



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

September 2019

Dear friends

Nan Shepherd's book 'The Living Mountain' tells the story of her life spent exploring the Cairngorms. Climbing the mountains in different seasons, at different times of day, to enjoy the kaleidoscopic grandeur of the magnificent Highland landscape. She would visit the same places many times for she could not believe such beauty was possible. She describes the mountains in the different seasons, the air that surrounds them, the streams that flow within them and the wildlife that lives on them. This created within her a deep sense of wonder. She describes the silent awe the source of the River Avon instilled in her:

'The inaccessibility of this loch is part of its power. Silence belongs to it. If Jeeps find it out, or a funicular railway disfigures it, part of its meaning will be gone. The good of the greatest number is not here relevant. It is necessary to be sometimes exclusive, not on behalf of rank or wealth, but of those human qualities that can apprehend loneliness.'

It has been my privilege firstly in the Highlands and for the last eighteen years here in Glasgow to spend my time, not in the exploration of the Cairngorms, but in exploring the Word of God: the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. This has not been an academic exercise but one of getting to know the awesome God at whose behest the authors of the books of the Bible wrote. Getting to know the God of the Covenant, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Knowing Him in the different seasons on life, knowing Him in midst of all the encouragements and discouragements joys and sorrows of congregational life. Returning time and again to familiar places because one simply cannot comprehend how great He is. The result is that one lives in silent awe

before the majesty of His being: a majesty revealed in a stable in Bethlehem, a cross and an empty tomb.

You have enabled me to live this life through your constant selfless support and encouragement and letting me be part of your lives. No words can express my gratitude to you for allowing me this privilege. But it is more than that. Nan Shepherd continues:

'The presence of another person does not detract from, but enhances, the silence, if the other is the right sort of hill companion. The perfect hill companion is the one whose identity is for the time being merged in that of the mountains, as you feel your own to be. Then such speech as arises is part of a common life and cannot be alien.'

As we have worshipped and served together in BVP you have been 'perfect hill companion(s)'. If there has been anything of worth in the services, sermons, Bible Studies I have prepared and Kirk Session meetings I have led it has arisen out of your hunger to know our Lord more intimately, serve Him more faithfully and your constant kindness and encouragement. This wonderful awe before the majesty of God is in you all, your companionship has been a joy and delight through all these years.

Recently round the dinner table we discussed what we would miss as we leave BVP and we simply shared a long list of names, I do believe we spoke of every single person in the congregation. I often think the ministry is about creating very blessed memories: for all the wonderful memories we will take with us as we make our new life in Kenmuir Mt Vernon we offer you all our profound thanks.

I used to sign off this letter your friend and minister, now it is simply

Your friend

Campbell Mackinnon

The Guild

The new Guild syllabus for 2019 - 2020 will be available in the vestibule on Sundays 1st and 15th of September. Please ask for one if you're not given it!

Advance notice: The Guild Dedication will be held as part of the morning service on Sunday 6th October, with the Guild meetings re-starting on Wednesday 9th October at 2 p.m. in the Small Hall. All are welcome!

Christine Hay, Guild Secretary

Compassion

I have received word from Compassion that 18 year old Luis in Ecuador has now graduated from High School. As he is keen to help support his family, Luis has gone to live with his grandmother so he can pursue a work opportunity. Having moved away, Luis can no longer attend the Compassion project but his ultimate goal is to attend university.

Ruth, Luis' tutor at the project has written to let us know how well Luis has done and that he was always a very good student, encouraging others and making the most of the opportunities he was given. She writes, 'Luis' mother is very grateful to God, the program and you for the support he received in all the past years, because she felt that Luis was such a privilege from God to be here in the program and to receive the benefits that she didn't expect such as food, schooling, clothes for Christmas, medical check-ups, medicine, learning about God's word, trips, camps, workshops, special dinners, birthday celebration, special presents, letters, advice and sincere friendship.'

I'm sure you'll agree that Ruth's words demonstrate very clearly how much our support is appreciated by the children and their families and the positive impact it has on all their lives. In fact, Luis' parents have now started a small business, selling lunch and dinner locally. His mum attends church and the younger children attend Sunday school. Please pray for Luis and his family in these times of change.

Luis' departure from the project means that we now have the opportunity to support another child, and I will of course keep you informed of any decisions taken regarding this.

A date for your diary - following the Harvest service on Sunday 6th October we will be holding our annual lunch in aid of Compassion. It is through this we raise the majority of the funds needed to support the children, so if you can, please come along. If you can help by making soup or sandwiches please speak to Shirley Robertson or myself.

Coins for Compassion - Thanks to everyone's generosity our charity bucket has now raised the grand total of £178.88. Every penny really does make a difference.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support which really is greatly appreciated.

Joan Canavan

Prayer Points

Different Ways to Pray

'He...keeps us present before God.'

Romans 8:27 MSG

Someone who's better at prayer than you are is already at work on your behalf. 'God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in us and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves...and keeps us present before God' (vv 26-27 MSG). Notice, the Holy Spirit 'keeps us present before God'. Sometimes we've a hard time being 'fully present' in prayer. We all know what it's like to be with another person when their mind is a million miles away. What's the answer? Try jotting down what goes on while you're praying. The two most common hindrances to praying successfully are: a) your mind gets easily distracted by other thoughts; b) you get tired. When author John Ortberg shared these two frustrations with a friend, he suggested that John go outside alone and simply invite Jesus to come along with him. Ortberg writes: 'The next day I went to the ocean, took off my shoes, started to run and invited Jesus to come along. I found the strangest thing. When I thought I was supposed to be talking to Him, I found it effortful and difficult. Now that all I had to do was invite Him, I couldn't stop thinking about Him. My mind kept reflecting on His being with me. I found myself wanting to point out the pelicans and the waves to Him. People and concerns would pop into my mind, and I would find myself telling Jesus about them. Everything changed.' So, invite Jesus to come along with you today and share each thing you do with Him.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Dining with Friends

Here are the dates and venues for our monthly times out together:

Sat 21st Sept - 3.30pm Afternoon Tea at Dobbies Braehead

Fri 25th Oct - 7.30pm Dining in The Den (Mother India), Kelvingrove

Thurs 28th Nov - 7.30pm Celinos, Partick

Please sign up for the next *Dining with Friends* on the notice in the Small Hall

Sarah Hay

Church Roll

Deaths

Mrs Lesley Joss (District 10)

Mr Bert Armstrong (Adherent) (District 17)

Change of Address

Mrs Janet MacGregor (District 16)

Dedication

Alice Jasmine Abena Acheampong, daughter of Cath and Kofi Acheampong

Andy Coghill, Rollkeeper

Church Flowers Rota

The Flower Rota for September and October is

1st September	Cathie McLellan
8th September	Alison Mackie
15th September	Anne Richardson
22nd September	Colin Murray
29th September	

6th October	Harvest
13th October	Sharon Fergus
20th October	Fiona Robertson
27th October	101st BB

The Persecuted Church

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8 & 9 NIV)

If the Apostle Paul was still alive today, I feel sure he would still use these words to describe in a very graphic way, the plight of thousands of Christians residing in India, Syria, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Pakistan, Eritrea, the Sudan and in a host of other countries throughout the world.

Summer is almost over, at least it feels like that, due to the poor weather we have experienced lately, but the persecution of Christians and other minorities continues regardless of the weather or season. Sadly, in some countries this has intensified, and has been described and identified as '*acts of genocide*'. The declared intent of most Islamist and Hindu extremist groups is to eradicate the very existence of Christianity.

In Ephesians 6 v 12 we read: "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil*". These words sum up very precisely the battle we are engaged in, if we are to win others who have no hope, for Christ.

Even in the more moderate Islamic States, Christians continue to be subjected to unwarranted discrimination. There is also a complete lack of tolerance, which leads to increased tension, resulting in acts of violence against Christians. In many countries, certain governments impose '*Sharia Law*' in an attempt to intimidate, harass and discourage Christians from attending church or a house group. In addition, any form of '*open worship*' is actively discouraged. In some countries it is illegal to write, speak or preach against Islam or to engage with Muslims about Christianity. Punishment can often be severe, including long periods of imprisonment in very harsh conditions.

Islamic extremism has been prevalent for a long time, but sadly the rise of Hindu extremism in India is now very focused on the persecution of Christians and this has become increasingly frequent, violent and widespread. In India, the right to '*freedom of religion*' is guaranteed to all its citizens, but unfortunately the reality is now quite different.

Cameroon: In July, Boko Haram militants attacked the Christian community in the town of Roum, located in the far Northern Region of this West African country. Because of the fear of attacks from militant extremists, about 200 families had been sleeping in the bush instead of their homes and this saved their lives. Unfortunately, they lost everything because the jihadists set fire to their homes and killed their livestock. These attacks have led to increased fear and trauma and the families have been accommodated in a local school.

India: The Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) has reported that in the state of Uttar Pradesh, there has been a threefold increase in violent attacks directed at Christians. Hindu extremists have attacked Pastors and church members, and verbally abused Christian women. The local Police take almost no action against the extremists, but instead they warned the Christians against being involved in forced conversions. The EFI has urged the government and district authorities to safeguard the rights of religious minorities and provide protection for churches against attacks by extremists.

Mali: At least 100 men, women and children were slaughtered by heavily armed Islamist extremists in Sobame Da, a mainly Christian village in the Mopti region of central Mali. In a well co-ordinated attack, the Jihadists encircled the village of ethnic Dogon people at night and set fire to everything that moved.

Pakistan: After spending eight years on death row, Aasia Bibi was acquitted of the 'blasphemy' charges levelled against her. She was set free and is now resettled with her family in Canada. However, there are at least 8 other Christians who remain on death row, after being convicted under the "blasphemy" law. Many Christians have been incarcerated for several years.

INDONESIA: Many Christians with a Muslim background are under intense pressure to return to the Islamic faith. Many face discrimination and intimidation; and some have been placed in detention and subjected to torture and threats of spending time in 'purification centers'.

'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'

Robert Belmore

Minister, Friend and Mentor

Over the years of Campbell's ministry, we have had the bonus of getting to know quite a few of those called to the ministry in the Church of Scotland, who have been attached to the congregation during part of their preparation. It seemed appropriate to learn something about Campbell's often unseen role in this and I thank Jim Teasdale for this contribution. Ed

Where has the time gone? It is now nearly 11 years since I finished my probation at Balshagray Victoria Park and I must admit it was the most helpful 15 months of my training. When John asked me to write a reflection about my time with Campbell at BVP, I wasn't quite sure where to start? What could I say about my experience? What should I say about Campbell!

Now, I know what I am about to say will embarrass Campbell but, simply, he taught me "how" to be a Minister – and he did this in a variety of ways. He let me "have a go" at everything, from leading Sunday Services, assisting at weddings and home communions, visiting and he let me moderate the Kirk Session (more than some of my peers were able to do).

He also allayed all my "fears" about funerals, because once you have followed a horse-drawn hearse through the Clyde Tunnel, nothing will phase you!!

Yet, on a serious note, Campbell taught me many things, but one phrase he said to me, near the start of my time at BVP, has stuck with me over the last decade: "A minister is a friend, who is always there for people."

Over the last ten and a half years, having moved on to Dalry and then back to Glasgow, Campbell has been my friend, who is always there for me when I need him. When my current congregation, Eastwood, joined Path of Renewal, and I met Campbell at the first ministers' conference, it felt like I was back at BVP, friendship strengthened, time for serious discussion, time for fun and I have learnt more from him over the last two years, than Campbell probably realises.

Now, Campbell moves on to retirement and Felicity, Jamie and I wish Janice, Calum and Campbell well. We also wish the congregation of Balshagray Victoria Park well as we hold you all in our prayers as the next stage of the congregation's life begins.

Jim Teasdale



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. It is my intention to let our volunteers know who needs to attend courses this coming session, the session after and so on. You may have attended a course recently which was not through BVP, then it would be helpful if you could let me know the details.

If you have left / retired from the position for which you received PVG clearance then please let me know as I need to remove your name 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.

Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator
bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com

Rota for Readings and Prayers

After a break in July and August, the rota of people doing a reading or prayer now resumes. Thanks very much to those who have volunteered! As always, the rota may be subject to change.

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
1st Sept.	Neil Francis	Reading
8th Sept.	Fiona Hay	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
15th Sept.	Douglas Gibson	Reading
22nd Sept	Shona McGill	Prayer of Intercession
29th Sept.	Andy Coghill	Reading

Fiona Hay

Service Duty Rota

Sept- Oct 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.

Com after the date indicates a Communion Service.

25 th August 1 st September	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson A. McKendry
8 th September <i>Com</i> 15 th September	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
22 nd September 29 th September	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross Mrs. M. Ross
6 th October 13 th October	A. Coghill Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
20 th October 27 th October	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson

Standby List: D. Robertson

Offerings for period to 4th August

	2019	2018	
Open Plate	2592	2852	- 260
FWO	9969	12420	- 2451
	12561	15272	- 2711
Gift Aid direct to bank	18250	19300	- 1050
Total	30811	34572	- 3761
Average per week (31weeks)	993	1115	- 122

Campbell Joss, Treasurer

Worship Services at BVP - September

Tea Rota

Date		
Sept 1	John Glass	Ken McCalden
8	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
15	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
22	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
29	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
Oct 6	Harvest	
13	Neil Francis	Marion Francis
20	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
27	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus

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

Janice Mackinnon

Thanks to all who provided material for this September issue.

Please send items for the October issue by

Sunday 22nd September

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Sunday 1st September

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 8th September

11.00 am Morning Service: Sacrament of Holy Communion
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 15th September

11.00 am Morning Service

Sunday 22nd September

11.00 am Morning Service

Sunday 29th September

11.00 am Morning Service

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