



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

June-August 2018

Dear friends,

When I was a student my father used to arrange a summer job for me cutting the grass at Fort George. These were very happy times; after being stuck in the city for nine months it was good to be outdoors in the fresh air and having a modicum of physical exercise.

Fort George was built by French prisoners of war after the Battle of Culloden to keep rebellious Highlanders in order. The glacis were the approaches to the Fort: acres of open ground with no cover, at the end of the glacis were trenches in which soldiers would stand with the guns ready to fire. An attacking band of disgruntled Highlanders would have had to make their way over the open ground to attack the Fort but without any cover they would simply be target practice for the soldiers. When I first started working at Fort George the glacis had fallen into disrepair, the landscaped ground leading up to the trenches was pitted and uneven, there were bushes growing and the trenches had collapsed. But a team of masons was employed to rebuild the trenches and restore the brickwork and then the ground in front was cleared and grass was sown. What before had just been a piece of waste ground one could now see was a very frightening but integral part of the defences of the Fort.

Seeing something restored is one of the great joys of life, one marvels not simply at the skill of the craftsmen but at beauty restored and something that was useless becoming useful again.

One of the most beautiful lines in Psalm 23 is: '*He restores my soul...*' One thinks of prophet Elijah, exhausted and all but broken in mind and faith by his long battle with Ahab and Jezebel, he retreats to the desert where he wants to die. But God allows him a long period of rest and in

this time He restores Elijah - physically, mentally and spiritually. He appears to Elijah as the 'still small voice' so that with renewed vigour Elijah is equipped to face Ahab one final time. He is strengthened to lead the King to repentance and to prepare his successor, Elisha, for his calling. God is not only a wonderful Creator; He is also a masterful restorer.

But in Psalm 23 the word for *restore* and *repent* is the same; this is a wonderful insight. As God restores us, from our human perspective we know repentance, regret for the past and excitement about the future. As God restored Elijah making Himself known *not* in the earthquake wind or fire, but in the still small voice, Elijah had to repent of thinking that God was absent from his ministry because there had been no great drama and learn to expect that in the simple message of the prophet empowered by the Spirit, Yahweh would achieve great things. Which is what happened - as Elijah spoke to the king (1 Kings 21: 23-29), Ahab repented.

Repentance can be a painful process, as we confront uncomfortable truths about ourselves, but when we see it is the human side of God restoring our souls it becomes something we can welcome for His purpose is never to afflict but to restore beauty and order to our lives so that we might fulfil the great destiny He has for us.

Last year I went back to Fort George. I had not been there for over thirty years and, as I walked round the glacis, I remembered what they had been and enjoyed what they had become. It is one of the great joys of the ministry to live amongst restored souls.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

Death

Miss May Agnew (District 19)

Member leaving by Certificate of Transference

Miss Jessie Herd (District 19)

Andy Coghill, Rollkeeper

Church Flowers Rota

According to the notice in the Vestibule and Small Hall, the Flower Rota over the summer months is

3rd June	Pamela Joss D
10th June	Janice Thorburn
17th June	Rita McKendrick. D
24th June	Jane Belmore
1st July	
8th July	Fiona & Christine Hay
15th July	Shona McGill & Chris McGowan
22nd July	Hazel McCalden
29th July	
5th Aug	Joan Watkins
12th Aug	Gordon Milne
19th Aug	
26th Aug	Roberta Yule D

D = needs delivered.

Offerings for the Period to 6th. May 2018

	2018	2017	
Open Plate	1550	1860	-310
FWO	<u>7910</u>	<u>8146</u>	- 236
	9460	10006	-546
Gift Aid	<u>11075</u>	<u>11075</u>	
Total	20535	21081	- 546
Average per week (18 weeks)	1141	1171	-30

Campbell Joss
Treasurer

Compassion

In her first letter, Dinar in Indonesia has written to tell us the things she enjoys most are studying and playing sports, particularly hockey and badminton. She also likes to cook.

Ssemialo in Uganda has written to say that he and his family are all well. He is continuing to enjoy his motorcycle course and has now learned to mend tyres, brakes and clutches. Ssemialo writes, 'I humbly request you to pray that God gives me wisdom plus success in order to do well and learn more from my motorcycle course.' Like farmers in Uganda, Ssemialo had taken advantage of the rainy season to plant crops and is looking forward to seeing them grow. He finishes by thanking us for our support and care and writes, 'a memory verse for you is 1 Corinthians 16:14, "Do everything in love."

Luis in Ecuador is looking forward to visiting his grandparents during the school holidays. He and his family are well, but there has been an outbreak of conjunctivitis in the city where he lives and many people have been affected. Luis is doing well in school and enjoys hearing the word of God at the Compassion project he attends. He writes, 'I like this Bible verse, Numbers 6:24-26, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."' Luis asks us to pray for him and his family.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support of the children, it really is greatly appreciated.

Joan Canavan

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* will be at **Elena's, Yorkhill** on **Saturday 23rd June 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.

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

Sarah Hay

Team Jenny Hits the Road!

As many of you will know, my sister Jennifer Macrae died in March, less than a year after having been diagnosed with cancer. Before Jennifer died she gave her blessing to a family running challenge to raise funds for Edinburgh Maggie's Centre, where she received wonderful support throughout her illness. So the seven "girls" of her family (Team Jenny, ages from 7 to 61) intend to honour this inspirational lady in a positive way by saying a huge practical "thank you" to those who helped her so much. We will, in varying combinations, be clocking up 100km (or maybe more) of official timed runs - training won't count - over this summer. Events will include the Aberdeen Baker Hughes 10k, the Great Aberdeen Run 10k, the East Lothian 10k and the Run the Blades 10k trail run, and the final event will be the Great Scottish Run half marathon at the end of September. Our youngest team members, Ciara and Isla, will be taking on a 5k in Portrush in August to swell the kilometre count! Should anyone wish to support our challenge for Edinburgh Maggie's in memory of Jennifer, donations will be very gratefully received. These can be made online at www.justgiving.com/2018teamjenny or speak to Susan Gibson if you would prefer a traditional sponsor form.

Thank you!

Team Jenny c/o Susan Gibson

Thank You

I am Niamh Docherty and would like to thank everyone who donated to my cycling challenge. Cameron is such a happy young man and for him to be able to communicate with everyone who meets him not just his parents will be life changing. On Sunday the 29th April I set off from Inverness at 06:37 when it was -1 degrees and cycled with over 5000 others around Loch Ness. I had a great morning and managed to beat the time I was hoping for by finishing in 4 hours and 47 minutes. There were a few bits in the last 10 miles when I really struggled to carry on but know that by finishing Cameron would be that bit closer to reaching his fundraising total gave me the energy to complete all 66 miles. Due to your generosity we have managed to raise £1053 to help Cameron get his voice. This will bring Cameron's total fundraising to

£6073 with £1927 to go. We are incredibly hopeful that this will be successfully raised in the coming months as there are a few events planned including a 24 hour disco!

From the bottom of my heart I thank everyone at Balshagray Victoria Park Church for your generosity. Many thanks also come from Cameron and his mum Elaine.

Sadie McLellan – artist in Stained-Glass

BVP is fortunate to have some lovely stained-glass windows adorning the sanctuary. Two of these windows - the St Clair Wilson window in the north aisle and the David B Christie window in the north transept are the work of the acclaimed Scottish stained-glass artist Sadie McLellan.

Sadie McLellan was born in Milngavie in October 1914 and educated at Bearsden Academy. She studied at Glasgow School of Art from 1931 to 1936 intending to become a portrait painter but transferred her studies to stained-glass under Charles Baillie (designer of the Rogano Restaurant). Winning the John Keppie travelling scholarship, she spent a year at the Danish Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen. During her time there she produced a speculative design for the great west window in Glasgow Cathedral.

In 1938 she contributed a stained-glass panel for the Women's Pavilion at the Empire Exhibition in Bellahouston Park. In 1940 she married Walter Pritchard also a stained-glass artist and taught at Glasgow School of Art.

In a career spanning some sixty years she designed windows in Glasgow Cathedral, the Martyrs Church in St Andrews, Cardonald Parish Church, St Cadoc's, Cambuslang, Alloa Parish Church, the restored Pluscarden Abbey near Elgin and Robin Chapel, Craigmillar, Edinburgh, to name a few.

She retired in 1990 to Nova Scotia to live with her daughter. In 1996 Glasgow School of Art awarded her a Fellowship.

She died in February 2007 aged 92.

Pamela Joss

Thank You from Partick South Church

The Rev. Andy McIntyre is very grateful for the generous support which our congregation continues to provide by donating tins of food etc. on a regular basis. The food is distributed to those in need by Partick South during their Sunday evening community outreach service. Please continue to support this very worthwhile work. If anyone requires further information please speak with me in church.

Note: Donations of rice, pasta and tinned foods are preferred; no short shelf life items or pre-packed meats or liquids. Thanks.

Forthcoming Events

Glasgow the Welcoming City – an open invitation to attend Glasgow City Chambers on **Sunday 10th June** at 3pm to celebrate the cultural diversity of our great city!

30 years have passed since the Glasgow Garden Festival and this will be remembered together with other important events by Civic and Church leaders. There will be music and song from a variety of contributors and refreshments will be provided.

The event is supported by 'Glasgow Churches Together' and further details are on the notice board in the large hall.

Interfaith Glasgow – are running a series of monthly events called "Faith to Faith". This is a series of dialogues arranged in partnership with the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life, which is the venue. Each event runs from 2-4pm on a Sunday afternoon and guest speakers offer personal insights into contemporary topics concerning religion,

The next event is on **10th June** when the topic will be 'Heaven and Hell' and on **8th July** the topic is 'Faith and Poetry'.

The events are free and refreshments are provided.

Praise Gathering 2018 – this event will take place in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on **Saturday 24th June**. Over 300 singers from 140 churches will participate together with the 'Praise Gathering Youth Choir'. Worship is about "coming together" – will you be there !! Tickets are available from the Concert Hall (0141 353 8000).

Robert Belmore

Prayer Points

Set goals for your life

'Write the vision and make it plain.'

Habakkuk 2:2

Only when you're clear about your personal goals, can you measure your personal growth. Here are eight proven principles that will help you to establish the right goals for your life: 1) Begin with prayer; otherwise the ladder you're climbing may be leaning against the wrong wall. 'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but...the LORD's purpose... prevails' (Proverbs 19:21 NIV 2011 Edition). 2) Think on paper. God told Habakkuk, 'Write the vision and make it plain.' Writing your goals down gives them a sense of permanency, plus it energises you. 3) Set deadlines. 'The vision is yet for an appointed time' (Habakkuk 2:3 NKJV). Without a definite beginning and ending, it's easy to procrastinate and get nowhere. 4) List the steps you need to take. Then keep the list before you at all times; it will show you the path to follow. 5) Prioritise the steps in order of importance. What do you need to do first? What can you do later? An organised plan is always better than trying to carry stuff around in your head. 6) Take action – now. 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV 2011 Edition). A mediocre plan that's implemented always beats a brilliant plan that isn't. 7) Do something each day to move you forward. For example, read systematically through the Bible in a year...call a specific number of clients every week...engage in physical activity every day. 8) Have goals you're willing to devote your life to. The psalmist said, 'Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (Psalm 90:12 NIV 1984 Edition).

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Tea Rota

June 3	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
10	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
17	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
24	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
July 1	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
8	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
15	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
22	Morgan Francis	Marion Francis
29	Sarah & David Hay	Fiona & Fergus Shaw
August 5	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
12	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
19	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
26	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
Sept 2	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley

If you are unable to do your tea duty please arrange a replacement.
Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota.

Janice Mackinnon

Service Duty Rota

June – August 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 **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.

3 rd June#	Mrs S. Gibson*	R. McTaggart
10 th June <i>Com</i>	I. Fergus	Mrs F. Robertson
17 th June #	Mrs J. Sinclair*	Mrs C. McGowan
24 th June	J. Massey	Miss L. Fergus
1 st July	A. Thorburn*	I. McLellan
8 th July	W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson
15 th July	J. Goddard*	Miss F. Hay
22 nd July	Miss C. Hay	Mrs S. McGill
29 th July	Miss R. Yule*	G. Ross
5 th August	C. Murray	A. McKendry
12 th August	A. Coghill*	D. Hay
19 th August	Mrs P. Joss	Mrs M. Thomson
26 th August	Mrs S. Gibson*	R. McTaggart
2 nd September	I. Fergus	Mrs F. Robertson

Standby List: D. Robertson

Christian Aid News

It is not too late to donate to Christian Aid Week.

Dates for the Energetic!

Cumrae Challenge Sat 2 June 10am

Loch Leven Heritage Trail Sat 9 June 10am

Powerwalk Sat 8 September 11am UK'S largest onshore windfarm 7 miles

Kelpies Canter 5k or 9k for families

If you would like to **organise, volunteer** or **participate** in any events please contact **Lucy Kirkland** at 0141 221 7475 or LKirkland@christian-aid.org

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

Thanks to all who provided material for this Summer issue.

Please send items for the September issue by

Sunday 19th August

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP - June to August

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 *in June*, alternating between the two churches. For transport please speak to Campbell Mackinnon or Derek Robertson

Sunday 3rd June

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Mr Derek Robertson

6.30 pm Evening Service at Hillington Park

Sunday 10th June

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion
Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 17th June

11.00 am Family Service

J Team / Bible Class Prize Giving

6.30 pm Evening Service (at BVP)
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

There are no further evening services over the summer months

Sunday 24th June

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sundays July and August

11.00 am Morning Service