

Burnside Blairbeth Church



Contact

No 157

Summer 2022

Dear Friends,

I wonder if there are certain words or phrases that you think have become devalued or overused or both. Examples which come to mind for me are “important” or “exceptional”. These are words which ought to make us pay attention, stop what we’re doing and act immediately, but because they are so ubiquitous, the temptation is to listen and nod sagely, but on their own they won’t stop us in our tracks.



There are many other words which have similarly lost their impact, and I want to suggest that for the church this is in danger of happening to the word “mission”. This is a word which should be high impact, but in truth it has become so overused, or possibly misused, that it is in danger of provoking a yawn rather than action. It seems that no meeting can pass without some reference to “mission” with the result that hearing the word can provoke apathy rather than action. Yet, if we are to remain faithful to who we are called to be, we cannot lose the word “mission” or more importantly the attitudes and actions associated with this crucial word.

One of the phrases often uttered is that “mission is what the church does”. I’m sure I need to plead guilty to using this phrase many times. We make a mistake if we start with the idea that mission is primarily our activity. The theologian Christopher Wright argues “our mission means our committed participation as God’s people, at God’s invitation and

command, in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation". He puts it in simpler terms when he says, "our mission flows from and participates in the mission of God."

If we agree that we are to participate in the mission of God, that still leaves us with the job of defining our terms. If it's God's mission, rather than the church's, we still need to know what mission means in that context. Sometimes we take the definition back to the word "send" which comes from the Latin word "mitto" – to send. There is some merit in this, since an important part of who God is can be summed up as the "sending God". He sent Jesus, He sent prophets and He sends the church. So it helps us to think of God as the sending God, but when we think about God's mission we need to think in broader terms.

This is when another context in which we use the word "mission" helps. For some time, the phrase "mission statement" was in vogue and it seemed no organisation was complete without a mission statement. That was simply a statement which summarised the purpose of the organisation. It set out to state what the organisation wanted to achieve. When we say that we participate in the mission of God we are simply participating in the purposes of God for the world. We are playing our role in what God wants to do.

I hope this helps us to see that mission is not just something that we do. When we reduce mission to "something we do" we can be in danger of confining it to a small part of church life which has to fit alongside other activities in congregational life. Rather mission is a fundamental part of our identity. We are people who have been called to participate in what God is doing in our world.

By the time you read this we will have started a series looking at the five marks of mission. These have been adopted by the Church of Scotland, alongside other denominations, as markers of what we should be about.

As we start this series it's important to acknowledge that we can't sum up mission in five short statements. These statements are a useful tool which help us think about our purposes – but as we think about them let's remember that ultimately we are called to take part in what God is doing in the world – and fundamentally that is how the word “mission” can be summarised.

Your friend and minister,

William Wilson

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on 20 April. Once again, we met both in person and online and are grateful to John Gordon, Alan Hudson, Jim Suttie and Ross Galloway for facilitating this. During the meeting it was agreed that this would be the last meeting in this format and that all future meetings will be in-person.

We have included key points from the meeting below. If there is anything, though, that you would like to speak to us about, please catch up with us at church on a Sunday morning or contact us sessionclerk@burnsideblairbeth.church. We also wanted to highlight, again, that Session meetings are open to the congregation, should you wish to join us.

Matters Arising

We reviewed the **Easter Services**. During discussions it was noted that Messy Church was a very positive event with many families attending who are not regular attendees at Sunday morning worship. It was also noted that there were some families from the Blairbeth and Spittal areas which is a great encouragement.

It was noted that there will be a **café church** service on 15th May, led by the folks from Switch.

The Moderator (William) updated the Kirk Session on the formation of the Cluster group for the purposes of developing the **Presbytery Mission Plan**. The congregations included are Burnside Blairbeth, Stonelaw, Cambuslang, and Flemington Hallside. There will be a series of meetings to help work through the Mission Plan for the Cluster. The Moderator, both Session Clerks, and Chris Mackintosh will represent the

church initially, but others may be asked to contribute from time to time depending what area of church life is being discussed.

William updated Session on the **Heating Project**. He advised Session that Heating Consultants have been appointed and will begin an assessment in due course.

Worship and Prayer

The Kirk Session spent some time reviewing **Sunday evenings**. It was noted that Chris Mackintosh intends to run another **Bible Course** and that Sunday evenings would be a good time slot to do that in. This follows on from the course that was run during lock down which received very positive feedback. William had informed Session that he has planned to use the slot on the 8th May for a **time of prayer** and that the 15th May was booked in for the **Christian Aid service**. Other ideas for how best to use the time with an intergenerational focus are welcome. Please contact William or the session clerks with these.

Safeguarding

Marjory Maclean confirmed that Adam Neil had received his PVG certificate from the Church of Scotland. Adam was approved by the Kirk Session to work with Children and Young People at Burnside Blairbeth Church

Pastoral Care

Kate Airlie updated Session on the delivery of **Easter Envelopes**. We are grateful to the 16 volunteers who helped distribute the envelopes to 108 individuals. Kate advised that she would like to do something similar again in August this year. If this is something you might be interested in helping with please speak with Kate.

Kirk Session Prayer Brunch and Stated Annual Meeting

The Kirk Session spent time in prayer on Saturday 26th February, focussing on the outcomes from each of the Teams. Leigh thanked the Kirk Session for giving up of their time to take part.

The Stated Annual Meeting took place on 20th March 22. Leigh thanked everyone who contributed to this.

Team Reports

Property

It was noted that we are still looking for someone to be the point of contact for **Health and Safety** matters. In the meantime Gary Wylie is filling this position.

William updated session on progress with the works at **11 Church Avenue**. He advised that quotes had been received from a contractor sometime ago. It was noted that the cost of the repairs may have changed due to recent price increases, however, the contract has advised that they will try to stick as close to the original quote as possible.

AOCB

Lesley Mackintosh had advised Session that she intends to run a **Bereavement Care Awareness course**. This will take place sometime in September (*see article later in this copy*).

John and Marjory Maclean advised session that they and some other families have registered to **host families** who are coming from **Ukraine**. They have suggested that it might be helpful if others are doing the same thing, that they let others know so that they might share good practice and ideas on how best to support these families.

Carolyn Sampson highlighted to the Kirk Session that we would normally rota different volunteers to help with **Summer Sunday Clubs**. However, this is becoming increasingly difficult as many who would volunteer are already on the rota or other rotas. It was suggested that the services during summer are in All-age format to ease the pressure. No decision was made, although William had asked folks to email him with any other suggestions.

The Kirk Session discussed the **Church Bible** being brought in at the beginning of the service. It was recognised that some folks in the congregation value this to help focus on God and to ready themselves for worship. It was also agreed that this was not the only method for readying ourselves for Sunday worship. It was agreed that we will try out different methods over the next few months and receive feedback on these.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday 8th June 2022**.

Leigh Galloway and Gary Wylie
Joint Session Clerks

Financial Update to 30 April 2022

- Total income of £111,921 which is £1,048 less than the same period last year. Our offerings are very much in line with last year with the overall decrease a result of the job retention scheme grant we received last year due to lockdown thankfully not required this year. However, our budgeted income for the first 4 months was £129,410 meaning we are £17,489 behind.
- Total expenditure of £125,264 which is £6,789 more than the same period last year. The main reasons for the increase in expenditure are as follows –
 - Our National Ministry and Mission costs (including our Presbytery fees) are a total of £3,260 higher for the 4 months to 30 April. Last year there was a reduction in our M&M contributions which was a result of ‘121’ reducing the annual allocation costs for all congregations due to Covid.
 - Our heat and light costs are £2,544 higher. There are 2 reasons for this – the church being more actively used than this time last year (which is great!) and a result of there being no tenant in the Church Avenue property meaning we have to pay the energy costs until there is.
- Total income less expenditure leaves a YTD shortfall of £13,343.
- The breakdown of this by fund leaves the following position as of 30 April –
 - General Fund – Deficit of £6,897 and with a brought forward surplus of £25,102, this leaves £18,205. Our National Giving Day last year raised £21,218 and we want to avoid eating into this with a deficit.

- Local Mission Fund – Deficit of £4,360. I'll be adding some additional information on this fund in my next article.
- Missionary Partner Fund – Deficit of £2,087 – please see more information below.

Area of Focus –

As I noted in my last article, this year I'd like to focus in each article on a specific area where our financial resources are utilised and why it is important that we can continue to be financially supportive. The focus of this month's article is the Missionary Partner Fund but before I highlight that further, I wanted to update you on the area of focus in my last article – the SU Sponsorship Fund. I'm delighted to report that we received gifts of £788 (including gift aid). As well as helping our young people attend the SU Lanarkshire Holiday weekend, we are now in the position to support several of them attend summer camps. Thank you for these gifts.

Missionary Partner Fund –

This year we will be financially supporting up to 9 missionary partners with their work taking place across the world. Our financial commitment this year is £37,000 with income, including gift aid, currently received totalling £10,247 and as noted above, we currently have a shortfall of £2,087.

It is a privilege for us to be able to support so many wonderful people and their organisations and we had the first-hand opportunity recently to hear Craig Cunningham speak about their time in Bolivia, the exciting work going on but also the day-to-day challenges. Each of our Missionary Partners will be experiencing the same hope and excitement but also challenges and we are blessed to be able to help them financially.

At our Communion Service on 12 June, there will be a retiring offering for our Missionary Partners. Please prayerfully consider supporting our partners and their organisations, particularly at a time of such global uncertainty. Spreading the good news of Jesus has never been more important.

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for our finances in the coming year and that we will be able to continue to meet all our financial commitments.

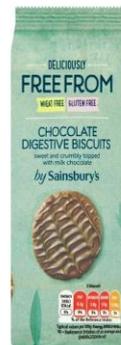
Andrew Telfer
Treasurer

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Food Notice

We now have gluten free biscuits in the tea/coffee cupboards in the gathering area - these are for everyone to use so please help yourself or offer them if appropriate.

Thank you,
Leigh Galloway



Burnside Blairbeth Guild

“Look forward in faith”



The final meeting of the session, our AGM and Social Afternoon, was held on Monday 21 March. The Office Bearers gave short reports, making reference to the curtailed session of meetings and the various changes which had, on the whole, been well accepted by the members. Membership remained steady at 70, with over 80 folks having attended at least one meeting. The average attendance was slightly over 60.

Members of the Leadership Team had previously indicated that they would be willing to serve for another year, given that they had not yet served for a full year, and this was accepted unanimously.

Fundraising Events were of necessity restricted again this year, and as a result, there were not the usual funds to distribute to the Projects at the end of the year. However, table top Christmas and Easter Sales had gone some way to help, allowing the sum of £1,000 to be distributed. Gifts were made to Burnside Blairbeth Church; the Guild Project Starchild and the local community project, LEAP.

Many of our members have helped the charity “Children in Distress” in the past by knitting items for babies - newborn babies, many suffering from Aids and called Fish and Chip babies because they were sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth. The charity has expanded their work with older children and, whilst they still appreciate the baby items, they would also be happy to receive jumpers and cardigans up to a size 26” chest. So if any of you are looking for something to keep you occupied, here’s your chance! Please contact Isabel Rowatt for further information or collection details.

Meanwhile, the leadership team is busy planning a programme for next session, and they sincerely hope that this year the Guild will be able to start in October and run for a complete session.

Catherine Nelson

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Messy Church

Good Friday Messy Church



All ages gathered at lunchtime on Good Friday in the Burnside Building.

- We brought ourselves to the table (a decorated person in our image).
- We brought our thanks to the table (a decorated cardboard cross).
- We brought our prayers to the table (written on a paper dove).
- We brought the story of Easter to the table (drawn on pebbles).

At the table (now covered in all we had brought) we remembered Jesus who loved us so much that he died for us, and that he rose again and is with us always. On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished". He had done the job he came to do and we can now be close to God forever.



Then we shared sandwiches together with nice things to drink. At the end we celebrated as we found Easter Eggs hidden around the church garden.

It was great!

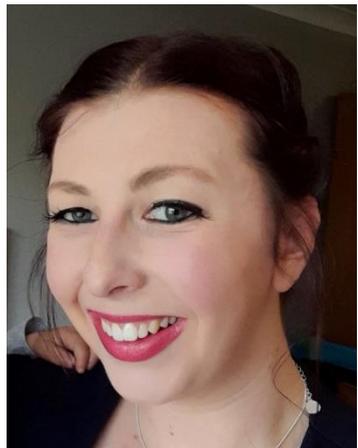
Jen Robertson



Scripture Union Update

As the new SU Ambassador for the church I am going to regularly update you on what is happening with SU.

This month SU holding a working party at Kingscross on 26th -28th May and again on the 10th June to help spruce the site up ready for camps to start. This is open to everyone and you can sign up here:



<https://www.suscotland.org.uk/events/kingscross-workparty-may/>

SU are also still looking for minibus drivers for most of the events over the summer. There is an awareness scheme which you can sign up to here <https://www.suscotland.org.uk/events/midas-minibus-driver-awareness-scheme-training-june/> if you would like to.

Closer to home there are quite a few young people from the church booked in to come to KX1 from 26th June to 1st July. We are fully booked with 37 young people but are still looking for an assistant cook and some more group leaders if you are interested in this please come and speak to myself, David Samson or Andy MacArthur about this.

It will be a great week and it's so exciting that holidays can happen again this year after a 2 year break.

Amy Samson

Missionary Partners – News

Morven Collington, New Destiny, Brazil

Morven will be speaking at our service on 19th June – below is an update about New Destiny from their March newsletter

The day we have all been waiting for!

Last Tuesday, for the first time since the pandemic began, we started our *Transformers groups* again on the farm! During lockdown we were bringing the families out for day retreats, and we also ran camps for the TF children at the end of last year but all our kids missed the *Transformers groups*. We are now able to have new kids start as well. We always say that the farm only comes alive when the children are there. It's a place that God set apart first and foremost, for them, a place where they feel at home and are free to be themselves - they absolutely love it! We have decided to give TF places to 60 children (8 to 14 years old) and we'll run camps for the ones on the waiting list.

More camps for more kids

This year we're planning to run weekend adventure camps every month, for the Transformers groups, Transformers+, the waiting list children, TF mums and TF dads. It's so exciting that we now have the big barn which was built mainly with the camps in mind.

Food for the body and soul

We've got 22 mums signed up so far for *TransforMUMS* on Monday afternoons. The idea is that they bring their empty ND bags every Monday and fill them up on the farm with the yummy cooking and baking that they have made with Margareth and Tamara. Then they take the baskets home to have with their families. There will

always be a special moment each week when they can fill up on spiritual food too if they would like to. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again". We look forward to sharing some of the mum's developing stories with you as the year unfolds.

"Killing the Missing"

In December, for the first time in over 2 years due to the pandemic, I and my three youngest children, were finally able to return to Brazil and 'kill the missing' (as the Brazilians say!). It was amazing to be back on the farm. Many of you will have shared in the excitement in 2020, when



we completed the building of the new facility on the site of our old barn, bang in the centre of the farm. One of the highlights of this recent trip was finally being able to see it! It was really inspiring to sit at that table with nature flooding in and make plans for the year ahead at ND and as you might imagine, our children and their families absolutely love it!

Worst flooding in Itarabito in years

Thank you to those of you who sent us donations for the recent victims of the terrible flooding in our local town. We were able to buy lots of bottled water, cleaning materials, rubber boots and food packages, for some of the worst affected. Most of those families were temporarily housed in nearby schools, however nearly all of them have now returned home. Our team will be returning to the families we've been

visiting with some ND care packages. The greatest needs we are seeing, however, are emotional ones, due to the trauma of losing their homes and their personal possessions and going through such a frightening and close to death experience. Some of the families have told us that we are the only ones who have stopped to sit down and spend time with them in the middle of the mess and to ask how they are feeling.

Tribute to a very Special Man

In December, my dad crossed the finishing line here on earth to spend the rest of eternity with Jesus. Dad was a spiritual father at New Destiny. He and my mum were missionaries there for the first 7 years and continued to be a much-loved part of the community for another 7 years after dad had his stroke in 2013. During his time serving at New Destiny, Dad blessed everyone around him (together with my Mum - they were a team!). During his lifetime he inspired so many people to draw closer to God and live wholeheartedly for Jesus. His other passion was talking to God and he spent hours in prayer.

One time I asked my Dad what would happen to all those prayers when he died and his answer was **Revelations 5:8** which talks about all our prayers continuing to be held safe before God the Father, until each one is answered in His perfect timing.

God bless, Morven & the ND team

Update on Kitega Community Centre in Uganda

April 2019 seems like a lifetime ago now, but that was when we were last out at Kitega. Despite that we are still receiving regular updates and there are constantly new changes so here is a wee update about the Kitega Community Centre in Uganda.

During the pandemic, the centre was affected just like the rest of us, but they worked with restrictions that were in place and kept going, giving hope to those around them. It was also a chance to stop and refocus on what they want to do in the community.



Like the rest of the world the disabled children were not allowed to come to the centre (which is their school) during Lockdown and for a lot of the children they lived in very volatile situations so the teachers are now giving 1-1 counselling to the children as well as training staff in child protection to raise awareness of keeping these children safe. The children are all now back at the centre and continuing with their learning and vocational skills.

Sign Language

Derrick the sign language instructor has been spending time with the deaf children and their families. The pandemic has given them the opportunity to teach some of the family members basic sign language to communicate with the children. Most of the guardians and siblings are excited to learn and this will improve communication.

Ebenezer Medical Centre

One of the exciting developments at the moment is the building of the Ebenezer Medical Centre in Katugulu (a village right next to Kitega- think Burnside and Rutherglen). It was hoped, the centre would be finished by the end of 2021, but like most other things it was delayed due to the pandemic. As you can see from the photos the roof is complete and just waiting on iron sheets to cover it now and electricity has also been installed for the centre.



Legal Aid

Another good development to come from the pandemic is the availability of legal aid. 85percent of the population is termed indigent because they are unable to meet costs of professional legal services. This raises the fear of widening the scope of marginalized persons if nothing is done about it. The Kitega Community Centre is a registered legal aid service Provider with a team of 3 lawyers that run it.

The Centre is blessed to have its legal aid offices up and running and servicing entire community now, basing to the community out cry for the services, the Centre has contracted a lawyer/counsel to handle and

provide legal aid support and advices to the community, this has come with a challenge of meeting some costs and court processes and fees.

The Legal Aid team have recently just won a case which involved evicting over 40 households -mainly widows and underserved in Kitega. The case was dismissed and that means the livelihoods have been secured and there is shelter for families.

This is just a whistlestop update of Kitega. There is still a new maize mill; the poultry project; teaching carpentry skills; VICOBA training and meetings; celebrating International Women’s Day and all the usually ongoing of the centre. The Centre very much live by their motto which is – **“Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can”**.

You can keep up to date with Kitega on their website

<http://kitegacc.org/> , Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/kitegacc> or our own Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofKitega>

Amy Samson

- Video teaching, written guides, diagrams, and readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself
- The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

There are eight sessions, but it may not run every week and be flexible around holidays for instance, and other events.

Here is the link to find out more or talk to someone who was at the course before. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>

Chris Mackintosh

2. Bereavement Care Awareness

In September we are planning to hold a half day training course called '**Bereavement Care Awareness**'. It is run by Care for the Family, and we're doing it jointly with Stonelaw church. We're all affected by bereavement – and those of us who have experienced this first hand will know what helped and what really didn't help at all. This half day course aims to equip us all to be better at helping each other when we're in the throws of loss, and its open to anyone who would like to attend. It will be on Zoom, **on Saturday 17th September** at 10am, finishing at 1pm.



Please do consider doing this – it would be great to feel better equipped to help each other in our church family, and our friends and neighbours in the community.

You can find out more on the Care website -

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/bereavement-support/bereavement-care-awareness-for-churches/>

Lesley Mackintosh

Announcements

Baptism

On Sunday 24 April we were joined by many of Naomi Wylie's friends and family as she was baptised by William – it was a lovely service with some hymns chosen by Naomi.

Deaths

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

Pat May

Pat May died on 30th March aged 78. He was a son of the manse and one of six brothers. Pat served in the merchant navy, before working for Colas where he spent most of his working life, responsible for sales in Scotland and the north of England.

Pat and Rene were married in 1969 and came to Burnside in 1975. He was a father to Alistair, Jonathan and Annette and he and Rene also fostered numerous children and young people.

In the church we have many reasons to be grateful for Pat. He served as an elder for decades and was passionate about pastoring those for whom he had responsibility. Over the years he taught in Sunday school, led Bible study groups, was active in the property committee and was willing to take on any job that came his way. He loved the Lord and he loved people – so a significant part of faithful service for him was welcoming and encouraging people. We are blessed to have had him

serve as an elder in our congregation and commit to pray for Rene and the rest of the family as they miss Pat.

Joy Bryce

Joy Bryce died on 19th April aged 97. She was latterly resident in Duncraggan, having previously lived in Underwood Road. Joy was the widow of Jim who died in 2001 and was a grandmother to Katie and Carolyn. For a time, Joy had owned a paint and wallpaper shop on Stonelaw Road, and when trade became difficult she reopened this as Burnside Bodega for off sales. Sailing was one of Joy's main interests and she loved being around Inversnaid. When she was able, she was a regular member of our Sunday morning congregation. We remember Gordon, Lynn, Katie and Carolyn in their loss.



Services are available on the Church Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/BurnsideBlairbeth>

And on YouTube – search for:

Burnside Blairbeth Church live stream

- CDs and/or DVDs will be available as soon as possible after the Sunday morning services and will be delivered to homes. If you, or someone you know, would like to have a copy delivered, please contact:

Kate Airlie Mob: 07787 558 790 // kate.airlie@burnsideblairbeth.church

- **Contact** magazine is 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

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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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