

Burnside Blairbeth Church



Contact

No 141

Autumn 2019

Dear friends,

In a few weeks' time we will say farewell to Andrew Robertson as he goes off to Bolivia to serve with Latin Link. He will join our other missionary partners as someone we pray for, as well as supporting financially and practically. You can read more details about Andrew's plans elsewhere in this magazine. It is our privilege to be able to support Andrew and our other missionary partners and I am glad that for decades now world mission has had a high profile in the priorities of our congregation.



As the church in Scotland declines it might be tempting to think that we should retreat slightly, and world mission should be less of a priority. After all it sometimes feels like a struggle to do everything that we would like to locally, without thinking about the church thousands of miles away in places we may never visit. So why is world mission still a priority for us? The following just scratches the surface of why world mission is still essential in our congregational life.

We wouldn't be followers of Jesus without world mission. Jesus lived in what we now call the Middle East and the early church grew there. The details of how Christianity first came to Scotland are hazy but people like Ninian and Columba played an important part in its spread. They were deliberate in preaching about Jesus and saw themselves as missionaries. We are indebted to missionaries from a past era.

Mission throughout the world is a direct response to the command of Jesus. He sent his early disciples to the ends of the earth. The book of Acts is the story of the church growth in all sorts of territories. The epistles make clear that churches in one area supported churches far away financially and in other ways.

There is a call in Scripture for the church to send people with the Good News of Jesus. In some way our missionary partners represent us where they do their work and we are one of their sending churches. It is a privilege to be represented in so many different contexts.

It is important to recognise that mission is not simply preaching or evangelism. These can be important components of what happens in mission, but they are not the only ones. It's clear that we are called to bring God's blessing in all sorts of different ways and our missionary partners do that in the wide variety of the work in which they are involved. Through their work we bring blessings in places where we have no other locus.

The connection with churches in other parts of the world enriches us. We are often challenged, encouraged and inspired when we hear what is happening for our missionary partners and how God is using them. Over recent weeks we have been thinking about lessons we can learn from the growth of the church in Africa over recent years.

Mission is no longer one way. We are privileged in Scotland to have people come here from Brazil, from Pakistan, from various countries in Africa and from lots of other places to serve the church in Scotland. This is much healthier than simply regarding ourselves as benevolent benefactors who aren't dependent on others.

One of the criticisms that can be made of involvement in world mission is whether we can afford the resources. However, time after time our experience as followers of Jesus is that when we give our best away – whether in terms of money or time or people – God supplies resources to either replace them or do something different in ways that we just wouldn't have expected.

The vision that is given to us in Revelation is that God's people will be made up of representatives from every tribe, tongue and nation. When we are involved in His mission throughout the world we are playing our part in the fulfilment of that vision but we are also getting ourselves ready for the new heaven and new earth when we will be with people from all places and all times.

I hope that by now you can see that involvement in world mission is not a luxury in which churches can choose to participate or not, depending on circumstances. It is an essential part of being the church which is our responsibility and privilege. These are just some of the reasons that it is our joy to be involved in the life and work of our missionary partners.

Your friend and minister

William Wilson

Update on pastoral assistant's post

Over the summer we advertised for a pastoral assistant following the retirement of Les Queen. We received applications and held interviews. The position was offered to one candidate, but she subsequently found that she was unable to take up the position. As I write we are considering our next steps, with a likelihood that we will re-advertise. This means it is likely that the position will remain vacant for some time yet. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you can keep elders or William fully informed about pastoral needs.

Youth and Children's Work

After a busy summer we are getting back into the regular routine of our children's and youth work programme. Here is a list of what is happening and some points for prayer:

- **JUMP (P1-P7)** – Pray for the team and their development, that the children would encounter Jesus through all the various activities.
- **Switch (P6- S3)** – Pray for the dynamics of the group, the relationships with the young people and for growth in numbers.
- **Sunday Clubs** – Pray for the team, for the children to grown in knowledge of Jesus and that the children would feel part of the church family.
- **Walk This Way** – Pray for the relationships between leaders and young folk and for deep and meaningful discipleship.
- **SU Groups in Local Schools** – Jam club runs weekly in Burnside Primary, as does an SU Lunchtime group in Spittal Primary and Stonelaw High. Pray for the growth of the young people's understanding of Jesus and that God would water the seeds planted during the term.

At the end of August 3 of our young people and a few volunteers went on the joint churches weekend away in Gowanbank.

John and Susan Gordon cooked up some amazing food at this packed weekend, with lots fun and faith filled conversations.



The Lanarkshire Secondary Weekend is coming up in November on the weekend of 15th – 17th at Lendrick Muir for S1- S6. Discount vouchers are available from the church, for more info contact Andy MacArthur.

Andy MacArthur,
Church Worker

The Guild

Guild Annual Gathering

8 of our members were privileged to attend the Annual Gathering in the Caird Hall, Dundee on 8 September. Around 1,500 people arrived to experience a day of worship, friendship and fellowship.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland , the Rt Rev. Colin Sinclair and Carolyn Boyd Tomasovic were the key speakers, and both gave inspirational talks on our theme '*Companions on the Road*' . The singing and music were superb and we left feeling uplifted and also with the knowledge that we had taken part in something special.

Fund Raising

At the Guild, our chief aim is not to raise money, but ' to invite and encourage men and women to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to enable them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action ' but our fund raising activities this year have enabled us to donate £600 to the Beatson Charity, £600 to South Lanarkshire Women's Refuge and £300 each to Crossreach and Chest, Heart and Stroke, this is in addition to supporting our own church and purchasing a defibrillator.

Looking Ahead

Our syllabus for 2019/ 2020 has been prepared and will be available before the first meeting in early October. We have an interesting and varied programme for the forthcoming session so please take one and come along on any evening should a particular item take your fancy. You can be assured of a warm welcome and, of course, a cuppa and a chat with friends old and new. We meet at 7.30pm in the main hall on alternate Mondays and our opening meeting is on **Monday 7th October** when we welcome the Patterson Family who will entertain us with 'Songs from the Musicals'. We look forward to another successful year.

Catherine Nelson is the main contact for the Guild and if you want any further details about our meetings or activities please get in touch with her:

Catherine Nelson

Missionary Partner Update – Carolyn Boyd Tomasovic

Carolyn was home in Burnside recently and attended our service on 8 September and the Guild Conference in Dundee on 7 September. Here is an update from her busy life.

One Journey, Many Roads

It was a privilege to be invited to speak at the Guild's annual gathering in Dundee on the 8 September which was an inspiring and joyous day. My theme mirrored that of the Guild's 'One journey, many roads' and offered me the opportunity to share something of my own personal journey as well as that travelled with the Ecumencial Women's Initiative. I spoke about the peacebuilding and reconciliation work we do and of the many grassroots women's initiatives we have supported in which women who have identified the issues affecting them and their communities have been able to design and implement their own solutions with the resources we have mobilised.



Carolyn and Marion outside the Caird Hall, Dundee for the Guild Annual Gathering

In the 20-minute slot I was given, I also touched on some of the qualities I believe are essential to prepare us for those we meet on those challenging multi-cultural roads we travel: courage, humility and the readiness to be surprised. On the seemingly parallel roads we travel which actually intersect, it has been my experience that it is at those meeting points where the magic happens. So often, it is in the most unexpected places, with the most unexpected people, that transformation happens.

I also shared a little of the advocacy work I am increasingly engaging in, particularly around peacebuilding. Where political thinking in the West seems to be more concerned about peace and security, it is peace and justice which is commonly addressed by women in the W. Balkans and other post-war areas. This provides the building blocks for many women's groups working on issues of justice in their peacebuilding for sustainable peace often through carefully cultivated inter-religious relations. However, they are underfunded, undervalued and unacknowledged, as well as commonly labelled unpatriotic.

Much of the work in the past few months (in June I met with a subcommittee of the German Parliament) and in those ahead which include meetings at the European Commission, are about influencing decision makers. It is also about identifying allies and working together around topics of common concern such

with Pax Christi (the international Catholic peace movement) at an upcoming event in Warsaw later this year.

Sometimes the roads we travel are difficult and even when they seem impossible, God always supplies a co-traveller. Someone to help you turn the corner and show you the way, someone to accompany you on those difficult turns and twists in the roads we travel. And this is what you have all been to me and my family - our co-travellers - and for this I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for travelling with me, for your prayers, your support us, your inspiration and your assurance.

"Look, I am with you, and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Andrew Robertson – Plans for Bolivia

On the 4th of November, I will be flying out to Bolivia where I will be working with Latin Link. For the first couple of months, I will be attending language school in Cochabamba, this is something I would love prayer for. After this, I will move to Oruro and alongside the local church, I will be working mainly on two projects:

- **Angel Tree Centre** focuses on working with the family and children of prisoners, prioritising family restoration and school performance through programmes which include Christian education, psychological help and health.
- **Restoring Hope** seeks the restoration of lives affected by crime inside and outside the detention centres in Oruro through interventions based on the Christian faith. Providing pastoral visits, discipleship and restorative justice programmes.

Thank you all for your friendship, love and generous support. Please keep praying for me as I pray for you. I hope I get the chance to say goodbye to you all well.

There will be a Commissioning service for Andrew on **Sunday 6 October** in the Church as noted below and you are warmly invited to come along and take part in this service.

Andrew's Commissioning Service



At 10.30am

I would love to see you there

Please stay for lunch after the service

SC006633

6th of October
Burnside Building
2 Church Avenue
Burnside
Glasgow G73 5BX

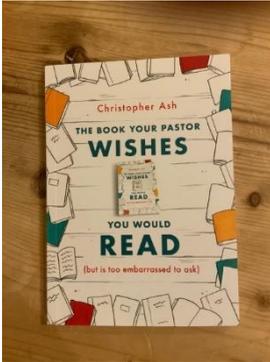
Our Missionary Partners:

Carolyn & Miro Tomasović	Croatia with Ecumenical Women's Initiative
Satish & Bhumika Chettri	India with Grace Ministries
Craig and Amanda Cunningham	Latin Link, Bolivia
Morven Collington	New Destiny, Brazil
Jerry and Stacy Kramer	Love for the Least
James Fraser	Release International
Andrew Robertson	Latin Link – going out in November 2019
Bernard and Alice Bakunda	Rhema School, Uganda
Janie Beattie	Barcelona
Murray Humphries	Nairobi, Kenya

Books

The book your pastor wishes you would read (but is too embarrassed to ask)

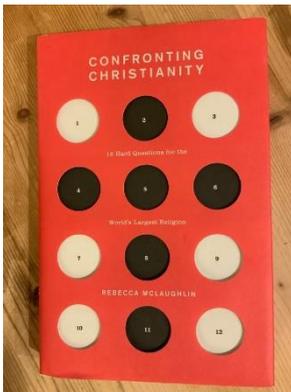
This little book will be doing the rounds of our church family over the next few weeks.



The Kirk Session have bought 10 copies, and starting with the elders, we're encouraging everyone to read it. It's short and pithy and won't take you long to get through it. Once you've read it, sign the sheet inside the front cover and pass it on to someone else, or leave it in the church library. It's all about caring for our minister, but also about our life together as a congregation of God's people. And William had nothing to do with it! It was an independent conspiracy!

"Confronting Christianity. 12 hard questions for the world's largest religion"

The church library is undergoing a revamp, and amongst the new books there is 'Confronting Christianity' by Rebecca McLaughlin.



The book considers 12 of the potential 'road blocks' to faith – the big questions around science, diversity, homophobia, suffering etc.- and deals thoroughly with each one, a chapter at a time. Instead of *road blocks*, the author invites us to see them as *signposts* to faith. Some of us had the privilege of hearing her speak about four of these themes at the Keswick Convention this year, and she is an excellent communicator in both the written word and public speaking. Each chapter in the book can be read as a 'stand alone', so even if you're only interested in some of her themes, the book is worth dipping into. The thinking behind her writing is not

only to answer our questions, but to equip us to answer those that our not-yet-Christian friends may have. This book is definitely worth a read.

Welcome Rota

Please find below the Welcome Rota for October to November.

We would love to have additional volunteers to take part in this rota – apart from welcoming, it a great way to meet the whole congregation!

Please speak to Chris Mackintosh if you feel this is something you could help with.

October 2019					Evening service
6th	Chris Mackintosh	Bobby McGregor	William Goldie	Jean Goldie	Irene Craigie
13th	Chris Mackintosh	Bobby McGregor	William Goldie	Morag McIntosh	Alan Robertson
20th	Marjorie McLennan	Bobby McGregor	William Goldie	Morag McIntosh	Neil/ Moira Hopper
27th	Marjorie McLennan	Bobby McGregor	William Goldie	Morag McIntosh	Linda Suttie

November 2019					Evening service
3 rd	Ross Galloway	Linda Suttie	Anne Forrest	Morag McIntosh	Alan Thomson
10 th	Ross Galloway	Linda Suttie	Anne Forrest	Bobby McGregor	Chris Mackintosh
17 th	Ross Galloway	Linda Suttie	Anne Forrest	Bobby McGregor	Gwen Brown
24th	Ross Galloway	Linda Suttie	Anne Forrest	Bobby McGregor	Helen Morrison

Tearfund Big Quiz

We will be hosting a “Tearfund Big Quiz” event on **Saturday 16 November** in the Burnside Building – time to be confirmed but probably 7pm.

Further information about our event will follow – but details about this initiative can be found at:

https://www.tearfund.org/about_you/fundraise/the_big_quiz_night/

Pause for Thought....

This sculpture sits in our city centre – sadly we have many “real-life” homeless people. As Winter approaches remember the homeless on our streets and the charities who work so tirelessly with them.



Homeless Jesus by Timothy Schmalz

Our **Contact** magazine and **Weekly Notes** are available to view on our website, www.burnsideblairbeth.church, under **What's On/News** tab.

If you would like to view Contact this way rather than have a paper copy delivered please send a message the office theoffice@burnsideblairbeth.church

The Sunday sermons are available to listen to on our website.



CDs of the full morning service are available to collect after the service. If you, or someone you know, would like to have a copy delivered please contact the church office.



CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF CONTACT

The deadline for copy is

SUNDAY 10 November

and will be available for distributors on

Sunday 24 November 2019

Items can be handed in to the church

office or e-mailed to the editor,

contact@burnsideblairbeth.church

Data Protection Act, 1998

It is normal practice to include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our office-bearers and other individuals in our church publications. If any person does not wish to have their personal details included they should inform the Communications Team Leader, Lesley Mackintosh.

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