

Burnside Blairbeth Church



5th –9th August

Contact

No 139

Summer 2019

Dear Friends,

I listen to a lot of interviews with musicians, actors and writers. At some stage a certain type of interviewee moves into a ponderous explanation about the “creative process” and how they need to “bring their creativity to the fore.” At that point I imagine a substantial proportion of the audience joining with me in a slightly bored sigh as I think “here we go again, I’ve heard all this before. Here’s another potential entry for “Pseuds corner” in Private Eye.”



Yet, however pretentious some artistes manage to make it sound, all art of whatever form is a result of someone’s creativity and imagination. It takes these qualities and more to hear the potential for a new song, to dream up the storyline of a new film or book, to visualise a new painting and so on. For people like me, whose imagination, musical ability etc. are limited, it is a reason to admire what someone else has done and to be glad that they have done what I couldn’t. For these reasons, and many more art, in its myriad forms, brings us pleasure and makes our world better.

For Christians there is an added dimension. These things are a reminder that we are made in the image of God. He is the creator and so when we admire the results of human creativity, we are admiring something that indirectly points to our Creator.

At times in the history of the church we have made mistakes when it comes to art. On the one hand some parts of the church have come dangerously near to idolatry by worshipping pieces of art rather than the creator they point to. On the other hand, other parts of the church have seen art as a frivolous luxury, rather than a gift given by God has part of the way he has made humans. As Scottish Presbyterians I suspect we have been nearer the latter danger than the former! That approach has radically changed now – some of you may remember hearing a presentation in Stonelaw a couple of years ago from Peter Gardner – a Church of Scotland pioneer Minister who has been appointed to work among the arts community around Glasgow.

The arts provide a form of witness to a watching world. In many ways it is probably one of the harder places to be a Christian, but Christian artistes have opportunities that fellow believers often don't. Some explicitly define themselves as Christian artistes while others are artistes whose fundamental identity is as a follower of Jesus. Either way, both can point to the Creator who has given them their creativity.

I've been thinking about these things in the context of our congregation. One of the things for which I'm always grateful is the number of artistically gifted people we have in our midst. I was reminded of this over Easter as I admired floral displays in our building and grounds, spent time looking at and thinking about the quilted cross in the sanctuary and was enabled to express my worship by gifted musicians. The talents God has given to individuals help to build up the body.

These are also a reminder that people worship and serve God in different ways. Some people find it relatively easy to express their worship by praying out loud. Others find that a terrifying prospect, but that doesn't mean that they don't worship. One example among many is our flower rota. For those involved, when they are arranging the flowers for Sunday they are serving and worshipping by beautifying the sanctuary for worship while also providing a gift of flowers we then give to individuals on behalf of the whole congregation.

Thank you to those in our congregation who are creative and who use these God-given gifts to humbly serve God and the rest of us. May you know His blessing, and may you continue to use your gifts thoughtfully to bring Him glory and praise.

Your friend and minister,

William Wilson

Notes from Kirk Session Meeting on 24 April 2019

As those who read these notes regularly will be aware, the Kirk Session meeting usually starts with a review of events and aspects of the life of the congregation since the previous meeting. On this occasion there was positive and appreciative feedback about the **Community Bible Experience** (and a desire expressed that more people might take part), the **Easter Services**, including Messy Communion, and Communion and the all-age service on Easter Sunday, and the **Trauma Healing Course** (which it is hoped to run again at a future date).

Other matters arising included the next **Café Church** which will take place on 16 June, and a report that the application to the **Go For It Fund** had been submitted and that a decision would be forthcoming during May. If this application is successful we should receive £10,000 per annum for the next two years towards funding our work in the community, which would be a significant contribution towards Andy MacArthur's salary.

A small group had been appointed at the previous meeting to consider the question of what happens after Les Queen's retirement at the end of June. The Session agreed and approved the recommendation that we proceed to recruit a **Pastoral Assistant** to work along side William on a part-time basis doing pastoral work in the congregation. It is likely that this position will be advertised during June with the plan to have someone in place by about September.

As previously reported the Session is considering various aspects of our life together as a congregation. **Evening Services** have been part of that consideration and William reported that the feedback from those attending the evening service was that they wished it to continue. It was agreed that the evening service would continue on the present basis with that slot being used for different events from time to time. **Prayer** in the life of the congregation was considered at this most recent meeting. The overall outcome of the discussion was that corporate prayer needed to be "moved up the agenda" in the life of the congregation. Various suggestions were made as to how this might be done. It was agreed that someone was needed to facilitate prayer and people interested in having input and involvement in how we can develop our prayer life together will be meeting in the course of June. (*Members of the congregation would be very welcome to participate in that meeting – watch out for details.*)

The difficulty in finding people to help with reception and acting as keyholders was impacting on our ability to be generous in accepting requests for **Hall Lets**. *(If anyone in the congregation might be available to give some time to fulfill reception duties please speak to Una Neil.)*

Jean Wynne has stood down as our Food Hygiene Co-ordinator. Jean was thanked (in her absence) for the work she had done in this role. A new co-ordinator is required urgently.

Under **World Church** Marjory MacLean reported on our support of Missionary Partners. With **Andrew Robertson** going to Bolivia in September/October 2019 he will need approximately £11/£12,000 per annum in support. The Session agreed to commit £5,000 per annum out of the Missionary Partner Fund to support Andrew and the allocations amongst others was adjusted to allow this to be achieved.

There were updated reports received in respect of **Finance** and **Property**. Alan Hudson reported that we were awaiting hearing from the loss adjusters regarding our claim for the dry and wet rot which have affected the Main Hall, Small Hall and adjacent corridors. *(At the time of Contact going to print we had just heard that the insurers would pay 50% of the total claim and, as a result the work should be proceeding over the next month.)*

There was a full **Presbytery Report** by Chris Mackintosh. The Church of Scotland has carried out research into the reasons for the church growing in Africa while it was declining in Scotland. Two of the key aspects underlying church growth in Africa are Bible teaching and prayer, which served to emphasise the importance of our earlier discussion on prayer. He also gave a summary of the Radical Action Plan which will be considered by the General Assembly.

William intimated that we would once again be holding **joint evening services** with Stonelaw during the summer. Details of the arrangements are to follow.

The next meeting of the Kirk Session is on Wednesday 5 June at 7.30pm.

Alan Thomson

Session Clerk

Obituaries

Dick McLaughlan

Dick died on 7th May 2019 aged 93. For his last years he was a resident in the Littleinch care home Inchurrin, having previously lived for a short time in sheltered housing at Mill Street. However most of his life was spent at Carrick Road in Spittal.

Dick was born in Coatbridge but came to Spittal when he and his wife Irene moved in with Irene's mother. Dick worked for a variety of engineering companies and retired from Rolls Royce at Hillington. He did his national service with the RAF and loved this time.

He was father to Linda, Stuart, Colin and Gordon and also had six grandchildren. He was an elder at Rodger Memorial and many of us have warm memories of Dick welcoming worshippers at the door of the building on a Sunday morning. He was quietly spoken, gentle and cheerful. When our Sunday morning service there ceased Dick continued to worship faithfully at the Burnside building.

Family members said that Dick's three great loves in his life were family, his work and church. We are grateful to God for his life and witness.

Christine McPherson

Surrounded by her family, Christine McPherson died peacefully on 25 April 2019 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital after a long illness patiently borne, aged 81.

Christine's roots lay in the Munro Church where as a teenager she met her husband Dan at the Badminton Club. Her membership of Burnside Blairbeth Church dates from the late 60's by which time Christine and Dan had moved to Burnfoot Crescent, having been married in 1961.

A lovely Christian woman, Christine's faith in the Lord Jesus was real, unpretentious and uncomplicated. She made a significant contribution to the life of our congregation, undertaking regular tea rota duty at Rodger Memorial, kitchen duty at Little Creations, a committed Guild member and an ever

present at the Tuesday Coffee Mornings. Beyond our own congregation Christine also helped at Toryglen Church. She was great encourager and always had a friendly and welcoming word for any stranger.

We give thanks to God for Christine's life and continue to uphold Dan in prayer, along with daughters Christine, Sheena and the wider family in their sad loss.

Cathie Young

Cathie Young died in Hairmyres Hospital on the 8th of April, aged 93. Cathie was a resident of David Walker Gardens from 2014 and prior to this lived at Craigwell Avenue. She lived with a diagnosis of Dementia for fully 20 years and was cared for and supported by her late husband Jack for the greater part of this time. Cathie was a member of Kirkhill Golf Club and Burnside Bowling Club for a number of years.

Both Jack and Cathie were regular attenders at worship before health issues prevented Cathie from attending and she was involved in the life of the Guild at some stage.

Cathie is leaves a son Gordon and daughter Linda, and along with other family members we commend them to God in prayer.

Church Worker Report from Andy McArthur

NOTE: This is an extended (and illustrated!) version of the report which Andy gave at the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

We are excited with how God is working in our young people and children in the church. Here is a summary of all the things going on in the life of the church and in the community with young people and children. Thank you so much for all your support as a congregation, please continue to pray for the young people and children involved in these groups and for the amazing team of volunteers who help these groups happen.

Sunday Clubs

After the all age talk all the children from P1-P6 go through to Sunday Clubs. Here they learn about Jesus and Bible stories and characters. We are so blessed in the number of children we have and for how excited they are to be at Sunday Clubs.

Prayer points - Thank God for the number of children we have. Pray for the Carolyn and the team of volunteers who faithfully serve every week. Pray for the transition as children come up from the crèche and older children move up to Walk this way



Walk This Way

Walk this Way have been meeting during the sermon on most Sundays. There is an average of 4 young people attending, although there have been occasions when there has been no-one. During the sessions we look at a variety of topics from coping with stress, lies, evangelism and the like and what the bible has to say about. We play games, eat, and have discussions.

We are so thankful for the relationships being developed with the leaders and the young people, those relationships are the foundation on which we do discipleship.

Prayer Points - That we are able to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the young people and that material and topics will be relevant for the young people helping them to explore their faith.



JUMP

JUMP kids club meets every Wednesday evening at The Blairbeth Building for all primary school ages. We have many children coming from unchurched backgrounds who are excited and keen to learn about Jesus. Since Christmas we have had a slight drop off in numbers but still a core of between 20-25 who come most weeks. We have seen the children really engage with worship and reading The Bible, and we hope we can continue to do this in a relevant and fun way

Prayer points - Thank God for the children who come to JUMP and the relationships formed. Pray for the smooth transition into Switch for P6 + P7. Pray for those who haven't come back to Jump since Christmas and for the development of the team and volunteers



Switch

Switch runs on Sunday Evenings for P6-S3 at The Burnside Building in place of The Way. It has been running Since November of 2018 and we have a register of around 12 young folk. We have a good number of young people from The Blairbeth area coming along, a massive answer to prayer as that might not have happened in the past. We have 5 young people going to KX1 Scripture Union Camp in the July and are excited to see how God speaks to them.

Prayer Points - For the dynamics of the group and the relationships between the young people. For the behavioural issues that some of the young people face and the development and growth of the young folk in faith.





Backpackers Holiday Club

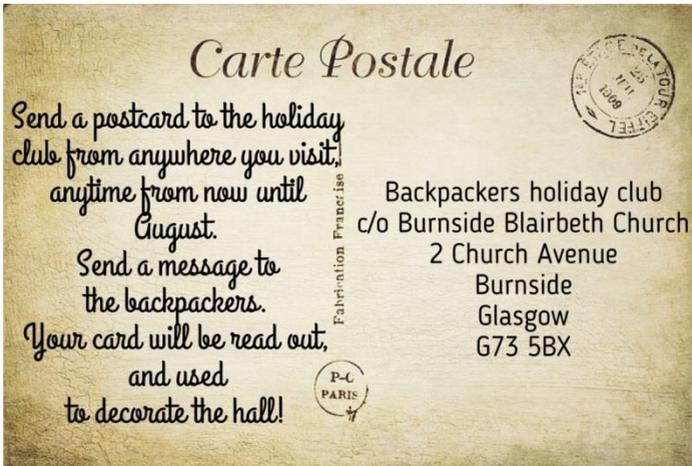
Evenings of Monday 5th – Friday 9th August

From 6.30-8.00pm at the Blairbeth Building!

We are excited to announce the 2019 Holiday Club!

Please pray for the planning and preparation in getting the holiday club ready. That the children would enjoy themselves and engage with the programme. That the children would feel safe, included and grow in faith. That the faith of all adults and children involved in the club is nurtured.

Anyone who is able to help with any aspect of the Holiday Club should speak to Andy McArthur. We need Team Leaders, Team Members, Kitchen helpers, Registration, Decorations and Prayer Support so please get involved.



Les Queen

At the end of June, Les will retire as our pastoral associate. We will have a chance to formally acknowledge his faithful service at morning worship on 23rd June.

Les came to Burnside Blairbeth during the vacancy. He was initially appointed as a locum to take on some pastoral responsibilities and some conduct of worship. When William arrived, Les had already made himself a valued part of the congregational leadership and the Kirk Session very quickly decided to ask Les if he would remain with the congregation as our pastoral associate.

Over the years Les has faithfully led worship, particularly at the Blairbeth building, visited all sorts of people in his pastoral capacity, led our pastoral care system, conducted funerals and done a myriad of other jobs in the background. Throughout all this he has shown wisdom and compassion with a real love for the Lord and the people he has been serving. He has been a valued member of the ministry team over that time and we are glad that he and Frances will be remaining as part of our congregation.

We are going to be replacing Les with a part time pastoral associate (approximately 20 hours per week although the exact figure is negotiable). If you would like to find out more details about the post, are interested in it or would like to recommend someone please speak to William or Alan Thomson.

However at this stage it is more important that we say thank you to Les for his tireless work and give thanks to God for his faithfulness.

In recognition of his thirteen years with us we plan to present Les with a gift from the congregation on Sunday 23 June.

If you would like to contribute to this gift then please either make your contribution by bank transfer to the Church account (reference "Les Queen") or put your contribution in an envelope marked "Les Queen gift" and place it in the offering bag or pass it directly to Eleanor Crawford or Alan Robertson. All cheques should be payable to Burnside Blairbeth Church. Contributions should be made by Sunday 16 June.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Position - 4 months to 30 April 2019

Freewill Offerings

- Total freewill offerings of £97,507 for the 4 months to 30 April were £3,315 (-3.3%) lower than for the same period in 2018, and were £11,381 (-10.5%) lower than the plan for the 4 months.
 - General Fund offerings of £72,056 were £1,770 (+2.5%) higher than last year, but £6,500 (-8.3%) below plan.
 - Local Mission Fund offerings of £17,580 were £3,267 (-15.7%) lower than last year and £3,280 (-15.7%) below plan.
 - Missionary Partner Fund offerings of £7,871 were £1,818 (-18.8%) lower than last year and £1,601 (-16.9%) below plan.

Legacy Income

- During March £80,874 was received in respect of a bequest arising from the settlement of Margaret Blake's estate. The entire sum has been transferred to the Special Fabric & Communications Fund to be used for fabric purposes in line with the terms of Margaret's will.

Offerings for Special Purposes

- £1,500 has been donated specifically for our missionary partners, £1,313 for Satish and Bhumika Chettri and £188 for Carolyn Boyd Tomasovic.
- £1,250 has been donated to the SU Holiday Sponsorship Fund (grants amounting to £648 have been paid out in support of young people in the area attending SU Holidays).
- Offerings for the 4 months in respect of sponsorship of children at Rhema School, Kampala, Uganda, amounted to £455.
- The Well retiring offering at the March Communion amounted to £1,041 including gift aid. This has been donated to the Well together with £1,000 from our General Fund.

Expenditure

- Congregational account expenditure for the 4 months to 30 April at £50,997 was £10,200 (-16.7%) lower than for the same period in 2018 and £7,147 (-12.3%) lower than plan.

- General Fund expenditure was £705 (-2.6%) lower than last year and £6,665 (-19.8%) lower than plan.
- Local Mission Fund expenditure was £9,508 (-28.4%) lower than last year and £477 (-1.9%) lower than plan. The reduction from 2018 follows the departure of Melanie as our Outreach Worker.
- Fabric Fund expenditure amounted to £1,003 for the 4 month period.

Allocations / Distributions

- For the 4 months to 30 April £50,408 has been provided for in respect of our contributions to the Church of Scotland (Ministry and Mission contribution: £47,642 / Glasgow Presbytery dues: £2,765).
- Year to date Missionary Partner Fund distributions of £11,667 have been provided for. Distributions from the 2019 fund will commence now that the Kirk Session has decided on the allocation for the year.
- For the 4 months to 30 April the year to date Local Mission Fund distribution to the Reachout Trust is £3,333.
- A General Fund distribution of £1,000 to The Well has been made together with the £1,041 donated at the March retiring offering.

Main Fund Balances / Shortfall

- General Fund: For the 4 months to 30 April the General Fund surplus was £1,550 compared to the planned surplus of £1,997, £447 below plan.
- Local Mission Fund: For the 4 months there was a shortfall in the Local Mission Fund of £1,900, £3,675 below plan.
- Missionary Partner Fund: For the 4 months there was a shortfall in the Missionary Partner Fund of £1,924, £1,924 below plan.

Alan Robertson
Treasurer

Welcome rota – Summer 2019

Morning services

July				
7th	Chris Mackintosh	Eleanor Crawford	Elizabeth Cherrie	Margaret Russell
14th	Ross Galloway	Tom Pollock	Una Neil	Sandra Monaghan
21st	Marjorie McLennan	Bobby McGregor	Jean Goldie	William Goldie
28th	Morag McGown	Susan Gordon	George Wynne	Linda Suttie

August 2019				
4th	Marjory Maclean	Anne Forrest	Joyce Thornhill	Una Neil
11th	Ross Galloway	Susan McGregor	Bill Maclellan	Morag McIntosh
18th	Marjorie McLennan	Susan Gordon	Elizabeth Cherrie	Tom Pollock
25th	Chris Mackintosh	Bill Maclellan	Tom Pollock	Sandra Monaghan

September 2019				
1st	Chris Mackintosh	Elizabeth Cherrie	Eleanor Crawford	Jean Goldie
8th	Chris Mackintosh	Elizabeth Cherrie	Eleanor Crawford	Lesley Mackintosh
15th	Chris Mackintosh	Elizabeth Cherrie	Eleanor Crawford	George Wynne
22nd	Marjorie McLennan	Elizabeth Cherrie	Eleanor Crawford	Susan Gordon
29th	Marjorie McLennan	Margaret Russell	Una Neil	Tom Pollock

Evening services

NOTE: the evening services in July will be at Stonelaw

August	
4th	Helen Morrison
11th	Irene Craigie
18th	Alan Robertson
25th	Neil/ Moira Hopper

September	
1st	Linda Suttie
8th	Alan Thomson
15th	Chris Mackintosh
22nd	Gwen Brown
29th	Helen Morrison

Contact editor required!

We need a new Editor to compile the Church magazine six times a year. You need to be someone who has good written communication skills, is regularly around the congregation and not afraid to go out and commission articles when required! Good word processing skills would also help, and ideally someone who is familiar with Publisher, although this is an easily acquired skill.

If you think this is you, please speak to Lesley Mackintosh.

“Contact” details

Our **Contact magazine** and **Weekly Notes** are 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 contact the office.

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.

LATE SUMMER ISSUE OF CONTACT

The deadline for copy is

Sunday 18th August 2019

Copies will be available for distributors on

Sunday 1st September 2019

Items can be handed in to the church

office or e-mailed to the editor:

contact@burnsideblairbeth.church

Burnside Blairbeth Church

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www.burnsideblairbeth.church