Burnside Blairbeth Church

Contact



[29] He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. [30] When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. [31] Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
Luke 21: 29-31

June 2026

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Dates for Contact –-2026 – 2027

Month	Deadline	Ready to issue
August	16 August 2026	30 August
October	4 Oct	18 Oct
November	15 Nov	29 Nov
January	17 Jan 2027	31 Jan
March	28 Feb	14 March
May	23 May	6 June

Easter Sunday is 28 March 2027

Articles can be e-mailed to the editor -

Contact@burnsideblairbeth.church

Dear Friends



Another summer of sport is upon us. Before you read any further, for those of you who don't like sport, I should warn you that it's going to feature heavily in this letter.

I love sport, and watching summer sport is one of my favourite things of the season. During the winter I fall into the rhythm of rugby and football, but the summer brings a whole variety of treats. This year there'll be the world cup, then there's Wimbledon, the open in golf, the Tour de France, and of course the Commonwealth games on our doorstep.

Most of us are familiar with the way that sport is used as an illustration in the Bible – particularly in the New Testament letters. In Hebrews, followers of Jesus are urged to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12; 1). Meanwhile, writing to Timothy, Paul tells him "It is the same for anyone who takes part in a sport. They don't receive the winner's crown unless they play by the rules." (2 Timothy 2;5). The disciplines of the athlete are used as a way of encouraging discipline in the lives of Jesus' disciples.

As well as using sport as an illustration, does the Bible have anything else to say? The answer to that is "yes and no" – there are general Biblical principles which can and should be applied to sport.

Humans are made in God's image. God is the creator who has made all good things. Sport is a human creation but ultimately God has

given humans the ability and desire to play, which is ultimately what sport is, so it is from Him.

God has given us talents and passions. If we are blessed enough to be good at sport (I never was!), then that is a talent that is to be used for the glory of God. If you get a huge surge of adrenaline on game day, then that's a reminder that you were born to play.

We were made for community and sport enhances community. Some sports involve solo competition, and some involve teams, but ultimately sport involves relationships with other people, whether as competitors or teammates. God has made us to have friendships and to relate to other people. The strength of relationships forged through sport, as well as the opportunities for service and witness, bring added dimensions for Christians involved in sport at whatever level.

Of course, sport also raises all sorts of dangers. Cheating is unappealing and happens in different ways in most sports, but it does happen. That's unsurprising because sport is no less affected by the Fall than any other area of life. The importance of sport is also regularly blown out of all proportion – we don't have to go too far on an Old Firm Day to find that. Just like everything else that God has made, there is always the danger that a "good thing becomes an ultimate thing" which is the definition of idolatry, and is the reason that too much can sometimes be made of sport.

Although sport can result in the distorted worship of idolatry, in its right place it can be a vehicle for worship. The urge, "in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12; 1) is a reminder that worship is not just for Sunday services. When

the body is involved in a sporting endeavour and this is done in a godly manner, that can be worship.

If you're not a sports fan, firstly thank you for sticking with me and reading this far. However, the eagle eyed among you will have emerged that many of the principles outlined here don't just apply to sport. They could equally well be applied to the arts, to gardening and all manner of other pursuits. The reason for that is very simple – when we are disciples of Jesus Christ, we are whole life disciples. That discipleship is not just for our work or our formal worship, but also extends to our play, whatever form it takes.

If the forthcoming summer of sport is a source of glorious excitement to you, give thanks to the God who has made all things and has pronounced them Good. If sport is not your thing, I hope you won't be driven to distraction by its ubiquity over the coming months. I hope also that you will find equal pleasure in other things that use your talents and bring you joy – and that you too will thank God for the joy you find there.

Your friend and minister,

William

Finance

We are now nearly 5 months into the financial year. As noted at the Annual Meeting, we have the benefit of the Consolidated Fabric fund to help support the fabric work that we need to carry out and this will help manage the likely deficit that we would be facing again.

Income from giving is up slightly on last year – around 5% - and is up across all 3 main funds. In addition, a legacy of £6,000 is due to be received imminently. The first payment from the Consolidated Fabric Fund was received which covered a significant proportion of our expenditure last year and a claim has been submitted for the work that was done on the Church Avenue retaining wall recently.

We give thanks for the additional gifts received for our Holiday Sponsorship Fund – including £800 from the Guild. This will go a long way to ensuring that we can support many young people attend the variety of different residential holidays that are available throughout the year.

We continue to manage expenditure closely to ensure that we mitigate the risks of any deficit that occurs this year whilst ensuring that we encourage local mission work.

I will provide a fuller update in the next Contact article as we will be halfway through the financial year at that point.

Please continue to pray for the finances of our church both locally and nationally.

Andrew

Andrew Telfer
Treasurer

Burnside Blairbeth Guild
"Living Stones"

Our Guild finished at the end of March with our AGM and Social Afternoon. Only one member of the committee, Rene May, "retired" at the AGM and we are very grateful to her for the last three years of service. We were pleased to welcome four new members, Anna Crichton, Catherine Ferguson, Yvonne McKay, and Esther Ninian, bringing the committee to a much healthier size.

The Guild year has been full and varied with a rich variety of guest speakers from different walks of life sharing their stories, talents and experiences with us. Guild members have also been active, raising funds for Guild Projects, and knitting children's jumpers and blankets for hospitals and homes in Malawi and Bulgaria. We also took part again in Glasgow Presbytery's "Close Knit" Project and nine completed patchwork blankets from Burnside Blairbeth were delivered to the Lodging House Mission. These blankets formed part of an exhibition in various venues throughout the Presbytery, before being distributed to clients of the LHM in the winter.

Funds raised from our regular givings throughout the year together with our Christmas Fayre, Spring Concert and our Martha Stall have enabled us to make fairly generous donations to the work of the local church and several other projects as listed below:

- Burnside Blairbeth Church - £1,500
- Burnside Blairbeth Youth Sponsorship Scheme - £800
- Bandawe Hospital, Livingstonia Synod, Malawi - £1,058

- “Operation Hope” Guild Project with Release International - £750.00
- “Playful Beginnings” Guild Project with Crossreach - £750.00

At the beginning of May, Marion Boyd, Ann Kelly, Marjorie McLennan and Liz Robertson formed a Guild Quiz Team and entered the Guilds Together Glasgow Quiz. They came a close second, losing to the winning team by only one point! Well done, and better luck next time!

The committee is now busy planning a programme for next session, which is almost complete, meaning they can have a well-earned rest over the summer months.

Catherine Nelson

Magnitude 2026

Last Summer around 1700 young people attended **Magnitude** at Lendrick Muir. This year's event is being planned and will run from 18 – 22 July at Lendrick Muir again.

Andy McArthur will be leading another group to Magnitude this year.



Some of the Burnside gang at Magnitude last Summer.

For those of you who don't know about Magnitude you can visit the website to find out more:

https://magnitude.org.uk/2026

It is described as -

“An immersive, carefully curated five-day adventure in the heart of Scotland, designed specifically to enable young people to encounter more of the magnitude of God: in His Word, in worship, and in wonder at His creation.

But Magnitude is so much more than an event. It is an idea that represents a life-long journey, an invitation into more than we could ever understand. Immeasurably more.

Magnitude is about seeing young people live out the daily rhythms of trust and closeness with God that characterise this way of life. Empowering them to follow Him, inspiring them to be expectant of what He will do in their lives, encouraging them to be secure in their identity in Him, and enabling them to know a faith that goes beyond knowledge.”

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Visit to Kitega, Uganda – the Samson Family

Kitega Community Centre is 25 miles East of Kampala in the Lugazi district of Uganda



David, Isaac and myself were out at Kitega Community Centre in Uganda for 17 days in April. We had a super time and we are doing a talk in the church on 31st May where we will be sharing more of our experience and everyone is welcome to come. 3:30pm for tea and coffee and 4pm for the talk.

At the start of this year the board members and leadership team had a time of reorganisation and strengthening of their resources and are now running under a 5 pillar system.

1. The first pillar is really the heart of Kitega and the whole reason the centre was set up in the first place. This pillar is called KAI and this pillar is to support children with disabilities and under-privileged children, safeguarding, education support NOT sponsorship, advocacy, and dignity centred care.

2. The second pillar is called IMARA (which means skills). This pillar is to provide vocational training, enterprise development, and pathways toward sustainable livelihoods, with a long-term vision of a formal vocational training centre. At the moment all the children in this group are learning

tailoring skills but are going to be split up to learn different skills including bakery, soap making and gardening.

3. The third pillar is community health which includes the newly opened Ebenezer Health Centre (Katungulu), community health outreach, prevention, and wellbeing initiatives. This new health centre has been such a blessing to the community including saving 4 lives already since it opened in January. In Uganda you have to pay for all health care including the gloves that the health professionals would use to treat you so lots of people don't seek medical help as they can't afford it. Kitega are running Ebenezer very differently. People do not need to pay for consultations and medicine is at cost price with payment options available too.

   The whole place is run by one nurse called Simon. Simon lives at the hospital so is pretty much on call 24/7 and is doing an amazing job but one of our biggest prayers for the centre is that they can find another nurse to work along with Simon and secure funding for this person.



Simon with Amy and David

4. The fourth pillar is Community Development & Leadership (VICOBAplus). Empowering communities through mindset shift, local leadership, and economic collaboration focused on facilitation and capacity-building rather than dependency.

5. The fifth pillar is Legal Aid, Advocacy & Protection. Supporting access to justice, rights awareness, safeguarding, and referrals across all programs. These pillars help us remain focused while ensuring our work stays integrated and community-driven.

This is very much a whistle stop taste of Kitega, but Kitega is a very special place where you can really feel God working. You cannot spend a day at Kitega without a smile on your face and your heart is changed permanently from being there.

Isaac embraced Ugandan life to the max and genuinely didn't want to come back home and is now desperate to go back. It was very clear to see that love does not need words as even though Isaac could not speak Luganda he was happy playing with the local children.

Amy Samson



Isaac and a friend

Missionary Partners

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples!” 1 Chronicles, 16;24

NEW DESTINY ADVENTURE CENTRE, BRAZIL – UPDATE MAY 2026

For those who don't know, at New Destiny, we work with children, teenagers and families living in the poorer, drug and crime infested parts of our local town, Itabirito, and the bigger favelas in Belo Horizonte, an hour away. Our vision is to share God's love with them, grow disciples, encourage them to stay out/get out the drug scene and stay at school, discover their potential and the wonderful plans that God has for their lives. We do that through programmes that we run throughout the year on the farm, home visits and other interventions, as well as through liaising with the local schools, social work services, local council etc.



THIS YEAR we have 10 full time staff and we're also excited about a couple called Abbey (Australian) and Dylan (Canadian), who are joining us in September or January for 3 to 6 months, although are open to staying longer. Both have lots of experience in evangelism, adventure sports, and working with children and youth, although not in Portuguese, so pray they pick it up quickly!

Amongst all the other jobs like fixing things and keeping the place looking beautiful, our maintenance lads are currently repainting some of our staff accommodation. (We have 4 small houses for volunteers and single staff, and 4 family houses, although some staff live offsite.) We're still looking for someone skilled and experienced, to redo our Forest Adventure Activities, but we have a couple of possibilities in pipeline, so please pray and watch this space!

TF (8 to 14 years old) - about 80 children this year, all day Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with a growing waiting list. Afternoon school children come in the morning and vice versa, for a Bible story with follow-up, an activity (e.g. craft, baking, group game or sport) and free time - swimming, playpark, colouring etc. There's a snack, main meal and hot shower. We celebrate all their birthdays and there's a big Christmas party.

TF+ - Monday nights. (For 15-18 year olds). Always a wee talk, football & other activities and a meal. Around 30 each week this year. Some of them are in the drug scene but they still come to ND, because they are accepted and loved.

TFMums - Bi-weekly Monday afternoons or evenings for hanging out, Worship & Word and activities. (About 30 regulars this year.)



TFMen - One Sunday a month. Mostly young adults, some with partners and young children (who sometimes get to come too.) Discipleship, food, football and games.

Weekend Belo Horizonte Camps - Once a month for children from city favelas an hour away. The same problems as locally, but on a bigger scale.

Morven - Was there for 5 weeks in December/January; going back in June/July and in January/February 2027.

God continues to transform lives through New Destiny, year after year.

Thank you so much for continuing to partner the work, and for me personally, through your prayers and financial support. I don't know what I would have done without Burnside Blairbeth these past few years.

God bless you all! Feel free to contact me at any time - morven@ndaventura.org

Morven Collington Clark



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.

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