



Balshagray Victoria Park  
Church of Scotland

# The Herald

November 2018

Dear friends

Spy novels are one of the joys of my life. When I was still in school I discovered James Bond and remember the thrill of reading of the glamorous world of exotic locations, Aston Martins, casinos, and cocktails, shaken not stirred; a life far removed from travelling in the school bus, sitting Highers and trying to avoid PE. James Bond is a super hero, who takes on evil villains who are bent on world domination. It is a fantasy world but one could not help day dreaming about car chases, shoot outs and bringing evil geniuses to justice. The strange thing is that when one sees repeats of the early James Bond films now, what seemed so glamorous was in fact very cheap and tacky.

Then I graduated to the world of John le Carre; this was a very different world to James Bond. Le Carre's characters are much more human. MI6's headquarters are not glamorous with scientists dreaming up hi tech gadgets to thwart super villains, but just ordinary offices populated with people like his key character George Smiley: a small rotund man who cleans his spectacles on his tie, whose wife is unfaithful, who wins the day not in gun fights but with dogged determination and by out-thinking his opponents. But it is still a world far removed from the world I know; it is the world of out-maneuvering the Kremlin, international arms dealers and Swiss bankers; it is the world of recruiting agents and unearthing KGB agents in this country.

But the spy novel is moving on once again. The latest writer to capture my imagination is Mick Herron and the spy world he has created is very different to that of both Ian Fleming and John Le Carre; all his spies are failures. There is the guy that left a memory stick of sensitive information on a train and knew nothing about it till he turned on Radio 4 next morning. The guy who followed the wrong suspect

whilst the real terrorist was detonating a bomb during the rush hour at King's Cross Station in London and the woman who is recovering alcoholic. They work out of Slough House, a run-down building where the Civil Service sends people they want rid of but do not want to sack. Their leader is a vile, fat, seedy character who is obnoxious to everyone. But they also deal with people we read of in the news every day: right wing extremists who attack innocent immigrants, fanatics who place bombs in public places, journalists with extreme views who know how to stir civil disorder.

As Christmas approaches with tinsel and inane pop songs playing, people are drawn into thinking of Jesus as some kind of imaginary super hero who saves us from a Devil we do not believe exists. As Christians we know the popular view of Christmas is a folly. But just as seductive and just as deceptive is thinking of Jesus as fully human but, like George Smiley, lives in a shadow world different from ours; someone who is merely smarter than everyone around him.

Jesus was from Slough House: He was born into the home of a joiner who travelled to where the work was. His disciples were failures. He reached out to strange people no one else would touch. If He kissed you, you would feel the warmth of His body, His saliva would linger on your cheek and you would smell His sweat. But He also cares for the real you, the you who forgets to do things, who makes real blunders, who fails not once but time and time again.

What makes Christ wonderful, is not that He has super powers with which He overcomes super villains, but that He is human - but human in the most beautiful, gracious, compassionate compelling way as in His humanity He touches ordinary lives and the beauty of His humanity flows into them.

It is in this light we look forward to Christmas.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

## Giving Day

This year we will have our Giving Day on **Communion Sunday, 2nd December**. Elders will be distributing envelopes in November. The congregation have supported this most generously in years past and the Board thank you in anticipation of your continuing support and kindness.

## Safeguarding

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

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

Thank you.



Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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

### Volunteer courses 2018 / 19 (All at 7.00-9.30 pm)

**Thurs 29 Nov** Clincarthill, 1220 Cathcart Road, G42 9EU

**Wed 5 Dec** St James' Pollok, 183 Meiklerig Crescent, G53 5NA

**Tues 22 Jan** Springburn, 180 Springburn Way, Springburn, G21 1TU

**Thurs 7 Feb** Wellington, University Ave / Southpark Ave, G12 8LE

**Tues 12 Feb** Netherlee, 130 Ormonde Avenue, Netherlee, G44 3SL

**Wed 27 Mar** Wallacewell, 57 Northgate Road, Balornock, G21 3QT

**Tues 7 May** Partick South, 259 Dumbarton Road, G11 6AB

**Thurs 6 June.** Maryhill, 1990 Maryhill Road, G20 0EF

### Kirk Session courses 2018 / 19

**Wed 21 Nov** Cambuslang Flemington Hallside, Hutchinson Place, Cambuslang, G72 8XX

**Wed 23 Jan** Cardonald, 2155 Paisley Road West, G52 3PF

**Thurs 14 Mar** St David's Knightswood, 66 Boreland Drive, G13 3DX



This session continues to turn up new experiences for the 101st. The first big competition of the year, our district sports contest, was called off due to an amber weather alert. (Keen readers will note that the marching competition back in January ran despite a do-not-travel warning. Priorities!) The sports will be rescheduled sometime in the spring, and thankfully the other competitions between now and then are all indoors.

October's inter-squad competition had a rather alarming-sounding concept, a blindfolded obstacle course. The reality was less terrifying than that might sound, and involved a blindfolded participant being directed around obstacles by a teammate. Cooperation in the face of frustration was key, which is perhaps why a staff team won, and there were thankfully no fallings-out afterwards.

Our numbers remain low, but in the last few weeks we've been glad to welcome back a former member. We're keen to try doing some things that are a bit different, so just before the October break we went ice skating in lieu of a regular meeting. Some of us must have looked a bit feeble when first getting onto the ice, but I think everyone finished the evening considerably more confident than they started. A lengthy recovery period in the nearby Costa coffee was needed afterwards, particularly by yours truly.

For the month ahead, I believe our next competition is the laser tag. We've taken home several medals from this in recent years, and are hoping to do so again.

Andrew Watkins  
[101glasgowbb@gmail.com](mailto:101glasgowbb@gmail.com)

## Christmas Fayre

**Saturday, 24th November 2018**

As you are probably aware this year's Christmas Fayre is being held in the Church Hall on Saturday, 24th November 2018 from 10am until 1pm. The cost of a ticket is £2.00 for adults and children 12 and over. Children under 12 are free. Included in the ticket is a visit to the Tea Room for a welcome cuppa and of course some delicious home baking. Tickets will be available in the next week or two. We hope you will help the success of this event by buying a ticket and of course coming along on the 24th to support this important fund raiser.

There are other ways your help is needed too: by donating to the various stalls listed below or by giving up an hour or two of your time to help on the day.

### Items Required:

*Cake and Candy:* Please speak to Anne Richardson if you would like to donate any items of baking or tablet etc.

*Bric-a-Brac:* Please label any bags/boxes with "Bric-a-Brac" and bring along to the church.

*Gift Stall:* All items e.g. unwanted gifts, items brought back from holiday, should be passed to Fiona/Christine Hay.

*Media Stall:* Books, Music, DVDs should be passed to Randal McTaggart or Robert Belmore.

*Craft Stall:* Any knitted, sewn or other craft or soft goods should be passed to Christine Hill

*HELP:* Please see Shirley Robertson regarding helping on the day - even an hour makes all the difference.

*Posters:* There will be posters available to advertise the Fayre. You will find them at the kitchen hatch in the large hall. These can be displayed in shops, libraries, doctor surgeries etc etc. Thank you if you are able to help with this.

The Organising Committee would like to thank everyone who has already donated either goods or their time and they look forward to seeing you all on the 24th for another successful **BVP Christmas Fayre**.

## The Persecuted Church

What if your faith and religion had a deadline – and all evidence relating to Christianity was to be eradicated by 2021 ? It is difficult to believe that such a thing could happen, but that is what might happen in India if the militant Hindu extremist group, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (**RSS**) get their way. One of the leaders of the **RSS** stated in the Indian national media, that it is their intention to make India free of Christians and Muslims by 31 December 2021.

Despite being the world's largest democracy, with a constitution that guarantees 'freedom of religion', Hindu extremism continues to thrive. The Indian government is led by the Hindu nationalist **BJP**, who believe that being a Hindu is part of 'Indian identity'. There has been a significant increase in violence towards Christians and Muslims, including killings, and in the past year more than 600 Christians were unlawfully detained and circa 24,000 suffered from serious assaults.

Time is running out for the 60 million Christians living in India and the Indian government is doing very little to stop the radical Hindu groups, such as the **RSS** (who are linked with the **BJP**) from carrying out their threat, which is very, very real.

**KENYA** - in many parts of this African country, the Christian Church remains under intense pressure and persecution from Islamist extremists, who are determined to make Kenya an Islamic State. During the past few years, attacks on individuals and churches have been perpetrated by the radical group called al-Shabaab, who, after killing Christian men, try to force their widows to become Muslims. Kenya has a common border with Somalia, from where the attacks usually take place.

**ALGERIA** – government officials in this North African country are using 'legal technicalities' such as health and safety inspections to close down Christian churches. In the past year, 10 churches have been forced to close and ordered to stop all activities. Several churches have been informed that they do not have official permission to meet for worship, yet no permits have been issued by the authorities since 2006, when new legislation relating to places of worship came into force.

**MYANMAR (BURMA)** – there is a growing crisis affecting this Far East country and the situation is rapidly deteriorating. In recent months, more than 90 Christian leaders have been detained and over a dozen churches in eastern Burma have been closed by rebels influenced by Chinese Communists. Church buildings have been destroyed, Christian symbols removed and religious schools in some areas were closed.

**PAKISTAN** – the Christian woman Aasia Bibi, who was sentenced to death for “blasphemy” in 2010, is still waiting to hear the outcome of her ‘final appeal’ which took place on 8th October. However, the Islamist Party have threatened to incite national disorder if Aasia Bibi is released from death row. At a recent rally in Karachi, participants demanded the execution of Aasia and action taken against anyone supporting the growing campaign for her release. The Prime Minister, Imran Khan was asked to announce a clear policy on the ‘blasphemy laws’, but so far no guidance from his government has been forthcoming. Pakistan’s notorious ‘blasphemy laws’ have been internationally condemned and calls for the release of Aasia have increased.

**INDONESIA** – Islamic pressure groups and conservative Muslim political parties are pushing hard to make Indonesia an Islamic nation. Christians are by far a minority religious group with circa 32 million believers as opposed to circa 200 million who identify as Muslims. Some regions such as the semi-autonomous province of Aceh have already implemented ‘*Sharia Law*’ and expect all residents to come under its jurisdiction. Christians are suffering from increased discrimination and violence in various parts of Indonesia. In the past month three churches were closed in the provincial capital of Jambi on the island of Sumatra because they did not have authorisation to meet. Local officials informed the churches to relocate or merge into one, which was resisted.

***“The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous”.*** Proverbs 15 v 29 (NIV)

***‘CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH’***

*Robert Belmore*

## Dining with Friends

This month’s Dining with Friends is:

**Friday 9th November 7pm**

**'Dine In' at Mother India, Argyll St., Kelvingrove**

Please sign up on the notice in the small hall.

Future date for your diary:

Saturday 22nd December (date to be confirmed) The Broom Hill, Broomhill (for brunch before Carol singing)

*Sarah Hay*

## Church Flowers Rota

According to the notice in the Vestibule and Small Hall, the Flower Rota for November and December is

Flower Rota for November/December is

4th November	Sarah Hay
11th November	
18th November	Susan Gibson
25th November	<b>The Guild</b>
2nd December	Hazel McCalen
9th December	
16th December	Sharon Fergus
23rd December	
30th December	

## Prayer Points

### The cure for worry

*'Offer up your prayers and requests to God.'* *Philippians 4:6 CEV*

The Bible says, 'With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then...God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel' (vv. 6-7 CEV). When you pray more, you worry less. That means you have a choice: either pray about it or worry about it. In prayer you give the problem to God, therefore you experience more peace of mind. Does that mean you won't worry about the problem at all? No. It means you'll worry about it less. While your goal is to give it completely to God and not worry about it at all, you'll only get there step by step. God's not asking you to exist in a state of denial. 'Don't worry – be happy!' fails to appreciate the seriousness of the concerns you have. God doesn't expect you to suddenly stop caring. Instead He offers an alternative to the pointless and exhausting habit of worry: 'Pray without ceasing' (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV). Does that mean a thirty-second prayer will rid you of all anxiety? No. It means start your day with prayer, and continue praying off and on throughout the day. Pray at work. Pray before your lunch break. Pray when you get that difficult phone call. Pray when you're disappointed by something. Pray when surprises come. Pray when you triumph. Pray in the midst of painful news. Pray without ceasing – literally. Your heavenly Father, being deeply touched by your struggles, loves it when you come to Him asking for help. He's right there, ready to step in. Just invite Him to do it.

*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*

## Compassion

Thank you very much to everyone for supporting the Harvest Lunch so generously. This raised the marvelous sum of £461. This, along with the money raised at the Communion retiring offering, helps greatly in providing the funds needed to support Ssmeialo, Luis and Dinar throughout next year. Grateful thanks also to those who provided the delicious soup and sandwiches and helped out on the day.

Once again I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your faithful support of the children and their families. This really does make a huge difference to their lives.

*Joan Canavan*

## Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for November for different people in our congregation taking part in the morning service by reading the Bible or leading a prayer of adoration or intercession. As always, though, this rota may be subject to change! Because there are so many "special" services in December, the rota is being suspended for that month, but it will restart in January 2019. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

<b>Date (2018)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Prayer / Reading</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Colin Murray	Reading
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Rita McKendry	Prayer of Intercession
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Fergus Shaw	Reading
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Shona McGill	Prayer of Adoration & Confession

*Fiona Hay*

## Service Duty Rota

### November – December 2018

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.

4 <sup>th</sup> November	A. Coghill*	D. Hay
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Mrs P. Joss	Mrs M. Thomson
18 <sup>th</sup> November #	Mrs S. Gibson*	R. McTaggart
25 <sup>th</sup> November	I. Fergus	Mrs F. Robertson
2 <sup>nd</sup> December <i>Com</i>	Mrs J. Sinclair*	Mrs C. McGowan
9 <sup>th</sup> December	J. Massey	Miss L. Fergus
16 <sup>th</sup> December #	A. Thorburn*	I. McLellan
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson
30 <sup>th</sup> December [ 6 <sup>th</sup> January]	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill

Standby List: D. Robertson

## Church Roll

### Baptism

Milly Ciorstaidh (Kirsty) Macdonald daughter of Mr & Mrs John Macdonald

### Change of Address

Mr Alastair MacLachlan (District 19)

*Andy Coghill, Rollkeeper*

## Team Jenny Bows Out . . .

Well, we did it. 5 months and 202km on, we have ended the Team Jenny running challenge on a high note.

On a glorious September Sunday morning I headed for the East Lothian 10k, with my arrival carefully planned for 45 minutes prior to the 9am start of the race. I still don't know how I managed to miss the turning for Musselburgh Racecourse . . . after a round trip down the A1 to Haddington and back, followed by a helpful policeman omitting the words "second set of" as he told me to turn right at the traffic lights, when I finally made it to the car park the 45 minutes had become 6. It's the first time my pre-race warmup has consisted of a sprint to the start line! The course was lovely, the weather hot and sunny, and there were even some supporters from Jennifer's church at the halfway point. My added bonus was a new 10k best time of 56:32 – still 15 minutes behind my son-in-law Duncan but he has youth and extreme fitness on his side!

Things went much more smoothly for the Great Scottish Run half marathon – the Douglas Gibson taxi service/Glasgow subway combination delivered Elaine and myself to the start line in plenty of time and we finished 2 hours 23 minutes and 51 seconds later – my best half marathon time, and an impressive debut for Elaine at the distance.

So, we have made it to the end. Our only casualty has been Barry, who was forced out of the Belfast half marathon by the recurrence of an old injury; the rest of us have emerged unscathed, and we are set to hand over £9500, including Gift Aid, to Edinburgh Maggie's Centre. Our challenge may have been imaginative, but the incredible generosity of our supporters reflects all that Jennifer was to so many people, and the respect people have for the work of Maggie's. Heartfelt thanks, from all of us, to everyone who has helped us to honour our inspirational Jenny.

*Team Jenny c/o Susan Gibson*

## The Guild

On the 14th November we think about our Theme and Topic, "Seeking the Way", and then on the 28th we have a speaker talking about "Refugees".

The December meeting is on the first Wednesday, as usual at 2 p.m., and this will be the only one in December!

*Christine Hay  
Guild Secretary*

**BVP Christmas Fayre**  
**Saturday 24th November**  
**10.00am - 1.00pm**  
**Buy a ticket**  
**Give and/or help**  
**Come along**  
**Buy, meet friends old & new**  
**over tea and homemade cakes**  
**ENJOY**

## The Auxilliary Christmas Gift Appeal

The Gartnavel Royal Auxilliary, known as the Auxilliary, supports the work of Gartnavel Royal Psychiatric Hospital by funding recreational and social activities and providing extra comforts for in-patients. It also aims to maintain links with community groups, raise awareness of problems associated with mental illness and reduce stigmas.

Many of the patients have no visitors. The Auxilliary organises gifts for inpatients at Christmas time and the staff and patients would be delighted to receive unwrapped gifts suitable for men as well as women. Gifts could be toiletries, pants for women, boxer shorts for men, socks, chocolates, confectionary etc. but should not contain glass, razors, alcohol, ties, necklaces, belts, scarves or bubble bath. Please send any donations by 10th December to the volunteer Services Manager Fiona Sinclair, c/o Inpatient Services, Upper Hub, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH (phone 211 3681).

### Tea Rota

Date		
Nov 4	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
11	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
18	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
25	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
Dec 2	Janice Mackinnon	Marion Francis
9	Sarah & David Hay	Fiona & Fergus Shaw
16	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
23	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
30	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard

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

*Janice Mackinnon*

Thanks to all who provided material for this November issue.

Please send items for the December/January issue by

**Sunday 18th November**

to

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

### Worship Services at BVP - November

The congregation at Hillington Park wish to maintain Evening Services during their vacancy, so for the next while we will have joint Evening Services with Hillington Park, alternating between the two churches. For transport please speak to Campbell Mackinnon or Derek Robertson.

*Sunday 4th November*

11.00 am Morning Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service at Hillington Park

*Sunday 11th November*

**Please note earlier start time**

**10.45 am Service of Remembrance**

A Youth Service with the participation of members of our uniformed organisations

(There is no evening service)

*Sunday 18th November*

11.00 am Morning Service  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service (at BVP)  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

*Sunday 25th November*

11.00 am Morning Service  
(An All Age Service in the Large Hall)  
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

**Note:** The December Communion Service is on the 2nd December.

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