



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

Christmas 2018

Dear Friends

Colour is one of the great joys of life.

A bank of green grass in springtime, with a gentle blue sky in the background, a tree coming to life the textured browns and greys of the bark, with leaves starting to appear, with the tree sitting serenely in a lake of crocuses of many shades of purple and yellow; on a branch sits a robin: grey and red in beautiful, winsome harmony.

I know a black dress is an essential in every lady's wardrobe; but if clothes could only be black, white or shades of grey how dull parties, weddings and life would be: no kilts, no ridiculous ties! Babies dressed only in black grey or white would be a denial of their new life.

Or if footballs teams had to play in white at home and black when away and supporters could not wear their team's colours something essential would be lost from the beautiful game. I know that flags can be a source of bigotry and nationalism of a corrupting kind; but there is something of the dark blue and white of the saltire that moves anyone with Scottish blood in their veins.

And so we could go on. Colour is an integral part of our existence it is part of what we are as human beings.

This is how I feel about Christ and Christmas. When folk mock the Christian faith and imply that one is a fool to believe in these ancient myths my soul shrinks within me at the loss of colour from my life.

For the Pharisees of Jesus' day life was black and white: the woman caught in adultery had to be stoned to death or the law of Moses abandoned. Jesus introduced carnelian red mercy to the picture and changed the world for ever. Nicodemus came to Jesus seeking straight answers to straight questions; Jesus spoke of the new life needful to know the Father, He painted a gentle, verdant green into Nicodemus' world.

White is of course, made up of the three primary colours: red green and blue; and the pure goodness of Jesus is always the coming together of His delight in His Father's will, His humility and His grace. There is no darkness to be found in Him, for he never ceases to delight in His Father's goodness and is ever gentle and full of compassion.

In the hands of an expert photographer black and white film can be most expressive: it is in the black and white of Calvary, the pure crystal goodness of Christ against the corruption of the authorities and the spite of the crowd that we see God's goodness vividly.

I love Christmas, because Christmas was when the world changed from being black and white to colour. When Jesus restored Bartimaeus' sight life, for the once blind man, it was no longer just a matter of survival. He went with Jesus and watched as Jesus healed, forgave, taught, prayed and befriended the friendless. He could not only see again but he could see the beauty of life in a wonderful array of colour.

It is always a magical moment, either in George Square or in a front room, when the Christmas lights are turned on. This Christmas let us pray that the Holy Spirit will turn on in our hearts the Christmas light of divine beauty that shines from Christ Jesus.

With our prayerful good wishes for a very Blessed Christmas and health in the new Year.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon



A big deal for our Company section this month was the colour party parading the flags into BVP's remembrance day service. With the "experts" at the top end of the company having been discharged last session, none of this year's colour party had performed this task before, so there was an element of trepidation involved.

Marching in a colour party is rather different to our usual sort of drill, as there isn't a separate person giving instructions. Instead of doing what you're told to do even if it wasn't what the instructing officer meant to say, in a colour party you need to do what you're meant to do, even if it isn't what you were told to do. Confused yet?

It can be particularly nerve-wracking to be the one who has to lead the colour party, as deciding exactly when to start and stop gets a lot more challenging when all eyes are on you.

So was I worried? Absolutely, but I needn't have, because they performed admirably. They even ensured that no flags collided with the balcony while exiting the church sanctuary. (This can be painful for the flag carrier.)

When not practising for this, the boys and staff have been practising their rapping skills, with the help of a computer game that gives you prompts, and (mercifully) reads it all out for you in a showdown at the end. This turned out to be more educational than you might have expected, as we're all much better now at identifying verbs, adjectives, impersonal pronouns and what have you. And I'm pleased to report that, despite efforts to the contrary, there's still nothing that rhymes with Watkins.

Andrew Watkins
101glasgowbb@gmail.com

Christian Aid News

The **Christian Aid Carol Service** will be held this year in **Balshagray Victoria Park Church** on **Sunday 2 December** starting at **6.30pm**. We look forward to welcoming all who wish to attend in support of our faith. Refreshments will be served in the hall at the end of the service.

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. We have enjoyed a good year with healthy support from our Spring and Christmas Fayres and from Christian Aid Week despite the weather.

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

Prayer Points

'Here am I. Send Me!'

'I said, "Here am I. Send me!"'

Isaiah 6:8 NIV

Isaiah writes, 'Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" He said, "Go...!"' (vv. 8-9 NIV 2011 Edition). In the preceding Scriptures Isaiah was making all sorts of excuses and telling God why he wasn't qualified to do the job. But in God's kingdom, calling trumps credentials every time! And the litmus test isn't experience or expertise, it's availability and teachability. If you are willing to go when God gives you the green light, He will take you to inaccessible places and do impossible things. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Esther, Moses, Samuel, David, and Isaiah all have one thing in common. They all said, 'Here am I.' Isn't it ironic that we spend so much time and energy trying to figure out how to get to where God wants us to go, when all we have to do is simply say, 'Here am I'? It's *God's* job to get us to where He wants us to go; *our* job is to make ourselves available. Like a doctor on call or a police officer on duty or a firefighter on shift, it's our readiness to respond that God is looking for. Sometimes it's a simple prompting to go out of our way and love our next-door neighbour. Sometimes it's a calling to move halfway around the world. But it always starts with the little three-word prayer of availability: 'Here am I.' That's what Moses said at the burning bush. That's what Caleb said when he finally set foot in the Promised Land. And that's what God wants you to say today.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Safeguarding

Please find below the 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 2018 / 19

Wednesday 5 December

7 – 9.30pm St James' Pollok, 183 Meiklerig Crescent, G53 5NA

Tuesday 22 January

7 – 9.30pm Springburn, 180 Springburn Way, Springburn, G21 1TU

Thursday 7 February

7 – 9.30pm Wellington, University Ave / Southpark Ave, G12 8LE

Tuesday 12 February

7 – 9.30pm Netherlee, 130 Ormonde Avenue, Netherlee, G44 3SL

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 2018 / 19

Wednesday 23 January

7 – 9.30pm Cardonald, 2155 Paisley Road West, G52 3PF

Thursday 14 March

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

Tea Rota

Date		
Dec 2	Chrissie Francis	Marion Francis
9	Eilidh Shaw	Fiona & Fergus Shaw
16	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
23	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
30	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
Jan 6	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
13	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
20	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
27	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota.

Janice Mackinnon

Offerings for the period to 18th November 2018

	2018	2017	
Open Plate	4169	4874	- 705
FWO	<u>17868</u>	<u>19834</u>	<u>-1966</u>
	22037	24708	-2671
Gift Aid direct to bank	<u>27175</u>	27550	<u>- 375</u>
Total	49212	52258	- 3046
Average per week (46 weeks)	1070	1135	- 65

Campbell Joss
Treasurer

Service Duty Rota

December 2018 – January 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.

2 nd December <i>Com</i>	Mrs J. Sinclair*	Mrs C. McGowan
9 th December	J. Massey	Miss L. Fergus
16 th December	A. Thorburn*	I. McLellan
23 rd December	W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson
30 th December	J. Goddard*	Miss F. Hay
6 th January	Miss C. Hay	Mrs S. McGill
13 th January	Miss R. Yule*	G. Ross
20 th January	C. Murray	A, McKendry
27 th January	A. Coghill	D. Hay
3 rd February #	Mrs. P. Joss	Mrs M. Thomson

Standby List: D. Robertson

Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for December and January is

December

2nd Hazel McCalen
9th
16th Sharon Fergus
23rd
30th

January

6th
13th The Session
20th Roz Wallace
27th Reta McKendrick

Church Roll Matters

There were no changes to the roll last month.

Attestation of the Church Roll will be at the first Kirk Session of 2019.

If any of the congregation have had difficulty contacting me on my landline **telephone** (0141 954 2068), please call me on my mobile 'phone, number 0774 219 0979

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

The Guild

Our only meeting in December is on Wednesday the 5th. This will be our Christmas Theme, Business Meeting and Bring and Buy.

After that we have a break for the month of January and resume on Wednesday 13th February, when we welcome our Minister as the speaker.

We wish all the congregation a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

*Christine Hay
Guild Secretary*

Dining (and Carol Singing) with Friends

Our next 'Dining with Friends' is **breakfast** at **10.a.m.** on **Saturday 15th December** in **The Square**, in **Norby Shopping Centre, Balshagray Drive**. After breakfast we hope to continue our now traditional carol singing in the centre when we also invite shoppers to our Christmas services. Please sign up on the notice in the small hall.

Sarah Hay

Special Services in December

December is a very busy month for everyone and BVP is no exception. There is plenty happening, so please try to come along to all our Christmas services and if possible attend the following special services.

On the evening of **Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm**, BVP is hosting on behalf of **Christian Aid**, a **Carol Service** followed by tea and mince pies. Please come along and support this service.

In addition to the above, **Glasgow Churches Together** in conjunction with Glasgow City Council extend an invitation to attend the **Blessing of the Crib** in George Square on **Wednesday 5th December at 6.30pm**. Music starts from 6pm.

Then, on **Sunday 16th December at 3pm**, **Glasgow Churches Together** invites everyone to a **Carols for Peace** service which will be held in the Glasgow City Chambers, George Square. This event is hosted by the Lord Provost's Office and will be followed by refreshments. Everyone will be made most welcome.

For more information please see the posters displayed on the notice board in the small hall, or speak with me in church.

Robert Belmore

Rota for Readings and Prayers

Because there are so many "special" services in December, the rota for different people in our congregation taking part in the morning service by reading the Bible or leading a prayer of adoration or intercession is being suspended for that month, apart from the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Here, however, is the rota for when it restarts in January. 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
6 th January	John Goddard	Reading
13 th January	Sharon Fergus	Prayer of Intercession
20 th January	Jimmy Massey	Reading
27 th January	Marion Francis	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
3 rd February	David Hay	Reading
10 th February	Jane Belmore	Prayer of Intercession
17 th February	George Ross	Reading
24 th February	Rita McKendry	Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Fiona Hay

Thanks to all who provided material for this Christmas issue.

Please send items for the February issue by

Sunday 20th January

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP - December

Sunday 2nd December

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion
Annual Giving Day

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Christian Aid Carol Service

Sunday 9th December

11.00 am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 16th December

11.00 am All Age Service
in the Large Hall

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 23rd December

11.00 am Christmas Service

(There is no evening service)

Monday 24th December

7.00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
led by Derek Robertson

11.30 pm Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
led by Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Tuesday 25th December

10.00 am Informal Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 30th December

11.00 am Family Service

(There is no evening service)