

to glorify God ... to proclaim Christ ... and to serve others

NOVEMBER 2017

No. 802

Remembrance Service



Sunday
12 November 2017
at 10 50 am

Followed by
the laying of wreaths
and Act of Remembrance at
the War Memorial

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Robert Laurence Binyon

Minister
Rev Benjamin JA Abeledo
5 Blinkbonny Crescent
Edinburgh EH4 3NB
Tel. 315 2019

Session Clerk
Mr Eddie Thorn
Tel. 332 5702

Church Secretary
Ms Julie Nicol
In Church Office from
Mon-Fri, 9.00-12.30pm
Tel 332 4431
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL



**Reminder: Filled shoeboxes must be handed into the church on or before
Sunday 12 November.**

Flatpack shoeboxes, together with leaflets and packing lists, are available in the large hall after the service until Sunday 5 November and in the Church Office at other times.

Please put new items only in the box. Do not sellotape the box closed as all boxes are checked at a checking centre: just put a rubber band round the box to keep everything secure. Boxes cost about £3 to send and if you would like to donate this also, please put the money in an envelope on top of the contents in the box.

We really appreciate your support again this year.

If you need any more information please see Adrian Johnston.

CROSS REACH
providing a caring future



Reminder!

Christmas Cards and Calendars will be on sale in the large Hall after morning service during the month of November. Your support of this vital arm of the Church's work will be much appreciated.

Margaret Brown
Church Link

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God's Reminder for Christmas 2017

Dear Friends,

If I may borrow from Charles Dickens's famous opening line, Christmas can be **'the best of times, and the worst of times'**. We have them both, don't we?



Who hasn't cringed in early October as stores drag out the artificial Christmas trees and put them on display? Who doesn't dread the extra traffic and the gaggle of people in the shopping centres when you have to go get something that has nothing to do with Christmas? Who hasn't felt uneasy about the obligatory exchange of gifts with individuals you hardly know? Or sending Christmas cards to people you haven't written to since the last Christmas card you sent them? And how about feeling the pressure to hang lights on your house in a neighbourhood because you're the only house that doesn't have lights hung? There's something about those annual experiences and obligations that seem to make them **'the worst of times'**.

In spite of all the challenges, I prefer to view Christmas as **'the best of times'**. There's no better time of the year to enjoy the colour that enhances our streets. At no other time of the year do the faces of little children glow with such wonder. And there's nothing like the music of Christmas! They're playing our songs in grocery stores, elevators, shopping stores, and on every radio station: **'Joy to the world! The Lord is come'**. They're talking about *our* Saviour. It's *our* message on their lips. *Have you noticed?* Don't miss that!

And I must add, what better time of the year is there to share with others your faith in Jesus Christ? At no other season is the unbeliever's heart softer toward the message of Jesus. Be aware of that. Stay sensitive to that. Be ready to speak. It's **'the best of times'** for it.

This is God's annual reminder to us - luring us, pulling us, encouraging us, in effect: 'Feel the warmth in that light bulb? Smell that tree? See those gifts? Hear those songs? My Son came and died for you. I love you.' All these things familiar are reminders of things essential.

'I will always be ready to remind you of these things', the apostle Peter wrote, **'even though you already know them'** (2 Peter 1:12). Isn't that great? Sometimes there are people who will say to me, / continued

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued

who will say to me, 'Well, you said that before, Benjamin' or 'You may have forgotten, but you're repeating yourself.' I'll think, *Good!* The best way to learn is by repetition, by saying it again, and by reviewing the truth over and over and over. The apostle Peter continued: '**I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder**' (2 Peter 1:13). Peter was determined to remind them of what they already knew - in order to stir them to action. Paul, in writing to the Philippian Christians, confessed: '**To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you**' (Philippians 3:1).

Most of us who attend the church know more about Christ than most people will discover in a lifetime. We are steeped in the truth of God. Our problem? It isn't knowing the truth; it is living it. If we stopped learning new things this very moment and simply drew from the reservoir of knowledge we already have, that would keep us busy for an awfully long time.

But we need regular reminders of those truths to stir us up to action. The sights, the sounds, the smells, the tastes - these seasonal traditions - should reignite our passion and remind us of His love, His commands, and His grace.

Christmas can do the same for us this year.

You string up the lights. You trim the tree. You buy gifts. You wrap the presents and place them under the tree. You attend a church service - including a Christmas Eve service. You know the songs by heart. It's all familiar . . . it's all routine. It's just words, just lights, just a tree, just gifts, just songs - *Wait a minute!*

The Advent season needn't be a habit repeated from last year. Maybe it's time to use these familiar traditions as reminders of essential truths.

Don't forget that Jesus was born of a virgin - His very conception, a miracle! Remember how the angels lit the shepherds' field with God's glory that night, announcing the birth of a Saviour. *A Saviour*. You and I *needed* a Saviour - One who would and could die for our sins.

Christmas 2017 is fast approaching, but I believe that, God's reminder to all of us is to, allow the traditions of the season to stir us up by way of a timely reminder. That is, to allow the things familiar to point us to the things which are essential and eternal. Let us not miss them.

Wishing you a blessed and Happy Christmas,

Benjamin (Minister)



Church Diary

November

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 5 | 11.00 am | All Age Family Service - Youth Sunday |
| 12 | 10.50 am | Remembrance Sunday |
| 15 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 19 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism |
| 26 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with Ordination and Induction of Elders followed by Short Communion |
| 28 | 4.00 pm | Service at Strachan House |
| 29 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |

December

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 3 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with Edinburgh University Brass Band |
| 10 | 11.00 am | Nativity/Gift Family Service |
| 13 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 17 | 11.00 am | Carol Service with the Choir |
| | 2.00 pm | Carol Singing at Sainsbury's, Craigleith |
| 19 | 4.00 pm | Service at Strachan House |
| 24 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| | 7.00 pm | Christmas Eve All Age Family Service |
| | 11.00 pm | Carols followed by Watch Night Service at 11.15 pm |
| 25 | 10 30 am | Christmas Morning Family Service (N.B. earlier start) |
| 31 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with Short Communion |

'Sing Aloud'

Our Praise Group 'Sing Aloud' continue to meet regularly throughout the year on Tuesdays or Wednesdays in the Small hall at 7.30 pm.



We recently enjoyed singing to the Cameo Club in August. At the Harvest Service we had some extra musical accompaniment with the two Amy's playing for us. We can continue to do this with more singers.

If you enjoy singing or would like to contribute to the accompaniment please come along. We also welcome anyone willing to give their time occasionally. Our dates are intimated in the Sunday orders of service or you can contact Marge Whiteside at: whiteside32@btinternet.com

Family

We welcome to our fellowship:

By Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Muriel Stenhouse

DEATHS

September

26 Mrs Sheila Milne

October

12 Miss Elspeth Martin

22 Mr Dennis Martin

Flowers

The flowers in the church this month will be donated as follows:

5 23rd Scout Group

12 Remembrance

19 Mrs Jess Park

26 Wedding

Mrs Elaine Barclay and Mrs Fiona Drinnan will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup, Flower Convener

Harvest Sunday at Blackhall St Columba's



Some 80 bags filled with food brought to church on Harvest Sunday were shared between the Fresh Start and Edinburgh NE Foodbanks. Both were delighted with these generous donations and expressed their appreciation in letter and personally.

As always the church was beautifully decorated for harvest. Taking her turn on the flower rota, Lyndy Paton made good use of the grandchildren's buggy to bring flowers for the communion table.

A huge thank you to those who decorated the church and to all who gave donations for the foodbanks.



Prompted by our Minister's Food for Thought about 'Smiling' in the October issue of Kirk News a member sent in this poem.

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Author unknown



The four ladies, who have, over the years, kept the wheels turning in Church Office, met at the Watch Committee coffee morning on Saturday 7 October. Without question they have caught the 'Smiling' infection.

L to R: Julie Nicol, From March 2017, Catriona Johnston 2008 - 2017, Jean Mulholland 2001 - 2008 and Margaret Brown 1976 - 2000.



The illustrations from the architects Lee Boyd of the ideas from the wish list from the Steering Group have been on display for a few weeks now in the vestibule, in the corridor between the halls and in both small and large halls. They are also on the website. We hope that the congregation will study these and let us have comments/questions preferably by email (see below) or in writing to the church office. Please do not hesitate to give us your views whether for or against. No decisions will be made until the Kirk Session and congregation have agreed.

Email to: BStC.Building4Future@gmail.com

Website: www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

This display is merely a **vision, not definitive plans**, for discussion purposes. A second set of 'plans' and illustrations will shortly be put up, if agreed by the Kirk Session at their next meeting. These will be a slightly smaller version of the originals at a reduced costing. It should be pointed out that the pictures of furnishings and fittings provided by the Architects are for illustrative purposes only. These will be considered in more detail at the appropriate stage in the design development.

Please do study the display and ask any questions you might have. Feedback is welcome and necessary to the process. If you cannot get to Church nor access the website in order to view the plans please let us know and we will do what we can to get something to you for consideration. We have not received a huge feedback yet. All of this will take a long time and no action can be taken until agreement is reached, consents given and fundraising completed.

Wanted!!!!!!

Sunday Club Co-ordinator

The staff and children of the Sunday Club (formally Challengers) need a volunteer to take up this administrative role of Co-ordinator.

The role entails:

Maintaining the parent mailing list & dispatching regular information.

Liaison with Minister/Session Clerk on activities.

Chairing staff term meetings and ensuring staff in place weekly.

Seeking volunteers to help weekly or less frequently and standby.

Supporting as required any initiatives from staff/church.

Ensuring all teaching resources are available to staff.

You do not have to be involved in the delivery of the programme (unless you want to) and it would not disrupt your church attendance. Does this sound the job you can do?

Speak to the Minister or Session Clerk or if you want more information speak to me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael G Cockburn
Sunday Club Leader

Family Movie Night

**Saturday 25 November
6 pm for a 6 30 pm start**

All welcome

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 10 October 2017.

Building for the Future Project

Some time was devoted to this subject. The Minister spoke of the need for open and honest feedback from Elders and members of the Congregation. It was noted that all feedback to date acknowledged the need for work to be carried out. A new revised proposal has been received from Lee Boyd, Architects, and following consideration of this by the Steering Group a morning Elders' conference will be held which members of the Congregation would be welcome to attend.

Sale of Church House

It was noted that the sale of Church House had been agreed at a price of £440,000 with settlement on 3 November.

Director of Music

Session was advised that the Vacancy Committee had met and agreed to place an advertisement with both the Edinburgh Society of Organists and the Scottish Federation of Organist publications.

Pirie Partnership

It was reported that Andrew Walls, Convener, had received no replies from either Session or members of the Congregation concerning ways of developing our relationship with Pirie. In view of this it was decided to defer the proposed visit of Pirie representatives until 2018.

'Proclaim' – Presentation Programme

Session agreed to subscribe to this programme which will enhance the projection material and recording of Services.

Sunday Club

Michael Cockburn, Convener, Outreach Committee appealed for someone to act as an administrative co-ordinator for the Sunday Club. Duties would include emailing parents and children as well as assisting in meetings which planned the syllabus/events ahead. Anyone interested can get more details from Michael.

Roll

Session agreed to the admission, by resolution, of Mrs Muriel Stenhouse, Woodlands Court, Barnton Park View, Edinburgh. /continued

KIRK SESSION REPORT continued

Correspondence

A letter of thanks was received from Fresh Start following the donations they received from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The Edinburgh NE Food Bank team, based in South Leith Parish Church, had also expressed delight in receiving our contribution.

Retiral of an Elder

A letter had been received from Mrs Christine Morrison intimating her wish to retire as an active Elder. The Clerk was requested to write to Christine on behalf of Session to thank her for her faithful and dedicated service over the years.

Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that the retiring collection would go to Poppy Scotland.

Christmas Services

The retiring collection on Sunday 3 December will as usual go the Edinburgh University Brass Band and Session has agreed that the retiring collections from the remaining Christmas Services should be shared among Mary's Meals, Scripture Union and St Columba's Hospice.

Moderator of The General Assembly

Session was pleased to hear that the Moderator designate for the 2018 General Assembly is Rev Susan Brown, Minister at Dornoch Cathedral and a former Assistant Minister of Blackhall St Columba's. Subsequently the Clerk has written to Mrs Brown extending congratulations and best wishes of the Kirk Session and Congregation.

Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection

This will take place during the family Service on Sunday 10 December which will be a Nativity all age service. Rev Benjamin and Mrs Marie Abeledo have kindly donated a large nativity set for use in the Service and in all Christmas Services now and in the future. It is hoped that a combined Nativity/Gift Service will bring more families into the Church.

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

‘Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.’ Martin Luther

Farewell and Thank you to Angus Tully

Not long appointed to his first teaching post at The Edinburgh Academy, Angus Tully came to Blackhall St Columba’s in October 2004. Now recently-appointed Director of Music at The Edinburgh Academy, sadly, he took his leave of us on Communion Sunday.

At the close of the service Angus was invited to join Rev Benjamin Abeledo at the front of the church for a presentation from the congregation. Quoting Martin Luther (see above) Benjamin talked of the importance of music in church life and praised Angus for the wonderful contribution he had made playing the organ, directing the choir and leading the congregation in hymn singing both for weekly services and for all the special occasions which are part of church life.



Angus Tully

Director of Music and Organist
Blackhall St Columba’s Church
October 2004 to October 2017

Replying to Benjamin’s address and thanking the congregation for their gift Angus reviewed his experience as Director of Music. What he said is printed opposite.

Both introit and anthem had been stirring music and for his final voluntary Angus had chosen Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4 in G major. Every corner of the church was once again filled with the amazing sound of the pipe organ and as the last note died away the congregation’s applause, can have left Angus in no doubt of their appreciation of his musical skills and just how much he will be missed.

At coffee in the hall Angus was invited to cut a cake made by Violet Troup.

Thank you, Angus, we will miss you. Good luck in all you do. God go with you.

From Angus -

‘Thank you, Benjamin for those meaningful and kind words. Can I say how nice it is to see all the faces of the congregation, for all too often I see only the backs of your heads and the church is empty once I’ve finished my voluntary!’

‘It has, quite simply, been a great privilege to serve this congregation as your Organist over these past 13 years. Some time ago, Alex Douglas, as was his wont, asked if I would say “What Christmas means to me” at the Christmas Day service.

I spent ages thinking about it, and it occurred to me that one of things that really did mean something to me was to be able to play a part in every person’s worship who comes through our doors: that is a unique and special thing. And so it is true for every Sunday that I have the chance to sit at the organ bench. May I say how fantastic the organ is, here, too. It’s able to play loudly (as you know) and softly, and cover such a wide range of repertoire, a vast improvement on its predecessor.

‘But for most Sunday’s, I rarely sit alone in the gallery, and I should like to publicly acknowledge the choir for their contributions to worship; for their willingness to give of their time, use of their God-given talents and indeed, their tolerance of me. They sing with style but with purpose and they do it well. The church’s forbearance of me extends beyond the choir. The three church secretaries with whom I’ve worked have always kept me in check; firstly Jean Mulholland who was always quite forthright in her requests and then Catriona Johnston who had a tactful way of putting things, and of course, Julie Nicol from earlier this year has been willing to print my delivery at Friday 10 am for the orders of service! Doing a job like this is made so much more straightforward when everybody else is good at their job too and I’ve survived three Session Clerks; Jack Burton, Christine Denham and Eddie Thorn. Three ministers: Alex Douglas, Tom Cuthell and, of course, Benjamin. Many thanks to you all.

‘And finally thanks to all of you for your friendship and fellowship during this time. I will now take a sabbatical, having been an Organist for 21 years without a pause, the time is right, and I hope not to be a stranger here in future, but for now Marie Clare and I will have sometime time together and consider our next move. It has been a real labour of love playing hymns and I wish the whole congregation every blessing and good wish for the future. Thank you.’



I'LL NOT BE HERE TO SEE IT ANYWAY

A year ago I wrote about Gifts in Wills having meant a huge difference to the Church here in Blackhall and they still will. So nothing's changed, sadly. But legacies take many forms and are not always the money type. Think of the London Olympic and Glasgow Commonwealth Games where 'Legacy' was the catchword aiming for the spirit of sport to be invigorated in this country. As a consequence of these Games' successes young people, regardless of their athletic ambition, able and disabled, can now and in future enjoy more readily adequate coaching, facilities and performance venues where spectators, including friends and family, can support and encourage them.

Good for them. But we have a challenge now too. We need to raise the Spirit here in Blackhall and in other places where we hope to have an influence for Christian good. Legacy means by definition however that we're not around to see the impact or results that it will bring. We should not use that as an excuse not to be involved or concerned about the future though. Where would we be if past generations had not made sacrifices, made improvements in many ways, passed on knowledge they had worked to gain and generally left the world a better place for us to enjoy in our lifetimes? Think about it - Blackhall St. Columba's Church and Halls simply would not exist today if people we don't know before us had not commissioned and paid for their building and in subsequent years their maintenance.

So when thinking how you can help those who follow us please do remember the Church in your will. It may be a pecuniary gift of a cash sum or a residuary gift of a share of your Estate. It can in addition be for the General purposes of the Church used at Session's discretion or for specific purposes you especially support, when it is best first to check that your wishes can be complied with in due course. In any event you have a choice. Let's hope you make the right one.

Sandy Weir
Stewardship Convener

Burns Supper

Holiday Inn, Edinburgh City West

Saturday 27 January 2018



In an attempt to practice what they preach the Stewardship Committee members are applying their time and talents to raise money for the Church by organising a Burns Supper as noted above. Having made the decision yesterday (as I write) we are now working on a full, entertaining and enjoyable programme and urge you to let any of the Committee (identifiable by their badges worn at coffee after services) know **now** of your interest so that places can be reserved for you. Full details will be announced in due course but already we know this event will be very successful and well supported.

A Supper was last held seven years ago in 2011 as a fundraiser for the Roof and Stonework Appeal and was **a sell out** and hugely enjoyed so do not delay – **mark your diaries and book your tickets now.**

Sandy Weir
Stewardship Convener

Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Edinburgh Floral Art Club meetings are held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall at 2 pm on the second Friday of the month. On 10 November the Demonstrator is Marie Rutherford from Falkirk: her title is 'Here We Go Again'.

On 8 December we welcome Demonstrator Coral Gardiner from Bath: her title is 'Festive Highlights'.

You are very welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon watching beautiful flowers being arranged. Membership £40, Visitors £7.

Ray Oliver

Fellowship Afternoon Group

Our first speaker in this year's programme was Morag Campbell on 17 October. Her talents as a former teacher were obvious when she told us about The Hope International School in Cambodia where she went to work following early retirement from a variety of schools in Glasgow. She enthralled us with her description of Cambodia, her reasons for teaching there and some of her experiences. The Hope School is a Christian School in Phnom Penh for the children of foreign parents who work in that country. It was a very interesting meeting.

Our next talk on 14 November at 2.15 pm will be about The Nazareth Trust who have just relocated their HQ to Edinburgh. They are a major provider of healthcare and education around the region of Nazareth which is the Arab capital in Israel. The Trust work to help all irrespective of faith and politics.

You will be welcome to come along and hear the presentation. All our meetings are open and are publicised on the notice boards and in the church intimations. If you know of anyone who would like to come along please invite them to come too.

Donations will be welcome for the baking stall at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December.

Fiona Drinnan

Tuesday Topics

We got off to a good start with a well-attended first meeting. Our speaker on that evening was Geoff Palmer and the topic was Historical Connections between Scotland and the Caribbean. The talk was enjoyed by members and visitors and the evening ended, as they usually do, with tea, coffee and chat.

We hope to have our syllabus displayed on the notice board outside the small hall, so if any of our topics appeal to you, please do come along.

On 7 November we will welcome Hamish Martin from the Secret Herb Garden and on the 21st we will have Simon Green, from Historic Environment Scotland, giving a talk on Lost Edinburgh.

Diana Taylor

Fairtrade

Order your advent calendars now.

We can have them within a week of ordering so **come to the stall on 12 November** and give us an order

This year we have 4 to choose from:



The Nativity Advent Card
price £2.99



The Divine Milk Chocolate Calendar price £3.99



The Real Advent Calendar
has a chocolate behind each door and
a Christmas story book price £3.99



The Divine Dark Chocolate Calendar price £4.99

The Christmas Catalogue has a host of great gifts. Why not take one to browse at your leisure and then give me an order either personally or by email. The catalogue really does have a huge range of items from food to cards and gifts. By buying your presents from us you are benefitting the producers in 3rd world countries, not just the supermarket profits.

The **last stall before Christmas is on 10 December** and there will just be time for an order for Christmas if it is placed that day.

Elsbeth Williamson [elsbethwilliamson@gmail.com]

WaTch Committee

Craft Coffee Morning

The WaTch Committee and friends would like to thank everyone who supported the Craft Coffee Morning and made it such a success. As a result of the generosity of everyone who attended, donated goods, demonstrated their craft, provided baking or helped in any other way, £842.93 was raised for Clowndoctors and Building for the Future.

Quiz Sheets

Quiz Sheets based on colours, shades and hues are available from WaTch Committee members at Coffee time after Church or from the Church Office at £1 per sheet. A £15 voucher will be awarded to the person with the first correct entry drawn at the Christmas Fair on 2 December 2017.

George Millar
WaTch Committee Convener

This long-distance support for Clowndoctors came by email from David Pettigrew (son of John Pettigrew), a regular reader of Kirk News and keen supporter of Blackhall St Columba's Church, although resident in Sydney, Australia. Editor

I was very pleased to see that the WaTch Committee is supporting the Clown Doctors. I am very lucky to sit on the board of the organisation that runs the Clown Doctors here in Australia (The Humour Foundation) and the work they do is terrific. One area of work where I believe the Scottish organisation is very strong is working with people in aged care with dementia and we have an equivalent here called Elder Clowns. We had our annual conference a couple of weeks ago which was a lot of fun as you can imagine with lots of very talented performers! Here is the link to the Humour Foundation here in Australia (shameless promotion!).

<http://www.humourfoundation.org.au>

WA†CH Committee

Christmas Fair

**On Saturday 2nd December
at 2 p.m.**

In the Church Halls

Entrance 50p per Adult

**Proceeds to Clowndoctors with
a proportion going to St. Columba's
Church Building for the Future**

**See you
there!**



All proceeds will be donated to
Clowndoctors,
part of the Hearts and Minds Scottish Reg Charity SC027040
and Building for the Future
at Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh,
Scottish Reg Charity, SC008756



Tombola Stall



Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the Tombola last year: we are hoping to have your wonderful support again.

We will be very grateful to have any unwanted **new** items for the stall.

Please look at home and ask your family and friends for any donations, such as, gifts or purchases that were a mistake!

PLUS

It's not too late for your ideas for vouchers please suggest a business that you use, or know of, that might donate a voucher or a prize.

These may include beauticians, cafes, florists, garden centres, hairdressers, restaurants, shops, sports clubs or events

Just a few of our ideas but please help us by thinking of other businesses or people with skills who might donate their time.

Please make suggestions to the Tombola team by contacting

Rosi Watt 332 4027 rosijwatt@outlook.com

Jacque Lowe 315 3375 or Jess Park 332 3863

Christmas Hampers

With the generosity of the congregation each year making the Hamper Stall so successful I dare to ask you again for your support with donations of goodies to fill the baskets and hampers.

These can be delivered to the Church Office or telephone Ann Wood (312 6730) who will collect.

Envelopes for the Hamper draw will be available at coffee after morning service or from the Church Office.



Thank you

Your help will be greatly appreciated in raising money for **Clowndoctors & Build for the Future**





Christmas Fair Book Stall



Wanted please:

Fiction – a good read. Paperbacks are the most popular.

Please no Readers Digest compilations

Non fiction – biography, cookery, pastimes, sport, art, history, comedy, religion, etc

Please no magazines, old text books or computer manuals.

Books can be delivered at the collection times advertised. (See page 22)
Any queries should be directed to Elspeth Williamson 336 2600
or Alison Hewat (332 4842).

This year why not bring along a 'bag for life' to fill up for £1.50
(minimum 4 books).



Christmas Carols
at Sainsburys

Sunday 17 December
at 2 pm

Come and join the
Christmas carol
singing at Sainsburys.

Proceeds to Clowndoctors,
part of the Hearts and Minds Scottish
Reg Charity SC027040

Blackhall Village
Christmas Fair

&

Christmas Lights
Switch-on

Thursday 7 December
from 6 30 pm

Come and join the
Christmas fun

**List of Stallholders for Christmas Fair
Saturday 2 December 2017**

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Books | Senior Choir | Alison Hewat Elspeth Williamson |
| Bottle | Badminton Club | Linda Finnie |
| Bric-a-Brac Large & Small CDs DVDs | Kirk Session | Dorothea Mair |
| Cakes | Fellowship Afternoon Group | Fiona Drinnan Ishbel Robertson |
| Children's Books | Brownies | Muriel Oliphant |
| Fashion Accessories | | Christine Denham Pat Macleod |
| Floral Craft / Craft | Craft Group | Violet Troup Moira Purves |
| Games, Homebaking & Decorations | Guides | Alison Will |
| Hampers | | Ann Wood |
| Light and Bright | Church Office | Julie Nicol Fiona Cooke |
| Santa's Grotto | | Ann Pugh |
| Sweets | Toddlers Tuesday Topics | Karin Lyndy Paton |
| Teas | Wa'tch Committee | Anne Hamilton |
| Tombola | Wa'tch Committee | Rosi Watt |
| Toys, Board & Electronic Games | Wa'tch Committee Playgroup | Ian Templeton Sarah Adam |

All donations for the above stalls will be gratefully received in the Church from 10 am to 12 noon, 2 pm to 4 pm, and 7 pm to 9 pm on Thursday 30 November and Friday 1 December. Please enter by the Hall door.

Donations can be handed in on the Saturday morning between 10 am and 12 noon.

All proceeds will be donated to Clowndoctors Scottish Reg Charity SC027040
and Building for the Future (BStCs) Scottish Reg Charity SC008756

Assisi 2018

Greetings from the Eternal City where I am serving as locum at St Andrew's Church of Scotland for three months. As you can see, I have still not discovered the meaning of the word 'retirement', as I shall be returning to Cramond after the turn of the year as part-time assistant!!

It looks as if I am also not retiring from leading groups to Assisi - something I have been doing since 1991 - as I am in the process of planning next year's trip. A year or two ago there was a significant representation of St Columba's members in my Assisi group. May I venture to suggest that they were all captivated by the Assisi experience, that, at least, it lived up to expectations, if not surpassed them.



The groups I take usually number within the region of 28 - 30 people. Thus far I have a fairly solid commitment from 10 for next year's group, and I am only in the early stages of tapping into my publicity channels. The dates for 2018 are:- August 26th to September 6th. I would be delighted to welcome a number of St Columba's members and would have much pleasure in introducing them to the Assisi experience. I don't think you would be disappointed!!

Even though I am based in Rome until December 4th, I can still be contacted by email on:- tcuthell@gmail.com After December 4th, alternatively I can be reached by phone on:- 476 3864. If reading this short article stimulates your interest, why not get in touch with me and I can fill you in on the details?

Kind regards

Tom Cuthell

DEADLINES

Kirk News - Tuesday, 5 December
Please send all items to the Editor:
Christine Denham c/o Church Office
Home tel: 336 5943 or email
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Please note early deadline

**Blackhall Bulletin - December issue
deadline was 29 October.**

All items should be sent to the Editor:
Barbara Wilson c/o Church Office
Home tel: 312 6035 or email
bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Enquiries about advertisements should
be sent to Kay Rich:

8 Queen's Ave South

Tel: 332 8502

