

Pollokshields Church of Scotland Glasgow

VISION

March
2010

Minister: The Rev. David Black 423 4000
Session Clerk: Mrs. Mary Morrison 632 1659



The Lenten Lily

Cover Comment is on page 3

'TIS spring, come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.

And there's the windflower
chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter Day.

AE Housman

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Forthcoming Services

7th March	11 am	Morning Service, Junior Church and Crêche.
14th March	11 am	Holy Communion, Junior Church and Crêche.
21st March	11 am	Pulpit Exchange, Rev. A. Robertson, as David Black is at Kelvinside Hillhead on Interim Moderator Duty.
28th Match	11 am	Palm Sunday. Morning Service, Junior Church and Crêche. Followed by Annual Stated Meeting.
4th April	11 am	Easter Day Celebration

HOLY WEEK 2010

We hope to hold an act of worship each night during Holy Week this year.

Formats for Monday and Tuesday are to be confirmed but Wednesday evening will be part of the "Hear I AM" Lent Studies and there will be formal services on Maundy Thursday in Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's and on Good Friday here both at 7 pm.

VISION. Copy date for the April issue of VISION is Sunday 21st March.

From the Minister

As we celebrate the season of Lent, looking forward to Good Friday and Easter, the high points for our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, so we are challenged not with the traditional giving up but to take on.

To take on something new which will help us reflect on what it means to be followers of Jesus in the 21st century.

If you have not already tried one of the “Hear I AM” series then why not join the one in March? It has a day and evening time slot and will offer a different way to look at some of the lesser known players in the drama that is Holy Week and Easter. (See page 2 for details).

Or if you have a computer why not try the 40 daily readings offered by the Scottish Bible Society?

Or just take time to read the Gospel afresh, for what it says to you uninterpreted by preacher or scholar is important - and if it leaves you with questions - come and ask.

As the national church faces up to its financial and theological struggles, as we all wrestle with a society which would tell us that Easter has no relevance, it is up to every one of us to take seriously the challenge of 1 Peter 3 v 15, which says: *“Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.”*

Share with someone this Easter the reason the bun has a cross on it and why we roll our eggs - for if you don't who can blame them if they think it is only to do with chocolate?

With all good wishes,

David R. Black

“Hear: I AM”

Listening to God in 2010

This month covers the period of Lent and looks forward to Holy Week and Easter,

Following a desire for more reading and understanding the Bible together we will offer a series called:

Exploring God’s Word - Characters in the Holy Week Story

Time - 11am-12 noon or 7-8 pm on Wednesdays from 3rd March.

Place - Session Room

This series will tie in with the mid-week worship each week and the evening meeting repeats the morning one, so choose which suits you best to come to. We will look at **Women in the Jesus Story, The Jewish Leaders, the Disciples, the Roman Authority and Unfaithful Followers**, to build a better picture of the background against which Jesus’ story unfolds.

The Minister says: “This series came from the discussions at the first series of “Hear I AM”.

They will have a variety of formats, to offer more people the chance to open up their own understanding of the Bible for themselves. I may have been invited to do more of the talking but don’t expect a monologue! Come and listen and also have your say.”

Lent

GIVING up chocolates for Lent? That reduces the observance of this ancient Christian season to the level of a New Year resolution.

Yet self-denial is one of the traditional elements of Lent, which with prayer, penitence and almsgiving commemorates Christ's death and resurrection.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year fell on 17th February. The day before this, Shrove Tuesday, is the last day of feasting before Lent. Celebrations then vary from an exuberant Mardi Gras carnival to enjoying a simple pancake meal. (Pancake ingredients include fat, butter and eggs, which some folk would exclude from their Lenten diet.) On Shrove Tuesday people can be 'shriven' - sins are confessed and absolution given so that the person may enter Lent 'clean'.

On Ash Wednesday ashes gathered from the previous year's palm crosses may be mixed with oil and the paste used to make the sign of a cross on the forehead.

The 4th Sunday in Lent is 'Mothering Sunday'. The origin of this is the 16th century celebration of the Mother Church, although nowadays this has been watered down to be 'Mother's Day'.

The 5th and 6th Sunday are Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday.

***Cover Comment**

The Lenten Lily has been identified as a Hellebore, similar to the Christmas Rose, Helleborus Niger, which despite its name is white. The Lenten Lily has also been identified with the Daffodil.