

# Let's read the Bible together

Dear Friends,

I wonder how many of us have been in book groups over the years. There was a time when they seemed to spring up all over the place. People who maybe did not read that much were still part of a book group. There are still plenty of them around but they do not seem to have such a high profile now. Nevertheless they provide a great way to form friendships, to hear the ideas of others and to find out what a particular book has to say.



I wonder how many of us read the Bible regularly. If we do read it do we treat it like other books? In some senses of course we should not treat it like any other book. After all it is God's word and it is a collection of books. Many of us, I suspect, read in little chunks, guided by Bible reading notes and we do so, on our own. That's the way I've read the Bible for more years than I care to remember and I am grateful for the discipline of a planned programme of reading and the insights offered by the commentators in Bible notes.

However, from time to time we need to refresh things and it's always helpful to discuss with others. The Community Bible Experience invites us to read the Bible together in a way that is meant to feel like a book group. It is aimed at getting as many people in the church as possible reading the Bible together, but without feeling that we need to be experts.

We will be reading from the New Testament – but perhaps not as you are used to it. These copies have removed all of the verse numbers, chapter numbers and other things that can interrupt the text – after all verses and chapters were not part of the original manuscripts. The books of the New Testament also come in a different order. Instead of the familiar 'Matthew, Mark, Luke, John...' the individual books come in what is intended to be a more 'user-friendly' order.

Through the month of November, as a congregation, we are going to join in the Community Bible Experience. We commit to reading the Bible by following a reading plan and then meeting together as a group to chat through what we

have been reading. The questions we discuss are very simple.

There will be a variety of opportunities to participate. There will be groups meeting on Sunday evenings at the time we usually have our evening service. Some of the house groups will also be following the Community Bible Experience. These may not suit everyone, so why not join with a few friends and start your own group at a time that suits you? You may want to join with friends who are not involved in church – this is a great opportunity to read the Bible with people who have never thought about reading it before. Perhaps you are a regular reader of *Contact* but you have not been around the church for a while. This would be a great way to join up with church friends again. Get in touch with either the office or myself and we can help you find a group.

The Community Bible Experience has been used by churches in many different countries. We will find out more when a representative of the Bible Society launches it at our harvest service on 7 October.

Here is the challenge from the fly-leaf of the New Testament: “Go beyond reading the Bible in fragments. Go beyond reading in isolation. Experience the whole story – so that your church can live a new story.”

Let’s read the New Testament together – we could not be doing anything better as a church!

Your friend and minister,

William Wilson.

## Coffee Fayre

There will be a Coffee Fayre supporting Christian Aid at Stonelaw Church, Stonelaw Road, on Saturday 27 October from 10am-noon.

It will be £2.50 entry for a cuppa, some delicious home baking and chat.



# Burnside Blairbeth Guild

*'Seeking the way'*

## ONE JOURNEY, MANY ROADS

The opening meeting of the new session of the Guild will be on Monday 1 October 7.30pm in the sanctuary of Burnside building. Our guests will be ARIETTA, a musical ensemble with a wide-ranging programme to appeal to



all tastes. Please come along and join us on this occasion. You can be assured of a warm welcome, a cup of tea and a chat with friends old and new.

## WHAT IS THE GUILD?

The Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland that invites and encourages both men and women to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. With around 20,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations. Although women make up the bulk of our membership, increasingly, men are becoming members taking active roles at local and national level. The Guild motto is taken from Acts 27:23 - "Whose we are and Whom we serve". Every three years, a strategy is decided by the National Guild Committee and within that are three annual themes:

- Strategy 2018-21 One Journey, Many Roads
- Theme 2018/2019 Seeking the Way
- Theme 2019/2020 Companions on the Road
- Theme 2020/2021 The Extra Mile

These themes and topics are helpful when local branches are preparing their annual syllabus and organising the programme of worship for their regular meetings. On Monday 15 October we will be delighted to welcome Reverend David Easton, who will expand on the strategy 'One Journey, Many Roads'.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17 November Christmas Fayre

Sunday 18-25 November Guild Week

Monday 10 December Christmas Dinner - Please note time 6pm for 6.30pm

*Jean Goldie.*

# Lodging House Mission Harvest Appeal

Harvest time will soon be upon us and a number of you have been asking for our Harvest List to help the congregation bring specific items of food that we require to help feed our 100 visitors each day now for seven days per week.

We are very grateful for all the harvest gifts that we receive from churches and schools not just from Glasgow but further afield and also for those who donate food on a regular basis. Your contribution has meant that we are still able to provide free breakfast and lunches to our service users. Your partnership with us in helping feed homeless men and women is very much valued and appreciated.

We require around 100 harvests to enable us to provide all these meals over a 12-month period. The number of hours to sort out all that we receive into the correct product and date is huge. To help us with this task, we are asking if you will please keep to the list that has been prepared by the kitchen staff. This will reduce time and space requirements.

We will be able to accept harvest donations any day of the week during our opening times 8am-3pm, including Saturdays and Sundays. If you are in a position to give us a time, we can arrange help at the LHM end.

You will see from the list that we have removed **coffee**. We have coffee in stock dated until 2019 so this removal is only temporary. You will also notice that we have added some new items which are now being used on a regular basis.

We also acknowledge that many congregations prefer to give us a **financial donation** and this will also be very much welcomed. Financial donations help us with our meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk and other items we need throughout the year.

Many thanks once again for your continuing support and please help us in whatever way you can.

Gus Smeaton, Manager

(the list is on the next page)

<p><b>Cereal</b></p> <p>Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nut</p> <p>Weetabix</p> <p>Rice Crispies</p> <p>Sugar Puffs</p> <p>Frosties</p> <p>Coco Pops</p> <p>Cheerios</p>	<p><b>Tinned soup</b></p> <p>Chicken</p> <p>Tomato</p> <p>Lentil</p> <p>Scotch Broth</p> <p>Vegetable</p> <p>Minestrone</p> <p>Carrot and Coriander</p>	<p><b>Tinned meals</b></p> <p>Tuna / Salmon</p> <p>Ham</p> <p>Corned beef</p> <p>Meatballs</p> <p>Hotdogs</p> <p>Macaroni</p> <p>Haggis</p> <p>Ravioli</p>	
<p><b>Tinned vegetables</b></p> <p>Tomatoes</p> <p>Carrots</p> <p>Peas</p> <p>Sweetcorn</p> <p>Mixed vegetables</p> <p>Baked beans</p> <p>Potatoes</p> <p>Jars of Pasta bake sauces</p> <p>Jars of Curry sauces or curry paste</p>	<p><b>Tinned desserts</b></p> <p>Peaches</p> <p>Pears</p> <p>Pineapples</p> <p>Mandarins</p> <p>Fruit cocktail</p> <p>Rice</p> <p>Custard</p>	<p><b>Other</b></p> <p>Jam</p> <p>Sugar</p> <p>Coconut milk</p> <p>Tomato sauce</p> <p>Brown sauce</p> <p>Vinegar</p> <p>Tomato paste</p> <p>Broth mix</p> <p>Fresh / diluting Juice</p> <p>Vegetable oil</p>	
<p><b>Dried Goods</b></p> <p>Mixed herbs      Garlic powder      Ground turmeric      Chilli powder</p> <p>Crushed chillies      Ground coriander      Lentils      Dried peas</p> <p>Salt and black pepper      Bisto      Stock cubes or bouillon      Biscuits (NOT oatcakes or cream crackers)</p>			

# The Cunninghams in Bolivia - Changing the conversation

At the time of writing, we are now just days from returning to Bolivia (leave on 11 September). In such times past, we have used platforms like this to highlight the variety of ways in which we plan on rolling up our sleeves and getting our hands dirty upon re-entry. In so doing, we have felt suitably justified in going back, while our supporters have often wondered if we're overcommitting ourselves somewhat.

That won't be happening this time. After all, this has not been a normal period of home assignment. Six months away from the field have been required to bring us to a better understanding of what brought us to this point. The symptoms were greatly in evidence at the turn of the year. Amanda's energy levels were subterranean. I (Craig) was increasingly irritable. Ministry had become an arduous chore, our love for our brothers and sisters in Bolivia was waning, and our marriage was suffering.

By God's grace, we were removed from that situation, coming back to Scotland and to a scenario that was not without its challenges, not least for me. From the start, we were under orders to jettison ministry-related tasks; to ditch the church visits; to cut the channels of communication with Bolivia. All was to be stripped away with the goal of just ... being.

Why the struggle to accept an extended period of rest? Because over the years, without realising it, we had gradually begun to define ourselves, in terms not of who we are, but of what we do.

But thinking like this as Christians (as many of us are guilty of doing) betrays a failure to understand and accept the new and glorious reality: That what primarily matters now is not what we do, but what Christ has done. That our true worth is not found in the amount of sermons I preach per month,



or the number of young women Amanda ministers to, but in our identity as a son and daughter of the King of kings.

And as we go back to Bolivia, we want to ensure that this, above all, is the driver of all we do. And we pray that, as a result, the Lord will once again take his rightful place at the centre of our affections. We want our lives to testify to His great love for us. We long for people to see the joy of the Lord in us. We want any efforts we make in His service to simply be a natural, heartfelt expression of thankfulness for his goodness to us.



We believe that our communications - such as these updates and our blog - have an important role to play as we seek to find a better balance. While continuing to keep our supporters informed as to our work, we will place a greater emphasis upon our wellbeing, and particularly our relationship with the Lord. And having spoken to several supporters in recent months about this change in focus, we know that they are much more interested in this side of things anyway!

As we have come to know many more missionaries over the years, we have come to appreciate the importance of their relationship with supporters. It appears we are not alone in having presented a facade of happiness in busyness over the years. Both supporters and missionaries - many without realising it - have contributed to this works-driven climate, and as a result, many overseas workers have had to pay a heavy price. We believe it is time to change that conversation: it is not what overseas workers are doing, but how they are doing that is of utmost importance. And if we can play a small role in helping us all ask the right questions, we will be grateful.

Give thanks for...

- A season of growth and renewal in Scotland

Pray for...

- Safety in our travels back to Bolivia
- Sam's re-acclimatising to Trinidad (especially the language)
- The Lord's guidance as to our future roles in ministry

# The Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre

*The Well is looking for volunteer advisers. The commitment is not a heavy one – three hours per week – but runs all-year round. Potentially interested? Here are the answers to some questions you might have...*

## What is The Well?

The Well operates from a shop space in Albert Road, and is a key ministry to the people of Govanhill, and beyond, offering among other things an advice and support service to those who struggle with the admin of managing everyday life in Scotland. Most service users have their ethnic roots in the Indian sub-continent or Eastern Europe but for others it's Africa, the Middle East, or beyond. Some are ethnic Scots.

## Why do people come to The Well?

Some look for a sympathetic ear, or for reassurance, in times of trouble. Most come with very practical needs - a letter from the job centre or the council that needs action to ensure benefits will not be stopped; a phone call, or more commonly now an online message, which must be made about a change of address or of employment; or help in understanding correspondence from all kinds of places - from PPI lawyers to jury duty citations. If your command of the English language, or Scottish culture, is not great, these things can be very stressful and confusing.

## What do you need to help at The Well?

- A love for people, especially disadvantaged ones, and a desire to serve them in Christ's name
- **three hours per week at a set time each week**; slots are either 9.30am-12.30pm or 1-4pm
- Common sense and patience, especially with regard to government or council forms, both in hard copy, and on screen.
- A good ear to listen, and the ability to communicate clearly and simply – with clients, on the phone, and online on their behalf

## Would I get training?

The answer is that you will certainly be invited to shadow an experienced advisor, but after a wee while most people realise that every case is different,

and that the best way to learn is to ‘have a go – knowing there will always be someone to ask if you get stuck. And soon you will get stuck less and less.

## What do I do next?

Go on to the Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre website or Facebook page, which will give you some more background. Call the manager and arrange a ‘no obligation’ visit!

This is a great time to be joining up with the new Universal Credit benefit replacing most previous benefits and tax credits in our area as from the end of September. All the advisers will be learning the full implications of this together. It’s worth pointing out that *Universal Credit* advice at The Well will nearly always involve online interactions, which is a big change!

## Welcome rotas

Morning services					Evening service
7 Oct	Marjorie McLennan	Linda Suttie	Sandra Monaghan	Rona Weetch	Alan Robertson
14 Oct	Marjorie McLennan	Linda Suttie	Sandra Monaghan	Una Neil	Niall & Moira Hopper
21 Oct	Marjorie McLennan	Linda Suttie	Sandra Monaghan	Susan Gordon	Alan Thomson
28 Oct	Marjorie McLennan	Linda Suttie	Sandra Monaghan	Helen Morrison	Linda Suttie
4 Nov	Marjory MacLean	Susan McGregor	Bobby McGregor	George Wynne	Link Group to be arranged
11 Nov	Marjory MacLean	Susan McGregor	Bobby McGregor	Margaret Russell	As above
18 Nov	Marjory MacLean	Susan McGregor	Bobby McGregor	Rona Weetch	As above
25 Nov	Marjory MacLean	Susan McGregor	Bobby McGregor	Una Neil	As above

# **CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF CONTACT**

The deadline for copy is  
**SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

and will be available for distributors on  
Sunday 25 November

Items can be handed in to the church  
office or e-mailed to the editor,  
**contact@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.

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# Tribute to David Craigie

David Craigie died on 7 September 2018 aged 91. He was born in Leith, moved to Thurso for some years and then spent the rest of his youth in Edinburgh. David worked as a mechanical engineer – firstly for Rolls Royce and then for Babcock's.

He married Irene in 1967 so it was a great joy to celebrate their golden wedding last year. He was a loving father to Marianne and Gillian and greatly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren in the south of England. He was a quiet man who considered things carefully and was skilled in DIY, taking great pleasure in his garden.

David came to faith relatively late in life after Irene had recovered from an illness and they came to Burnside Blairbeth from Trinity St Paul's Church, Cambuslang. We give thanks for David's life and commit the family to your prayers.

## SU sponsorship

As most readers of *Contact* will know, Burnside Blairbeth Church has a sponsorship fund to help children and young people associated with our congregation to attend SU Scotland holidays.

The fund is there to help with the cost of the holiday, but more than that it is to say to these young people that we think it's great that they want to go, and to encourage them in every way we possibly can. A holiday with SU is great fun, a great place to make new friends, and try new adventures, but it's also a taste of a Christian community where the leaders love Jesus, and want to share His love with the young people.

This year some of the young people who went on a holiday have been telling us something about what they enjoyed. Millie and Darcy went to King's Cross on Arran to a holiday led by Ross Murray of the Reachout Trust - our church worker Andy was on the team, as were several other members of our church family. Millie enjoyed the activities, especially gorge walking, while Darcy loved meeting new friends and being part of the prayer group. Both girls loved the food, and the ferry journey, and loved Arran - the weather was absolutely beautiful!

Rosie and Adam also went to an SU holiday - Rosie was delighted to share

her dorm with two girls who were in her year at her new school. She felt that camp had helped her get to know God and also built up her confidence in speaking to new people. She loved the activities - even when her kayak capsized! Adam loved camp - the people, the leaders, the scenery and the fun activities.

The holiday sponsorship fund is available to any children associated with our congregation - church groups and clubs, or school SU groups. You can contribute to the fund any time using the envelopes on the welcome table, marking your gift specifically for 'SU holiday sponsorship'. Thank you for your help!



*Pictured are Millie (left) and Darcy (right)*

## Pledge Day - 25 November

There will be a pledge day at Burnside Blairbeth on Sunday 25 November and our treasurer Alan Robertson will write to the congregation over the next few week with more details.