

Burnside Blairbeth Church



Contact

No 163

Summer 2023

Dear friends,

The question “are you are a gardener?” is an interesting one. It would be a stretch to describe someone who cuts the grass and hedges, spends a few hours every few weeks pulling out weeds and very occasionally puts in some plants, as a gardener (although it might be describing William Wilson!).



A real gardener is someone who derives real pleasure from regularly spending hours weeding, planting, pruning, imagining what would be particularly beautiful and so on. I know that we have a significant number of true gardeners in our congregation. As someone who would make no claims to being a gardener, I can see that this area of creativity is another example of being made in the image of God.

The human story begins in a garden and throughout the Bible we regularly encounter the picture of God as the gardener. What do these pictures tell us about God and ourselves?

Firstly, God derives pleasure from His creation and enjoys companionship with humans. In Genesis we have the picture of the Lord walking in the garden at the cool of the day. He enjoys the world that He has created and being in that world, just as a gardener enjoys spending time admiring the colours and smells of their garden throughout the different seasons. Those of us fortunate enough to have a garden discovered afresh the pleasure of spending time there with friends and family during the pandemic. In Genesis the writer paints a picture of God’s normal practice of coming to the Garden of Eden and chatting with Adam and Eve because He has made humans for companionship with Himself.

The Old Testament prophets used the picture of God's people as being like a "well-watered garden" (Isaiah 59;11, Jeremiah 31; 12). Working on the assumption that God is the gardener, this is a reminder that God cares for His people. Indeed Jesus makes this explicit with His teaching in John 15 where He describes himself as the true vine and His Father as the gardener.

There he describes the way God cares for those who are Jesus' disciples. The emphasis is on making us fruitful. This has often been represented as winning others to follow Christ, but I think that is only part of what Jesus is talking about here. At its heart Jesus' message here is about being like Him. Throughout John 15 He refers to His own example and then challenges us to follow that example. Fruitfulness can be summed up as being Christ-like and God will do whatever is required to make us fruitful. He uses some gardener's jobs as examples – pruning, throwing away rubbish and so on. The desired result is that we might "bear much fruit, showing yourself to be my disciples ((John 15;8).

Then there is the garden as the place of recreation and restfulness. In difficult times, when under pressure, some people dream of having the time and resources to relax in their garden.

Amos finishes his prophecy with God's promise "I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit." (Amos 9;14). Our destination as God's people is the new creation where God has made all things new. At the heart of the picture of the city of God described in Revelation we have Eden restored. The word garden may not be used but the implication is clear. We are meant to understand that where Adam and Eve were banished from Eden when they sinned, because of the work of Jesus' His followers will be restored to the garden in the heavenly city as the handiwork of our heavenly Father, the master gardener.

When you're next doing some gardening why not spend some time thinking about how what you're doing in the garden might teach you about God the gardener. When you take pleasure in your garden give thanks for the pleasure that God takes in creation and His companionship with us. Pray that He will make you fruitful. Yearn for Eden restored, not by idly dreaming about it, but by remaining in Jesus.

Enjoy the garden,

Your friend and minister,

William

Financial Report

Our financial position continues to be challenging and one that the Finance team and Kirk Session are monitoring closely and reviewing further in June and after the summer.

As things stand, our income won't meet our expenditure requirements meaning that we face a shortfall across our 3 main funds. At this stage in the year, it is difficult to tell exactly what that may be as there are several moving targets, such as how much of our fabric budget we will spend. Our expenditure has continued to increase and is no different to any individual or organisation at the moment and therefore, it is our responsibility to manage our resources and ensure they are used properly and to their full benefit. However, we cannot do that alone, so please continue to pray for the Finance team and Kirk Session for the wisdom and guidance to make the correct decisions both in the short and long term.

To address the expected shortfall, we will have a Gift Day in October/November and after the summer I will be providing more information on what the financial needs are.

As a reminder – our 3 main funds that we need to ensure we have enough income for are –

- General Fund – this fund covers the day to day running costs of the church as well as our contributions to the Church of Scotland.
- Local Mission Fund – this fund covers the work of our Church Worker, Pastoral Assistant and Facilities Coordinator along with supporting the important work of the Reachout Trust.
- Missionary Partners Fund – for each of the partners that we support and that we can continue to do so this year and beyond.

I would also like to thank the congregation for the additional financial support that was received following the Annual Stated Meeting for the SU Fund. This money will ensure we can financially support our young people going to camps over the summer.

Andrew Telfer
Treasurer

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Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 19th April. We have included key points but if there is anything else that you would like to speak to us about, please email us - sessionclerk@burnsideblairbeth.church

Matters Arising

We reflected on the Easter services and how blessed we were to share with our neighbours in Stonelaw. It was also wonderful to see so many attend our Messy Communion on Good Friday. A number of gift bags had also been given out to those in the congregation who may find it difficult to get out to church. If you have any feedback or thoughts on how we develop this ministry further, please speak to Kate.

Worship and Prayer

Services

We were delighted to have three of our young people serve Communion with us in March. Our next Communion service is Sunday 11th June. We also reflected on Sunday Evenings, with our last of the month service offering an opportunity to gather and worship together in a different way. William also spoke

about the 'hot button topics' which were being discussed on other Sunday evenings. Please come along to these nights if you have not already, it would be lovely to see you.

Summer Ministry

We spent some time discussing summer plans, acknowledging the importance of getting together during the summer months and having events that welcome others from outside the church, but appreciating that this can be a time when there are less of us around. We hope to have a summer BBQ as well as some more Fun Friday's. Discussion was had about the funding for these events. Andy also spoke about plans for summer Sunday mornings. This is a chance for those involved in children's work on a Sunday morning to get a break and with less numbers on some weeks, it is the hope that materials can be provided for families to work through during the service. There is also a Reachout/Stonelaw/Burnside Holiday Club once again this year, on 14th and 15th August.

The Kirk Session

The Kirk Session were updated on the situation regarding our Director of Music. William also intimated that Marjory MacLean has stepped back from being an Elder just now, and the Jim and Linda Suttie have resigned from Eldership. We have written to thank Marjory, Jim and Linda for their service and we acknowledge what a loss this is for our church. There was time then for Elders to reflect on where we are as a congregation, to consider what God is saying to us, where we have seen God at work and the practicalities of moving forward after a difficult year. This time of reflection seemed to be valued. Elders discussed these areas and we acknowledge there are many areas of congregational life where there have been changes, and areas that allow

new opportunities for service. We spoke of the importance of us as a congregation being open to new ways of worship and being understanding with one another when things are done differently. There was a real sense of God's grace and guiding.

Safeguarding

We are delighted to welcome Moira and Elaine onto our creche team.

Presbytery Plan

The Presbytery Plan is a moving feast, with meetings and emails and discussions happening regularly. At the time of the meeting, William, along with Neil Watson and Iain Cathcart were due to meet the Presbytery Planning group. We have many concerns about the plan, particularly the allocation of 1.5 Ministry posts between ourselves and Stonelaw, as well as the financial implications and decisions we may need to make as Trustees. As we gain more information/clarity, we will pass this on.

Finance

Andrew presented the Finance Report, and the Finance Team are due to meet in a few weeks time to discuss our current financial situation.

Property

We received notification from the General Trustees, authorising the sale of the Blairbeth building, the process of this by the Church of Scotland, has now begun.

Presbytery

We are delighted to be represented at Presbytery meetings by Chris Mackintosh, who has agreed to be our Presbytery Elder for another year. Thank you Chris!

We meet again on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm. These meetings are open to the congregation, please speak to either of us if you want any more information.

Thank you

Leigh and Gary

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The Well - A New Chapter

Many will already be familiar with the work of The Well which we support as a congregation, not least through the commitment to give by way of a retiring offering at our March Communion.

Rhoda Yarmahmoudi, the Manager of The Well, spoke at our morning service recently and reminded us of some of the history of the whole project which started out as a bookshop in Allison Street in Govanhill. It has operated as a multi-cultural resource centre in its present form since 1994 when it was set up by the Church of Scotland. It became an independent charity in 2011.

While Rhoda has always been wholeheartedly committed to the work, she now loves coming to her new office every day.

From her vantage point she has sight of the waiting area and can keep an eye on everything that is going on.



The name 'The Well' is based on the biblical account (in the book of John chapter 4). Jesus crossed cultural, faith, gender and social barriers to connect with the Samaritan woman when she came to draw water from a well.

The Well provides advice to anyone coming to the office but the clients are largely from the immigrant population and some have travelled from as far as Dundee or Northern Ireland, such is the reputation of The Well for providing help.

The advice service is staffed mainly by volunteers and the advice sought can be about almost anything – utility bills, council tax, all and any benefits, taxi licences, admissions to schools, housing applications – you never know what the issue is going to be for the next client you see. In addition to the advice service which operates throughout the week, The Well runs 'Bubbles' a toddler group for mothers and toddlers which takes every Thursday morning in Govanhill Free Church; 'Chai and Chat' – a group for women to meet others on a Tuesday afternoon; and ESOL English classes.



The waiting area is spacious and comfortable with a table for jigsaws or other activities while clients wait to be seen by an advice worker.

A brand new chapter for The Well started in April 2023 when we moved from the old, somewhat rundown, office in Albert Road to brand new premises in Niddrie Road, on the corner of Allison Street.

The main current need is for more advice workers. If you have some computer skills and a free morning or afternoon each week, your help would be greatly welcomed. You could speak to Alan Thomson, or William to find out more.

Finally, here is the link to the website for The Well, where you can find out what is happening with up-to-date news and job vacancies posted regularly <https://thewell.org.uk>.

Alan Thomson

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Release International Supporters' Half Day



James Fraser welcomes anyone interested in finding out more about the ministry of Release International to a half day on **Saturday 10th June** from 10-12.30 in Burnside Blairbeth Church.

Registration via [Eventbrite](#) or speak to Marjory MacLean.

Coffee from 9.30am and free buffet lunch at 12.30.

Burnside Blairbeth Guild

“Looking forward in faith”

Coronation Coffee Morning

Our coronation coffee morning was a great success. A huge thank you to all the ladies who supplied the delicious baking and the superb decorations. Thanks, also to all the regulars and friends who came along to support us. There was a buzz of interesting chat and much hilarity so I think I can safely say a good time was had by all.



Our coffee morning is every Tuesday from 9-45 till 11-45am and runs until June 27th when we close for the school holidays. Do come along and join us. You will be warmly welcomed.

All donations received this session, i.e. from Christmas to end of June will be shared equally between the Lodging House Mission and Kilbryde Hospice.



A New Session

We have come to the end of another successful year of the Guild. We look back on a year of inspirational speakers on a variety of topics, fellowship, friendship and lots of good fun. We have been well supported by members and friends, both male and female, as we try to appeal to a wide cross-section of the congregation.

Our fund raising events have been most successful and our efforts have enabled us to give practical help where required. So far this year, with the approval of our members, we have donated the following funds to:

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|-------------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ A Home for Good | £800.00 |
| ➤ St Rollox Community project | £400.00 |
| ➤ Scottish air Ambulance | £300.00 |
| ➤ Kilbryde Hospice | £300.00 |

£237 was also given to donate 47 trees to the Guild's green canopy Project in Malawi as a tribute to Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The committee are now planning a varied and interesting programme for next year. We hope to organise one of our themed afternoon tea parties on Thursday 27th July. More details will follow. Guild week will take place from the 9th till 17th September and we hope to have some special events during that period.

We look forward to returning refreshed in the Autumn to enjoy a new session of friendship, fellowship and faith in action.

Jean Goldie

Christian Aid Week



Many thanks for all of the contributions made during Christian Aid week. The money raised this year will go towards work in Malawi, helping vulnerable farming families who are living in poverty to grow pigeon peas, form co-operatives and become self sufficient. Local partners are providing advice about pesticides and when is the best time to sell crops. Pigeon pea products are already boosting profits significantly.

Our next local fundraising event will be a Christian Aid coffee morning in West and Wardlawhill Church on **Saturday 28th October**.

Marjory Maclean

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Cafe Church – Sunday 28 May

We enjoyed some new singers and musicians at Cafe Church this Sunday.



Scripture Union Holidays –Summer 2023

It's that time of year again when we are in the midst of planning for our SU Holiday to Kingscross. This year we are taking 47 young people from all over Scotland (although a large percentage are local including a good number from our church family) to Kingscross in Arran from the 2nd July until the 7th July. The team head over on the 1st so we have a day to set up before everyone else arrives and this time is great for getting to know everyone before camp officially starts.

A lot of the team are known to you too. Ross Murray (Reachout) is our Team Leader, David and myself are Assistant team leaders, John Gordon is our chief cook and Andy McArthur is coming as a group leader too. We have a big team of trainee leaders, many who were campers in previous year, so this is so exciting to have them back and on this next step of their journey. We have had to re-jig the kitchen team slightly as our chief cook has had to step down so thankfully John has agreed to step up. Please pray for John as this will be his first time being chief cook although we have no doubts in his ability to fulfil this role.

This year our theme is "Festivals" and the plan during our teaching time is to look through the story of the whole Bible looking at creation, advent, Christmas, lent and Easter. So we will be celebrating Christmas twice this year!

The programme is, as always, jam-packed with activities to keep the young people busy all week. Most of our activities are on site and include a desert island challenge on the beach, crafts, science, football, social games to name a few. We also offer gorge walking and abseiling as our two big activities, but logistically this can be a bit of a problem as it is different numbers of young people (plus a leader) per activity so please pray for the logistics of this. We will have a day trip to Brodick

on the Thursday and then come back to site to have a whole camp party to end the week.

An exciting development for Kingscross site this year is that the big white canvas tents are away and have been replaced with wooden pods. This is really good news as the tents were not always water tight which was fine if we had glorious sunshine all week but not if we had winter-like storms!

Kingscross is such a beautiful site and we can't wait to be back. Almost everyday Isaac is asking if we are going to camp today?



Below are some prayer points for us:

- ✓ An assistant cook to join our team (due to the re-jig we are still looking for an extra pair of hands)
- ✓ The weather. Last year was the windiest we have ever known and the ferries were cancelled and postponed which meant the young people lost a day of their holiday as well as the programme having to be changed lots throughout the week because of the weather.

- ✓ The last minute organisation of the programme to make sure everything runs smoothly
- ✓ The team who are planning games, ordering crafts, preparing the teaching and still working at the same time
- ✓ The young people as they start

Amy Samson

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Summer Fun Fridays

On **Fridays 21 July** and **11 August** we will be running Fun Fridays.

This is an opportunity for us to welcome people from our community, of all ages, to the church building.

We will provide a place to chat, meet others, have a snack lunch, activities for the children etc. It would be great if as many people as possible from our church were there. Watch out for further details.”

Andy McArthur



Small groups @ Burnside Blairbeth Church

Format	Day and Time	Host	Frequency
Online, with plan for mixed at home & online	Monday 7.30 pm	John Hunter	fortnightly all year round
Online	Tuesday 7.30 pm	John Hunter	fortnightly all year round
In person – Maclean’s house	Tuesday 7.30 pm	John and Marjory Maclean	meets approximately fortnightly
Online	Alternate Mondays at 7.30	Ross and Leigh Galloway	
Church for young people	Sunday evening Once a month	Andy McArthur and Andy Campbell	

Vacancy – Transport Co-ordinator

Gathering to worship on Sunday mornings is the most important part of our congregational life and it is so good to see so many, of all ages, together. Many of those who drive to our service pick up others on their way, those who can no longer walk or drive. We want to make sure the EVERYONE who wants to join us for worship can get to church. However, arranging lifts for everyone who needs them, and coordinating all the willing drivers it is not well organised at the moment. I know, because I am the one trying to organise it!

Our dear sister, Moira Dart used to do this job so well and we really need someone to take on her role. You would be the key contact for people who needed, or wished to offer, a lift to church. Sometimes that might mean putting people in touch with each other, for others a rota might need set up. I am sure there are many of you who could think of very good systems to deliver this essential volunteer service, much better than my messy approach. If you would like to take on this important role, or you have any questions, please contact me

Kate Airlie, Pastoral Assistant,

Email: Kate.airlie@burnsideblairbeth.church

Mobile: 07787558790





Lots of people have now signed up for MyChurchSuite, the bit of our admin system which links to you, your details, your rotas and your events [like Messy Church].

If you have signed up, please consider making your details visible to everyone else in ChurchSuite. It is very robust and safe, and means that other members of our church family [and no-one else] will be able to see your name and phone number, and address and email. You can choose which of these things to show, but the more you make visible, the easier it will be to contact other people. Think of it like the old phone book – but much safer.

You can do this by clicking on ‘My details’ and scrolling down to your privacy settings – click ‘edit’ and then tick the boxes for the things that you are happy for people to see. Everyone has their name automatically visible, otherwise ChurchSuite wouldn’t work at all, but you can then choose to make your landline, mobile phone number, address and email also visible to others in church. It would also be great if you could ‘add a photo’ so that we can see your happy face!

Any questions or difficulty doing this, please speak to John Gordon, Eleanor Crawford, Alan Thomson, Lesley Mackintosh or Kate Airlie.

Announcements

Baptism

'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Matthew 19: 14

We welcomed Skye Hannah Hazell to our church family through baptism on Sunday 23 April. Skye is the daughter of Andy and Lydia Hazell.



The next Issue of Contact

Copy Deadline: 27 August 2023
Available for distribution: 10 September 2023

Articles can e-mailed to the editor - contact@burnsideblairbeth.church

Services are 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:

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

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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