



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

May 2019

Dear Friends

Recently I decided that I needed a new mobile phone. In the past the phones I have had have all been rather basic, usually bought on the Amazon Deal of the Day. However a mobile phone is such an intrinsic part of life that I thought I would buy myself the very latest, state of the art, cutting edge monster that would make a nerdy teenager green with envy. So I set off for Braehead with my wife's credit card.

I was immediately drawn to a very swish looking phone, electric blue in colour that promised me the most amazing mobile computing experience imaginable. With the phone I would be able to dance all night at raves, amaze my family and friends with the amazing slow motion pictures I'd be able to take, along with being able to do all the mundane things as well. So when a young female sales assistant approached me, with great self-assurance and feeling rather pleased with myself, I indicated that this was the technological marvel for me. She looked at me in total horror. 'You cannot buy that;' she said, 'it is ancient, more than three years old, no you cannot buy that.'

I was not phased. Nearby there was the very latest mega phone recently launched with great publicity; could I possibly buy that one. 'No,' she said, 'Too many features you'd never use.' What about its baby brother then, could I have that? She asked if I took a lot of photos. 'Very rarely' I said (all the photos I take look more or less the same). Then this was not the phone for me either. Then there was the simplest new model, surely I could buy that. My personal shopper enquired if I was into 'selfies'. 'What's a selfie?' I enquired. The answer was that phone was not for me either.

I was then asked what I actually used the phone for. 'To check emails, send texts and listen to my music and podcasts.' In that case all I

needed was simple phone so she led me to the rear of the shop, to the phones no style conscious person would want to be seen with and indicated a phone that would do all I needed and was about a quarter of the price I wanted to pay.

I asked if I could buy a case to protect my new purchase, she sighed and told me that the cases her shop sold were rubbish and not worth the money; I asked if I could buy one - anyone - just to save me time. She sighed and relented and informed me in no uncertain terms I would regret it when I got home as their cases were really, really bad.

The upshot of it all is that I have a new mobile phone that is absolutely terrific. It does everything I want it to do swiftly and easily with an aplomb my old phone just did not have. And she was right, when I got home, the case she did not want to sell me was awful and I had to get another one.

I tell this story because it was so refreshing to meet someone who was honest and straightforward, did not try and sell me something I did not need and patiently put up with my inanity. It was a joy to make the acquaintance of this wonderful, young lady. She was unforgettable. Should not Christian grace shine in our lives in a delightful way?

More importantly she led me away from what I wanted (but would have been rather OTT) and drew me to what I needed.

We desire many things in life but our heavenly Father understands our greatest need is a Saviour and the Holy Spirit does this wonderful work within our hearts leading us away from the foolish and the vain whilst revealing to us how tender, wise and wonderful a companion Friend Christ Jesus is. I discerned not a little of how He works in the girl who sold me my mobile phone.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

Change of Address

Mrs Rena Leigh (District 10)

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

Prayer Points

A Secret of self-control

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

Start believing you can change. Your beliefs control your behaviour. The way you think determines the way you feel. And when your feelings become strong enough, they determine the way you act. The person who says, 'I can't do it,' and the person who says, 'I can do it,' are both right. Much of the time you set yourself up to be defeated by what you're saying. Your words reinforce either your right or wrong belief system. Three times in First Peter, God reminds us to be clear-minded and self-controlled. Why? Because a clear mind is essential to self-control. God gave us the power to change our habits when He gave us the power to choose our thoughts. Does Romans twelve verse two tell us to be transformed by working hard or by sheer willpower? No. What are we transformed by? The renewing of the mind. When your self-control is being tested, you need to fill your mind with the promises of God. Here's one: 'When you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it' (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV 1984 Edition). You must believe God when He says there's 'a way out' for you. Paul writes, 'I *can* do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' That means you *can* change, and you *can* be different. Stop setting yourself up for failure by constantly criticising yourself: 'I'm no good. I simply have no control over my life.' Nagging doesn't work – on yourself or on anyone else! Instead say, 'Everything is possible for him who believes' (Mark 9:23 NIV 1984 Edition). 'And I believe.'

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Christian Aid Week 12th - 18th May

There are only a few people left in BVP who collect in the parish. If anyone is interested in covering a small area this year please contact me. It only involves 3/4 hours during that week and is of course such a worthwhile cause.

Campbell Joss

Annual Stated Meeting

The Church Annual Stated Meeting was held after the morning service on 14th. March. The accounts were presented by our Treasurer, Campbell Joss, and then Derek Robertson, our Session Clerk, reviewed the year and intimated what was currently known about plans for after September when our minister Campbell Mackinnon retires. Douglas Gibson urged members who were not on the Congregational Board to seriously consider intimating a willingness to serve and so provide 'new blood' and expertise. The minister thanked the officers and members for their work over the past year and closed the meeting with prayer before any of those present had the time to thank him for all his work. This report on the Annual Stated Meeting (the first to appear in the Herald for some time) is an opportunity to say a big thank you to Campbell for all he is and does.

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* is on **Saturday 11th May**. We meet for a **walk at 12 noon** in **Mugdock Country Park, Milngavie** and then have **lunch at Caulders Restaurant at 1pm**. **Everyone welcome**. The walk is not compulsory for those who simply want to have lunch. Lunch is not compulsory for those who want to leave after the walk.

Please sign up on the list in the small hall if you wish to have lunch.

Final *Dining with Friends* before the summer break is :
Friday 21st June 7.30pm - Elena's, Yorkhill

Sarah. Hay

Keswick Convention – Summer 2019

The lovely spell of warm weather we enjoyed during Easter, was I hope, a sign that summer is on its way. I am sure many of you will be thinking about organising a holiday or possibly a short break. If you have not already made up your mind, then why not consider spending some time at this year's **Keswick Convention**, which will take place during the period Saturday **13th July until 2nd August**. There are several members of our church who attend the Convention regularly and, just like Jane and I, are looking forward to going back again this summer.

This year's theme is **Longing** which speaks of the "oneness" we yearn for in Christ. Longing fits our past and is the object of our future and the desire of our hearts.

There will be three principal speakers leading the morning 'Bible Reading Sessions' and they will all focus on the Convention's theme:-

- Week 1: John Risbridger
- Week 2: Vaughan Roberts
- Week 3: Ray Ortlund

There are also many other speakers who will lead the evening worship services or speak at some of the additional events or seminars you can attend. The convention is great for families with young children or teenagers and offers a wide range of interesting programmes. The Convention tries hard to offer something for everyone; Bible teaching, worship, fellowship and uplifting 'praise times' which this summer will be led by Colin Webster (week 1), EMU Music (week 2) and Olly Knight (week 3).

The English Lake District is a very beautiful part of Britain and Keswick is ideally situated to use as a base to explore this area.

If you require more information about the Convention, please speak with Derek Robertson or myself in church or check out the Convention's web site; www.keswickministries.org

Robert Belmore

Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for May 2019. As always, though, this rota may be subject to change! Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

| Date | Name | Prayer / Reading |
|----------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 5th May | Angus Thorburn | Prayer of Intercession |
| 12th May | Susan Gibson | Reading |
| 19th May | Neil Francis | Prayer of Adoration & Confession |
| 26th May | Jacky Sinclair | Reading |

Fiona Hay

Safeguarding

Please find below the remaining training dates as supplied by the Presbytery of Glasgow, for session 2018 – 19. If you wish to attend a course then please contact me, using the details below and I will contact Presbytery on your behalf.

As ever, if anyone is considering volunteering for a regulated position, then please seek PVG clearance at you earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.

Thank you.

Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com 07721511668

Volunteer courses 2019

Tuesday 7 May

7 – 9.30pm Partick South, 259 Dumbarton Road, G11 6AB

Thursday 6 June

7 – 9.30pm Maryhill, 1990 Maryhill Road, G20 0EF

Compassion

I have received news to let us know that 18 year old Ssemialo in Uganda is now graduating from the programme at the Compassion project and he has made great progress at Deliverance Church Kigenya. During his time in the programme Compassion staff have worked alongside Ssemialo to help him develop a career plan and learn how to keep this job. As a result, Ssemialo is able to budget and is now living on his own. I am sure you will agree that while it is sad to say goodbye to Ssemialo, it is wonderful to know that our support has so enriched his life. It has been a privilege to see Ssemialo develop from the boy we first met into the independent, Christian young man he has become. Please continue to pray for Ssemialo.

As a result of Ssemialo's graduation, it was decided that BVP would like to support another child and that we would like Compassion to nominate a child who had the greatest need. I contacted Compassion and I am pleased to tell you that we will now be supporting a boy called Jose Eduardo Elias Garcia who is 8 years old and lives in El Salvador. Jose is an only child and lives with his mum who works as a housekeeper. At school Jose's favourite subjects are Language, Maths and Social Studies. In his free time, Jose likes to draw. Please look out for a photograph of Jose and some more information about him on the Compassion noticeboard in the large hall.

Thanks to everyone's wonderful generosity, our Coins for Compassion charity bucket has now raised the marvelous sum of £172. We really are so grateful to everyone for embracing this initiative so wholeheartedly. The money raised will help to ensure we have the funds required to support the children throughout the year ahead.

Once again, thank you very much for all your interest in and faithful support of the children. As the news of Ssemialo demonstrates, this really is having a positive impact on the lives of the children and their families. I will of course keep you informed of any further news about Ssemialo Jose, Luis and Dinar.

Joan Canavan

Service Duty Rota

May – June 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.

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 th May # 12 th May | Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus | R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson |
| 19 th May # 26 th May | Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey | Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus |
| 2 nd June # 9 th June Com | A. Thorburn* W. Methven | I. McLellan Miss A. Richardson |
| 16 th June # 23 rd June | J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay | Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill |

Standby List: D. Robertson

Church Flowers Rota

Flower Rota for May and June is

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 5th May | Ina Massey | 2nd June | Pamela Joss |
| 12th May | | 9th June | Janice Thorburn |
| 19th May | | 16th June | Reta McKendrick |
| 26th May | Marion Frances | 23rd June | Jane Belmore |
| | | 30th June | |

Tea Rota

| Date | | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------|
| May 5 | Jane Belmore | Veronica Goddard |
| 12 | Sharon Fergus | Susan Gibson |
| 19 | Margaret Paisley | Andy Paisley |
| 26 | Christine McTaggart | Anne Marie Masson |
| June 2 | Calum Mackinnon | Janice Mackinnon |
| 9 | Chrissie Francis | Marion Francis |
| 16 | Eilidh Shaw | Fiona Shaw |
| 23 | Janice Glass | Hazel McCalden |
| 30 | Carol May | Lindsay Fergus |

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota.

Janice Mackinnon

Thanks to all who provided material for this May issue.

Please send items for the June issue by

Sunday 19th May

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in May

Sunday 5th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 12th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 19th May

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 26th May

11.00 am All Age Service
(in the Large Hall)

(There is no evening service)

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