



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

Lockdown (3) September 2020

Welcome to the final special Lockdown virtual edition of the BVP Herald. Thanks to all who provided material for this issue, with special thanks to Campbell Joss for soliciting articles, and to Derek Robertson for distributing it, including printing and posting to those not on e-mail.

This BVP Herald really is a herald. It heralds the re-opening of the church for public worship at 11.00 am on **20th September**. However this will happen under new control measures. These are set out on pages 8-15.

Stuart Bruce

It was with great sadness that we learned that on 1st September Stuart Bruce collapsed in his home. He was transferred to hospital where medical staff believe he had suffered from the effects of a blood clot. Stuart passed away peacefully on 5th September. Please uphold Ann and the family in your prayers at this time.

A full tribute to our much loved Pastoral Assistant will be given in the next edition of the Herald.

Duty Rotas

The Herald usually contains the Tea Rota, Flower Rota, Bible Reading /Prayer Rota and Service Duty Rota for the next two months. However these are not usual times and none of these rotas will operate in their former form. Those on the Service Duty Rota in the immediate future will be contacted to find if they are willing to continue to be part of a Service Duty team with different duties because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finance Update

Glasgow Presbytery recently asked all churches within their jurisdiction to complete a questionnaire regarding their current financial position and the outlook for 2021. Clearly there is concern about how the loss of income is affecting churches during the pandemic period. So far as BVP is concerned it is likely that there will be a modest deficit in 2020. Our loss of normal income has been mitigated by the manse rental and limited spending on fabric. For 2021 there is a similar prospect but there is always a threat of larger expenditure being required for our buildings.

As you will be reading elsewhere the church will be reopening again soon, but the method of collecting money on a Sunday will be different. There will be a box for FWO envelopes and other donations in the vestibule as you enter but no plates will be passed round during the service. For anyone who has been saving up their weekly offerings over a period I would ask that just one envelope is used with perhaps a note to say it covers a number of Sundays. If you can avoid cash by enclosing a cheque that is even better. As mentioned in previous articles payment directly to the church bank account is to be encouraged and I can provide details for those willing to donate by this method. Already a number of people have switched to this way of giving. All of these measures are designed to limit the handling of cash

*Campbell Joss
Treasurer*

Church Roll

Deaths

Mr Stuart Bruce (Adherent, District 18)
Mr James Crawford (Adherent, District 10)
Mr Gordon Milne (District 18)
Miss Marilyn Sawyer (Adherent, District 10)

Change of Address

Mrs Ann Bruce

Andy Coghill, Rollkeeper

Gordon Milne

We were saddened to learn of the death of Gordon Milne, a much loved member of the congregation, on 9th July. His funeral on 16th July was streamed allowing many to join the family virtually. The service was conducted by our Session Clerk, Derek Robertson, who paid tribute to Gordon:

Gordon was born in Riddrie Glasgow to Herbert and Daisy Milne on 28th April 1925. Dad was the head cashier of Arthur and Company's warehouse. Gordon had an older brother, Herbert who was three years older than him.

Gordon attended Dinart Street Primary School and then Whitehill Secondary School. Gordon was a good all-rounder at school and he excelled at swimming. He was also very good at tennis. When he was at school, he had a large group of friends who all got on so well together, one of whom being Margo, and more about her shortly.

On leaving school, he went straight into the RAF and became a rear gunner on Lancaster bombers. Susan remembers visiting a museum with her dad where there was a different rear gunner station on display. Susan looked at the station and thought, how on earth did people get in and out of that tiny space, when Gordon said, 'Of course, the station on the Lancaster was much smaller'. Gordon was stationed in Oxfordshire and a lot of his time was spent flying over Norway.

When he was demobbed after the war, Gordon attended Jordanhill teacher training college to become a PE teacher. His first post was at Westland Drive, which was an annexe of Hyndland School. He kept contact with all his old school friends, especially Margo. On the 1st April 1947, (April Fool's Day!), Gordon and Margo got married, make of that what you will!. Gordon was informed that there was a PE teaching position available in South Africa and so he and Margo headed off to Durban. Gordon worked at Glenwood High School, and for those of you who remember him, this was one of our assistant minister's, Stephen Nicholson's school. Whilst here, Gordon studied for an Arts Degree and he very much enjoyed playing rugby.

Gordon and Margo came back 5½ years later and bought a flat in Striven Gardens in Kelvinbridge. Gordon took up a post teaching PE at North Kelvinside School. In 1954 they had their first

daughter, Jennifer, and then in 1957, Susan was born. Gordon so much enjoyed being a dad to them, and Susan remembers the fun they had growing up, and how supportive their dad was to them. When the girls were studying for exams, Gordon would spend any amount of time with them helping them to revise and encouraging them to do their best. Gordon instilled in the girls the qualities of working hard, and treating everyone equally. Each summer, the family would go on annual holiday to North Berwick, where mum and dad would rent a large house for the month of July. It was a real family occasion and during this time, many family members came down for varying periods of time. Susan remembers the many hours she and Jennifer spent on the beach with Gordon digging elaborate moats and castles. Then there was the 'heated' outdoor swimming pool and the trampolines which mum tried to dissuade them from using.

Gordon stayed at North Kelvinside for 14 years before taking up a promoted post at Adelphi School as Principal Teacher of PE. Gordon remained at Adelphi until he retired achieving further promotion to Assistant Head responsible for Guidance. Gordon also had a love of rowing, and he was very much involved in The Glasgow Schools Rowing Club. His team did really well, in fact, they were taking part in a competition but Gordon succumbed to flu and could not attend. The team won, and later that day Margo heard a knock at the door. When she opened it, there stood a boy holding a trophy who said that he knew Mr Milne wasn't well but they thought he should see the trophy. Margo beckoned him in, but it was the whole team, around twenty people who soon crowded out the house. Oh well! It was the thought that counted.

Gordon grew up with Ricky Fulton and they enjoyed darts nights at each other's houses once a week. Sometimes Ricky had people staying over and so on one occasion; Sean Connery joined them for darts. Gordon Milne! A dark horse indeed!

Throughout the early years of marriage, Gordon and Margo never had a car and Gordon was really appreciative of the many times people offered him lifts to various places. So when he got his own car, he was very generous with it, never forgetting what people had done for him, so much so that he became unofficial chauffeur for The Guild.

Many of you will know that Gordon had an ileostomy, a procedure that brings its own challenges with it. However, Gordon faced this head on and for many years after his operation he would go to

Gartnavel Hospital to visit with people who were about to undergo the same surgery, to talk with them about it, and answer any questions that they had. Not only did patients and staff benefit greatly from this, but so did nurses who were undertaking their stoma care training module. Gordon had such an influence that the sister in charge said that he was only person she had ever met who could have his audience in fits of laughter while expounding the nitty gritty of stoma management!

Gordon had a few hobbies which he really enjoyed, including reading and gardening. Both he and Margo loved going on holiday to the Cotswolds. They also had friends, Hugh and Catherine, who had a house in Mull of Kintyre and Gordon loved the peace he experienced there. He also very much enjoyed spending time at Jennifer and Stuart's house near Pittenweem.

Gordon very much enjoyed the company of his sons in law, Stuart and Douglas and as much as he loved Jennifer and Susan, he was thrilled with having four granddaughters, Laura, Elaine, Clare and Kara and his two great granddaughters, Ciara and Isla. I asked the girls if they could recall a favourite memory of 'Gramps', maybe a bit unfair after a lifetime of memories with him, but here is what they said -

Firstly, Clare - Who remembered Gordon at his happiest when members of the family were playing music, but revealed that he was a closet musician himself, sometimes being persuaded to play jazz on the piano. I wish I had known about this before as he would have probably been cheaper than Douglas! Clare also remembers Gordon and Kara channelling their inner Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald in some amazing scat singing!

Kara remembers singing along to Gordon's old Val Doonigan records, Paddy McGinty's Goat, Rafferty's Motor Car etc, and when they didn't know the words they just made them up. Much as I suspect, Val Doonigan did! Perhaps the memory that makes her laugh most was the time she got a tongue piercing, and Gramps was the first person she showed it to. He said something along the lines of 'Oh dear why did you get that done', and then laughed. Months later when Susan saw this she said 'Whatever you do don't let your Gramps and Grandma see it' It gave Kara so much satisfaction to say that Gramps had known for months and thought it was hilarious. Movingly, Kara said 'He was my first and best pal and I will miss him so much.

Laura remembers a family holiday in Crail when Grampsie had new glasses and was walking along the harbour wall. He misjudged the jump off the end and nearly ended up in the sea!. She also remembers a visit he made to see her and Barry when they moved to Northern Ireland. On walking along Castlerock Beach one day, Laura asked if he would be OK or would he rather walk along the front. Gordon replied 'Well if I'm not alright, I'll fall down won't I'. All those nights spent with Ricky Fulton were not wasted! Laura's daughter Ciara fondly remembers winding up the grandfather clock in the hall with him every time they visited. Gordon would let it run down on purpose so it was ready for her. Laura will always remember his hearty, infectious chuckle and the fact that they could have gotten away with anything that her mum and Sue couldn't have - piercings, tattoos, hair dye - he thought they were all brilliant.

Elaine's favourite memories are just sitting listening to Gordon and the wonderful stories he shared, whether it be about South Africa, teaching or rugby. Elaine remembers his endless positive attitude and his interest in all his girls. He was always keen to find out how they were all doing, but when he was asked how he was, he would invariably reply 'Ach, can't complain' or 'hingin thegether'

Gordon and Margo were very faithful members of Balshagray Victoria Park Parish Church. They were both so supportive and encouraged me greatly. When I was teaching, Gordon would ask every week, how my week had been, and how I was getting on. I think he was amazed that I was never found out. I so admired his wisdom, compassion, impartiality and fairness.

Gordon and Margo were inseparable, but after a long illness, Margo died in 2010. Gordon showed remarkable fortitude and coped amazingly well. In 2013 however, he suffered a stroke which was not without its challenges, but Gordon, as ever, overcame this, and returned to almost full health. In 2017, Gordon believed he was suffering from the effects of sciatica, but when he attended hospital for something else, it was discovered that he had a lumber fracture. This kept him in hospital for 6 weeks, but again, he bounced back.

In 2018 however, Gordon was devastated with the news that no parent ever wants to hear. Jennifer, after a period of illness, had died. Gordon could not really get his head around this but he learned to cope as best he could, remembering how special it was the last time the family were all together, and how much Jennifer enjoyed it.

Gordon Milne touched the lives of each and every one of us here today, and our lives are the richer for it. You know, it is nigh impossible to sum up Gordon's life in a few minutes, but you know this Bible, this can sum him up in a few words. Listen to these words, once more from the apostle Paul, this time writing to The Galatians, 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Gordon has now left us, he has now left his immediate family, but he has left them a legacy of wonderful memories, and the self-confidence to go on to the next stage in their own lives. For this, we truly give thanks to God.

Compassion

I have just received a letter, dated July, from Dinar in Indonesia. Thankfully she and her family are in good health. Dinar writes, "My family and I are doing well here. It is the rainy season here. Thank you so much for the birthday gift. I have received it and I have used it to shop for things. Our country is in the middle of COVID-19 pandemic. We are praying the pandemic will be gone soon so people can do their activities as usual. We are not learning directly at school but we are learning at home for now. We are learning directly in the Project by obeying the health protocols. I will always pray for you so you stay healthy, protected and may you rely on God. Please pray for me and my family so we stay healthy and safe from COVID-19 pandemic."

Please pray for Dinar in Indonesia, Martha in Uganda, Jose in El Salvador, their families and communities as they face these worrying and uncertain times.

Thank you once again for your continued and greatly appreciated support.

Joan Canavan

Procedures and Instructions for Attendance at Public Worship

I'm sure there are many of us who do not read the safety card on an aircraft when requested to do so by the flight crew. We assume the chances of anything happening are remote, and so we don't bother. However, this information could literally save our lives.

OK, a bit dramatic, but we have been working to find a way that we can open BVP in line with current Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidance, and in order to comply with the reopening criteria there are a number of very important pieces of information that we all need to be aware of, and adhere to!

I am so looking forward to us all meeting up again after such a long time apart. I can confirm that it is our intention to reopen the BVP church building for worship on 20th September at 11.00am. However, things will be very different and who knows for how long, so we need to be aware of what these changes will look like and how they will affect us. Let me try to outline what the changes will look like –

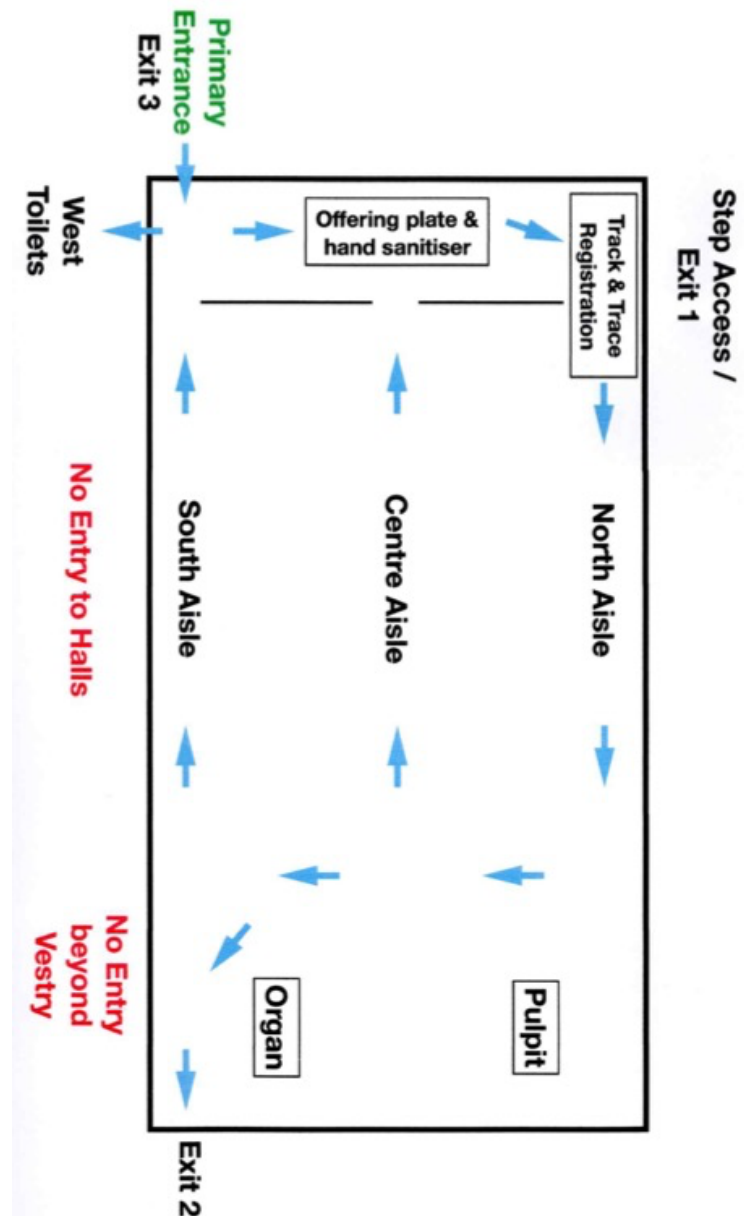
- Firstly, it is really important that you feel it is safe for you to return to worship at this time. To this end, I have included a personal risk assessment (on pages 13-15) in order that you can make an informed decision whether attending worship is safe for you at this time.
- On the Saturday before, for the first week only, please phone Campbell Joss on 07791145681 or leave a message not later than 10pm if it is your intention to attend this service. We need to know the numbers attending because at this time we are limited to a maximum of 50 people at worship.
- When you arrive at church, you will be guided to the entrance (note that this will be from the disabled entrance at the side of the church **NOT THE MAIN ENTRANCE** unless you need to use the front steps) and then directed through the vestibule to the north (pulpit side) aisle.
- Please take note of all signage and do not congregate to chat with others. (I realise that this is very difficult when you have not seen others for so long)

- Be aware of physical distancing and wear an appropriate face covering
- Collections should be placed in the appropriate receptacle before entering the sanctuary as an offering will not be physically uplifted during the service
- Please use hand sanitiser before entering the sanctuary and after the service before leaving.
- Someone will take your name and contact details for track and trace purposes (See the Privacy Statement on pages 11-12)
- A 1-way system is in place within the sanctuary with everyone entering down the north (pulpit side) aisle with movement up the centre and south (organ side) aisles being from front to back (see the diagram on page 10)
- Please select a pew marked 'Please sit here' with only one household per pew. The chairs at the front are for households with a member in a wheelchair. You will notice that there are no pew cushions or pew bibles. Once seated, do not change seats.
- As a temporary measure, the bible will not be physically brought into church to signify the beginning of worship.
- Please do take note of the information displayed on the screens each week
- If you need to use the toilet facilities during the service, you will need to exit via the rear of the church where a duty elder will be seated. He/she will guide you to the toilets upstairs.
- During worship, there will be no singing, and the actual form of worship will be decided by the locum. This will be explained at the time.
- After worship, you will be guided to an exit observing the 1-way system and you are required to move straight out of the building, again without stopping to chat.
- There will be no tea/coffee at the service at this time

I am sorry if all this sounds a bit stark, but it is crucial that we all continue to be responsible for our own actions in helping to stop the spread of this virus.

*Derek Robertson, Session Clerk
On behalf of the Kirk Session*

The One Way System within the Sanctuary



Trace and Protect policy and procedures

5.3 Privacy Notice (Paper Process)

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/68720/Appendix-5-060820.pdf

Privacy Notice

You are giving your personal data to The Trustees of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as the Data Controller.

Your Personal Data

You are being asked to supply your: Full name and contact telephone number.

Purpose

The purpose of processing the personal data we ask for is to assist with the NHS Scotland Test & Protect Strategy.

Under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, the legal basis for this processing is:

1. 1) Article 6/1d – Processing is necessary in order to protect the vital interests of the data subject.
2. 2) Article 9/2i – Processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health.

Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose without your permission, except in the context of fulfilling a legal obligation to which The Church of Scotland is subject.

If you do not provide the personal data requested, we cannot register your attendance at the Church and will be unable to share your name with NHS Scotland if a relevant case of infection occurs.

Data Retention

Your personal data will be retained for up to 28 days and will then be disposed of securely.

Data Subjects

Personal data processing is carried out for Church of Scotland congregation members, visitors ministers and employees.

Sharing Your Personal Data

The purpose of the sharing is to assist with the NHS Scotland Test & Test Strategy. Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose or shared with a third party unless doing so is necessary in order to comply with a legal obligation or in order to protect your vital interests or those of another data subject.

Data Transfers

Your personal data will not be transferred outside the EEA.

Your Rights

Under the Data Protection Act 2018 you have the following rights:

1. The right to be informed.
2. The right to access (your personal data).
3. The right to rectification.
4. The right to erasure.
5. The right to restrict processing
6. The right to object to processing.
7. The right to data portability.
8. Rights in relation to automated decision-making.

If you wish to invoke any of your rights, including for the purpose of a Subject Access Request (SAR), send your written request to: Data Protection Officer, Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN. Or email: lawdept@churchofscotland.org.uk

You may also advise us of an incident involving personal data or a data breach using the same contact information.

You have the right to make a complaint about our processing of your personal data to the ICO as the regulator in the UK. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at:

Website: www.ICO.org.uk

Address: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF



Tool' for individual and group health risks

The assessment 'tool' below helps you to see how different risk factors may combine to give serious health complications should you catch the COVID-19 virus. It does not include the factors that may make you clinically extremely vulnerable, where you should be following the guidance for those who are 'shielding'. It includes the factors where there is significant statistical evidence but does not include any rarer conditions which you may have, so this only offers a starting point. You may want to discuss the results with your doctor or with those who have expectations about your involvement with church life.

This should be read alongside the full text of the Church of Scotland's "Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Reopening of Church Buildings" which includes guidance about minimising risks in the church context, and other government or local advice about staying safe. We are not claiming medical expertise in sharing this way of scoring your risk but giving a way to show how serious catching the virus may be for you or the groups using your church building(s).

Circle the score next to each one that applies to you and add up your score.

Risk Factor		Score
Age	50-59	1
	60-69	2
	70-79	4
	80 and over	6
Sex at birth	Male	1
Ethnicity	Caucasian	0
	Black African	2
	Descent Indian Asian Descent	1
	Filipino Descent	1
	Other (including mixed race)	1
Diabetes & Obesity	Type1 &2 Diabetes	1
	Type 1 & 2 with presence of microvascular complications or HbA1c≥64mmol/mol	2
	Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 35 kg/m2 online BMI calculator: http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator	1
Cardiovascular disease	Angina, previous heart attack, stroke or cardiac intervention	1
	Heart Failure	2
Pulmonary (lung) disease	Asthma	1

	Non-asthma chronic pulmonary disease	2
	Either of the above requiring oral corticosteroids in the last year	1
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	Active malignancy	3
	Malignancy in remission	1
Rheumatological conditions	Active treated conditions	2
Immunosuppressant therapies	Any indication	2
Total Score		

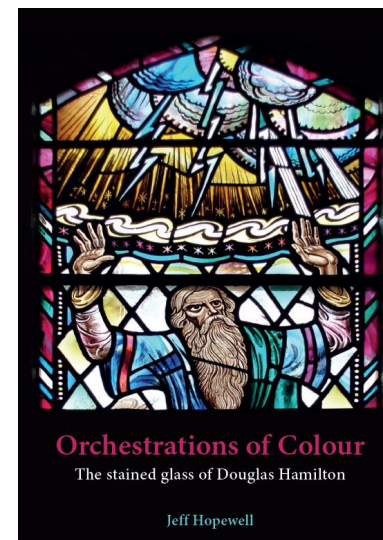
A score of under 3 indicates a lower risk, but you should still be following the guidance for staying safe.

A score of 3-5 suggests a greater risk and you should consider ways of reducing your risk by taking additional precautions or avoiding some activities.

A score of 6 or more suggests a high risk and indicates that you should continue to work or participate in church life from your home.

The scoring is based on an article from the British Medical Association website. 'Risk Stratification tool for Healthcare workers during the CoViD-19 Pandemic; using published data on demographics, co-morbid disease and clinical domain in order to assign biological risk: David Strain, Janusz Jankowski, Angharad Davies, Peter English, Ellis Friedman, Helena McKeown, Su Sethi, Mala Rao medRxiv 2020.05.05.20091967; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.05.20091967>

Orchestrations of Colour by Jeff Hopewell



This new book is devoted to the life and work of the Glaswegian stained glass artist-craftsman, Douglas Hamilton (1895- 1959), who produced stained glass for 90 or more churches, including the one in BVP in memory of George Alexander Sloan. The book mentions BVP in the gazetteer and text and also mentions the fine Incorporations window by Sadie McLellan.

The author, Jeff Hopewell, is a priest in the Church of England, now retired and living in Leicestershire. He has long been interested in church buildings and furnishings, with a particular bent towards stained glass. He is currently researching the work of the Victorian firm of the Horwood Brothers, Frome. This is his fifth book.

Full colour throughout, 128 pages and more than 75 illustrations. 240mm x 170mm, soft cover.

ISBN: 978-1-8380680-0-4

Retail price £19.95. FREE UK postage and packing when ordered direct from The Coplow Press. Cheques payable to 'J S Hopewell'. For other methods of payment or postage to overseas destinations email: coplowpress@gmail.com

Send orders, stating name and full address, to: The Coplow Press 23 Weare Close, Billesdon , Leicester, LE7 9DY

Email: coplowpress@gmail.com

Website: <https://coplowpress.carrd.co/>

The Persecuted Church

In addition to all the difficulties that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused Christians in many countries all over the world, they continue to be the target of religious intolerance and hatred. The governments of many countries constantly fail to take appropriate action to deal with Islamist or Hindu militants.

This continues to be a serious problem in Nigeria which has witnessed the killing of hundreds of Christians, the destruction and looting of property, including many churches, particularly during 'lockdown' in the past few months. Many Church leaders are demanding urgent action by the Nigerian government to halt the relentless attacks and killings by Boko Haram and Fulani militants, which have taken place recently in Kaduna State and Plateau State. Christian Church leaders have appealed to the international community for help, claiming that the Nigerian government is now complicit in 'state sponsored genocide'. "It is as if the lives of Christians no longer matter", said a senior church leader.

The situation for Christians living in Pakistan continues to raise concern, where the political system and government policies contribute to the promotion of religious intolerance. Despite the establishment in May of a 'National Commission for Minorities' to protect religious freedom, the so called 'Blasphemy Law' still remains in force. There are many Christians who have been in prison for years after being convicted, and some are on 'death row', and are waiting on their appeals to be heard in the High Court. There are many other countries such as India, China, Iran, Algeria, Eritrea and Sri Lanka, who all fail to respect the 'human rights' of Christians and other religious groups.

China – the authorities have issued a list of directives to Churches in preparation for reopening, which contain what to include in sermons, such as 'core socialist values'. In central Henan province, the authorities will only allow churches to open following the Covid-19 lockdown, if they demonstrate their loyalty to the Communist Party. Failure to comply, will result in churches remaining closed. This authoritarian oppression of the Christian Church is escalating and spreading throughout China. The Chinese government is trying to put every aspect of religious life under the direct control of the Communist Party.

Turkey – is officially recognised as a 'secular country', but the repression of religious minorities has worsened in this Muslim majority country, under the leadership of President Erdogan. Sadly, hostility towards Christians has increased during the past few years, mainly due to the rise of Erdogan's AKP party. When Erdogan became Prime Minister in 2002, he seemed to offer his people a liberal democratic order of freedom and equality for all religious minorities, including Christians. However, the opposite has turned out to be the case, as he pushes ahead with an accelerated programme of Islamisation of Turkey.

In a move which has caused dismay to the World Council of Churches, Erdogan signed a decree on 10 July authorising Istanbul's renowned historic Cathedral, the Hagia Sophia to a further presidential decree to transform the St. Saviour in Chora Church (currently a museum) to become a Mosque. Turning over these two high profile Christian heritage sites for Islamic worship is believed to be in tune with Erdogan's efforts to gain more nationalist support. However, Erdogan's decision has been widely condemned both internationally and within Turkey, and church leaders feel it will only serve to deepen the religious divide within Turkey.

Egypt – despite the lockdown of churches due to the Covid-19 pandemic, work on registering and licensing of churches has continued, and 70 licences were granted in the last few months. Many Christian churches are still waiting for a license to enable them to hold worship services, but good progress is being made. It is still illegal to worship in an unlicensed church building, but prior to 2017, it was extremely difficult to obtain a licence.

Sudan – Christians have been rejoicing because the apostacy law, which carried the death penalty for leaving Islam, has been abolished. A commission for religious freedom is to be set up to address all the issues relating to peaceful co-existence.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"
[Romans 12:12]

'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'

Robert Belmore

The Reverend Robert Stewart Frizzell – A Tribute



There are quite a few members of our church who remember Stewart, his wife and their two children from the time he was our minister from 1975 until 1988. Sadly, at the age of 85 and suffering from poor health, Stewart died in a nursing home on 5th April of this year. He married his wife Elizabeth Brown (Betty) in March 1955 and sadly she passed away in 2014. Stewart is survived by his two daughters, Lydia who lives in Switzerland and Judith who lives in Ayrshire.

Stewart was born in Motherwell in June 1934. In 1950 after completing his education at Bellshill Academy, he became an industrial apprentice until 1955. He then went on to do his National Service with the Royal Air Force until 1957, after which Stewart started to study for the ministry, and attended the Baptist Theological College of Scotland.

Prior to becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland, he was a Baptist minister from 1960 to 1971. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Glasgow in June 1972 and ordained and appointed as the minister of Partick Anderson Church. Our church became vacant in May 1974 following the departure of Rev Keith McRobb. Following a fairly short period of vacancy, Stewart preached as sole nominee on 23rd February 1975 and he was inducted as the minister of Balshagray Church (now BVP) on 2nd April 1975.

During Stewart's time as our minister, which spanned almost 14 years, Balshagray Church saw considerable growth, due in no short measure to his leadership and efforts to engage with the local community during his 'Parish Visitations'. He was never hesitant and adopted a positive approach when pressing doorbells and

engaging with the residents, offering them a positive invitation to 'come to church'. In those days, Balshagray was a busy church with a large congregation, but Stewart found time to serve as Chaplain to the inmates at Barlinnie Prison. There was considerable social activity during his time, such as dinner dances, regular coffee mornings, concerts, and congregational outings. In addition, the church organisations flourished having good leadership and were very well attended, comprising the Boys Brigade both Junior and Company, the Girl Guides and the Youth Club. In the summer of 1980, a redecoration of the church and halls took place, and this was right up Stewart's street. Having been a painter in his pre-ministerial days, he was often seen in action climbing to the top of ladders and applying paint to the upper areas of the halls. Such was his dedication and love for the church and for those who worshipped at Balshagray. Stewart preached his last sermon as minister on Christmas Day 1988, and there are still quite a few members of BVP who remember him, his wife Betty and their children.

Stewart was translated to Wick Old Parish Church on 29 December 1988; a new beginning and challenge, coinciding with the start of a New Year. During his time in Wick, Stewart enjoyed an extremely busy ministry almost from the first day he arrived. In 1989 Wick celebrated 400 years as a Royal Burgh, and Stewart was involved in that event. The following year, there was an Ecumenical Service to mark 800 years of the first church in Wick. The service was led by Stewart and in attendance was the head of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and Bishop Conti of the Roman Catholic Church. Stewart was Chaplain to Wick Hillhead Primary School and he was loved and respected by all the children who looked forward to his visits and his stories. He was also Chaplain to the local Wick Army Cadets and attended their summer camp near Dundee.

Stewart was a gifted preacher and had the ability to bring Bible characters to life in his sermons. The late Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attended Stewart's church on several occasions when she was on holiday at her Royal residence, the Castle of Mey.

Stewart retired on 6th March 2000 having given almost 40 years of his life serving God and the Church. Together with his wife Betty, they re-located to Inverness and despite being 'officially retired' he became involved with the Crown Church as a Pastoral Assistant. The Minister at that time was the Revd Peter Donald, who on hearing about Stewart's death, paid this tribute to him; " Our joy in

Crown Church was not only Stewart's willingness to do supply when I was on holiday, but also to undertake a role of pastoral care as Assistant Minister. Stewart did it all very willingly, thriving in being able to give quality time to those he visited, which I know was greatly appreciated. Stewart was a very lovely colleague, encouraging and gentle and he continued to serve as long as he was able". A fitting tribute to a man of God who continued to give and give and give, until he could give no more.

Stewart made one final visit to Balshagray Victoria Park on Sunday 1st June 2008 when he preached as our 'Guest Preacher' as part of the 100th Anniversary Service to commemorate the laying of the 'Foundation Stone' on 30th May 1908.

Following the death of his wife Betty in 2014, Stewart moved into a retirement/nursing home, suffering from the onset of dementia and general poor health before his death on 5th April. One of his favourite hymns was 'Safe in the arms of Jesus' – and we trust and pray that he is now with the Lord, whom he served so faithfully.

Robert Belmore

Stewart Frizzell is remembered fondly by many current and former members of Balshagray. Here are a few anecdotes:

"He made regular visits to my grandmother's home where tea and home baking were guaranteed. My gran offered to look after their wee dog if required. She was very unwell a few days before our wedding and was unable to attend. He spoke about her very warmly during the church service and how sad it was that she could not be there. I really appreciated that."

A former member said, "During the reception after my wedding he made sure my wine glass was topped up saying everyone forgets about the bride at a wedding."

"I remember the time he gave a very passionate sermon then asked as I was leaving was that a new coat I was wearing as he had not recognised it from the pulpit?"

"He visited my husband in hospital when he was very ill even though I had moved away by this time and changed churches. He was a breath of fresh air."

Prayer Points

Learn to think strategically

'So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.

Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Ephesians 5:15-16 NLT

Strategic thinking helps you to plan, to become more efficient, to maximise your strengths, and to find the most direct path towards achieving your God-given assignment in life. The benefits of strategic thinking are numerous. Here are a few of them: 1) Strategic thinking simplifies the difficult. It takes complex issues and long-term objectives that can be very difficult to address, and breaks them down into manageable sizes. Anything becomes simpler when you have a plan! The Bible says, 'The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty' (Proverbs 21:5 NIV). 2) Strategic thinking helps you to ask the right questions. Take a look at the following questions developed by Bobb Biehl, author of Masterplanning. Direction: What should we do next? Why? Organisation: Who is responsible for what? Who is responsible for whom? Do we have the right people in the right places? Cash: What is our projected income, expense, net? Can we afford it? How can we afford it? Tracking: Are we on target? Overall evaluation: Are we achieving the quality we expect and demand of ourselves? Refinement: How can we be more effective and more efficient?' These may not be the only questions you need to ask in order to begin formulating a strategic plan, but they are a good first step. Until you take the first step, you'll remain stuck. Until you get over your need to do it perfectly, you won't do it at all. You ask, 'When should I start?' Today!

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*Christine Hay,
Prayer Secretary*

Congratulations

We rejoice with Ali and Jocelyn Robertson at the birth of their second daughter, another grandchild for Derek and Shirley.

Thank you

On behalf of the whole family, I would like to say an enormous thank you to the BVP congregation for cards, flowers, messages, prayers and kind words following the death of my Dad, Gordon Milne, in July. Your support meant a great deal to us at a difficult time. Dad loved the fellowship he shared as part of the BVP family, and during lockdown he was always keen to keep up to date with people's news. His embarrassment at his photo being published in the Herald at his 95th birthday in April (he always hated having his photo taken) was offset by his delight at appearing next to baby Hannah Watkins!

Dad's death was unexpected, swift and peaceful, exactly as he would have wanted, and we are left with a wealth of wonderful memories. We wish to place on record our special thanks to Derek, our Session Clerk, for conducting Dad's funeral service with such grace, warmth, dignity and humour. We have much to be grateful for.

Susan Gibson

Thanks to all who provided material for this issue. We hope to have another issue in November. Please send items for this November issue by

Sunday 25th October

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com