



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

March 2019

Dear Friends

I would not have been a good civil engineer but the one of the thing I loved about civil engineering was that you could use formulas. Formulas are wonderful - they are a way of describing something mathematically. We could analyse the different factors and forces at work in say water flowing out of a tap in a tank, work out how all these different factors were related and then use the formula to work out how long it would take for all the water to flow out of the tank. We could then experiment to see how accurate the formula was and if we were right we could then use the formula to design taps and tanks for all different purposes. Formulas are at the core of science and engineering. But not just in science in engineering.

It is funny how Jeremy Clarkson always says something outrageous or shocking just as his latest series of motoring programmes is to be launched; for days he is headline news. Is it mere coincidence that he makes these comments at the start of a new series, or is he using the tried and tested formula 'no publicity is bad publicity'?

Elijah was bruised, weary and dejected. The formula was not working. He had called fire down from to humiliate the prophets of Baal, the wicked Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel were either to repent or be overthrown in a mass uprising of the people... but it was not working - Ahab was still on the throne and Jezebel was breathing fire. Elijah was angry with God for not playing the game, not obeying his formula. This great, faithful man of God was weary, confused, dejected and resentful as he went to Mt Horeb to have it out with God.

In the situation God is wonderfully kind, gentle and wise in caring for His servant who had served Him so well; He lets Elijah rests for a while

to recover and then hides him in a cleft in the rock. Mt Horeb is another name for Mt Sinai and the cleft in the rock is probably the same place Moses hid in as God's glory passed by him.

We know the story well. Fire, earthquake and a raging wind passed by Elijah. But God was not in the earthquake wind or fire; but then he was heard in a still small voice. The puzzling thing is that in times past God had appeared to His people in an earthquake, wind or fire. At the beginning of time it was in the 'ruach' the wind, that the breath of God that brought order out of chaos. He appeared to Abraham and Moses as fire, and an earthquake shook Mt Sinai as He came to make His covenant with His people. But this time He was not in the earthquake wind or fire. Why?

We all make the mistake of trying to contain God in a formula; in this was we think we can control Him and somehow have His power at our disposal; but what really matters is His living presence in our midst. In the Highlands Free Presbyterians used to urge me to preach on hell because in the past it was as ministers preached on hell revival came to the church. But that is to reduce God to a formula. In all sorts of ways we can take things God has used in the past and reduce them to a formula and try to apply it today thinking they will guarantee success just as Elijah did. Our formulas fail and we think God has failed and wonder where He is.

The wonderful thing about God is that He is far more real, alive, creative, dynamic and exciting than we are. In Elijah's day he was wanting to do something new, something from outside of Elijah's experience - He was too big for the box Elijah tried to squeeze Him into. Prayer that is a formula to try control God will always fail. Prayer that is a death to one preconceptions and desire to recreate the past and so opens the mind for God doing something new is liberating - for Him and us.

God was not in the earthquake, wind or fire but He was in the still small voice. Through all the different generations, through all the different means He uses to reach people His simple, gracious invitation, 'Come to me and rest' remains constant.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Prayer Points

Strengthen your faith

'Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.'

Psalm 56:3 NKJV

Faith is like a muscle; trouble may strain it, but in the end it grows stronger. David understood this truth. He was continually hounded by his enemies. Even as he was being anointed to sit on the throne of Israel, Saul was still occupying it. But instead of losing faith in God's promise, David declared that 'the Lord has chosen everyone who is faithful to be his very own, and he answers my prayers' (Psalm 4:3 CEV). When the Philistines captured him, he prayed, 'There are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You' (Psalm 56:2-3 NKJV). When he ended up in a cave fleeing from Saul's jealous rage, he said, 'I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this...is past' (Psalm 57:1 TLB). During the third century when St Felix of Nola was running from his enemies, he took refuge in a cave. Eventually a spider began to weave a web across the small opening, sealing it off and making it look like nobody had been inside for months. Consequently, his pursuers passed by. Stepping out into the sunshine, Felix declared, 'Where God is, a spider's web is a wall. And where God is not, a wall is a spider's web.' Jesus said you'd have problems in life; people will disappoint you, and you'll even disappoint yourself. Sometimes you'll end up in a cave because of something you did, or because of circumstances over which you have no control. But with God on your side, you can say, 'Whenever I'm afraid, I will trust in You.'

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for March and April is

3rd March Janice Glass
10th March Janice MacKinnon
17th March Gloria Acheampong
24th March Sarah Hay
31st March

7th April. Carol May
14th April. Ethel Clark
21st April. Jim Aitken
28th April. Linda Hartness

Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for March 2019. As always, though, this rota may be subject to change! Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
3th March	Campbell Joss	Reading
10th March	Fiona Hay	Prayer of Intercession
17th March	Douglas Gibson	Reading
24th March	Christine McTaggart	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
31st March	Andy Paisley	Reading

Fiona Hay

Safeguarding



Please find below the remaining training dates as supplied by the Presbytery of Glasgow, for session 2018 – 19. If you wish to attend a course then please contact me, using the details below and I will contact Presbytery on your behalf.

As ever, if anyone is considering volunteering for a regulated position, then please seek PVG clearance at your earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.

Thank you.



Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com

Volunteer courses 2019

Wednesday 27 March

7 – 9.30pm Wallacewell, 57 Northgate Road, Balornock, G21 3QT

Tuesday 7 May

7 – 9.30pm Partick South, 259 Dumbarton Road, G11 6AB

Thursday 6 June

7 – 9.30pm Maryhill, 1990 Maryhill Road, G20 0EF

Kirk Session courses 2019

Thursday 14 March

7 – 9.30pm St David's Knightswood, 66 Boreland Drive, G13 3DX

Gift Aid : Over £15,000 Reclaimed

Once again, Balshagray Victoria Park have received a total of over £15,000 from HM Revenue and Customs, relating to offerings and donations made during 2018.

Thank you, on behalf of BVP, to all those who contributed within the Gift Aid Scheme during 2018, by any of these methods :

- Weekly Offering Envelopes
- Standing Orders
- Occasional Cheques
- Gift Day Donations

However, as we lose people from the scheme for a variety of reasons, it is important to recruit new members. As always, I would strongly encourage everyone who does pay tax but who is not already in the Gift Aid Scheme to earnestly consider joining, so that the Church may reclaim in connection with your offerings too (via envelopes, a standing order or one-off donations).

Please just ask me for an information pack – no obligation!

Roberta Yule,
Gift Aid Convenor

Service Duty Rota

March – April 2019

Please report for duties in the church vestibule by 10.30 a.m. If you cannot manage a duty it is your responsibility to ensure that a substitute is found. Please advise your Team Leader (*) of any such arrangement **and amend on noticeboard in Church vestibule.**

N.B. Changes may be made to these arrangements – please see noticeboard for current details.

An (#) after the date denotes an Evening Service. Vestibule duties begin at 6.15 p.m. *Com* after the date indicates a Communion Service.

24 th February 3 rd March #	Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus
10 th March Com 17 th March #	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	I. McLellan Miss A. Richardson
24 th March 31 st March #	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
7 th April # 14 th April	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A, McKendry
21 st April # 28 th April	A. Coghill Mrs. P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson

Standby List: D. Robertson

Tea Rota

Date		
Mar 3	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
10	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
17	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
24	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
31	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
April 7	Chrissie Francis	Marion Francis
14	Eilidh Shaw	Fiona Shaw
21	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
28	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota.

Janice Mackinnon

All Age Service

At the February Kirk Session it was decided to make the All Age Service, held in the Large Hall a regular event on the **fourth Sunday** of each month.

Church Roll

Death

Mrs Ann Nelson (District 12)

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

World Day of Prayer

2.00 pm Friday, 1st March

Jordanhill Parish Church

The service comes from Slovenia and the theme is:

"Come - Everything Is Ready"

"The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God invites us to have a prayer relationship with Himself, but He also expects us to have concerned relationships with our neighbours, throughout the world. Prayer must be accompanied by action, as God moves our hearts and directs our thoughts."



As you may be aware, this session has been somewhat different for the 101. While our boys have attended regularly, our numbers have stayed very low, and our recruitment efforts have unfortunately not seen results. Perhaps part of the problem is that we have been competing for members from the same schools as the 130th BB at Broomhill-Hyndland Church. There no longer appears to be demand for two BB companies within a quarter mile of each other.

Having discussed this previously, in our first meeting after Christmas, we agreed to try attending the 130th BB instead. This was a unanimous decision, but a difficult one. A busier and more active company definitely seemed like a more rewarding place for our boys to be, but making the move would certainly involve mixed feelings.

Plus there's the worry, as one of our boys phrased it: "What if they're all annoying?"

We have now been meeting at Broomhill-Hyndland for several weeks, and I can confirm that, by and large, they're no more or less annoying than us from the 101. Our boys have been spotted happily headlocking and being headlocked by 130 boys as well as each other, so they appear to be fitting in fine.

Next week sees the annual district drill competition. Despite marching well enough to do so (in our opinion), the 101 were never placed in the top 3 in recent years. Last year we just lost out to the 130. This year, however, the 130's A team will contain all of the boys from the 101. Whether this constitutes us getting a leg up, or sabotaging them from within, probably depends on whether a certain individual remembers his left from his right, this time around.

Regardless, I'll continue to report on how this new chapter in our story develops over the coming months.

Andrew Watkins
101glasgowbb@gmail.com

The Guild

We look forward to Jordanhill Guild joining us on 13th March at 2 p.m. to hear a speaker talk about "A Visit to Balmoral", and then on the 27th we have someone from the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, "CrossReach", speaking about the work that is done by them in Christ's name. This is one of our Guild Projects for the next three years.

The Guild Coffee Morning is on Saturday 23rd March from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, and we would be very grateful for any donations of baking to sell on the cake stall. Please come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee! Tickets will be on sale the two previous Sundays: £2 for adults and any accompanied children free. Hope to see you there!

Christine Hay
Guild Secretary

Thanks to all who provided material for this March issue.

Please send items for the April issue by

Sunday 24th March

To

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in March

Sunday 3rd March

11.00 am Morning Service

6.30 pm Evening Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 10th March

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 17th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 24th March

11.00 am All Age Service
(in the Large Hall)

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 31st March

11.00 am Morning Service

(There is no evening service)

The J team and Bible Class join in the morning worship before they leave for their own classes