



Balshagray Victoria Park  
Church of Scotland

# The Herald

February 2020

## From our Interim Moderator

It's tricky to know when it's too late to wish folks a happy new year. I wonder when you would say it's too late? Say you meet a friend mid-January who you haven't seen since 2019 – can you do it then? What about into February? Or is that just awkward?

Anyway, as I haven't seen most of you recently, and it will definitely be too late the next time I see you face to face, let me wish you a happy new year, and simply offer you two thoughts about God I was recently reminded of through the father of the faith, Abraham.

### 1. *God's grace is amazing.*

We all know God chose Abraham ('go to a land I will show you'), and we know Abraham had faith to respond, but we are inclined to fill in blanks about Abraham and his background. Perhaps we consider his family devout followers of God before he was called. Or we assume that he had at least shown some interest in God, for God's attention to be drawn to him. Joshua 24:2-3 would lead to believe otherwise. We don't need to fill in blanks because the bible does it for us. Abraham was a nobody, who worshipped fake gods when God called him. There was nothing special about him. He had nothing but God's unexplained good pleasure, and neither do you and I. Sure we like to think we do – God saw the potential in us. He chose me because he knew I was generous. Because deep down I'm really a good catch and God knew it. Scripture is clear – God didn't chose you because of anything about you, but because of something about him – his amazing grace. Surely that should encourage us in 2020 to both thank God for our salvation, as well as consider who he might call to himself from around our parish.

### 2. *God's ways are strange.*

We will need to remember this in 2020. God's ways of working often don't make any sense at all to us. In v3-4 of the same chapter in Joshua we are told the following, 'Then I (God) took your Father Abraham... and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.' We all remember God's promise to Abraham involving the stars and the beach, and the words in v3-4 were addressed to hundreds of thousands of Abraham's offspring, but God 'gave Abraham Isaac'. That's one. God is faithful despite appearances. This is a timeless lesson that you and I must remember in 2020 - God is faithful, when it looks like he's not. He says he'll guard and protect us and yet sometimes cancer or tragic accidents are involved. He says he will provide what we need and yet jobs are lost. God's ways are peculiar to us and we must remember that going into a new year.

God's lesson for his people in Joshua 24, as they all gathered at Shechem, was that they can't rely on themselves, only on him, even (and especially) when it looks like he's not reliable. And he loves to prove he is trustworthy.

It's a lesson we would do well to remember at (near...) the start of another year. But whether we remember it or not, he is sure to prove it to us in the days ahead. God's grace is amazing, and his ways often seem strange.

Blessings

Jonathan

## Church Roll

### *Death*

Mr Peter MacFarlane (Adherent, District 3)

### *Change of Address*

Mr Ian Haughey (District 11)

Mr James Crawford (Adherent, District 10)

Mrs Jean Graham (District 15)

*Andy Coghill  
Rollkeeper*

## **Back to the Future**

Dear Friends

I wonder which seat you prefer on a train. I always choose a forward facing seat. I prefer to see where I am going. I find it totally frustrating to be moving forward, but only seeing where I have come from. Of course 'health and safety' rules would say I am wrong, as it is far safer to face backwards, because your seat restrains you if there is a crash. Maybe, but if there is going to be an accident I would rather see it coming!

So which way do you face at the start of 2020? There are those who prefer the backwards facing approach. They look back to the good old days, when everything seemed 'right and secure'. But if you only look backwards the best you can hope for is a pale imitation of 'yesteryear'. You say that it is safer to face backwards, as if anything goes wrong at least there is these past memories to fall back on. But it is only by looking forwards that we get a vision for the future, not denying what lies behind – after all that was our future once. We know where we have come from; we know where we are; it is only the future that will be determined by our present action. By looking forward we get a vision of what is to come and what dangers lie ahead.

Christmas is past; Christ is present and Christ will come again. It is the lasting gift of Christmas that the baby who was born in Bethlehem is the Christ who is with us always, and helps us to look to the future. Now we can know that the Christ who has been with us in the past is with us today and will go forward with us into the future. Notice how, in the Gospels, Jesus is always on the move – always moving forwards? People were always trying to tie him down; to 'encapsulate' him, but he always broke out of their preconceived idea and called them to follow. Even the cross and the tomb could not tie Jesus down, for he broke out into new and resurrection life.

What is your vision for the future? Do you see Christ in the picture? Do we continue as before or must we change track if we are to avoid a crash. When we look to the world's future and see climate change and the effects of pollution; if we look to the rapidly diminishing natural resources grabbed by a greedy world; if we look to the increased tension between world cultures and economies; if we look at the

escalation of violence and terrorism, the future looks bleak. The same could be said for the life of the Church if we look at diminishing numbers and increasing costs and if we look to the threat of materialism and secularism. Similarly if we look at our own personal future. But all this can be changed if we have a vision of the future based on the reality of Christmas, that Christ is with us and calling us to change track – to new life, new faith, new hope.

As we look towards the future and the world is rushing past, what do you see? I venture to suggest that the most important question is whether or not you see God in the picture. If not, the future is indeed bleak. But if we see the face of Christ reflected alongside our own as we look to the future, that will change everything – it will determine our priorities and fill us with faith, hope and love. Still today Jesus will not be tied down – he is always moving on miraculously to transform each new day with the light of his love. Still he calls us to follow and live each new day in the light of his presence – offering our lives; all we are, and have, and do – according to the priorities of his Kingdom.

May God be included in BVP's future, with all members as well as all others who come through the door each Sunday or at some time during the week.

A happy New Year from both Ann & me, and our Love & Blessings to you all.

Stuart

## **Christmas Fayre**

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Fayre held at the end of November. The total realised so far is £1306.

This is a great effort which serves to benefit the church in many ways. Again thank you to everyone who helped selling, kitchen duties, baking and making etc etc. A fantastic total. Till November 2020.

Thank you all again.

*Christmas Fayre Committee*

## Compassion

Compassion have written to thank us for our donation of £981 which will be used to support Martha, Jose and Dinar throughout this year. This is an increase from last year as from April the cost to support each child will be increasing by £3 a month. Our money will be used to ensure the children receive healthcare, schooling, Christian teaching, clothes and food. This really does have a huge impact on the life chances of the children and they and their families are very thankful for our support.

I have received a letter from Martha telling us that at Christmas in Uganda the weather is rainy and cold and many people are planting beans, cabbages and onions. She is very happy and is enjoying school where her favourite subject is literacy. She enjoys playing dodge ball and long jump. Martha asks us to pray that she and her parents will have good health.

Jose in El Salvador wants us to know that he thanks God for his and his mum's good health. He is doing well in school and is putting in a lot of effort. Jose likes to sing songs in church and enjoys hearing Bible stories with Noah's Ark being one of his favourites. In his free time Jose likes to play football with his friends. He thanks us for the birthday gift money we sent him which he used to buy cooking oil, rice, shampoo, soap and detergent. Jose asks us to pray for him and his family and wishes for God to bless us greatly.

Dinar has written to let us know that in December the weather in Indonesia is not very good, sometimes it is rainy and sometimes it is hot. She has completed her final semester exams and writes, 'please pray for me to be a diligent child in school'. Dinar prays that we will 'live long lives, stay healthy and are blessed abundantly by the Lord'.

The Coins for Compassion charity bucket has been a great success and this, along with donations throughout the year and the Harvest Lunch, meant that thanks to everyone's generosity we had raised the wonderful total of £936 throughout 2019. Once again thank you very much indeed for all your support, it really is greatly appreciated.

*Joan Canavan*

## Prayer Points

### Choose your battles wisely

*'If you follow this advice...then you will be able to endure the pressures.'*  
*Exodus 18:23 NLT*

A good general knows it's a mistake to try and fight on too many fronts at once; that when you're 'spread out too thin' you're vulnerable! And the same is true in life. To avoid undue stress, you must refuse to let every little thing upset you. In other words, choose your battles wisely. Don't make mountains out of molehills. Before you devote time, energy, and emotion to an issue, ask yourself how important it is, and how much of your time, effort, and energy is appropriate. Try to discern what really matters and focus on those things. Learn the difference between major matters and minor matters. Moses was becoming exhausted because he personally handled every problem, dispute, and crisis that arose among the Israelites. Perhaps he thought he had to do so, since he was the leader of the nation. But his father-in-law said to him, in essence, 'You take care of the big things and leave the small stuff to someone else.' He went on to say, "'If you follow this advice...you will be able to endure the pressures"...Moses listened to his father-in-law's advice and followed his suggestions' (vv. 23-24 NLT). Stop and think about it: your life already has plenty of stress and strain, so why add more if you can avoid it? When you're tempted to take on a 'battle', step back and decide if it's worth it and what it will require from you. Don't go to war when there are no spoils.

*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*

## Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for February and March is

2nd February Anne Aitken  
 9th February  
 16th February  
 23rd February Christine Hill

1st March Janice Glass  
 8th March  
 15th March Gloria Acheampong  
 22nd March Sarah Hay  
 29th March

## Offerings for 2019

	2019	2018
Open plate	5480	5027
FWO	<u>16553</u>	<u>20106</u>
	22033	25133
Payments direct to bank	30760	32645
Average per week	1015	1111

*Campbell Joss, Treasurer*

## Service Duty Rota

### February - March 2020

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 note on noticeboard in Church vestibule. *Com* after the date indicates a Communion Service. *N.B: Communion service dates may have to be changed depending on the availability of the Interim Moderator or other minister.*

26 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Miss L. Fergus* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan K. McCalden
9 <sup>th</sup> February 16 <sup>th</sup> February	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson Miss C. Kilgour
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> March	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
8 <sup>th</sup> March Com 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross Mrs. M. Ross
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 29 <sup>th</sup> March	A. Coghill Mrs. P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson

Standby List: D. Robertson

## Safeguarding



It has now been intimated that all those who have PVG clearance for a regulated post must attend a refresher course every three years. Consequently, most people in BVP now require to attend a refresher course. Please see the list of dates below and let me know which one you would like to attend. Please contact me and I will book you onto the course.

If you have retired from a registered post or no longer wish to be a disclosed person, then please contact me so that I can have your name removed from the register

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 training 2020 (All at 7.00-9.30 pm)

Thurs 20 Feb Queen's Park Govanhill, 170 Queen's Dr., G42 8QZ  
Thurs 26 Mar Kelvinbridge, 62 Belmont St., G20 6JR  
Tues 21 April Campsie, 130 Main St., Lennoxton, G66 7DA  
Mon 8 Jun Mearns Kirk Church Halls, 404 Mearns Rd., Newton Mearns, G77 58U

### Kirk Session training 2020 (All at 7.00-9.30 pm)

Wed 11 Mar Easterhouse, 30 Boyndie St., Easterhouse, G34 9JE

## The Guild

The second half of the Guild session starts on 12th February, when a speaker will give an illustrated talk on "Old Glasgow Through the Lens". This meeting would be of special interest to any photographers or historians! All are welcome to come.

Then on the 26th, an officer from Police Scotland will advise us about bogus crime and scams.

*Christine Hay  
Guild Secretary*

### BGEA Gospel Outreach – 30th May 2020

In the December edition of 'The Herald' I provided some information about the above forthcoming event to be held in the SSE Hydro in May.

Every Billy Graham Evangelistic Tour relies heavily on the partnership of local church leaders and members of their congregations. There are opportunities for individuals to participate in this event, by serving as counsellors. In this regard, the BGEA have organized a series of free, '**Christian Life & Witness Courses**'. These short and easy courses, of three hours duration, are based on principles from nearly 70 years of ministry, with the emphasis on friendship-based evangelism, discipleship and caring for new believers.

It matters not whether you have shared the Gospel many times or are new to witnessing; this course will encourage you to confidently share your faith with others in addition to deepening your own faith. The courses are being held during February, in a variety of locations and at various times. There may be other opportunities to be involved by 'stewarding' and I am awaiting details about this.

In the meantime, please consider signing up to serve as a counsellor at this event. For more information check out the notice board in the small hall or speak to me in church or call me on 07811 719458.

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1Peter 3:15 NIV).*

*Robert Belmore*

## The Persecuted Church

As we move forward into yet another New Year, the sad reality is that for many hundreds of thousands of Christians throughout the world, the outlook for 2020 remains bleak and uncertain. Christians continue to be the most persecuted religious group in the world. In many countries Christians continue to be deprived of true religious freedom and are subjected to rising religious intolerance, imprisonment and torture, plus many different forms of harassment, including the lack of basic human rights.

Christians are still being persecuted by many governments such as in China, North Korea, Algeria and Iran. In addition, radical or extreme Muslim and Jihadi organisations such as al-Shabab, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and Islamic State (West Africa), plus some Hindu extremists, were all very active throughout 2019 in causing the deaths of thousands of Christian men, women and children plus the destruction of churches and property. Sadly, just after Christmas, there were several reported incidents in Nigeria and the Central African Republic, but thankfully there was less violence or hostility towards Christians or other minority religious groups than in previous years. In contrast to the violence in the Middle East, President al-Sisi of Egypt attended a Coptic Christmas service in Cairo. He stressed the importance of tolerance and unity, particularly between religious groups. His message was simple, "if we love God, we must love each other".

Throughout 2019, attacks took place in many different countries and some of the attacks were indiscriminate, killing not only Christians, but also many Muslims and those of no faith. In some countries, but mainly in Africa, young Christian women continue to be abducted and taken as 'sex slaves' or hostages to be sold to the highest bidder or even forced into marriage. Sadly, this 'New Year' will doubtless bring fresh challenges, threats, acts of violence and destruction, which will seriously impact on the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters.

**Syria** – a church minister and his father were gunned down and killed as they travelled between Qamishli and Deir al-Zor in north-east Syria. Some hours later, three bombs were detonated in the town of Qamishli targeting Christian and Kurdish communities, killing at least eight individuals.

**China** – in early December, members of unofficial 'house churches' located in five provinces, were ordered by the authorities not to hold public gatherings to celebrate Christmas. Under tight new regulations, all religious organisations will be required to obey and promote Communist Party values and adhere to the leadership of the 'Party', President Xi Jinping. Almost every aspect of religious life is coming under the control of the Chinese Communist Party with effect from this February.

**Nigeria** - Muslim extremists from the Islamic State, who are a dominant jihadi force, released video footage on 26 December of its supporters beheading 10 Christian men and shooting the 11th dead. The men were believed to have been abducted from two towns in the Borno State in the north east of Nigeria. The terrorist group said the killings were in revenge for the deaths of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Abul-Hasan al-Muhajir, killed in Raqqa (Syria) by US military actions in October 2019. An attack on a bus by the same Militant Group, claimed 10 lives and on Christmas Eve, seven people were killed, and a teenage girl abducted during a raid on a Christian village near Chibok. On 26th December, a Christian bride and her wedding party were ambushed and shot dead as they travelled to her wedding. Christians in Northern Nigeria are concerned about the lack of action by the authorities to tackle the increase in jihadi attacks.

**Sudan** – since the ousting and arrest of former President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, conditions have improved for Christians in this African country. The new Minister for Religious Affairs has announced that Christians do have the right to "freely practice their faith" and should no longer live as second class citizens or be considered as a "minority group". In addition, Christian women will no longer require to comply with Sharia law relating to public dress code and all property belonging to churches that was confiscated by the State, will be returned.

The information in this article is from several reliable sources such as Barnabas Fund and Open Doors.

***"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord will deliver him in times of trouble." Psalm 41 v 1 (NIV)***

***'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'***

*Robert Belmore*

## Monthly Baking Sunday

Just to let you know the total amount raised from the Baking Sundays in 2019 was £255.90. A tremendous amount. Thank you all who participated in Baking, Selling and, of course, Buying. Thank you also to the many donations received towards this amount.

After all the expenses were deducted - e.g. jam jars for making jam, other baking items and materials, sausages and rolls etc etc - we were able to donate £130 towards the Christmas Fayre total.

Thank you again for all your support.

Baking Sundays begin again on February 9. After that most of them will take place on the second Sunday of each month. Sundays up till summer are listed below.

9th February (second Sunday)  
8th March (second Sunday)  
5th April (first Sunday due to Easter)  
10th May (second Sunday)  
14th June (second Sunday).

We would like to set up a baking rota of volunteer bakers so if you would like to help please speak to either Shirley Robertson or Christine Hill.

## Dining with Friends

This month's Dining with Friends is Full Afternoon Tea at House for an Art Lover at 2.45pm on Saturday 22nd February. (£12.95 pp)

Future dates for Dining with Friends (all still to be booked):

7pm, Friday 20 March, Suissi Vegan Asian Kitchen, Dumbarton Road.  
7pm, Thursday 23 April, Roastit Bubbly Jocks, Dumbarton Road.  
6.30pm, Saturday 16 May, St Louis Cafe, Dumbarton Road.  
1pm, Saturday 20 June, Caulders, Mugdock Country Park.

*Sarah Hay*

## New Book on Dr Nevile Davidson of Glasgow Cathedral

A new book is now on sale telling the story of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Nevile Davidson, minister of Glasgow Cathedral from 1935 until 1967 and one of the most distinguished Scottish churchmen of the twentieth century.

In the wider church, he worked tirelessly for ecumenical co-operation and was notable for his breadth of outlook, being both a leading High Churchman and a key supporter of Billy Graham's 'Tell Scotland' campaign of 1955.

This new biography draws on hitherto unexplored source material in the form of Dr. Davidson's papers and diaries which were deposited in the National Library of Edinburgh by his wife Peggy.

"Nevile Davidson: A Life to Be Lived" by Andrew G. Ralston (ISBN: 9781532687808) is published by Wipf & Stock and is available for a special launch price of £9.99 (plus £2.50 UK P & P) via the Cathedral website <http://www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk> To order, please use the contact form on the website.

## Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota of people doing a reading or prayer in February. Thanks very much to those who have volunteered! As always, the rota may be subject to change.

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Janice Glass	Reading
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Angus Thorburn	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Maggie Paisley	Reading
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Iain Fergus	Prayer of Intercession

*Fiona Hay*

## Tea Rota

Date		
February 2	Neil Francis	Marion Francis
9	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
16	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
23	John Glass	Ken McCalden
March 1	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
8	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
15	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
22	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
29	Neil Francis	Marion Francis

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

*Mary Ross*

Thanks to all who provided material for this February issue.

Please send items for the March issue by

**Sunday 16th February**

to

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

## Worship Services at BVP in February

*Sunday 2nd February*

11.00 am      Morning Service

6.30 pm      Evening Service

*Sunday 9th February*

11.00 am      Morning Service

(There is no evening service)

*Sunday 16th February*

11.00 am      Morning Service

6.30 pm      Evening Service

*Sunday 23rd February*

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