



Balshagray Victoria Park  
Church of Scotland

# The Herald

June-August 2019

Dear friends

As June begins, I begin the journey from the pulpit back to the pew and from the vestry to the hall to enjoy a cup of coffee. I have been a minister for so long, I cannot remember what it is like not to be a minister!

I cannot remember what it is like not to carry the cares of the parish and congregation on my heart, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks of the year. In BVP this has not been an onerous burden and it is a privilege to be part of the lives of so many people. But that weight of concern is always there. In the Highlands it was onerous, not the cares of the congregation; but in the Highlands I was heavily involved in Presbytery and there always seemed to be some major problem to solve. I seemed to spend my holidays walking on the beach in Brora working out a solution for some situation I had to face when I returned. On moving to Glasgow I resolved to lay that burden of responsibility down and it has been a very wise decision.

I cannot remember what it is like not to be preparing services and mid-week Bible studies for almost every week in the year; pushing the boundaries of my knowledge, endeavouring to think up engaging, amusing, memorable children's talks, keeping prayers fresh and expressive of our delight in worship, concern for family and friends and the needs of the church and the world. We have never been able to just go away for the week-end. Then there is the endless round of meetings...

But I must make this transition to a new life because I have to stop being a minister. Retired ministers who carry on as if nothing has changed are an almighty pain in the neck! When I went to Hillington Park as interim-moderator I became aware that I just walk into

churches and take over, hopefully not in a bossy way, but take over nonetheless. Checking up to make sure everything is in order, chatting with people seeking to share where they are, keeping an eye on worship to make sure all is done reverently and in good order. What a pain I would be to everyone if I carried on like that when we settle in a new congregation!

So my last few months in BVP have to be a graduated move to retirement. The transition has begun already. The Kirk Session is engaging with Presbytery's Strategic Planning Committee, I have not been to the Board for nearly a year, Campbell Joss and Derek Robertson are going to take my place in Path of Renewal. The beauty of the prayers you share as you participate in worship week by week is awesome and most moving. The list could go on.

What about me? I have to learn to go to church to enjoy worship, be friendly and then just go home. I have to go to the weekly Bible Study and say nothing. I have to learn to be a full time, rather than part-time husband; though I think the washing machine and iron will remain well beyond my skills. All the clothes need freshening up, what's so special about white things? I will continue to deepen my knowledge of God through His word and continue my journey with Torah as my guide. If I am blessed with health, after some months have passed and I have adapted to my new life, I will help out friends wherever and whenever I can. A new life beckons and I have to let go of what is passing to embrace the new.

I have loved being your minister, it is not easy to let go; but to hold on, when God has new things planned for us all, would be selfish and foolish and so the transition begins.

Your friend and minister (still, just)

Campbell Mackinnon

## Church Roll

### *Death*

Mr Alastair MacLachlan (District 10)

*Andy Coghill*  
Rollkeeper

## Compassion

In his first letter, Jose in El Salvador is keen for us all to know that he is very happy we have chosen to support him. At school Jose enjoys maths and wants to be a doctor when he grows up. Jose enjoys attending the Compassion run project to learn all about the love of God and says, 'my favourite Bible story is Joseph the Dreamer.' Jose asks us to pray for him just as he will be praying for us.

Dinar in Indonesia sends greetings to all at BVP. She is happy to tell us that she and her family are healthy. In spring the weather is changeable, at times hot and at other times rainy. On Sundays Dinar goes to church with her family, and while there she enjoys taking part in various activities with her friends. Dinar asks that we pray for her to do well in school.

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

*Joan Canavan*

## Church Flowers Rota

The Flower Rota for June – September is

2nd June	Pamela Joss	7th July	Fiona & Christine Hay
9th June.	Janice Thorburn	14th July	Shona McGill & Chris McGowan
16th June.	Rita McKendry	21st July	Hazel McCalden
23rd June	Jane Belmore	28th July	
30th June			
4th August	Joan Watkins	1st Sept	Cathie McLellan
11th August	Gordon Milne	8th Sept	Alison Mackie
18th August		15th Sept	Anne Richardson
25th August	Roberta Yule	22nd Sept	Colin Murray
29th Sept			

## Prayer Points

### Break your alabaster jar

*'A woman who had lived a sinful life...brought an alabaster jar of perfume.'* Luke 7:37

The Bible says, 'A woman who had lived a sinful life...brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping...poured perfume on them' (vv. 37-38 NIV 1984 Edition). This perfume was pure nard, a perennial herb that is harvested in the Himalayas. Half a litre of it! And the jar itself, made of translucent gemstones, was probably a family heirloom. It might even have been her dowry. Plain and simple, it was her most precious possession. How ironic, yet how appropriate that the perfume used in her profession as a prostitute would become the token of her profession of faith when she poured out every last drop at the feet of Jesus. Breaking that bottle was her way of breaking with the past. No more masking the stench of sin with the sweet scent of perfume. No more secrets. No more shame. She walked out of the dark shadow of sin into the light of the world. There comes a moment when you have to come clean with God. A moment when you need to unveil your secrets, struggles, and sins. A moment when you need to fall full weight on the grace of God. Why do we act as though our sin disqualifies us from the grace of God? That is the *only* thing that qualifies us! Anything else is a self-righteous attempt to earn God's grace. You cannot trust God's grace 99 per cent. It's all or nothing. When we try to save ourselves, we forfeit the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ alone, by grace through faith (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

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*Christine Hay  
Prayer Secretary*

## Alastair MacLachlan

*We were saddened to learn of Alastair's death on 29th April. Our minister, Campbell Mackinnon, spoke about him at his funeral on 10th May:*

Alastair was born on 5th June 1930 at Baldrick Road in Knightswood. During the war he was evacuated to Strathaven with wee sister Helen. His National Service with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers which had a big influence on him. He was so thin that they thought his fitness wasn't good enough. He was 8 and a half stone at 6'3 but they soon realised he was fine. His sister Helen used to describe him as a piece of string!

He started work at Drysdale as an apprentice draughtsman, then moved to James Scott in Carntyne before finishing his career at Barr & Stroud at Anniesland where he was an Electronic Production Manager.

Alastair flung himself wholeheartedly into the Balshagray 101st BB Company. He was also the convener of Partick District BB and on the National Executive. He put his incredible organisational skills to work when he joined the organising committee for the Centenary Celebrations at Bellahouston Park and the naming of the Boys Brigade Locomotive. Over the years he went on many camping trips with the BB boys - from Northern Ireland down to the Channel Islands. Alastair was also a Church Elder and Clerk to the Congregational Board.

Just before he went on National Service, Alastair met Margaret Bryson at the Church Youth Fellowship. They got married in 1954. Margaret sadly developed breast cancer and died when Alastair was only 36. Sheila and Gordon were only 8 and 5. Gran Bryson, Margaret's mother packed up her house and moved into Munro Road to help Alastair bring up Sheila and Gordon. Alastair's future second wife, Muriel, stayed next door to Alastair at Munro Road and romance blossomed over the garden fence. Alastair and Muriel married in 1971 and the family, including Muriel's daughter Sheila, moved to Orleans Avenue. The only issue with the new living arrangements was that they ended up with two Sheilas!

Muriel joined the family on their annual holiday to Arran where they enjoyed many fantastic trips to the island which holds such special memories for all the family. Alastair grew up holidaying there every

year in Lamlash and this tradition continued with Sheila and Gordon enjoying their summers there too. Arran is a place which is still incredibly special to all the family with many happy holidays spent at the Auchrannie together. Gordon and Shirley are now the proud owners of a home on Arran as Shirley is Head Teacher of not one but six Primary Schools on the Island. Alastair loved visiting their house in Whiting Bay last year.

Alastair loved to travel and he and Muriel had many holidays all around the world together. They visited friends in Canada, America, New Zealand and Hawaii, usually incorporating a trip en route to see Muriel's daughter, Sheila, Peter and Iain who had relocated to Darwin in Australia. They once managed to get themselves lost in the Pacific when the travel agent forgot to take into account the international date line and they were oblivious to the chaos of their family trying to find them when they missed their connecting flight by a day! They enjoyed cruising and even after Muriel passed away, Alastair continued to travel himself on cruises and bus trips - he would make friends everywhere he went. He still looked forward to his weekly phone conversations with Sheila in Australia.

Just before his 60th birthday, Alastair was made redundant from Barr and Stroud. Instead of sitting back and enjoying early retirement he took it upon himself to visit every senior football ground in Scotland and beyond. There are very few coffee shops and hotels where he and Muriel wouldn't have been. During this time, he took meticulous notes from all the football programmes, noting their quality and content. This led to him developing a new passion. He contacted Motherwell Football Club with some ideas to develop their match day programme which they took him up on and also through the publishers he was asked to contribute to the St Mirren match day programme. St Mirren appreciated his talents and he subsequently became the programme editor and established the monthly magazine too. Alastair's love of statistics meant that many Scottish newspapers contacted him to provide information for articles. He went on to write two well received books about St Mirren - not bad for a boy whose English teacher didn't rate him. His grandchildren, Alison and Fraser, found it hysterical that people would come up to him at matches and ask him to sign copies of his book. There have been many kind tributes from so many connected to the Club over the last two weeks. Even although their dad was from Paisley and a St Mirren supporter, it was Alastair's

dedication to St Mirren which turned Alison and Fraser into two of the club's biggest fans. They spent many years following the Club with their grampa home and away, one of the highlights being St Mirren winning the League Cup at Hampden in 2013- even Gordon donned a black and white scarf that day to cheer on the Buddies!

When St Mirren weren't playing, Alastair would take Fraser to games across Scotland. On one occasion at Partick Thistle he asked for an OAP and a child's ticket. The turnstile operator said "Fine, but next time make sure he shaves!" Fraser was 16! His grampa's love of the game has rubbed off on Fraser who is now a coach in the St Mirren Academy.

Alastair was immensely proud of Sheila and David and Gordon and Shirley in their chosen careers and how they have brought up their children. When Alison moved up to Aberdeen University to study, he enjoyed many visits to see her, including watching her graduate as a Primary Teacher. Fraser is a PE teacher whilst Zoe is following in her grampa's footsteps by travelling the world as a BA Flight Attendant. Alastair loved hearing all about her adventures. Kai has just left school and completed his 6th year exams. Alastair was incredibly proud of Kai continuing the family BB tradition and gaining his Queen's Badge this year.

The retiring collection is for St Margaret's Hospice. This holds a special place for all the family, Muriel spent her last few days there and Alastair never forgot the kindness shown by the staff.

As Alistair's minister for the last 18 years I can testify that he was always very kind and encouraging to me. I had an idea once that instead of preaching on the Sunday morning, I would assume the character of Thomas in the story of the resurrection and recount the story standing in his shoes. I was not sure how well this would go down; as I walked to the door after the service Alistair shot out of his pew and I thought, with not a little trepidation, 'I am going to find out pretty soon how it went'. He shook me warmly by the hand and his words have lived with me ever since as one of the most gracious compliments anyone has ever paid to me. His contribution to the life of our church was inestimable and we will always be most grateful for the gracious and wise leadership he exercised within the congregation.

## Reunion Service

On Sunday 16 June '19 we are holding a Reunion Service where we are inviting back as many people as possible who have previously been part of the BVP church family to share in worship followed by a soup lunch. Not only will this give us an opportunity to catch-up with old friends but also allow returning friends to catch-up with each other. A special request to parents who had children grow up in the church family as it would be fantastic for them to be invited back to come and worship with us on that Sunday. The service will be held in the sanctuary, with creche, J-Team and Bible Class on offer. As we are putting on a soup lunch after the service, it would be helpful if an indication of numbers planning to stay for lunch could be provided to Marion Francis or David Hay. We are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the lunch.

## Dining with Friends

The final *Dining with Friends* before the summer break is on **Friday 21st June 7.30pm** at **Elena's, Yorkhill.**

Please sign up on the list in the small hall.

*Sarah Hay*

## Offerings for period to 12th May

	2019	2018	
Open Plate	1531	1550	- 19
FWO	<u>6222</u>	<u>7317</u>	<u>-1095</u>
	7753	8867	-1114
Gift Aid direct to bank	<u>10400</u>	<u>10750</u>	- 350
Total	18153	19617	-1464
Average per week (19 weeks)	955	1032	- 77

*Campbell Joss, Treasurer*



## 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. 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.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those who do regulated work within Balshagray Victoria Park for their continuing support of our congregation; your time and talents are very much appreciated.

Thank you and have a great summer.

*Colin Murray, Safeguarding Co-ordinator*  
[bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com)

## Rota for Readings and Prayers

Here is the rota for June 2019. As always, though, this rota may be

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Robert Belmore	Prayer of Intercession
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Maggie Paisley	Reading
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Ranald McTaggart	Prayer of Adoration & Confession
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sarah Hay	Reading
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Campbell Joss	Prayer of Intercession

subject to change! Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

*Fiona Hay*

## Service Duty Rota

### June – September 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.

2 <sup>nd</sup> June # 9 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Com</i>	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	I. McLellan Miss A. Richardson
16 <sup>th</sup> June 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
30 <sup>th</sup> June 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A, McKendry
14 <sup>th</sup> July 21 <sup>st</sup> July	A. Coghill Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
28 <sup>th</sup> July 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson
11 <sup>th</sup> August 18 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus
25 <sup>th</sup> August 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept.	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	Miss A. Richardson A. McKendry
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept. <i>Com</i> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross Mrs. M. Ross

Standby List: D. Robertson

### Tea Rota

June 2	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
9	Chrissie Francis	Marion Francis
16	Soup Lunch	
23	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
30	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
July 7	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
14	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
21	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
28	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
August 4	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
11	Chrissie Francis	Marion Francis
18	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
25	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
September 1	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 Summer issue.

Please send items for the September issue by

**Sunday 18th August**

to

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

### Worship Services at BVP - June to August

*Sunday 2nd June*

11.00 am Morning Service  
Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service  
Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

There are no further evening services over the summer months

*Sunday 9th June*

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion  
Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

*Sunday 16th June*

11.00 am 2019 Reunion Service and lunch

*Sunday 23rd June*

11.00 am Morning Service

*Sunday 30th June*

11.00 am All Age Service  
Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

*Sundays July and August*

11.00 am Morning Service