER	SLEIGH
JUBILEE	POINSETTIA	PRANCER	PARTY
NOEL	WREATH	VIXEN	SCROOGE
PARADES	CHRISTMASTREE	FAIRIES	SEASON
	ELVES	NORTHPOLE	

www.TheTeachersCorner.net

Holiday Sudoku

Solve the Sudoku puzzle below by filling in the blank spaces with numbers between 1 and 9. Make sure no numbers appear twice in the same row, column or 3x3 square.



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More worksheers at www.education.com/worksheers

LOGIC CHALLENGE

	Small Hall	Large Hall	Sanctuary	Lounge	Carpark	soprano	alto	tenor	bass	treble
Alison										
John B										
John Q										
Jenny										
Kenny										
The Bible										
Reform Magazine										
Life and Work										
Chancel										
Extra										
Monday										
Wednesday										
Friday										
Saturday										
Sunday										
soprano										
alto										
tenor										
bass										
treble										

- Alison learned the bass part on Saturday, but she didn't do it in a hall
- The Reform reader did not learn the soprano part, which was learned on a Friday
- The Saturday activity, which took place in the Sanctuary, was not undertaken by a Chancel reader
- The treble line was learned by a male Life and Work reader, but not on a weekend day
- John B took his Bible in to his vocal lesson on Sunday
- The Life and Work reader learned their part in the carpark on Monday
- Kenny learned his alto line in the Large Hall on Wednesday
- The Extra was read in the small hall

Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	The Bible	Reform Magazine	Life and Work	Chancel	Extra

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Room</u>
Alison				
John B				

John Q

Jenny Kenny

Answer available from Judith, if you're stumped!

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARTOON PUZZLE



TRUE OR FALSE? WHICH OF THE NUMBERED ITEMS OR FIGURES WERE AT THE ACTUAL NATIVITY?

1	10	
2	11	
3	12	
4	13	
5	14	
6	15	
7	16	
8	17	
9		(source: the Bible

The SOUTHSIDE CLUSTER

We are part of a cluster of six URC churches, alongside Shawlands, Mosspark, Priesthill, Barrhead Stewarton. The Cluster has 2 "ministers of Word and Sacrament" - Rev Judith Tatton-Schiff and Rev Andy Judith has Braunston. pastoral responsibility for Giffnock URC, Mosspark United and Priesthill URC, and Andy has responsibility for Barrhead, Shawlands and Stewarton URCs. Priesthill and Shawlands also have a (Church Related CRCW Community Work Minister) -Marie Trubic.



www.bythswood.org

For many years now, our Cluster churches have enjoyed coming together, to pack Shoeboxes for Blythswood Care.

Blythswood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. They provide practical help for people in their community to give them opportunities to provide for themselves. Sharing the life-changing message of the Gospel is the motivation in every aspect of their work.

This year, with folk from Giffnock, Priesthill and Stewarton, with supplies contributed by Shawlands URC all working hard

together, we managed to pack over 90 boxes!

After packing the boxes, with gifts for people of all ages, in places where there is great need, we all enjoyed a chippy together, followed by a quiz, created as usual by our crack-pot quiz-master John Queen.

Thank you to all who helped!











JOHN BALDING

- Back in the Saddle!



For someone who has spent the major part of his life making and keeping appointments it was very novel to issue the edict "Quarter 4 is cancelled" in August! This proved to be necessary as some parts of my being have taken a surprisingly long time to recover and the process continues.

During the first Sunday that I was back in the house, I felt very odd lying in bed listening to the morning service on Radio 4 and not being with you. This was almost (but not quite!) balanced by the thought that I was neither able to drive nor to play the organ. For some weeks I couldn't even concentrate sufficiently to read which, I may say, is very un-characteristic.

For me it has been (and still is) a period of re-adjustment. I am very fortunate that the future looks good, especially as I am now back at GURC, playing the organ for you all

and participating in the worship, surrounded by the choir. The service on Sunday was a tonic and taking home

some lovely flowers was "the icing on the cake". It really is great to be back!

IONA SPOONER – Teenage Organist!



When John Balding went in to hospital this year, Iona

Spooner (13) bravely agreed to play the organ for us.

We asked Iona a few questions about her organ playing...

How did it feel playing the hymns on a Sunday morning?

I usually felt quite confident before the service but I would notice all sorts of minor mistakes when I was playing it. I have never led music before so it was interesting to be the one who set the time and everything. I used to get nervous at the beginning but after the first few weeks I was fine.

In what ways does the organ feel different to playing the piano?

I thought the organ was almost identical to the piano before I started but I was quite mistaken! The basics are the same but there are some things like the pause between you pressing a key and actually hearing the note or the fact that the sound is coming from behind you (sometimes it feels like someone else is playing). It took more getting used to than I anticipated but I still need think it is really fun to

play. I love the pedals, they are the best part because they make my bench vibrate when I play them.

Did you get any good advice?

Some people told me just to focus on the melody but, although it was easier, it sounded quite shallow and quiet. I think the best advice was probably not to underestimate the hymns and to be really careful and not take shortcuts when I learned them.

Any funny moments?

I think almost every moment was slightly unplanned but funny moments for me (often not for the minister) included my habit of letting my feet rest on the pedals for half a second and the hall

being filled with a giant hoot. Sometimes, my bench would vibrate so much I would fall off and pretend that the pedal playing was on purpose.

Would you do it again?

I would love to do it again, playing the organ is really fun and being able to work with the choir is really rewarding. It was also a great first job and I will remember how exhilarating and amazing hymns can be in years to come.

Can you imagine a career as an organist?

I would need to get quite good! I think I might try to take it up as a part time job but you need a lot more skills to be a full time professional so I will leave it to the John Baldings in the world!

Any other comments?

I think everyone who calls themselves musician a should try playing the organ at least once. It brings a whole new dimension into and, although music the like to hymns try my patience, I will never hear a hymn in the same way. I never thought I would say that: I used to think all hymns sounded exactly the same.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE GOOD CAUSES

East Renfrewshire Good Causes

In its 10 year history the charity founded by Russell McMillan has helped 1780 people and parted with £330,000 and £600,000 worth of goods for those in need.

A recent round-up of such goods includes the supply of basic household items for a young person with Aspergers to help them to maintain their first tenancy, and a sizeable supply of toiletries were also given to a homeless unit.

A comfortable mattress was handed over for a patient undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Russell confides that the charity is guided by his own Christian faith: "I would like to pass on my genuine thanks to the supporters who help us love our neighbours in East Renfrewshire."



The PRESHAL TRUST:

Govan

"Seeking to tackle problems such as poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, low literact and numeracy skills.

Depression and low self-esteem in Govan."



The Preshal Trust was launched in 2002 by May Nicholson as a new venture to chanel her experience as a Church of Scotland Community Outreach Worker.

We have supported them during the last few years as they progressed from meeting in a tin shed, to

operating from purposebuilt facilities in the heart of Govan.



The range of outreach is impressive: craft work, women's groups, daycare, cooking classes, youth groups and worship. All offer caring support. With May Nicholson's energy and vision, the Trust thrives.

The PEARCE INSTITUTE, GOVAN



The Coming Home Centre

is a drop-in facility for veterans. Tea, coffee and a hot meal are served daily.

Breaking bread over a hot meal is an activity that most veterans can identify with and relate back to their service experiences.

For the socially isolated, elderly, early service leavers and transitioning veterans

food is an eternal icebreaker and can be a catalyst for opening up to further assistance. The Centre offers in-house support as well as other agency referral where required.

The Charity works with veterans at the point of need, assisting with issues surrounding service-related mental and physical health, homelesness, housing and benefits support, employment and training, woodwork bike and workshops, maintenance activities, adventurous friendship and camaraderie.

PORT GLASGOW URC FOODBANK



During the Year we have started to collect donations to supply the Port Glasgow URC Foodbank, which is pretty busy in the current economic circumstances.

We have delivered the tins and dry goods supplied by our members on Sunday monrings during the year, especially at our harvest service.

Our support is really appreciated by our church colleagues "doon-thewatter!"



Emergency Appeal for ROHINGYA People



Christian Aid thanked us for our appeal collection of £200 for refugees in Bangladesh who are displaced to temporary camps as they flee from ethnic violence.

Families fleeing to safe places often have to keep travelling from camp to camp to find room, where they can build make-shift shelters using tarpaulins and bamboo poles.

Heavy rains make life very difficult and food is scarce.

"Christian Aid do whatever is needed to support poor people where we find them, funding vital work on the ground.

The generosity of our supporters means we are currently able to support over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty."



Climbing to MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



2 years ago, a nurse from China, working in Edinburgh, was challenged to take part in the "70-Munros Challenge" to raise funds for Christian Aid.

She completed her target, and carried on to climb all 282, spending every weekend completing the Munros.

Ms Huang, who has been raising money along the way said "when we were growing up we were very poor. I've always wanted to help people living in poverty. This is why I'm supporting Christian Aid to make their vision – to help end poverty – become reality.

Christian Aid supports poor people and their communities, and works with over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Liz and family wish you a truly happy and peaceful Christmas, full of every blessing.

Liz Russell

A VERY JOYFUL CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR to all my friends at
Giffnock URC. Wishing you a time of love,
friendship and happiness, with thanks for all
the love, friendship and happiness you give
to me,

Ros McMillan

Wishing all my friends at Giffnock URC a wonderful Christmas and peaceful New Year. With love and best wishes,

Belle Scott

Wishing everyone a chilled out and blessed time this Christmas. May you know the love of Jesus Christ, through the message, fellowship and vision we share together, as a community. Thanks also, for all your love and support – here's to a great year ahead!

Judith and Liz

A VERY JOYFUL CHRISTMAS and a

happy New Year, with thanks for all the love, friendship and support you give to me,

Roy Henderson

WHO'S WHO:

Elders:	
Kenny Brown	577 0617
Alison Christie	638 4807
David Christie	638 4807
Pat Craig	638 3686
Roy Henderson	633 5584
Danny McEwan	638 5754
Anne Macpherson	638 0278
Anne Queen	637 2065
Liz Russell	639 2847
Grace Smith	637 7525
Maureen Stewart	589 6977
Mike Williams	571 0332
Minister:	638 0668
Rev Judith Tatton-Schiff	
Church Officer & Hall Lets:	07910 756 635
Les Millar	
Organist & Choir Master:	577 9354
John Balding	
Secretary:	638 4807
Alison Christie	

All Ages Prayer Coordinator:	Anne Macpherson	638 0278
Catering Convenor:	Jane McLintock	577 6824
Chancel Delivery Organiser:	Jenny Forrest	637 0291
Children's Advocate:	Margaret Williams	571 0332
& Safeguarding Officer		
Gift Aid & Donations	Kenny Brown	577 0617
Envelopes Coordinator:		
Finance Administrator:	Ann Manwell	
Health and Safety Advisor:	Kenny Brown	577 0617
IT Support:	Mike Williams	571 0332
IT Support: Ministry to the Church Team:	Mike Williams Maureen Stewart	571 0332 589 6977
• •		
Ministry to the Church Team:	Maureen Stewart	589 6977
Ministry to the Church Team: Ministry to the World Team:	Maureen Stewart David Christie	589 6977 638 4807
Ministry to the Church Team: Ministry to the World Team: Office Administrator	Maureen Stewart David Christie	589 6977 638 4807
Ministry to the Church Team: Ministry to the World Team: Office Administrator & Roll Keeper:	Maureen Stewart David Christie Anne Fulton	589 6977 638 4807 633 0099
Ministry to the Church Team: Ministry to the World Team: Office Administrator & Roll Keeper: Property Work Group:	Maureen Stewart David Christie Anne Fulton Danny McEwan	589 6977 638 4807 633 0099 638 5754

There are many more people in our church who do so much, volunteering with Catering, Cleaning, Finance, Flowers, IT, Property Maintenance, Sunday School, Worship, and the various committees and teams that are so crucial to the running of our church. Would you like to get involved in one of these areas? Get in touch!

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Title: Subject:

Author: Jake Tatton

Keywords: Comments:

Creation Date: 12/13/17 11:11:00 AM

Change Number:

Last Saved On: 12/13/17 11:11:00 AM

Last Saved By: Jake Tatton
Total Editing Time: 1 Minute

Last Printed On: 12/13/17 11:11:00 AM

As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 36
Number of Words: 3,776

Number of Characters: 19,246 (approx.)