



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

March 2020

From Our Interim Moderator

Using our resources well

'Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1)

What is Christian stewardship?

The answer involves recognizing three things: 1. That everything we have has come from God. 2. That all of the resources God has given us do not belong to us. 3. That God has given them to us for a reason.

1. Everything means everything. That includes (but is not limited to) our finances, our food, our degree of health, every minute of time we have and even the breath in our lungs at this very moment. We don't have anything that God didn't give us. We might look at others and note how they got more of one thing or another, but Christian stewardship involves us looking at what we have, not what we don't have.

2. All our resources aren't actually ours. Rather they belong to God and are loaned to us for the period of our lifetime, or as long as we have them. They are still his. That's why we 'steward' what he has given us rather than own what he has given us. This should make us hesitate before we use our resources, just like if someone loaned me a shovel I would be aware of that when I started using it. I would view it

differently than if I had purchased it. It should equally make us hesitate before we say 'no' to someone who could benefit from our resources.

3. God has not given his gifts arbitrarily for you and I to use as we see fit. He has given us them for a reason. It's not like the shovel I have been loaned – if I use it to prop open a door or even to paddle a rowing boat it makes little difference to the lender (so long as I don't damage it). God gave us our resources for a reason. We can use them well or we can use them poorly. Using them well involves using them for God's glory – offering them as a sacrifice to God – using them for God and others. Using them poorly means using them for ourselves (regardless of whether we are thankful for them or not).

Christian stewardship is a very different way of looking at all we have – at life itself. It's a tall order, but a calling for everyone with breath in their lungs.

Blessings

Jonathan

Dining with Friends

This month's Dining with Friends is at **Suissi Vegan Asian Kitchen**, Dumbarton Road at **7pm on Friday 20 March**.

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

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

"Because you're worth it"



Dear Friends

Yesterday I was ordering L'oreal shampoo and conditioner online, not for me, but for Ann. It reminded me of the L'oreal advert which used to be on TV. The one that ended with the words 'because you're worth it!'

You know the one I mean, it had Cheryl Cole, as she was then, in it. It was very clever because it indicated that for much of the time we don't think 'we're worth it' and so at times we put ourselves down. We must look at ourselves, to get to know who we really are because our worth and our identity are intimately connected.

Jesus needed to be reminded of what he was worth after 40 days of being tempted in the desert. In fact, it wasn't 40 days of temptation but 39 days of deprivation and only one day of temptation because the devil didn't visit him until the very end. The devil never bothers you when you're strong but only when you're weak. Jesus was weak after going without food, and he wasn't just weak physically but emotionally and spiritually.

He was in great danger of losing his sense of direction and purpose and it's at this point that the devil challenges him with the mighty 'if' word. 'IF you're the Son of God then turn these stones into bread' 'IF you bow down and worship me then I shall give you all your heart's desires' The word 'IF' is a horrible little word because it can make you question yourself and make you doubt your worth and value. It would have been easy for Jesus to give up on God, but of course he didn't and instead got the strength to resist the devil.

It was not easy for Jesus and it's certainly not easy for us to resist temptation, it's tough. In the famous words of Oscar Wilde 'I can resist anything except temptation'. But it's especially difficult at those times when you're low and you feel that you deserve better and more than what life has served to you. When you say to yourself 'A little bit

of what you fancy does you good and a little more will be even better' And it's when you feel like this that you need to be reminded of who you are because although you're not the Son of God you are a Child of God and are so precious and of such value in the eyes and heart of your heavenly Father.

God is saying to you that you don't need to think and act like this because you're worth so much more. You don't need to live your life permanently in the basement when you could be occupying the Penthouse Suite. In reality most of us settle for one of the rooms in between.

Resisting temptation is about living your life in the knowledge that 'you're worth it' because of who and what you are. You won't always resist temptation but God doesn't stop loving you and there is always another chance if you want it and the reason I can say this is that Jesus did resist temptation and then he went on to die for us on the Cross and to be raised from death as our Saviour. He is the one who died for us so that our sins might be forgiven and he did all of that 'because you're worth it'.

Love & Blessings to you all.

Stuart

Christian Aid

The next event for the Western District Christian Aid group is the Spring Fayre on Saturday 14th March from 10.00am to noon to be held at Jordanhill Parish Church. Tickets are available from myself and your support for this and the continuing work of Christian Aid will be very much appreciated.

Campbell Joss

Feedback on Hall Services

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to feedback their views on the hall services. We had **36 responses** which hopefully has given a really good representation of the breadth of views. The majority of responses were largely positive. Here are the main points that you made (numbers in brackets):

Advantages

- Sitting beside and chatting to different people – smaller and more relaxed environment conducive to better/new relationships (21)
- More people stay behind afterwards for tea/coffee (6)
- Allows for more modern worship (6)

Disadvantages

- Not such a sense of worship/solemnity/prayerfulness as in the sanctuary (10)
- People intimidated by the idea of speaking in front of each other/the congregation (7)
- More stairs/hill for less mobile people (3)

In light of the above responses, the Session has agreed to continue with monthly hall services. We of course recognise that some are not that keen on these services, but we pray that, in a spirit of compromise, you would still be willing to come along and support those who have really enjoyed the benefits of worshipping in a different way.

What we can do to improve the hall service?

We want to try to respond to as many of your concerns/suggestions as we can, so that as many people as possible can enjoy the opportunities that worshipping in this different space provides.

Here are some of the steps that we will take in order to help the hall service to be as inclusive as possible:

- Not require people to take part in discussions
- Offer practical ways to help people up the hill (eg have a spare wheelchair available)

- Give more notice of hall services in advance
- Explore a more powerful projector that will make it easier to see screen higher up
- Consider how to begin the service in a way that is more obvious
- Improve the sound/loop system
- Get more people involved in the music
- Consider how to make the service more obvious from the street
- Where possible, distribute music for new songs to the choir in advance
- Practice new songs before the service begins

These are just some of the ways that we will try to improve on the service. But if you have other ideas please speak to Randal, Douglas, Derek or Campbell.

Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for March and April is

1st March	Janice Glass
8th March	
15th March	Gloria Acheampong
22nd March	Sarah Hay
29th March	
5th April	Carol May
12th April	Ethel Clark
19th April	Jim Aitken
26th April	Linda Hartness

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.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

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, every disclosed person 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. It may be an idea for you to go in groups – pastoral visiting / J Team etc. We have one group booked on the March 26th course. Maybe you would like to join them. Please contact me and I will book you onto the course. I do need a contact number or email address.

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, 07721511668

Volunteer training 2020 (All at 7.00-9.30 pm)

Thurs 26 Mar Kelvinbridge, 62 Belmont St., G20 6JR

Tues 21 April Campsie, 130 Main St., Lennoxtown, G66 7DA

Mon 8 Jun Mearns Kirk Church Halls, 404 Mearns Rd., Newton
Mearns , G77 58U

Kirk Session training 2020 (at 7.00-9.30 pm)

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

Balshagray Victoria Park Church 2020 Budget

Income	Budget	Actual 2019
FWO	16000	16553
Ordinary Collection	5000	5430
Gift Aid Direct	25000	30045
Tax Recovered	14704	15239
Christmas Fayre	1200	1025
Gift Appeal	8000	9635
Other Offerings	2000	2000
Hall Rental	7500	7472
Donations	1000	2144
Income from General Trustees	<u>2000</u>	<u>2220</u>
TOTAL	82404	92363

Expenditure

Ministry & Mission	56537	56044
Presbytery Dues	3154	3327
Minister's Travel	----	744
Cleaning	2800	2794
Fabric/Repairs	8500	8543
Heat/Light	7000	6577
Insurance	6000	5851
Council Tax	-----	2992
Telephone	----	268
Stationary	750	1023
Miscellaneous	<u>2000</u>	<u>1987</u>
TOTAL	86741	90150

Notes on Budget.

1. The budget figure for Ministry and Mission is based on the gross figure before deduction for the vacancy allowance. It is assumed that the allowance will be used
2. The reduction in the figure predicted for giving is based on recent information from the last few months of 2019.
3. No figure is in the budget for rental income from the manse. At the time of completing this report marketing is just beginning. The amount which may be derived from this source and when it starts is therefore difficult to predict at this stage. Rental from the manse will be an important factor in reducing or preventing the deficit predicted
4. Council tax exemption currently applies to the manse but this only lasts for a limited period or until a let is achieved.
5. Further information and answers to any questions will be provided at the Stated Annual Meeting

*Campbell Joss
Treasurer*

Offerings for period to 1st January to 9th February

	2020	2019	
Open Plate	1005	755	+250
FWO	<u>1225</u>	<u>1667</u>	<u>-442</u>
	2230	2422	-192
Gift Aid direct to bank	<u>3510</u>	<u>4880</u>	<u>-1370</u>
Total	5740	7302	-1562
Average per week (6 weeks)	957	1217	-260

Campbell Joss, Treasurer

Service Duty Rota

March – April 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.

23 rd February 1 st March	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
8 th March <i>Com</i> 15 th March	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross Mrs. M. Ross
22 nd March 29 th March	A. Coghill Mrs. P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
5 th April 12 th April	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson
19 th April 26 th April	Miss L. Fergus * J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan K. McCalden

Standby List: D. Robertson

Church Roll

There were no changes to the church roll last month.

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

BVP Day Away at Gartmore 23rd May 2020

The Path of Renewal group have arranged a day away at Gartmore House, near Aberfoyle on Saturday 23rd May. Gartmore House is an old country house, recently renovated, with a stunning views. It is set up as a residential centre for various types of organisations and very suitable for a one day event such as this.

It is hoped that as many members of the congregation as possible will come along. This will be a very relaxed day and is likely to involve a video in the morning, which should promote some interesting discussion, lunch, a short leisurely walk and an afternoon forum on a 2020 topic or a guest speaker. In addition it will provide a good environment within the excellent facilities at Gartmore for fellowship with other people in the church. The event will be subsidised to the extent that the cost per person will only be £15. This includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea/coffee and cakes. Transport will be available for those who need a lift and it is possible that a bus will be hired. It is also hoped to finish the day with an evening meal.

Leaflets are presently circulating in the church with details and an invitation to attend. If you wish to come all you need to do at this stage is to add your name(s) and put the form in the post-box in the vestibule marked 'BVP DAY AWAY' or you can hand it to Derek, Campbell or Ranald.

20/20 Vision

The Path of Renewal group are inviting you to return this form with one practical and positive idea or event which you would like to be introduced to the life or worship in BVP in 2020. We already have a few ideas but need the help of the congregation to add to this. It is hoped to compile a list of 20 within the next few weeks. This will then give us the challenge of trying out as many of these suggestions as possible. Please place your response in the post-box in the vestibule marked '20/20 VISION'.

Gift Aid : over £15,000 reclaimed

Once again Balshagray Victoria Park have received over £15,000 from HM Revenue and Customs, relating to Gift Aid contributions made during the past year.

I would like to say a big 'Thank you', on behalf of BVP, to everyone who contributed to this amount by any of these methods during 2019:

- Weekly Offering Envelopes
- Standing Orders
- Occasional Cheques
- Gift Day Donations

As always, if you pay tax and would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme so that the Church may reclaim in connection with your offerings too (via envelopes or a standing order), then please ask me for an information pack – no obligation!

*Roberta Yule
Gift Aid Convenor*

Rota for Readings and Prayers

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

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
1 st March	Sarah Hay	Reading
8 th March	Campbell Joss	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
15 th March	Roberta Yule	Reading
22 nd March	Ranald McTaggart	Prayer of Intercession
29 th March	Jacky Sinclair	Reading

Fiona Hay

The Guild

On Tuesday 10th March for 7.30 p.m. our Guild is invited to join with Jordanhill Guild - always a happy evening!

The Guild Coffee Morning will take place between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday 21st March, and tickets priced £2 adults, with accompanied children free, will be available at Church the two preceding Sunday mornings. Donations for the cake stall will be gratefully received!

There will be a speaker from the "Free to Live Trust" – one of the 3 projects our Guild is supporting over 3 years – to talk about its work on Wednesday 25th March at 2 p.m. in the small hall.

In 2014 the Trust built a home for abandoned street children from the red-light district of the city of Pune in India, and a rehabilitation centre for rescued victims of the sex industry. The money raised is helping by rescuing more children and some of the trafficked women.

It would be great if members of the congregation would help swell the numbers at this meeting, as the speaker will be coming from a distance and would appreciate a large audience ...

As we have now started using the same hymnbook for Guild meetings as we do in the church, there are many copies of the Revised Church Hymnary to spare. There will be some put in the church vestibule during March for anyone to take free (they are excellent to use in your personal devotions), and if anyone knows of a source that could use others please let me know!

*Christine Hay
Guild Secretary*

Tea Rota

Date		
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
April 5	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
12	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
19	John Glass	Ken McCalden
26	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard

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

Mary Ross

Thanks to all who provided material for this March issue.

Please send items for the April issue by

Sunday 22nd March

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in March

Sunday 1st March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev Alastair McLachlan

6.30 pm Evening Service
Preacher Mr Stuart Bruce

Sunday 8th March

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion
Preacher Rev Alastair McLachlan
Retiring offering for the Wheel Trust

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 15th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev Alastair McLachlan

6.30 pm Evening Service
Preacher Mr Stuart Bruce

Sunday 22nd March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev Alastair McLachlan

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 29th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev Alastair McLachlan

(There is no evening service)

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