



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

October 2018

Dear Friends

Just as the church is beginning to recover from the very divisive debates on sexuality, an even more contentious issue has been raised: the future of the Westminster Confession of Faith as our subordinate standard of faith. Ministers, when inducted, have to agree to the Westminster Confession as expressing the substance of their faith. For many to try to abandon the Westminster Confession is to cut the Church of Scotland from her Biblical and Reformed roots and is a step too far. For others it is a historical document of little relevance today.

The Westminster Confession, as its name suggests, was put together in the 17th century by a group of highly distinguished Scottish and English clerics as a basis for uniting the church in England and in Scotland. It was approved by the church in Scotland and has been our basis of faith ever since; but it was never approved by the church in England.

In the past I have always defended the Westminster Confession, despite its many faults, because it is (according to Hilaire Belloc's poem about the wee boy Jim who was eaten by a lion whilst on the trip to the zoo), wise to 'hold on to nurse for fear of finding something worse'. The Church of Scotland is so diverse in its theological spectrum it is almost inconceivable that the Theological Forum can come up with a statement that has any substantial meaning.

However I am changing my mind. Calvin modelled his famous Institutes on the Apostle's Creed and discusses predestination as part of our assurance of salvation; that God loved us and was at work in our lives before we learned to love Him. He prefaces his teaching on predestination with the comment that at the entrance to God's presence there is a doorway that leads to a dark labyrinth from which

there is no escape. Calvin's point is that if when we think of predestination as God loving us before we loved Him it brings great assurance but if we think of it as a masterplan for all of time, we get into all sorts of bother. The same is true when considering the Westminster Confession. God's Eternal Decree comes as chapter 3 and so Scotland has been plagued with arguments about predestination for 400 years and, instead of simply looking to Christ for salvation, folk have worried as to whether or not they belong to the elect. My second concern is that a confession of faith should never be a fence we hide behind but something we live. I need not only to understand how Christ's death deals with my guilt, I must also live praying and giving myself for others as Christ Jesus did. There is little point in defending the Virgin Birth unless one lives a life of sincere humility. When one begins to live like that one finds oneself in the company of people with whom one might disagree on a doctrine like predestination, but who nonetheless lead a most wonderful Christlike life.

As we await the findings of the Forum tasked with finding a new doctrinal statement, my prayer is no longer that we retain the Westminster Confession at all costs. I now but pray that we adopt a doctrinal statement that is not anaemic and so ambiguous that it is meaningless; but a statement that unites the church in love for Christ, humble dependence on the word of God, gives meaning to Christ's death and resurrection, and reaches out to Christians in other denominations.

The review of the Westminster Confession offers the church an opportunity to unite in love for Christ, for one another, for brothers and sisters in other churches and re-energises us in mission. So I now pray that this review will provide an opportunity for the Church of Scotland to reunite in the love and service of Christ.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

There were no changes to the Church Roll in September.

*Andy Coghill,
Rollkeeper*

Prayer Points

Experiencing fear and faith

'Be strong and of good courage.'

Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV

Any time you attempt something for the first time, or something you've failed at before, or something you think is too big for you, you'll experience both fear and faith. They go together. One will win out over the other, but they never go away. Because Israel had no idea what challenges awaited them or what life would be like in the Promised Land, God told them, 'Be strong and of good courage...for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.' And today that's His promise to you too! It's fear of failure that stops us most of the time. Yet as you look back, you realise that most times failure doesn't do permanent damage at all; you actually grow through it. Dr Joan Borysenko writes: 'When I was admitted to Harvard, I was sure there had been a computer error and I'd be exposed as a fraud. A lawyer friend of mine stops short of terror every time she has to give a final argument before a jury. Even when you're an expert, fear doesn't necessarily go away. It's accepting fear as part of the journey instead of running from it, that helps you to conquer it.' To go anywhere, you must launch out from somewhere, or you'll get nowhere. American essayist Hamilton Wright Mabie said, 'The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had the means, time, influence, and educational advantages, but what he will do with the things he has.' So, confront your fear, step out in faith, and believe God for success.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

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 you earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.

Thank you.



Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com

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

Thurs 25 Oct Maxwell Mearns Castle, Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns, G77 5RE

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

Put it in your Diary !**Scottish Interfaith Week: 11th– 18th November.**

The Scottish Government has declared 2018 to be the '**Year of the Young People**'. One of the main aims is to develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations. Faith communities have an important role to play in providing opportunities for people of different generations to dialogue and engage in activities together. There will be many events taking place in and around Glasgow for people of all ages, faiths and cultures, coming together to celebrate Scottish Interfaith Week.

For more information check out their web-site:-
www.scottishinterfaithweek.org

Robert Belmore

Offerings for the period to 16th September 2018

	2018	2017	
Open Plate	3242	3839	- 597
FWO	<u>14682</u>	<u>15731</u>	<u>-1049</u>
	17924	19570	-1646
Gift Aid direct to bank	<u>22020</u>	<u>22385</u>	<u>- 365</u>
Total	39944	41955	-2011
Average per week (36 weeks)	1109	1165	- 56

Campbell Joss
Treasurer

The Guild

There will be a Dedication for the Guild as part of the morning service on Sunday 7th October, with Guild members or prospective members requested to sit at the front of the church on the pulpit side.

The opening of the new session will be on Wednesday 10th in the small hall at 2.00 p.m. This will be a talk on "The History of the Central Hotel" in Glasgow.

On the 24th we reminisce about "My Favourite Holiday Memory".

From 2018 – 2021 the Guild is supporting 6 new Projects financially and prayerfully: The Boys' Brigade, CrossReach, The Free to Live Trust, Malawi Fruits, The Sailors' Society and the World Mission Council. Our branch has chosen 3 from these to support over the 3 years: CrossReach, The Free to Live Trust and Malawi Fruits. Further information about the Projects can be found on the Guild noticeboard in the small hall.

Generally the Guild meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, and a cordial invitation is given to ladies and gentlemen in the congregation - and further afield - to come to the meetings.

A warm welcome awaits you!

Christine Hay
Guild Secretary

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* will be on **Saturday 6th October** 11.30am for a walk and 12.45pm for lunch in **Plantaria Restaurant, Mugdock Country Park.**

To help assess numbers for reservations, please put your name on the list posted in the small hall before the booking deadline.

Future dates for your diary:

Friday 9th November 7pm Dining In with Mother India, Argyll St, Kelvingrove

(to be confirmed) Saturday 22nd Dec 10am breakfast at The Square, Broomhill Shopping Centre, followed by Carol Singing at 11am

Sarah Hay

Church Flowers Rota

According to the notice in the Vestibule and Small Hall, the Flower Rota for September and October is

Flower Rota for October/November is

7th October	Harvest	"D"
14th October	Sharon Fergus	
21st October	Fiona Robertson	
28th October	101st BB	"D"
4th November	Sarah Hay	
11th November		
18th November	Susan Gibson	
25th November	The Guild	"D"

Sam Acheampong

Sam's funeral was one of the largest held in BVP for many, many years, with the church being almost full to capacity. It was a fitting tribute to Sam who served the Lord faithfully as an Elder in BVP for over 40 years. This expression of sympathy and respect was greatly appreciated by Gloria and the family.

As many of you know, Sam was closely involved with the Lodging House Mission as the representative from BVP. You will be pleased to learn, that the retiring offering at Sam's funeral for the work of the Lodging House Mission, amounted to **£702:00**. Gloria asked me to convey to everyone in the church, her grateful thanks and appreciation for your very generous support of the work done by the Lodging House Mission.

Gloria's health is not good and she requires a lot of help and care. Please remember Gloria and the family in your prayers.

Robert Belmore

Church Finances – Thanks from 121



The Church of Scotland
Stewardship and Finance Department

Archie McDowall
Deputy Treasurer
Congregational Finance

121 George Street
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
Tel: 0131 225 5722

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

June 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to thank you most sincerely for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offerings. It is important that you should know what happens to this money and this letter intends to explain how your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2018.

160894 - Balshagray Victoria Park

Total Contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2018

£62,735

Ministries (83.5%)

£52,384 of your total contribution will go towards the costs of providing over 750 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The 2018 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is **£42,362** (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions). If your contribution to Ministries is above this figure, then your church is meeting the full cost of your ministry and supporting other congregations. If it is less than £42,362, your congregation (or linked charge) is being supported by other congregations.

Mission (16.5%)

£10,351 of your total contribution will be used to support the Church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

As you will see, the contribution from your congregation ensures a very diverse ministry is maintained, and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places. Many churches have made additional Ministries and Mission contributions throughout the past year and these have also been gratefully received.

Should your church wish any support or resources from the Stewardship and Finance Department, please do not hesitate to contact me. The National Stewardship Programme has been running for several years and our team of consultants is willing to guide your church through a stewardship programme, or simply to provide you with some ideas and advice. Please remember that the consultants will work with your church free of charge – **there is no cost for their time.**

I do look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

Yours in Christ,

Archie McDowall

Archie McDowall

Deputy Treasurer – Congregational Finance

Email: AMCDOWALL@churchofscotland.org.uk

Congregation Number: 160894

Compassion

Just a little note to remind you that following the Harvest service on Sunday 7th October, we will be holding a lunch in the large hall to raise funds for Compassion. It is through this event we raise a large majority of the funds we need to support Ssemialo, Luis and Dinar for the year ahead, so if you can please come along. Some members have asked me to intimate the name of our account (Balshagray Victoria Park Tear Fund) so donations can, if desired, be made by cheque.

If you can help by making soup or sandwiches please speak to Shirley Robertson or myself.

Once again, thank you for all your support. It really is greatly appreciated.

Joan Canavan



The start of this session has been a very quiet one for the 101. With a large number of leavers at the end of last session, we expected very low numbers this session. We've set up a website and Facebook page, have put up some posters and adverts in school assemblies.

Unfortunately, it's hard to recruit for the older age groups, and we haven't had success so far. But for the folk we do have, the session's well underway.

Our inter-squad potted sports competition took on an interesting turn, becoming a *Staff vs Boys* event. Despite the youth and athleticism of the staff (excluding myself on both counts), the boys were winning, and it all came down to the last race, the wheelbarrow. Due to various past injuries, none of the other staff were willing to be the wheelbarrow, so our heroic captain bravely stepped (crawled?) up to the line. I had thought I might make it half way up the hall, but my arms collapsed after only a few steps. This wasn't the end of the race, however, as it turned out I could still be pushed! Needless to say, the boys won, but I swept the floor clean.

The first competition of the session for us will be the district sports at Scotstoun at the start of October. This will be opened up to BB companies from around Glasgow for the first time. We're hoping to repeat our previous winning of the relay race, but are currently one body short. I won't be volunteering myself for that one.

Give us a like on Facebook at www.facebook.com/101glasgowbb

Andrew Watkins
101glasgowbb@gmail.com

Team Jenny Nears the Finish Line . . .

The finish line is in our collective sights! As I write, Team Jenny's summer running challenge in memory of my sister Jennifer has reached 140km of official timed runs clocked up with 83km looming. The weather was kind to us for the Great Aberdeen 10k, which resulted in 8 tired legs and 3 sub-60 minute personal best times, and the East Lothian 10k on September 23rd will be extra special as it is on Jennifer's "home turf". Thank you, Duncan, for running East Lothian with me – though I'm quite sure that should read ahead of me! By the time you read this, the half marathons will be completed – Belfast City for Barry, Glasgow for Elaine and me – and Team Jenny will have made it to the end of our challenge.

We cannot thank people enough for their amazing generosity; donations for Edinburgh Maggie's Centre have reached £6600 with almost £1000 of Gift Aid to be added. By the next issue of The Herald we should be able to confirm a final total. Meantime, the last few long training runs await - but as we all know now, there is no such thing as a hill; it's only a mild gradient differential . . . !

Thank you.

Team Jenny c/o Susan Gibson

Pedal for Scotland

Many thanks to everyone who donated to my sponsorship fund in aid of Prostate Scotland. Our team of 4 cyclists raised £2400 from the event. For me it really was an inspiring occasion with nearly 7000 cyclists taking to the road, many of them raising money for charity.

Campbell Joss

Service Duty Rota

October – November 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.

7 th October	J. Goddard*	Miss F. Hay
14 th October	Miss C. Hay	Mrs S. McGill
21 st October #	Miss R. Yule*	G. Ross
28 th October	C. Murray	A. McKendry
4 th November	A. Coghill*	D. Hay
11 th November	Mrs P. Joss	Mrs M. Thomson
18 th November #	Mrs S. Gibson*	R. McTaggart
25 th November	I. Fergus	Mrs F. Robertson

Standby List: D. Robertson

The Bert Richardson Memorial Window

The stained glass window above the balcony in the south transept is in memory of Bert Richardson who at the time of the union of Balshagray with Victoria Park served as joint Session Clerk with Jim Lamont. He was Session Clerk at Victoria Park for many years - just one of many roles during a lifetime of faithful service to the church. The installation of this window was arranged by his daughter Anne.

The window is from the original Victoria Park Church and is the top section of what was the First World War Memorial Window which features a dove which flies earthward bearing the olive-branch of peace. It was designed by an artist from the Bromsgrove Guild, Worcestershire which was founded in 1898 by Walter Gilbert. It was a company of modern artists and designers who were associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement and who worked in metal, wood, plaster, bronze, tapestry, glass and other mediums. The design and installation of the gates at Buckingham Palace is one of their most notable works. The company was in existence until 1966.

A J Davies worked in stained glass design for many years with the Bromsgrove Guild. He designed over 250 windows in the UK and a further 100 abroad including Canada and South Africa. The bronze plaque listing those who died during the First World War is also the work of a Bromsgrove Guild artist.

The window was dedicated in 1920.

Pamela Joss

Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for October and 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.

Date (2018)	Name	Prayer / Reading
7 th October	Archie Gosland	Reading
14 th October	Veronica Goddard	Prayer of Intercession
21 st October	Andy Coghill	Reading
28 th October	Marion Francis	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
4 th November	Colin Murray	Reading
11 th November	Rita McKendry	Prayer of Intercession
18 th November	Fergus Shaw	Reading
25 th November	Shona McGill	Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Fiona Hay

Tea Rota

PLEASE NOTE: The rota for October shown in the September Herald omitted the Harvest Lunch in error. This is corrected below with my apologies.
Ed.

Date	Harvest	
Oct 7	Harvest	
14	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
21	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
28	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
Nov 4	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
11	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
18	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
25	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon

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

Janice Mackinnon

Thanks to all who provided material for this October issue.

Please send items for the November issue by

Sunday 21st October

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP - October

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 7th October

11.00 am Morning Service

Harvest Festival

Guild Dedication Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

There is a Harvest Lunch after the morning service.

Donations for *Compassion*

6.30 pm Evening Service at Hillington Park

Sunday 14th October

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Alastair Morrice

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 21st October

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher: Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service

Joint Service with Hillington Park in BVP

Sunday 28th October

11.00 am Morning Service

Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

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