



Balshagray Victoria Park  
Church of Scotland

# The Herald

April 2019

Dear Friends

I do not know how folk can be so dismissive of the Gospels and the story they tell of Jesus' life and ministry. There is such depth and beauty to each story and the stories relate so beautifully to one another they introduce another world to us.

As penitent men and women stood in the river Jordan waiting to be baptised by John a stranger came and stood with them - John's cousin, the Carpenter from Nazareth. John all but refused to baptise Jesus - Jesus was not a penitent in the usual sense; but Jesus insisted and was baptised alongside ordinary men and women who knew they had much to repent of. As Jesus was baptised with them, God the Father could not contain His delight in His Son and cried out 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' The Spirit then came and rested upon Jesus.

One would think this would mark the beginning of something spectacular in Christ's ministry but no; the Spirit does not inspire Jesus to do mighty works but leads Him into the wilderness where He is confronted by the embodiment of evil, Satan. There follow the temptations of Christ: after forty days and nights of fasting, the challenge to turn stones into bread, to seek a demonstration that the Father truly loves Him and then lordship over all the kingdoms on earth.

One of the fascinating things about the temptations is that at different times Jesus actually does what Satan tempts Him to do in the wilderness. At the wedding in Cana of Galilee He does not change stones into bread but He changes water into wine. On the hills above

Galilee He changes fresh air into bread and fish. At Calvary He does not cast Himself from the temple but He descends into the pit of endless suffering and desolation. As He ascends to His Father's right hand all authority on heaven and earth is granted to Him. How are we to understand this?

Let us consider the temptation to change stones into bread.

When Jesus changed the water into wine it was an act of pure compassion. He rescued a marriage that was teetering on the edge of failure; in changing water into wine He is saying to all of us that he has come to heal our broken, fractured failing lives so that life can become rich and full once again.

In changing fresh air into bread and fish He was acting in pure compassion; He did not leave the crowds to their own devices He acted to meet their need. In both instances, moved by compassion He interceded, prayed and with the empowering of the Holy Spirit did something life changing in the lives of His people.

Satan in suggesting He change the stones into bread is tempting Jesus to use His powers in self-interest to relieve the agony of hunger. In resisting Satan; Jesus is refusing to use His authority as the Son of God, refusing to use His relationship with the Holy Spirit in self-interest but He empties Himself of all self-interest and will act only in delight to His Father's will and for the blessing of His people.

It is this self-emptying love that emanates from the Lord Jesus Christ as He prays in Gethsemane, allows Himself be arrested and as He pours out His life on the cross. As He stepped into this world, as He was tried in the wilderness, as He was arrested and nailed to the cross at no point did He stop being the eternal uncreated Son of God, His glory was veiled in flesh, He remained the Son of God. But He willingly in love embraced the humiliation and the desolation of the cross becoming, in the eyes of the world less than human, that we might know the wonder of His goodness, compassion, forgiveness and life. This is the pure love with which Jesus reaches out to us. He:

*Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race.*

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

## Church Roll

### Death

Mrs Ann Smillie (District 10)

*Andy Coghill  
Rollkeeper*

## Offerings for period to 15th April

	2019	2018	
Open Plate	958	941	+ 17
FWO	<u>3878</u>	<u>4672</u>	<u>-794</u>
	4836	5613	-777
Gift Aid direct to bank	<u>7525</u>	<u>8005</u>	<u>-480</u>
Total	12361	13618	-1257
Average per week (12 weeks)	1030	1134	-104

*Campbell Joss, Treasurer*

## Christian Aid News

We have had a successful year with Spring and Christmas Fayres in Broomhill/Hyndland and Jordanhill, a Plant Stall in the former Hyndland Church, Christian Aid Week in May and the Carol Service in BVP.

The Spring Fayre was held In Jordanhill Parish Church, Woodend Drive on Saturday 16th March from 10am – noon with the usual stalls.

The annual Erskine Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk is on Saturday 11th May starting at 2pm with Registration from 1.15pm. This is a Fun Day. I can provide and sponsor forms for you.

*Angus Murchieson*



I'm happy to report that this session was the first in many years when boys from the 101st BB have won a medal in the district drill competition. That this happened as part of a 130th team in no way diminishes this achievement, indeed I think it should be taken as a big compliment that every boy who has joined the 130 from the 101 was picked to form part of the "A" squad for the drill competition. (Not that those who were relegated to the "B" squad seemed to mind ... until they realised that their squad needed longer practise sessions than the "A" squad did!). While even our combined forces weren't able to match the particularly, err, "robotic" marching style of the company who typically wins this competition each year, we were certainly pleased to win the bronze medal.

March has been a busy month for district competitions, with the drill, bowling, badminton, Christian faith and district sports competitions squeezing in before the Easter holidays and the looming threat of the school exam period. A former 101 boy took a silver medal at the bowling, which is a distinct step down from last year's gold medal, which he earned despite having a broken wrist and being so late as to miss the first few rounds!

The Christian faith competition has changed its format in recent years, and is now completed during a regular BB company meeting, and submitted by post. In essence, it is a team-based close reading and memory exam. A bible passage is issued the week before, then a team of three answer questions on it from memory. Although only one team from the company volunteered for what essentially amounts to an extra exam, from what I saw they answered almost all the questions very well. The only one that perhaps caught them out was the distance from Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. If this really had been 400 miles as per the team's answer, I suspect that Jesus might have picked somewhere else to spend the night during his holy week visit to Jerusalem. (The real distance is about 2 miles.)

March also saw us attend a church parade at Broomhill-Hyndland church, which featured the first march-past any of us from the 101 have participated in for several years. Thankfully the weather was dry, the bugle band was (somewhat) tuneful, and the march was blessedly short.

The coming week brings us to the last district competition of the session, the sports. This is outdoors at Scotstoun stadium, and based on past experience, I have every expectation that we will either win a medal or come last in each event. No pressure!

Andrew Watkins  
[101glasgowbb@gmail.com](mailto:101glasgowbb@gmail.com)

### **George Alexander Sloan Memorial Window**

The small window in the South Transept was gifted by Mrs Sloan in memory of her late husband George and was dedicated at a short family service on May 25th 1957. It portrays the emblem of the Church of Scotland 'The Burning Bush' and is the work of Douglas H Hamilton.

Douglas Hamilton was born in Glasgow in 1895, studied at Glasgow School of Art and joined the studio of Alfred Webster a renowned artist in stained glass. Alfred Webster was in the army during the First World War on the Western Front and was badly injured and died of his wounds in August 1915. He was 32 years old and his wife had recently given birth to their third son. Douglas Hamilton continued to run the studio and trained Alfred's son Gordon who became a renowned artist in stained glass in his own right and took over the studio in the 1930's.

In several churches the work of Douglas Hamilton and Gordon Webster can be seen. Douglas Hamilton's work can be found in many churches including Uddingston Old Parish Church, the Barony Church, Glasgow, Portree Parish Church, Skye, Dalziel Parish, and Alloway Parish Church. In several churches the work of Douglas Hamilton and Gordon Webster can be seen.

*Pamela Joss*

### **The Persecuted Church**

Easter is only a few weeks away and celebrating with family and friends should be a happy and joyful occasion. Unfortunately, for many Christians throughout the world, it will be a very difficult and dangerous time because of persecution and restrictions imposed upon individuals and churches by corrupt regimes. For many Christians, it might not be possible to meet openly with others or even attend a special Easter service in church. For some, the safest and only option will be to meet in secret to give thanks to God for the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we celebrate this Easter, let us remember and reflect on how privileged we are to have the freedom to worship, to attend Church and gather together to remember our 'Risen Saviour'.

Let us also remember that it is not only Christians who suffer from persecution and whose lives are in danger. You will be aware of the huge loss of life that took place in Christchurch, New Zealand in March, when a crazy individual with a machine gun killed 50 Muslims and severely wounding many others who were worshipping in two mosques. This violent act by just one deranged individual caused much grief, pain and suffering to many families who had fled from countries such as Syria and Afghanistan, because life had become so intolerable due to a lack of basic human resources.

ISIS has now been defeated, at least militarily, and the so called 'Caliphate' is no more. However, the ideology of the hate filled radical extremists will remain alive in the hearts and minds of many, who see Christians as 'infidels' and targets for killing. The world has become a very dangerous place for people of faith, regardless of what religious persuasion you are.

ALGERIA – despite some relaxation by the government of this North African country allowing Christians of registered churches to hold services, there is growing pressure on the government by Muslims to curtail the growth of Christian churches. Last year at least 11 churches were forced by the government to close.

NIGERIA – Islamic jihadists continue to target Christians in the north and central regions of this African country. Over the past few years, thousands have been killed, severely injured or abducted and many churches ransacked or destroyed.

CAMEROON – militants of Boko Haram attacked two predominately Christian villages in the north of this West African country. On this occasion there was no reported loss of life as the perpetrators were intent on looting, then destroying the homes of Christians in an attempt to force them to leave the area. In addition, four churches were ransacked and a Christian hospital set on fire. There have been several attacks in this area over the past few years, causing fear and severe hardship.

PHILLIPINES– a Cathedral in the island city of Jolo was bombed killing 20 and injuring at least 100 worshippers. Two bombs exploded one inside the Cathedral and the other outside, which was detonated as members of the congregation fled from the church. This attack was seen as a reprisal by a Muslim extremist group called 'Abu Sayyaf' against the Christian community for rejecting the creation of an autonomous region for Muslims in the Mindanao island group.

ERITREA – this is Africa's most repressive state and Christians are harassed, arrested, disappear and even killed with impunity. There is no respect for human rights or religious freedom. More than 300 Christians were arrested last year and many were incarcerated in old shipping containers. Thousands of Christians still languish in prisons, some locked up for more than a decade.

MOZAMBIQUE – the cyclone 'Idai' smashed into the coast of the East African country creating devastation on a huge scale and the countries of Zimbabwe and Malawi were also affected. More than 2.5 million people are in dire need, having almost no food or clean water. The death toll could be in the thousands. Many homes and churches have been destroyed and large swathes of land are now completely under water. Christian agencies in many African nations are helping in the relief work.

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

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures for ever" (Psalm 107 v 1 NIV).

'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'

*Robert Belmore*

## Prayer Points

### Seek to glorify God

*'For you have been given...the privilege of suffering for him.'*  
*Philippians 1:29 NLT*

Think of Gethsemane, the garden where Jesus Himself wrestled with the will of God. 'Take this cup from me' (Mark 14:36 NIV 2011 Edition). It was a reference to the cup of wrath. Jesus knew He'd have to drink it to the dregs. But before He did, He asked His Father if He could take it away, if there was any other way. But then He qualified His request with the ultimate prayer of surrender: 'Not My will, but Yours, be done' (Luke 22:42 NKJV). Our prayers tend to focus on external circumstances more than internal attitudes, because we'd rather have God change our *circumstances* than change *us*. It's a lot easier that way. But we miss the point altogether. It's the worst of circumstances that often brings out the best in us. And if it's the bad things that bring out the good things, then maybe those bad things are good things in the grand scheme of things! It's only when you've been tested that you have a testimony to share with others. Yes, you can be saved without suffering, but you cannot be spiritually matured or equipped for service without it. That doesn't mean you seek it out, but it does mean you see it for what it is – an opportunity to glorify God. Paul, who suffered greatly, writes, 'For you have been given...the privilege of suffering for him.' Where did Paul find such strength? 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' (Romans 8:18 NKJV). So the word for you today is: seek to glorify God in every circumstance of life.

*Copied with permission from "The Word for Today." Free copies are available from UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, England, ST6 4JF*

*Christine Hay*  
*Prayer Secretary*

## BVP – Prayer for the future

*Earlier this year, several members came along to a meeting after a the morning service to pray about the future for BVP. They found this distributed 'items for prayer' useful and thought others would too.*

### Ministry

- That Campbell will be guided week by week so that we hear God's voice
- For Campbell as he seeks to pass on the vision of Path of Renewal
- We are now starting to look for a potential locum after Campbell retires

### Leadership

- For the Session and others as they discern the way ahead
- For further productive meetings with Presbytery as we explore options
- For the right Interim Moderator who will provide wise leadership
- That God will make his plans for BVP clear to everyone

### Congregation

- That there will be growing unity and support for each other
- That the care for those who are ill and housebound will remain strong
- That we will all be ready to try new things/let things go in order to be ready for the next stage of the church's life
- That the finances of the church will remain healthy and enable us to make plans

### Mission

- That despite uncertain future, we will remain outward looking
- That God will use our fragile situation as a means of making us more effective in reaching others
- That we will be creative and bold in telling others about Jesus
- That God will prepare the ground and lead us to where he wants to build his kingdom

## Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for April 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
7th April	Andrew Watkins	Prayer of Intercession
14th April	Roberta Yule	Reading
21st April	Iain Fergus	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
28th April	Anne-Marie Masson	Reading

*Fiona Hay*

## Compassion

Luis in Ecuador has written to let us know that he is doing well in school but is feeling nervous because he thinks tests he is soon to take are going to be difficult. Luis is looking forward to these being over with so he can go on holiday and enjoy himself with his family. Luis and his classmates are all enjoying taking part in the school Olympic Games. He wants us to know that his favourite holiday is Carnival because he can have fun and play with water balloons with his friends. Luis asks us to pray for him, his family, friends, country and his cat.

Coins for Compassion - just a little note to let you know that there will be a charity bucket in the large hall so if anyone has any loose coins and wishes to do so, they can 'chuck them in the bucket' - thank you to Andy McIntyre at Partick South for sharing this great idea. From little things big things really do grow, because our coins will help provide Ssemialo, Luis and Dinar with education, health care and nutritious meals as well as Christmas and birthday gifts.

Once again, thank you very much for all your support which really is greatly appreciated.

*Joan Canavan*

## 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](mailto:bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com)

## Volunteer courses 2019

### 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

## Dining with Friends

Here are the dates and venues for our monthly times out together. If you have not been to one of these, please think about joining us.

Saturday 13th April 7.30pm - Roastit Bubbly Jocks, Partick

Saturday 11th May 1pm - Caulders Restaurant at Mugdock Country Park, Milngavie (meeting 12 noon for walk)

Friday 21st June 7.30pm - Elena's, Yorkhill

Please sign up on the list in the small hall.

*Sarah. Hay*



## Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for April and May is

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

5th May	Ina Massey
12th May	
19th May	
26th May	Marion Frances

## Holy Week Services

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (15th., 16th. and 17th. April) we are invited to join with Jordanhill Parish Church in the Holy Week services, which start at 7.30pm.

On Thursday 18th at 7.00pm there will be a Maundy Thursday Communion Service in Balshagray Victoria Park and on Friday 19th at 7.00pm there will be a Joint Good Friday Service with Scotstoun Parish Church in Scotstoun; both services will be conducted by Campbell Mackinnon.

## Easter Sunday Open Air Service

Come and celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday a little earlier than usual. We plan to hold a short informal service in Thornwood Park just along from the church at 9.30am and this will last about 30 minutes. Thereafter we shall walk back to the church for an Easter breakfast before the main service starts at 11.00am. This is something new for our congregation, so please come along and join in.

## Service Duty Rota

### April – May 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.

7 <sup>th</sup> April # 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A, McKendry
21 <sup>st</sup> April # 28 <sup>th</sup> April	A. Coghill Mrs. P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
5 <sup>th</sup> May # 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson
19 <sup>th</sup> May # 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus

Standby List: D. Robertson

### Ann Nelson

The family of Ann Nelson would like to thank everyone for all the lovely thoughts and wishes they received after Ann's recent passing. The turnout at Ann's funeral was amazing and it gave us all a great deal of joy to know Ann was loved by so many.

A collection at the end of the Church and Crematorium service was taken in aid of St Margaret's Hospice and a total of £383 was raised. Thank you so much.

## JustTextGiving

Since 2011 it has been possible to text donations to Balshagray Victoria Park.

However, the JustTextGiving service for charities is being withdrawn at the end of March 2019, due to a decline in its use in recent years.

Thank you to those who have used it while it was available.

*Roberta Yule*

## Tea Rota

Date		
April 7	Chrissie Francis	Marion Francis
14	Eilidh Shaw	Fiona Shaw
21	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
28	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
May 5	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
12	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
19	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
26	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota.

*Janice Mackinnon*

## The Guild

A huge "Thank you" to all who helped in any way, donated to and / or supported the Guild Coffee morning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. You helped to raise over £355, a magnificent total!

As we reach the final month for Guild meetings this session, we look forward to hearing about "The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme" on Wednesday 10th April at 2 p.m. and then having our A.G. M. at around 2 o'clock on the 24th. We will precede this by having a fish'n'chip lunch together in the hall at 1 p.m.

*Christine Hay  
Guild Secretary*

### Church AGM

**Sunday 14th April**

**immediately after the morning service**

Thanks to all who provided material for this April issue.

Please send items for the May issue by

**Sunday 21st April**

to

[edbvpherald@gmail.com](mailto:edbvpherald@gmail.com)

## Worship Services at BVP in April

*Sunday 7th April*

11.00 am Morning Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

*Sunday 14th April*

11.00 am Morning Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon  
The Annual General Meeting will be held  
in the church immediately after this service

(There is no evening service)

Holy Week services – see p. 12

*Sunday 21st April*

*Easter Day*

9.30 am Open Air Service – see p. 12

11.00 am Easter Day Family Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

*Sunday 28th April*

11.00 am All Age Service  
(in the Large Hall)

(There is no evening service)

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