Burnside Blairbeth Church

Contact



August 2026

Contact Details:

Articles can be emailed to the editor at:
contact@burnsideblairbeth.church

The Minister
Rev William Wilson
Mob: 07951 127 417
Email: william.wilson@burnsideblairbeth.church

Pastoral Assistant
Kate Airlie
Mob: 07787 558 790
Email: kate.airlie@burnsideblairbeth.church

Enquiries to the Church

The Office
2 Church Avenue,
Burnside G73 5BX
Tel: 0141 634 7383
Email: theoffice@burnsideblairbeth.church

Website: www.burnsideblairbeth.church
Charity Number SC006633

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Month	Deadline	Ready to issue
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March 2027	28 Feb	14 March
May 2027	23 May	6 June
August 2027	13 August	27 August

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Dear Friends



Spiritual practices or spiritual disciplines are currently in vogue in some circles. Around two years ago a Christian in her twenties noted "Just a short few years ago, if I had told my non-Christian friends that I had just embarked on a three-day silent retreat in the middle of the Kent countryside, I'm not sure how they would have responded.

Probably their replies might have been characterised by a mixture of polite nods and more honest members of the group saying, "that sounds a little weird", "boring" or "a bit too religious for me" ... "but I'm glad you enjoyed it". However, earlier this year after returning from staying with a small community of benedictine nuns, with no phone signal, basic accommodation, and the reciting of prayer from the Divine Office the only thing to keep me entertained, the response from my friends was overwhelmingly positive: "that sounds so peaceful", "so glad you spent time away from your phone and other distractions" and "I would love to do something like that".[1]

One trend which has emerged is of people who engage in spiritual practices without expressing much interest in God. The Evangelical Alliance are trying to use this as an evangelistic opportunity, starting where people are and tapping into their interest in these practices to introduce them to Jesus.

I suspect for many of us who have been Christians for a long time, we might sum up our our spiritual disciplines as "quiet time" (Bible reading and prayer) and worshipping at church. These are both fundamental in living and growing as Jesus' disciples but are not the only disciplines mentioned in Scripture.

Fasting was a discipline undertaken by Jesus. Although it was part of the Jewish religious culture, if it was embraced by Jesus that suggests it's useful for those who follow Him. It reminds us of our dependence on God for even the basic things in life (food), by weakening us it points us to our weakness without Christ, it reminds us of Jesus as the bread of life. Fasting isn't necessarily only abstinence from food – one of the ways in which this discipline has been adapted is in the "digital detox" where we deliberately remove ourselves from our devices for a period.

The example which began this article referred to a retreat. More than once we read of Jesus taking himself away from people so that He could spend time with His father. The intentionality behind this practice is one of its strengths – we are saying that even when we are alone, God is with us and we are acknowledging that communing with God is our most important communication.

There are disciplines we can introduce into our prayer life which may help us. The Daily Examen is part of Ignatian spirituality which is practiced at the end of each day and can be summed up as follows –

1. **Become aware of God's presence.**
2. **Review the day with gratitude.**
3. **Pay attention to your emotions.**
4. **Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.**
5. **Look toward to tomorrow.**

I have just scratched the surface of "spiritual disciplines." There are many more which could have been included, and which are found in Scripture. They may have become fashionable again, but authors such as Richard Foster and Dallas Willard advocated for their disciplined use over many years. The latter wrote extensively of spiritual formation describing it as "spiritual formation in Christ-likeness."

That brings us back to a fundamental point about spiritual disciplines. They are tools for drawing us closer to God and for making us more like

Jesus. Spiritual practices without Christ at their heart may lead to short term improvements in wellbeing (the reason they have become fashionable), but they cannot transform our lives. Only Christ can do that through the Holy Spirit. Jesus must be at the heart of spiritual disciplines.

With that cautionary note however, we would do well to think about living disciplined lives as followers of Jesus. Dallas Willard notes "The disciple is one who, intent upon becoming Christ-like and so dwelling in His faith and practice, systematically and progressively rearranges their affairs to that end."[2] We could do worse than undertaking the occasional retreat, fasting, or some of the other practices we see in Scripture.

Your friend and minister,

William

1. The spiritual practices: overly religious, self-care obsessed or a better way to live? - Evangelical Alliance
2. Dallas Willard – The Great Omission

Finance

Finance Report
7 months to 31st July 2026

Please see below the summary and key points for the first 7 months to 31st July.

Income

Offerings

- Offerings totalled £156,576 – 4% more than last year but 10.1% less than plan.
- Increase across each of the 3 main funds compared to last year which is very encouraging. Thank you for your continued financial support.
- We will need to see additional income coming in for the Local Mission Fund and Missionary Partners Fund to directly address any shortfalls in the coming months.

Other income

- The year-to-date position is being supported by other income. This includes a legacy of £6,000.
- We have also received £3,231 which is interest on the consolidated fabric fund balance that is sitting with the Church of Scotland and this can be used for our general running costs.

Expenditure –

- Overall it is in line with last year. Key points to note –
  - The outstanding balance due to the Church of Scotland for last year has almost been repaid in full and at the same time we have been making our monthly payments for our contribution this year.
  - Other running costs all as expected with a focus on ensuring all our costs are being well managed.

- Fabric expenditure - £31,025 – includes the major repairs to the wall with the consolidated fabric fund covering the cost of this.

Fund Position

- Overall, a healthier position than we've seen recently due to additional income and being able to fund a lot of our fabric spend from the Blairbeth proceeds.
- General Fund has a surplus of £5,321 and it is important we can maintain this.
- Local Mission Fund – deficit of £6,633 – please pray for the important work that is covered through this fund – namely our employees and our support for the Reachout Trust.
- Missionary Partner Fund – deficit of £807 – Marjory will continue to update us all on the critical work that our Missionary Partners undertake.
- Consolidated Fabric Fund balance of £127,992 which we are drawing down on for our fabric spend.

Please continue to pray for the finances of our church – both locally and nationally and give thanks for the gifts that we receive. Please pray these gifts are used wisely by all those responsible for doing so.

Andrew Telfer
Treasurer

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Burnside Blairbeth Guild
"Beyond the Walls"

After a long summer break, Guild members are looking forward to a new session of meetings when we can gather together again, renewing friendships and fellowship together. The Guild theme for this year is "Beyond the Walls" – encouraging us to reach out and seek to build relationships with others within and outside our church fellowship.

In June, a group of us attended the Guilds Together meeting in Clincarthill Church, when we heard a report on developments following the General Assembly and an update on the four Guild Projects, which have already raised almost £272,000 for the work of the Scottish Bible Society, Crossreach, Release International and a local mission in Bulgaria. Rev Stuart Love concluded the meeting with an informal communion service.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death in recent weeks of two of our long-standing members, Liz Drummond and Jeanette McAslin. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those most closely affected by their deaths – family members, friends and colleagues of long-standing.

Sunday 13th September is "Guild Sunday" and there will be reference to this during our morning worship. Guild Leadership Team members will be on hand with our new syllabus. We will continue to meet in the sanctuary on alternate Monday afternoons between 2 pm and 4pm starting with a musical afternoon on the 5th of October with the Caledonian Fiddle Group and on the 20th of October, our minister William Wilson will speak on our theme "Beyond the Walls". We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at these meetings – all are most welcome!

Catherine Nelson

Pack up your Troubles

On Tuesday 28th July we welcomed 80 people to our summer afternoon tea.

This year it was themed "*Pack up your Troubles"*, a celebration of the early 20th century. Costumes varied from Suffrgettes to Land Girls, Edwardian Ladies and even Biggles. There were competitions and prizes, and a singalong to songs of the era.

Traditional lemonade was served on entry followed by a wonderful afternoon tea. The highlight of the afternoon was an amazing musical interlude featuring the Paterson and Telfer families.

A retiring offering enabled us to send a donation of £600 to Operation Smile, a charity which offers hare lip and cleft palate surgery to children overseas.

Marjorie Maclennan



More pictures from Pack up your Troubles





Summer 2026

Kingscross 1

In the first week of the summer holiday 45 young people, who have finished P5 to S3, from across Scotland, joined a team of about 30 leaders in Kingscross in Arran for one of the first SU Holidays of the summer. The theme of our camp was Sports and we had lots of sports themed decorations around site.

On Monday and Tuesday there are 3 activity sessions and on Wednesday there are 2 activity sessions. For these activity sessions the young people sign up for activities they would like to do including baking, crafts, rugby, desert island challenge, Nerf, film making, football, science experiments, archery and many more. One of the highlights of the week from the young people was power boating. For this activity they walk to a pontoon about 15 minutes from site and then speed round the Holy Isle in a speedboat. There are usually lots of squeals of delight as you see them speeding off. Unfortunately it was too wet for gorge walking to go ahead this year as this is usually very popular too.

On Wednesday morning we had an all together camp time where we raised some money for the SU International Project which helps to raise money to run camps in other places in the world. Votes for Soak the Leader were very popular and helped to raise lot of pennies. There were lots of other things to do too like nail painting, beat the goalie, mini golf, ring toss and other fairground style games. On Thursday we start the day with our teaching time as we then have our day trip to Brodick. The young people have a chance to have a wander round the shops and then we all

meet together for lunch and then go to the Auchrannie for swimming and time in the games hall. On the Thursday night we had a (thankfully dry) BBQ followed by a camp murder mystery.



Slip 'n' Slide

This year we used the Mark Gospels produced by the Scottish Bible Society to base the teaching on. The aim of the teaching session was to take the young people on a journey, seeing Jesus with fresh eyes through the book of Mark and daily asking "*who is this man*?"

The teaching times were interactive and each day there were different stations that the young people choose to go to explore the story more. These stations were crafts – creating something related to the story that they could take home to remember the story; prayer – this gives them time to reflect on the story and pray about what it means and how it can impact their life; talking – this station was a chance to slow down and reread the story and ask any questions about it thinking about what stood out to them or bits they weren't sure of and the last station was your move – a drama based station to re-enact the story in different ways. The feedback from the young people about the Bible time was very positive and lots said they felt closer to God because of these times.

There was large group of people connected to the church who were at camp and that was so great to see. John Gordon and his kitchen team fed us very well over the week and we were never hungry although I wouldn't want to be peeling all those potatoes!

Over the week the weather was not too kind to us and we saw rain every day, but despite this we still managed to put the “slip’n’slide”up and also had our bonfire complete with silly bonfire songs and smores. I don’t think the young people would even remember that it did rain as they had so much fun. There was a lovely family feel to camp and despite the rain and midgies the young people have all said they would love to come back next year, which is great news.



Magnitude 2026

Magnitude is Scripture Union Scotland's annual summer youth festival at Lendrick Muir, bringing together around 2,700 young people from different churches and denominations across Scotland.

This year, we took five young people along for the full event, having previously attended for a day last summer. It was a brilliant week filled with sunshine, laughter, fun and plenty of time together.

Most importantly, it was a week where the young people had the opportunity to encounter God through the worship, teaching and time spent with other Christians. It was great to see them getting involved, enjoying the week and growing in their faith. A really memorable week was had by all!

Andy Macarthur

Magnitude 2027 will take place from the 24th -28th July. "



Scoughall SU holiday 2026

Since the 1950s, young people from all over Scotland have been going to Scoughall as part of an SU holiday. The site has changed, but the spiritual significance of the place has not. Thousands of young people have come to know Jesus at Scoughall.

This year, in 2026, during the fifth week of the summer holidays, many young people from Burnside Blairbeth Church, along with some leaders, were there once again to meet with Jesus. Three or four young people started to follow Jesus for the very first time. Many others wanted to read the Bible more and to find out how they can hear from Jesus through it. Others wanted to be prayed for and find the help they needed to keep on growing in Jesus.

I sat with a group of eight 11 to 14-year-old boys on the last night. These young men wanted to talk about the Bible. They wanted to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. At the end of the group time, every one of them prayed out loud for each other: that we would keep going with Jesus, and that in the difficult situations in our lives we would know the Holy Spirit working in us.

We worshipped together, we played games together, we went to the beach and built volcanoes together. We also got to know Jesus better through the Bible. We were looking at Mark's Gospel and how God's words change us. God's words call us. God's words challenge us.

Thank you for your prayers. Your prayers are an essential part of an

SU holiday like the one at Scoughall. Please pray for the 95 people who were on site—the leaders and the young people—that through the winter months we wouldn't think we left Jesus behind at Scoughall, but that we would know him with us every step of the way.

Jen Robertson









Keswick

Every year from the middle of July until the first week of August, The Keswick Convention meets over three separate weeks in that beautiful Lake District town.

This year, quite a few people from Burnside Blairbeth were there for one of the weeks, enjoying daily seminars, bible teaching sessions, sung worship led by excellent bands, as well as the opportunity to take 'time off' in the stunning countryside and by the lake.

As well as all these events, there are groups for children and young people, a superb bookstall, stands with representatives of various Christian organisations and missions, and all sorts of opportunities to explore faith and opportunities for service. This year was the 151st year of the convention, and incredibly it has always been free to attend – there is of course a cost, and you are made aware of that, but the ability to pay is never allowed to be a barrier to taking part.

Next year's convention starts on **Saturday 17th July and runs until Friday 6th August**, with the theme "Rend the heavens". Maybe you might like to think of including one week in next summer's plans?

Find out more by following this link to watch a short video https://tinyurl.com/bdh62c53

Lesley Mackintosh

Small Groups @ Burnside Blairbeth Church

More people than ever are meeting in small groups. But why a small group?

Some people may think of church as a place where you sit, listen, and sing on a Sunday morning, but church was intended to be much more.

So, in small groups we get together to chat about the sermons and teaching from the previous two weeks , often with a cup of tea or coffee.

In small groups we learn about each other, learn from each other, learn about the needs of others and try to find ways of contributing (both those in the groups and beyond). The basis is friendship, interaction, Biblical teaching and prayer.

Generally, we meet fortnightly and here are the groups. You will be very welcome. Please get in contact with either someone on this list for a specific group, or with Chris Mackintosh

There is a group at the Macleans house, on alternate **Mondays** from 13th September.

Email: Marjory.maclean@ntlworld.com

John and Anne Hunter host a **Monday** group alternating between Zoom and "in person" meetings and a Tuesday group which is always on zoom. These carry on all year. Contact John on 07514532199 for details.

There is a small group in church, alternate **Tuesdays 7.30 to 9pm**. Dates will be on church calendar (link)
chrismackintosh27@gmail.com

A men's group on **Tuesdays** hosted by Gary Wylie and Ross Murray, often at Gary's home in Brownside Road, but varies so contact Email: gandrwylie@hotmail.co.uk or Email: ross_reachout@yahoo.co.uk for details. Or contact Gary on 07736 935796 who can add you to the WhatsApp group.

A women's group hosted by Carolyn Sampson, on alternate **Wednesday** evenings starting on Wednesday 26 August. Contact Carolyn for details at carolynsampson@rocketmail.com

A **Thursday** morning group is starting this autumn, organised by Kate Airlie. It is intended for people who find coming out in the evening somewhat difficult. Please contact Kate for up-to-date details – Email: kate.airlie@burnsideblairbeth.church or Mob: 07787 558 790

Andy McArthur, Ross Murray Laura Hutchinson and Jen Robertson are involved with small groups for young people. Email: andy.macarthur@burnsideblairbeth.church

We look forward to your company!

Chris Mackintosh

Email: chrismackintosh27@gmail.com

Missionary Partners

Satish & Bhumika Chettri,
Grace Ministry & Grace Children's Home India

Satish and Bhumika are based in West Bengal at Grace Children's Home which they established to care for orphans. They work tirelessly to promote the Gospel. Their work includes preaching and teaching in local churches; church planting; helping widows; grass roots' training for untrained pastors and mentoring and training young pastors at Reapers' Courses; outreach to children and teens; counselling for struggling couples and families and many other forms of outreach and support.

For 5 years Satish and Bhumika have run an annual celebration in Kalimpong for widows (believers and non-believers), who are often forgotten and abandoned. In June they shared a message of hope and love, provided a tasty lunch, gave gift and prayed for the women. They value our prayers as they reach out with Christ's love. Bhumika runs literacy, skills and evangelism classes for women, many of whom are widows, illiterate and abandoned. After 9 months training, women who were illiterate were able to read and write.



Bhumika teaching

In August Satish was speaking at a vacation Bible school (VBS) in Jaigaon. 165 children from 15 churches attended. Satish asks for prayer for this mission.



Persecution

Satish says “Many years ago we heard about severe persecution in other countries. Now we see it in our vicinity. Soon many of us might have to go through it, nevertheless we have a living hope through Jesus our Lord, and continue to embrace every opportunity to teach and preach, with an alter call after every meeting.” Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven Matthew 5:10:

Three pastors were recently shot dead in Manipur bringing immense grief to the Christian community. Satish prays that the Lord grants strength, comfort, and peace to those who are grieving and prays that peace, justice, and reconciliation will prevail in Manipur.

Satish and Bhumika ask us to continue to pray that their small and humble efforts will bring glory to God. “Thank you for being a blessing in our lives and ministries, and for continued prayers and encouragement. It means a lot.”

Satish

Voice of the Persecuted Church (formerly Release International) with James Fraser

On Tuesday 27th Oct, 7.30pm we are hosting an evening at which visitors from Egypt will share more about the project "Operation Hope" which the Guild are supporting. Our mission partner James will introduce the talk and discussion, after which there will be refreshments. All are welcome.



Announcements

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' Revelation 21:4

Isobel Scrimegeour



Isobel Scrimgeour died on 14th July aged 89. She grew up in Whitburn and, after a short time working in a shop, trained to become a psychiatric nurse. During her working life, Isobel worked in Glasgow, Bothwell and Lanark, including time spent as a manager in a hospital for children with mental handicaps.

Isobel was married to Sandy who died in 2017 and she was mother to Shona and Gail. She also loved being a grandmother. During her retirement she enjoyed holidays in the sun and was a stalwart in Burnside Bowling Club. She loved being around family and as a great baker was very hospitable. Isobel enjoyed taking her turn providing and arranging the flowers for the church. We give thanks for her faith and longstanding membership of our church while committing her family to God in prayer.

Elizabeth Drummond



Liz Drummond died on 28th July. She was an only child who grew up in Langside. Liz attended Glasgow High School and at the age of four began attending the Ommar school of music where she learned piano and singing. After Glasgow High school, Liz went to RSAMD. Her original ambition to go to New York for opera training but illness prevented this.

Liz's father worked in tin mining in Malaysia, and he was keen that she should have the chance to travel. She went to South Africa where she lived with an aunt and she would have loved to stay there, but as an only child felt a duty to come back to her parents. She toured with an opera company in the Persian Gulf and travelled in Europe.

Liz taught music in Hillhead High, Whitehill Senior Secondary School and was head of the music department in Cathkin High. She met and married David Drummond who was an English teacher.

David died in 1995 and this led to Liz's involvement with Marie Curie cancer care for whom she became an ambassador and tireless fundraiser. She loved her garden.

Liz came to Burnside Blairbeth from Cambuslang Old church. She was involved in the Guild including serving as President, was part of the Thursday afternoon arts and crafts group and loved the Tuesday coffee morning.

Although Liz did not have children, she was an enthusiastic godmother to Colin Beckett and a close friend of Iain Hewitt. We

give thanks to God for Liz and for the part she played in the life of our church.

Janette McAslin



Janette McAslin was born in Cambuslang and was one of seven children. Her parents died when she was relatively young and so she felt responsibility for her younger brother.

She married Iain in 1957 and part of her working life was spent working in the shops owned by Iain's father. Later in life she worked in a dental surgery in Cambuslang before finishing her working life working at Rutherglen Health Centre.

Janette loved being a mother to Stephen and Alison and when she became a grandmother was heavily involved in providing childcare for her grandchildren. Later her love of babies found a further outlet with the birth of great grandchildren. She loved being with people and when she became housebound the family were very grateful for her supportive church friends.

Janette's faith was fundamental to who she was. She was a Sunday school teacher, was involved in the Guild and was committed to everything she undertook. We give thanks for her life and commit her family to God in prayer.

Services can be found on YouTube – search for:
Burnside Blairbeth Church live stream

CDs 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: The Office or John Maclean

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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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.

Burnside Blairbeth Church
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