

Burnside Blairbeth Church



Contact

No 152

Autumn 2021

Dear Friends,

Starting again is always a thought, but it's also a routine part of the rhythm of life. This is the time of year when we normally start again – people and activities have had a break over the summer, schools have been shut for a time and when it comes to the end of August/beginning of September it's time to start again. That always brings its own challenge, but this year has challenges which are unique due to the strange and difficult circumstances of the last eighteen months or so.



Some of the challenges include the fact that, although there are fewer restrictions than there have been, there is still uncertainty about the way ahead, and what the winter may bring. Then there is the fact that we are much changed as a congregation. A significant number of people have died over the last year or so and many of these were at the heart of different parts of our congregation. Circumstances have changed for others –some have new responsibilities because a loved one requires more care than was once the case or others have a new job which has brought major changes. We have also had changes in some of the key roles in our Kirk Session – new Session clerks, a change in treasurer etc. As you can see there is much that has changed.

These changes mean that we face challenges when it comes to resources. There are significant vacancies including Christian Aid representatives, people to help in our children's and youth ministries,

looking after our property and many others. We need people who are willing to take on these responsibilities.

We face these challenges in faith. One of the repeated themes of Scripture is that God is working out His purposes and that it may sometimes be difficult for us to understand how this is happening. Many of us have our own stories of times when we have seen this in our lives. It is good to remember these stories and to tell them to others. This helps us to prepare for the hard times by giving us confidence in God based on our experience of Him.

We also face them together. Time and time again in the Bible we are pointed back to our oneness in Christ. There are numerous word pictures illustrating this, including the church as the body of Christ or the building where He is the cornerstone. In these pictures the common theme is the responsibility we have to one another. This includes caring for one another, putting each other's interests before our own, and making sure that we get stuck in by using our God-given gifts for the benefit of His church.

We face them prayerfully. To pray is a mark of placing our confidence in God while to fail to pray is an inadvertent expression of self-confidence. Praying together is a visible mark of our oneness in Jesus. One of the encouragements of the times when we have been unable to meet easily has been the number of people who have got involved in praying with others, by doing so online, over the phone, by Facetime, in small groups etc. As we start again this provides an opportunity to resolve to meet with one or two other people in prayer in a way and at a time that suits you.

We also need to face challenges realistically. Part of the realism is openness to making changes where that is necessary. Even if it were possible, it would be unwise to simply decide that we want to resume

everything as it was before. We have had to be adaptable over recent months and that adaptability needs to remain as a feature of our congregational life.

As it comes into September we are starting again, but we are continuing. We are continuing what our congregation has always sought to do, and what is at the heart of the mission of the church. We are worshipping God in Spirit and in truth and we are going into all the world to make disciples. May God help us to face whatever challenges lie ahead with these aims foremost in the life of Burnside Blairbeth.

Your friend and minister,
William Wilson

Alan Thomson, Session Clerk

You will know from Contact and our services that we are in the process of handing over the duties of Session Clerk. I will be writing a fuller tribute to Alan Thomson in the next edition of the magazine, but at this point I simply want to record my gratitude. One of the things that I have personally been grateful for throughout my ministry is I have always had people who have fulfilled all anyone could ask of a Session Clerk and much more beside. This has certainly been true of Alan who has served the Lord, the congregation, and the Kirk Session faithfully and sacrificially in the way he has fulfilled this role.

As he hands over to Leigh and Gary, I'm sure you will wish to join with me in saying thank you and giving thanks to God for this faithful service and this faithful servant. God bless you over these next weeks Alan as you complete the handover of duties.

William

The Vision for Burnside Blairbeth Church

At the last Kirk Session meeting a paper proposing a new vision was presented and adopted as the way we see God leading the Burnside Blairbeth family. We would love to give you, the congregation an insight into the vision and how it came to be.

The foundations of this paper were laid by Andy MacArthur whilst benefitting from a mentorship program called 'Growing Young Leaders'. The aim of this mentorship scheme is to serve and equip leaders in children and youth ministry in the work of raising the next generation to know Christ. Originally the vision statement was solely focused on our work with young people, children and families, but it soon became obvious that it was applicable to the full congregation. Alongside Kate Airlie and William, the vision paper was combined with the aim of the church "To know Jesus and make him known" – involving all stages and ages of the church family. The vision is built around two central aims, Discipleship and Gospel Centred Mission.

Discipleship

The aim of discipleship is to know Jesus better and draw closer to him. In all we do discipleship is the purpose that drives us and the goal we aim for as we seek to equip our all members of our congregation, at every age and stage, to live out a Christian faith confidently in everyday life and in an increasingly secular society. Stronger disciples are more eager and able to serve both within and out with the church.

We believe that to grow disciples is a Biblical mandate set by Jesus according to Matthew 28:16-20. We will purposefully look to create spaces to connect all ages together around The Bible and also build opportunities for families to connect around The Bible at home. We

believe that Church should be the best, truly countercultural example of family, where the faith of generations young and old can be nurtured and developed together. To fulfil this, we will cultivate a more intergenerational approach to our discipleship activities.

Gospel Centred Mission

We believe that the good news of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus is for everyone, and that we are commanded to share the good news (John 3:16, Mark 16:15). In what we do, we look to inspire and equip the congregation to share The Gospel with their family, friends and neighbours who are outwith the church, and at their front lines. We hope that by deepening the discipleship of our members, they will increase their confidence and capacity to share the message of Jesus our Saviour.

Next Steps

This Vision of Discipleship and Gospel Mission has implications for every aspect of our church life including:-

- Young People, Children and Families Ministry
- Pastoral Network Support and Pastoral Care
- Outreach work – through Messy Church, Alpha, coffee mornings, Little Creations, etc.
- Small groups, prayer groups and other study groups
- Support, training and recruitment of existing and new leaders
- Preaching and teaching programmes

The Vision will inform our priorities as we move on to the new shape of worship and church life post COVID, whatever that is. It will help us to

identify past activities which need redesigned before restarting and clarify which activities might not be a priority at this stage. It will help us as we decide how to allocate our resources.

But this is the just the start of a process. All aspects of church life need to be considered in light of this Vision. We are not stating that Discipleship and Gospel Mission are currently absent from our church life, this is far from true. But the focus provided by adopting and affirming this Vision will renew our commitment to knowing Jesus better and making Him know in every part of our lives and in every part of our church's life.

We are extremely excited by how God is leading us as a church family to know him better and make him better known to those around us. The vision isn't there to create more activities or groups, rather to help us reshape and re-sharpen our focus.

The Ministry Team
(William Wilson, Andy McArthur and Kate Airlie)

Notes from the Kirk Session Meeting – June and August

The Kirk Session met in June and August. A lot of the matters discussed in June had moved on considerably by the time of the August meeting and so this report brings together relevant points from both meetings, and I hope gives a good insight into matters which have been to the forefront of our discussion and decisions. (Certain items are covered elsewhere in this issue of Contact.)

ChurchSuite

Eleanor Crawford and Lesley Mackintosh have been to the forefront of following up members who have not responded. The data assembled so far has been transferred to ChurchSuite, which is the new software programme which we have acquired to assist manage practical aspects of the life of the congregation. You will be able to access your own information using an app on a smartphone called MyChurchSuite.

Property Team Leader

We still have a need for a new Property Team Leader, which is an important position in the congregation in view of the properties which are in our care.

Planning the Way Ahead

This has taken up a significant part of the meetings because of the impact of the continually changing Covid regulations. After the pattern of two services on a Sunday morning it was decided that, subject to any other developments, we would revert to having one morning service at 10.30am starting on 5 September.

Communion

It is also intended that for the first time since March 2020 we will gather as one body for Communion on 12 September. After the Communion service there will be a retiring offering for our Missionary Partner Fund.

The morning service will be back 'live' in all parts and will continue to be live-streamed for those who are unable to be in the building.

Presbytery Mission Plan

A significant consideration in our looking ahead will be the impact of the new Presbytery Mission Plan which was instigated by the General Assembly this year. As Presbytery elder, Chris Mackintosh reported that no congregation within Presbytery would be unaffected by the plan which has been necessitated by (1) the Church of Scotland not being able to afford to maintain the existing number of ministers; (2) 40% of the current incumbents being due to retire in the next five years; and (3) there being insufficient numbers coming through as candidates for ministry. It is intended that the overall plan to be implemented would be in place by November 2022. One aspect which will undoubtedly come up for consideration by the Kirk Session in conjunction with Presbytery is what purposes there are for the Blairbeth building.

A "Caring Ministry"

Kate Airlie is working with Catherine Nelson in developing a caring ministry so that we might all be enabled to better care for one another in the congregation.

Session Clerk

As has been announced I will be stepping down as Session Clerk after the September Communion and at the August meeting Gary Wylie and Leigh Galloway were 'sworn in' as joint Session Clerks. The three of us are starting to work together with a view to the responsibilities being transferred during September. If anyone wishes to contact the Session Clerk they should now do so using the email address sessionclerk@burnsideblairbeth.church.

Small Groups

These will be getting underway again and William has produced material for them to coincide with his preaching plan over the next two or three months.

There is a separate Finance report in Contact. So far as Property is concerned there have been some challenges in addition to the ongoing property matters – a retaining wall on the boundary of the Blairbeth building partially collapsed during the summer and dry rot has been discovered in the bathroom ceiling of the house at 11 Church Avenue.

Reception Cover

As we are able to open up the buildings again for use by organisations in the community, there are challenges about how best we manage keyholders and Reception cover. *(If you might be able to assist, please contact Una Neil.)*

September Kirk Session

The next meeting of the Kirk Session is on Wednesday 8 September at 7.30pm. At that meeting we will have **Mel Lacy**, who has been mentoring Andy MacArthur, speaking. It will be an “in-person” meeting and so please do join the elders that evening if you wish to hear more about what Mel has been doing with Andy and about her vision for how we disciple one another.

Alan Thomson
Session Clerk

Treasurer's Report

I want to focus and update you on two specific areas this month.

Missionary Partner Fund

We support a number of missionary partners right across the world and each year we make a commitment to support them both financially and in prayer. That support is required more than ever as the impact of Covid is continued to be felt in these places.

Our financial commitment for this year is **£37,000** and at our Communion Service on 12th September there will be an offering where you will be able to specifically make a gift to the Missionary Partners.

Church of Scotland National Giving Day

At the Kirk Session meeting on 25th August, it was agreed that we would take part in the Church of Scotland National Giving Day that is taking place across the season of Harvest. There is no obligation for congregations to take part and below outlines how it will work, when it will take place and some of the potential concerns that Session have taken into consideration before deciding to participate. I think it is important to emphasise that we have taken our decision in participating in this very seriously.

Purpose

At the General Assembly, the Church of Scotland has agreed to have a National Giving Day, at a time of their choosing, over the season of Harvest. The money received through this initiative would remain with participating congregations who would choose how to use these gifts.

The money received would not be included in our general giving on which our Ministry and Mission Contributions are calculated. To put that into context, the giving to our General Fund is assessed by the Church

of Scotland and is the basis for the contributions we make to the central church. These contributions then fund the work of the church throughout Scotland. The challenge we have faced in recent years is that as income increases, so do the contributions, however, if income falls it takes 2 years for reduced contributions to come through which can create financial challenges.

The money can be used to fund specific work, to launch a new project or simply offset deficits taking into account the financial challenges that churches will have faced over the past 12 months. It can be used locally or overseas provided it is used in line with the charitable objectives of the church.

Why have we decided to take part

- It is viewed as a positive initiative from the national church in terms of encouraging people to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times.
- It is an opportunity to pray for God's work nationally and for our fellow congregations, many of whom have suffered real financial challenges over the past 12 months.
- It is an opportunity for our congregation to give freely without the knock-on impact of what that means in the coming years for our Ministry and Mission Allocation.

What would the gifts be used for?

At this stage, this hasn't been agreed, however, it can be used for any of the following purposes –

- The funds could be used to address any potential deficit, with no knock-on impact of these funds being included in our Ministry and Mission assessment next year.
- The funds could be used for a specific project – either directly organised by Burnside or to support local outreach work.

- The funds could be used to specifically assist others overseas who have faced financial challenges during the pandemic; last year we didn't have a Harvest or Christmas offering for a charity such as Tearfund.

I would encourage you to prayerfully consider how these funds could be used and please contact me or another elder with your thoughts.

Concerns taken into consideration

I think it is important to outline some of the things we took into consideration when discussing our participation.

- The perception of another Gift Day because as a congregation we have faithfully met our obligations in recent years through several gift days and have never been afforded the opportunity that this giving wouldn't have a knock-on impact to our subsequent Ministry and Mission allocations.
- We had a Gift Day last year and we have tried as far as possible in recent years to not have an official Gift Day more than once every 2 years.
- Ensuring there is a church wide connection to what the funds are used for and ensuring this has a long-lasting impact.
- Acknowledging that members of our own congregation may have faced financial challenges over the last 12 months.

I hope the earlier part of the note confirms why we are taking part but it is important that we explain the considerations that were taken.

When will it take place?

I plan to speak to the congregation on **3rd October** to provide further information with the Gift Day taking place on **31st October**. This will be very informal with the opportunity to give by envelope or make a bank transfer.

Thank you for your continued financial support to our congregation and the work of furthering Christ's kingdom.

Andrew Telfer
Treasurer

Church Worker's Report

It is exciting to see the return of schools, and a relaxation of some regulations as we enter the new term. In terms of youth and children's work over the summer we had a quiet break, with most of our children and young people enjoying a holiday and time away, well deserved after a turbulent year.

Switch met up at the beginning of August for a social night, to reconnect after the summer holidays. We ate loads of ice cream, played games and read about on God's faithfulness in the story of Joseph as we thought about how we can experience more of God in our lives.

We are looking forward to how God will lead the children and young people this term. Going forward we are making discipleship the priority for these groups as we seek to equip the children and young people to live out a passionate faith in Jesus. Please pray that their relationship with God would deepen, that as leaders we will be equipped with all that is needed and that all of us would draw closer to Jesus this term.

Messy Church

The thing that I hear people talk about most at Messy Church is the sense of community in being together as families and people of various ages. These spaces are so important, and no doubt very much missed the last year or so. Our first time back together on Good Friday was so

special but still so strange being surrounded by masks and seated in socially distanced areas.

On 19th June Messy Church met in the park as we followed clues and did activities on a Psalm trail around Overtoun Park. Despite some worrying weather forecasts prior, it was dry and sunny. Families we hadn't seen since before lockdown joined us, conversations were flowing as families followed the trail and met around the park. There was a wonderful sense of normality in being able to have conversations and watching the children playing games together in the park.

The Psalm trail was based on Psalm 46, it declares that God is our refuge and strength. I'm sure the past year has taught many of us to rely on God more, and that he has carried us through it. It was really special to meet and do community together as a family loved and cared for by same God .

Andy McArthur
Church Worker



The Guild

Burnside Blairbeth Guild - “Going the Extra Mile”

It has been such a long time since we met together as a Guild, but as I write this article, society is making tentative steps back to some degree of normality, although many of us are struggling to find new ways of working in our personal lives as well as in our church and groups to which we may belong. The Guild Leadership Team met recently and we are tentatively planning a programme of meetings in Burnside Blairbeth this autumn, very aware that we cannot simply resume as we were before March 2020. These discussions are at an early stage, and we will let members know, just as soon as we have plans in place.

However one change, which we have been discussing, is the timing of meetings! Continuing to meet on the first Monday of October and thereafter every two weeks, we are hoping, for a trial period, from October to December initially, to change the timing to afternoons between 2 pm and 4 pm. This hopefully will make it easier for some to attend, who may have concerns about sharing transport, or coming and going alone. The idea is to try this for a time, whilst the situation is uncertain, and see how it works. Closer to the time, when arrangements become clearer, we will be in touch with all members with more precise details. So for now....watch this space!

When the Guild’s National Leadership chose the title 'Look Forward in Faith' for 2021-24 strategy, I am sure they could never have dreamt how apposite it would become. But then again, “looking forward in faith” is what the Guild has always done. Although the Church Offices at “121” remain closed, staff members from the Guild Office have continued to work from home, keeping the organisation going, issuing newsletters, supporting the projects and planning for the future.

Sadly, the Annual Gathering meeting in Caird Hall has again had to be cancelled for a second year. However, this has been replaced with a scaled-down version with a much smaller gathering on Saturday 4 September in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh, when the new Guild Projects and three year strategy will be launched. Wilma Piggot and I plan to attend and represent the members of Burnside Blairbeth.

Another piece of news is that Iain Whyte, General Secretary of the Guild, has announced his retirement from the post to take effect at the end of this year. Iain has been in post for 10 years and you may remember that Iain was one of the last speakers at our Guild in February 2020, when he spoke on “The Guild – 2020 Vision”. None of us could have foreseen what lay in front of us over these next eighteen months or so, but as we look forward to a new session, I hope we will be encouraged, seeing the Guild as a focus for faithful and prayerful return to something more “normal” and familiar. It is very appropriate that the new strategy that begins this year is “Look Forward in Faith” as there can rarely have been a time when that was more fitting.

Catherine Nelson

Letter from Cambuslang and Rutherglen Foodbank

I hope you're all well and that your congregations are able to pick up normal church life to some degree. If you're anything like me you will rejoice in the fact that we're finally able to sing again in church!

Since my last newsletter we have had a successful Food Drive at Tesco in Dalmarnock Rd. It was great to have some extra volunteers from some of the churches, and also from local businesses. Thank you to everyone involved. We received over 2 tons of food in donations which we are very grateful for.

In the first six months of this year we fed over 3,000 people, 1,175 of them children. With the furlough scheme phasing out and the extra £20 on Universal Credit coming to an end we expect the demand to rise even further.

Harvest Thanksgiving is not that far away. Last year, in spite of the restrictions, some congregations held very successful collections for us – thank you to them! Hopefully this year we will be able to have a service that is a bit more like normal.

We are very grateful for all the support churches give to us and we really value our connection with you all. Please keep us in your prayers!

Katharina Nimmo, Foodbank Manager

On behalf of the Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank Committee

Please note, we will hopefully be able to recommence a Food collection at the Burnside building again soon.

Leigh Galloway



ChurchSuite is our new database and administration tool at Burnside Blairbeth. Every person who is a member of the congregation, or an 'adherent' (someone who is part of the family without being an official member) has their data recorded in the 'address book', and if you completed one of the forms sent out earlier in the year, we also hopefully have your correct email address, mobile phone number etc. A very small team of people have access to the database, and we are currently learning how to use the software, how to make changes to it (if you change your address etc.) and how to use it to communicate with everybody. By the time you read this article, you will have received one or two emails via ChurchSuite, with the church news. Please be patient, and allow us time to get it right!

It's very important that the data we hold is accurate, and that we have your permission to store it, so if at any time you believe that your data is not correct, or you change your mind about anything, please do get in touch with the church office [the office@burnsideblairbeth.church](mailto:office@burnsideblairbeth.church)

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing you to MyChurchSuite, which allows you to access your own data via an app on your mobile phone or tablet, (or home computer) and keep it up to date yourself. We'll send out an email letting you know when we have 'switched on' that feature, inviting you to get the app, and explaining how it works, and articles in Contact will introduce you to other features in the weeks to come.

Lesley Mackintosh

Great Resource Videos

Keswick Ministries ran an excellent 3 day seminar on Faith in the Second Half in the spring. The speakers were top rate and covered a range of theoretical, theological and practical topics. Over the summer, a small group of elders joined me in watching and discussing some of these videos and our main recommendation is that more people should watch them! The links are all below (if you are reading a digital version on Contact).

If you have a paper copy it is easy to find these videos on You Tube – search for “Keswick Ministries Faith in the Second Half 2021”.

Presenter	Title	You Tube Link
Dave Field	The Theology of Ageing/Old Age	https://youtu.be/9E3qga5aDdM
Dave Fenton	Ministry to Seniors: Equipping and Empowering	https://youtu.be/3opGPIbcdXE
Roger Hitchings	Ministry to Seniors: Pastoring and Support	https://youtu.be/i-j_ATmB16Y
Pippa Cramer	Ministry to Seniors Local Church, Loving Community	https://youtu.be/RPm0FOE6a1c
Keith Brown	Ministry to Seniors: Pastoring and Support	https://youtu.be/1fOEOkh4Lvw
Louise Morse	Why God designed Old age	https://youtu.be/gmP2aQlxafs
Carl Knightly	Including Older people in Hybrid Church	https://youtu.be/CIs-6M6JLzw
Dave Fenton	Retirement and Grand Mentoring	https://youtu.be/lfF9mHjC7JA
Pippa Cramer	Local Church: Loving Community	https://youtu.be/ppmSjQzJ1q4
Louise Morse	Dementia the Essential Circles of Support	https://youtu.be/a_iXlr2QEEdQ

Presenter	Title	You Tube Link
Jeremy Marshall	Finishing Well	https://youtu.be/NK_DphTKxV4
Louise Morse	Bereavement and Loneliness	https://youtu.be/zlppOGJ2abw
Louise Morse	Dementia and Spiritual Support	https://youtu.be/1m2qLZoYKNY
Debs Fidler & Carl Knightly	Reaching Out: Why and How	https://youtu.be/-L8fdpMviEY

Please have a look, we think you will find it inspiring.

Kate Airlie, Leigh Galloway, John Hunter, Marjory MacLean.

Our Missionary Partners

Afghanistan – Prayer request

James Fraser, Release International

Following the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan there are great fears that the persecution of Christians will follow. Please pray as a matter of urgency for safety for believers inside the country – both foreign workers who remain and Afghans who have converted to Christianity.

One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members. A Christian contact of one Release partner describes the situation as ‘dire.’ Says ‘Micah’: ‘Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are.’

‘In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion.’

To be exposed as a Christian risks being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been “honour killings” of Christians by their families.

The strength of the Taliban resurgence is also likely to embolden extremists across the region putting Christians in countries such as Pakistan at even greater risk.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That Christians from the UK and elsewhere who have lived and worked in Afghanistan for the past 20 years or even longer would be able to leave the country safely.

- For protection for Afghan converts to Christianity and foreign Christians who have no choice but to remain.
- That believers in other countries such as Pakistan would not suffer as a consequence of the Taliban's return to power.

Bernard and Alice Bakunda in Uganda:

Before March 2021, the country seemed to have manageable cases of COVID 19. Lockdown was lifted and places of worship and business centres opened. This gave way to a second wave which has claimed many lives during June and July 2021.

Nevertheless, we praise God that since the beginning of August, the wave has subsidised. The lockdown will hopefully end on 31st August if the situation remains as it is today which would allow schools and places of worship to re-open.

As a family, we see God's mighty hand stretched out to protect and to heal the nations for which Christ suffered and died. By His grace, we are among those whom God has shielded against the pandemic and we cannot take it for granted. We just fall down before Him and cry.

You remember, last year between August and December, Alice had surgery and treatment for breast cancer. After series of chemotherapy etc, we almost lost hope of her recovery. Though we were conscious that God who is Immanuel would still send "His Healing Word" here in Uganda and restore Alice's normal cells, we were being advised to try other countries. It was amidst such a confusing situation, that God graciously healed Alice. So, when we did the tests in February 2021, Alice was declared cancer free. Since then she has been steadily recovering from the side-effects of chemotherapy. On 18th August

2021 Alice has had other confirmatory tests and they are negative for cancer. We therefore, testify that God's ways are higher than our thoughts and imaginations (Isaiah 55:8).

Alice continues her counselling work, supporting others who are in desperate situations. She is a living testimony of what God does! My ministry is mainly centred on communicating with God through prayer. I am becoming more aware of the fact that all that we are and hope to do depends upon God!

The rest of the family members are well. They all marvel at what God does especially to those who put their trust in Him.

Thank you for being our friends; for thinking about us and for sharing your financial blessings with us. We love you and deeply appreciate your prayers and support in many ways.

Andrew Robertson in Bolivia

I am now working and living in Oruro after spending six months in Santa Cruz where I was working in a children's home. In Oruro, Angel Tree is open again and we are continuing with home visits but hope that some of the children will be able to return in small groups in the next month or two. I am working with the prisoners, writing and delivering devotionals. I have been working with one teenager, using some restorative justice material that is designed to help him think through his crime, its impact and how he can change his behaviour. I am finding these honest conversations very interesting.

I also work in a project that supports the children of prisoners. Church is meeting in person again and I am enjoying working with the children. Schools have just reopened and hopefully we will be able to work

directly with the children. I will continue to work here until the end of the year, then I will start to head back to Scotland.

Craig and Amanda Cunningham in Bolivia

Life in Santa Cruz is fairly 'normal' again, following a severe third wave in May and June. More and more people are returning to church, though some of our 'regulars' from before the pandemic have not returned. Pray for them and pray that we would enjoy a safe and blessed new season in our respective ministries – Craig is pastor of Trinity International Church and facilitates the Langham Preaching Programme in Santa Cruz while Amanda is the short term coordinator for Latin Link. Pray for Maribel Beyuma, a Bolivian Latin Link Strider who is preparing to travel to Manchester in September to begin working with a church there.

The vaccination programme is advancing well. Please pray that this would mitigate the effects of future 'waves'.

Sam has returned to in-person classes for the first time in 18 months. It is also the first time he is in school all day, so please pray for this big change for him.

Satish Chettri in India

By the grace of God we are alive and able to praise and worship him. It's been a painful time to see so many people including Christian friends and pastors leaving us from Covid (over 350) – the situation was unimaginable, changing drastically over a few days. Many have become widows and orphans. Only God knows why this is happening. This is perilous time as scripture says - we thank God He is still on the throne –

none can challenge Him and His sovereignty. We saw the rays of hope of God's saving grace in the midst of the darkness .

We are trying to help as many as possible. I prayed as I want to be a blessing to the families of covid19 victims in Delhi and other parts of India by providing groceries and some immunity products. In May we started a project called CARES (**Covid Aid & Relief to Encourage & Serve**) which has allowed us to help many families in need, homeless people and street kids. We trust in the Lord for the provision.

Our family are doing well. Joash and Jerusha help the Grace kids in the orphanage. Their studies are online.

Jerry and Stacy Kramer, Northern Iraq

We are currently living and working in N. Iraq where there are still 1,000,000 refugees from ISIS and the Syrian Civil War. The average stay in a UN refugee camp globally is 18 years. Conditions in camp are simply inhumane. We are presently looking for unmet needs. We have Believers and Discovery Groups among the refugees in this camp. Several new believers have been baptised recently and further training of new believers is taking place. Pray they share and multiply. We have held an eyeglass clinic for Syrian refugees in Camp Badarash. We were able to pray with them while they waited and they loved it. Next up is a diabetes/hypertension clinic. We are also taking English classes. Please pray as we have resumed training for our new local Gospel workers in the far north

The local team has pioneered sustainable, replicable trauma care for refugees. Trauma care and food remain their greatest needs. An academic study is underway to document the work and make it available to other NGOs working with refugees in the region. The local

team has also planted 44 churches in Iran with more churches in Iraq and work starting in Syria.

Four of us will be in East Africa from 28 August - 10 September to undertake discipleship training in Tanzania and the Islamic Republic and spend time with the 400+ orphans. The Father Jerry Academy in W Kenya is going well. Having started with 7 volunteers under a tree, we now have a fully accredited school for orphans and vulnerable children where the students are outperforming government schools. They had zero hope in life other than chronic, desperate poverty. Today they are making their way through to college, university and technical schools.

Please continue to pray for the work of Love ForThe Least.

Carolyn Tomasovic in Croatia

Now recovered from Covid, the family are all well and back on their feet. As in Scotland, there has been some relaxation of pandemic-related measures, which means we have been able to launch 45 new community projects across the region. Initiatives are broad and diverse ranging from breaking the isolation and poverty of women living with disabilities in rural areas to bringing women of different faiths together around topics of common concern such as rising levels of violence in society and developing ways to combat issues affecting them and their families. I am also part of a working group set up by the Church of Norway exploring new approaches to inter-faith dialogue in the W. Balkans and will be facilitating a couple of roundtables with women believers in the autumn. The financial support we have received from the church family in Burnside has been amazing and we are so very grateful for your prayers, care and encouragement without which much of what we are doing would not be happening – thank you all.

Morven Collington and New Destiny, Brazil

Despite the situation in Brazil is still very uncertain with Covid variants on the rampage however the team have resumed a lot of their work in the community, providing practical and emotional support to the most vulnerable families and fun challenges for the children, as well as regular food packages for those most in need. They are also running family retreats on the farm several days a week. Morven continues as Director of New Destiny from their home in Glasgow.

Janie Beattie in Barcelona

Restrictions in Barcelona are being relaxed and work at the mission has resumed although I was unable to attend the camp for health reasons. Hospital visiting is still not possible, however I am keeping in touch by phone with some patients and staff. Church has reopened and most activities are taking place again. I've has enjoyed watching the services from Burnside Blairbeth on-line and have also joined the Monday evening small group via zoom.

Marjory MacLean

Announcements:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5: vs 4

Netta Murdoch

Janet Murdoch (known as Netta) died on 5th July aged 91. She spent her life around Rutherglen and married Joe who ran the Burnside pharmacy. Her children were Karen and Campbell. Netta originally worked in the wages department of LMS railway. She went on to work in the pharmacy and when Joe became ill, and then died, Netta went on to run the pharmacy. A significant portion of Netta’s life was spent looking after others – firstly her mother, and then during his illness, Joe. Netta retired from the pharmacy to help looking after grandchildren. Late on in an enjoyable retirement Netta developed dementia but was able to remain at home, until her death, with the support of family and carers.



Ann Gardner

Ann Gardner died on 15th July aged 98. She spent her life around Rutherglen and was one of a family of six siblings. After leaving school she worked in a bakery until she met her husband Walter (who died in 1980). Later on she went back to work at Pullers of Perth on Mill Street. Ann and Walter had four children – James, Walter, Bobby and Caroline. Their son Walter died in 1970 while Bobby died in 2007 which obviously was hard for Ann, although she dealt with this sadness resiliently. Ann lived in Blairbeth for over 40 years and was part of the



Blairbeth congregation. When services finished at the Blairbeth building Ann worshipped faithfully at Burnside. She was a quiet unassuming lady who enjoyed her children and great grandchildren.

Beth Dempster

Beth Dempster was one of three children and during the war she was evacuated to Kirkcudbrightshire. When she returned to Glasgow she went to Hyndland school where she was part of the Girls Training Corps and this led to her becoming part of the WRNS reserves. Beth met Ronald while working for Scottish Mutual Assurance and they married in 1956. Beth was active in Burnside church and the community. She was mother to Alan and Ian and was extensively involved in the Scouts parents' group. She was a guide at the cathedral and was part of the Glasgow lace group. She was also part of the young wives' group at church and went on to be president of the Guild twice. She helped at the Lodging House Mission and was also part of the Friday morning Bible study and Monday afternoon bowls. Although Beth's death seemed sudden, she knew that this was a likely scenario and was ready for it in every way.



Ruth Elworthy

Ruth Elworthy died on 14th July aged 93. She grew up in Thornliebank and her first job was in the tax office. However she believed that she was called to be a nurse and trained at the Victoria Infirmary before going to work in London as a midwife. Her happiest years were those spent working in Hong Kong as a midwife. She settled in Burnside in 1965 following her marriage. She became part of Burnside church at this point and was mother to Richard and Pamela. She returned to work at the Western Infirmary and the Victoria and she had good friendships from these times. She was interested in the arts and was good at languages. Ruth was part of the Burnside community council, the autumn club, participated in the church arts and crafts group as well as being part of a Bible study group. She was a proud grandmother to Craig. She managed to remain in her own home, although she spent substantial amounts of time in hospital during her last months.



Ian Wallace

On 28th May 2021 a small number of folk (including three fellow Scouts from Ian's time in the 113 Burnside Scout Troop---William Goldie , Ian Dart and Bob Howieson) gathered at Linn Crematorium for the funeral service for Ian Wallace who died on the 1st of May in Abbeyfield Care. Some may recall Ian was at one time the Lollipop Man (School Crossing Patrol) at the top of Dukes Road. Ian married Sheila Duncan in October 1992 at Stonelaw Church but sometime later transferred membership to Burnside. They had no family.



Ian was a kind and considerate soul who shopped daily for many of the Abbeyfield residents, by whom he was held in high regard. He was described as having a heart of gold. His personal faith was sincere and genuine.**Note of Thanks**

Sandra, Kenneth and Pamela Monaghan wish to thank most sincerely, the Minister and all who messaged them, visited them, sent cards and beautiful flowers following on the passing of Peter (dear husband and father). they have been overwhelmed and gratefully appreciate the many kindnesses shown to us at this time.

Peter was diagnosed with a terminal illness, which was bravely borne by him, almost a year prior to his passing. He died in the QE hospital with his family by his side on 20 June. He is, and will be, sorely missed by many.

So many lovely people, so many kind words

Sandra Monaghan



During this Lockdown period sermons 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 live 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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