



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

May 2018

Dear friends,

As I look back over the years I can see that my life in the ministry has, in one sense, been superfluous, unnecessary. You would be forgiven for thinking that this is a very harsh judgement, so let me explain...

One of the most liberating discoveries I made early in my Christian life is that our salvation is not down to anything we do, but down wholly to Christ. Therefore going to church, praying, reading the Bible add nothing to our salvation so, why bother? The answer is simple. I study the Bible not to gain spiritual Brownie points but to enjoy being in the company of my Father, getting to know Him through Christ Jesus, being led in this relationship by His Spirit. The freedom from having to read, study and pray opens the way to enjoy being my Father's son.

I made a similar discovery early in the ministry.

I was inducted to my charge in the Highlands in the September and was excited as my first Christmas as a minister drew near. On the Sunday before Christmas I drove home from church with wonderful sense of fulfilment; I had this amazing sense that the work of eternity had been done that day, that a soul that had walked in darkness had found the light and had moved from death into life. I had this great sense that, even though I was just in my mid-twenties, my life work had been completed that morning. The following Wednesday I received a phone call that my uncle had died very unexpectedly at his work that day. His funeral service was the first funeral I had to conduct in my first charge. Though my father was devastated at the loss, they were great friends as well as brothers and had come through a lot together, I had a great sense of peace through those sad days. My uncle had never been that interested in the Gospel, but the Sunday

before he died he was in church, sitting in the gallery and I believe it was in his heart the light of God's grace had shone the Sunday before he died. In bringing the Gospel to him my life's work was complete.

So what about the last nearly forty years, what has been their purpose, their meaning? I think it is really very simple. God could make the preachers out of the blocks of stone that make up the church building; creating someone to carry out the functions of a minister is easy for Him. No doubt the stones He could transform into preachers would do the job better, but they would still be stones! God does not seek functionaries but sons and daughters, son and daughters who will love and care and fulfil their calling with all the freedom, joy and delight in the Father's will that so marked Jesus ministry.

This is true irrespective of what He has called us to in life. He called me into the ministry but the same would be true if He called me to be a nuclear scientist, a dustbin man, brain surgeon, baker, musician or to work at a weather station at the North Pole.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15)

Learning to do things not because we have to, but through enjoying His delight in exercising mercy and compassion is the most wonderful calling of all.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

There were no changes to the Church Roll in April

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

Church Flower Rota

According to the notice in the Vestibule and Small Hall, the Flower Rota for May and June is

6th May	Ina Massey	D
13th May		
20th May		
27th May	Marion Francis	
3rd June	Pamela Joss	D
10th June	Janice Thorburn	
17th June	Rita McKendrick.	D
24th June	Jane Belmore	

D = needs delivered.

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* will be at **Bibi's, Dumbarton Road** on **Friday 11th May at 7pm**

To help assess numbers for reservations, please put your name on the list (posted in the Small Hall) for the current 'Dining with Friends' before the booking deadline.

A date for your diary:

Saturday 23rd June at 7pm - Elena's, Yorkhill

There will be no *Dining with Friends* in July.

Sarah Hay

Offerings for period to 15th April

	2018	2017	
Open Plate	1255	1597	-342
FWO	<u>6517</u>	<u>6486</u>	<u>+31</u>
	<u>7772</u>	<u>8083</u>	<u>-311</u>
Gift Aid direct	<u>8250</u>	<u>8275</u>	<u>-25</u>
Total	16022	16358	-336
Average per week	1068	1090	-22

Campbell Joss, Treasurer

The Guild

The Guild session has now finished, but we start thinking about speakers for next session!

We are going to meet solely on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. from October. The only alteration may be every second year when we are invited to join Jordanhill Church Guild – we'd obviously go with their timing, which might be an afternoon or an evening, and could be on a Tuesday.

We wish all the congregation a restful and happy summer.

*Christine Hay
Guild Secretary*

Birthday Congratulations

May (Agnew), one of the long standing members of BVP celebrated her 103rd birthday on Friday 20th April. She spent her birthday with her nephew, Charles, and his wife, Elsie, at the Care Home where she now lives. May said herself that she couldn't believe she had lived to 103. When asked her secret she shrugged and said 'just keep going'. Elsie hinted it might be three spoonfuls of sugar in her tea!

Congratulations and best wishes, May, from your friends at BVP.

Safeguarding



Please find below the training dates as supplied by the Presbytery of Glasgow, for session 2017 - 18. 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 you earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.



Colin Murray
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com 07721511668

Safeguarding Training Dates 2017/2018

Volunteer Courses

Tues 15 May 7 - 9.30pm, Cardonald. 2155 Paisley Rd West, G52 3PF

Mon 4 June 7 - 9.30pm, Sandyford Henderson Memorial, 13
Kelvinhaugh Street, G3 8PE

Tea Rota

Date		
May 6	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
13	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
20	Morgan Francis	Marion Francis
27	Sarah & David Hay	Fiona & Fergus Shaw

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota and for recent donations.

Janice Mackinnon



Annual Inspection and Display
Friday 18th May at 7:30pm
in the church hall.

All are welcome

Free entry

Refreshments provided afterwards.

Come along and support our young folk.

The Persecuted Church

Celebrating Easter should be a happy and joyful occasion. Unfortunately, for many Christians throughout the world, it was a very difficult and dangerous time because of the increased level of persecution they faced, particularly in the Middle East, Pakistan and India from Islamist extremists and radical Hindus. To attend Church openly was for many, quite dangerous and the only alternative was to meet in secret, to give thanks to God for the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, we were able to celebrate Easter in peace and safety. So let us remember how privileged we are to be able to attend Church week by week to remember our 'Risen Saviour'.

Syria has been torn apart by civil war – with Christians caught in the middle of the conflict, which is now entering its eighth year. It is no longer about ISIS for they have almost been defeated. What we see now is a power struggle for possession of the 'spoils of war' by Russia, Iran, Turkey and the Lebanese faction called Hezbollah. The war in Syria has become more about Shia Muslims versus Sunni Muslims, with the Christian minority caught in the middle and being squeezed out, having to flee for safety leaving behind all they possess. The shelling of predominately Christian areas near to Damascus often goes unreported by the media.

Egypt – despite a lull in attacks on Christian Churches and the increased support and compensation from the Government, the kidnapping of young Christian girls, usually teenagers, continues unabated. There are networks of abductors working as Islamic mercenary-kidnappers, who are given material rewards for abducting Christian girls who are then forced into conversion to Islam in preparation for marriage to a Muslim man.

Kazakhstan – in a further crackdown on religious freedom, the Religious Affairs Department are demanding the personal details of anyone under 18 years of age who attends a Christian church service. All registered churches were ordered to submit by 10th April the full names, places of study and state-assigned identification details of all persons under 18 years old. Churches are, so far, refusing to give in to the demands of the government because Muslims are not required to provide any information of a personal nature. The country is around 70% Muslim with a 26% Christian minority (4.6 million).

China – a very similar situation to what is taking place in Kazakhstan is happening in the Henan Province of China. All state-registered churches received notification in April ordering residents who attend any form of worship e.g. Buddhist, Muslim, Taoist or any Christian denomination, to register their details with their local 'Neighbourhood Committee'. This request relates to all family members and is another form of 'State Control'. If churches or religious groups get too large or too political, they are seen as a threat and are persecuted.

Sudan – the government of this East African country demolished an Evangelical Church located in the capital city of Khartoum. A bulldozer supported by a large contingent of police arrived a few hours after a Sunday service and they confiscated everything inside the church. The church was then razed to the ground. This act of blatant oppression took place without any prior notification and when church officials requested a reason, they were told by a government official it was because the church services were causing a public disturbance. The church was built on land which they had owned since 1989.

Converts from Islam – there are thousands of people who live in fear of acts of retribution because they have left Islam and converted to Christianity. Punishment can include physical torture, illegal confinement, forced marriage and even attempts to carry out the death penalty required under 'Sharia' Islamic Law, in order to uphold family honour. **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 18)** says; *"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."*

The information was obtained from various sources but mainly from *Barnabas Fund, Open Doors and Release International*.

"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; and the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished". Nahum 1 v 3

'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'

Robert Belmore

Reflections - David B Christie

When the impressive stained glass window, designed by Sadie McLellan and located in the north transept, was unveiled on the 4th May 1947, the man who had commissioned it in memory of his wife had died the previous December. At the time of his death, aged 77, David Bernet Christie lived at 29 Norse Road, Scotstoun and was the retired managing director of Galvanisers Ltd. His estate was valued at the not inconsiderable sum of £50,536 but he started life in much more humble circumstances.

He was born in Arbroath in August 1869 the youngest of the five children of Peter Christie, a blacksmith and ironmonger, and his wife Elizabeth. They lived at 6 Lillies Wynd which has long since been demolished. By the age of 9 his sisters Isabella and Elizabeth, both flax mill workers, and brother Peter, a mechanic at the iron works, had all succumbed to a pulmonary disease aged 15, 19 and 21 which also claimed the life of his brother James at 24, an ironmonger, in 1889.

By 1897 David was living in Glasgow and working as a mercantile clerk and on March 18th he married Ada Elspeth Smyth, also from Arbroath, in the Partickhill Manse. They set up home at 633 Dumbarton Road and later 4 Broomhill Drive.

His parents died of influenza within five days of one another in 1911 but his connection to Arbroath remained as he was later the owner of numbers 6,8 and 10 Lillies Wynd. By 1925 he and Ada were living in Norse Road.

Information about his role and that of his wife in Balshagray is vague but the installation of the window was a cherished ambition of his and in his will he left £500, known as the D B Christie Fund, presently worth £5100 and used for the benefit of the youth in the congregation. All other bequests were linked to his native Arbroath. Bequests were made to the Wesleyan Church, the British Legion, the town mission endowment fund, RNLI Arbroath, Iron, Steel and Ironmongery Benevolent Association as well as donations to Arbroath Football, Cricket and Golf Clubs. The residue of his estate was to form the David Bernet Christie Trust to "encourage Arbroath boys and young men to take up and pursue engineering as a profession and to give them all possible assistance which might be denied them." The trust continues to this day.

His home in Norse Road was named Inchcape - a reference to the reef which lies eleven miles off the coast near Arbroath and on which stands the Bell Rock Lighthouse.

Pamela Joss

Service Duty Rota

May – June 2018

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.

An (#) after the date denotes an Evening Service. Vestibule duties begin at 6.15 p.m.

Com after the date indicates a Communion Service.

6 th May # 13 th May	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A. McKendry
20 th May # 27 th May	A. Coghill* Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
3 rd June # 10 th June Com	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson
17 th June # 24 th June	Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus

Standby List: D. Robertson

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

Prayer Points

Know your calling

'What is that in your hand?'

Exodus 4:2

When God called Moses, one of the first questions He asked him was: 'What is that in your hand?' Moses was holding his shepherd's staff – the one he used each day to lead and protect his sheep. But God had a different plan for it – a greater one! He used it to part the Red Sea and lead Israel into the Promised Land. When God asks you, 'What is that in your hand?' He wants you to think about your talents, experiences, relationships, education, resources, your mind and your temperament. Dr Martin Seligman talks about our 'signature strengths'. They fall into six categories: 1) Wisdom and knowledge. These include things like curiosity, love of learning, sound judgement, and social intelligence. 2) Courage. This includes perseverance and integrity. 3) Humanity. The capacity for kindness, and the ability to express mercy. 4) Justice. The ability to bring about fairness and leadership. 5) Temperance. Qualities like self-control, prudence, and humility. 6) Transcendence. An appreciation for beauty, the expression of gratitude, the ability to hope, and the capacity for joy. We all have the capacity for each of these strengths, but the ones that resonate most deeply within you are your 'signature strengths'. Once you identify these you begin to understand your calling. But be careful; the enemy wants to convince you that God can't use you because of your weaknesses, when in fact the opposite is true. Who can speak to those who are grieving better than those who've suffered loss? Chuck Colson was the chief White House lawyer until Watergate. But only when he became a convict was he equipped to begin his ministry, Prison Fellowship. So, know your calling.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Keswick Convention – Summer 2018

The lovely spell of warm weather we had this April was, I hope, a sign that summer is on its way. I am sure many of you will soon be thinking about arranging a holiday or possibly a short break. If you have not already made up your mind, then why not consider spending some time at this year's **Keswick Convention**, which will take place during the period **14th July until 3rd August**. Several members from our church have been attending the Convention regularly for many years and, just like Jane and I, are looking forward to going back again this summer.

This year's theme is "**SENT: Serving God's Mission**". It is a fact that our God is a 'sending God' and just as he sent his Son to our broken world, He sends his people into this same world, to make disciples of all nations. God will empower, encourage and equip those that He has called, because we can do nothing in our own strength. For thousands of years, God's Word has had a radical impact on the lives of individuals, communities and even nations. But who will respond and go, to share the message of God's love and saving grace. Who will serve 'God's Mission'?

There will be three principal speakers leading the morning 'Bible Reading Sessions':-

- Week 1: Christopher Ash - Studies in Johns Gospel
- Week 2: Chris Wright - Studies from Micah
- Week 3: David Cook - Studies from Acts

The Convention is great for families with young children or teenagers and offers a wide range of interesting programmes. The Convention tries hard to offer something for everyone; Bible teaching, worship, seminars, fellowship and uplifting 'praise times' which this summer will be led by Colin Webster (week 1), Stuart Townend (week 2) and EMU Music (week 3).

A poster is on display in the small hall, but should you require more information about the Convention, please speak with Derek Robertson or me in church or check out the Convention's web site: www.keswickministries.org

Robert Belmore



Our **annual inspection and display** will be on **Friday 18th May at 7:30pm in the church hall**. All are welcome, so please do come along and support our young people. We'll do our best to make this an enjoyable evening for all. Entry is free, and refreshments will be provided afterwards.

The Partick district 10-pin bowling competition went rather well for the 101, and we continued our past form of winning despite a handicap. This year's handicap involved turning up late and missing the first few turns, but that didn't stop our 4 entrants taking two 1st places, a 2nd place and a 3rd place between them. Rumours that we had to be escorted out the rear exit afterwards are, of course, greatly exaggerated.

The last competition of the session was to be completed by ourselves on a Friday night. This was the Masterteam quiz, and we'd planned to complete this during the Easter holiday, but doing so meant that our numbers were quite low. We wanted teams of 3, and only two boys showed up. However they went on to score the highest out of all the companies entering, proving that common sense is far from essential for winning a general knowledge competition.

The three eldest boys in the company section recently attended a Queen's Badge Completion course, spending a weekend at the Auchengillan outdoor centre. This was the culmination of much work over the last 2 years, and they, along with over 80 others, will be formally presented with their Queen's badges at a ceremony in the City Chambers in May.

Come to our display to find out more!

Andrew Watkins
101glasgowbb@gmail.com

Christian Aid News

The **Erskine Bridge Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk** will start at 2pm on **Saturday 5 May** when you and your friends will hear a short talk, enjoy some entertainment and raise money to help Christian Aid to fight injustice and poverty. To learn more please contact Lucy Kirkland at 0141 221 7475 or LKirkland@christian-aid.org.

Cumbrae Challenge Sat 2nd June 10am

Loch Leven Heritage Trail Sat 9th June 10am

Powerwalk Sat 8th September 11am UK's largest onshore windfarm 7 miles;

Kelpies Canter Sat 29th September 10.30am 5k or 9k for families

Christian Aid is an organisation whose members work closely with SCAFOD, Traidcraft and other religious and secular organisations in nearly fifty countries to help relieve the aftermath of disease, drought, earthquake, famine, flood and war with new challenges cropping up in different countries.

Please continue to place your **Inkjet Cartridges, Postage Stamps, Mobile Telephones** and **Spectacles** (though not Bifocals nor Varilux) in the receptacle in the vestibule.

The latest editions of the **Christian Aid News** are packed with more information than I can hope to include here and I urge you to read them and return them to the vestibule for others. There is much, much more on the **website** www.christianaidscotland.org.

Our local Supporter is Diana Wright, Christian Aid, Sycamore House, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR, Telephone 0141 221 7475. dwright@christian-aid.org.

Angus Murchison

Rota for Readings and Prayers

May - June 2018

This is an amended rota of who will be taking part in the services by readings or prayers from May to June – but, as always, it may be subject to even more change! There will be a break during the holiday months of July and August, but a new rota will start in September 2018.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

Fiona Hay

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
6 th May	George Ross	Reading
13 th May	Alan McKendry	Prayer of Intercession
20 th May	Christine Hill	Reading
27 th May	Iain Fergus	Prayer of Adoration
3 rd June	Pamela Joss	Reading
10 th June	Neil Francis	Prayer of Intercession
17 th June	Chris McGowan	Reading
24 th June	Lindsay Fergus	Prayer of Adoration

Thanks to all who provided material for this May issue.

Please send items for the June issue by

Sunday 20th May

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in May

As the congregation at Hillington Park wish to maintain Evening Services during their vacancy, we will continue to have joint Evening Services with Hillington Park, alternating between the two churches. For transport please speak to Campbell Mackinnon or Derek Robertson

Sunday 6th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service at BVP

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 13th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm A Choral Evening at Hillington Park

Sunday 20th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service at BVP

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 27th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

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