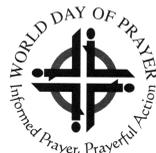


to glorify God ... to proclaim Christ ... and to serve others

FEBRUARY 2018

No. 804

World Day of Prayer 2018



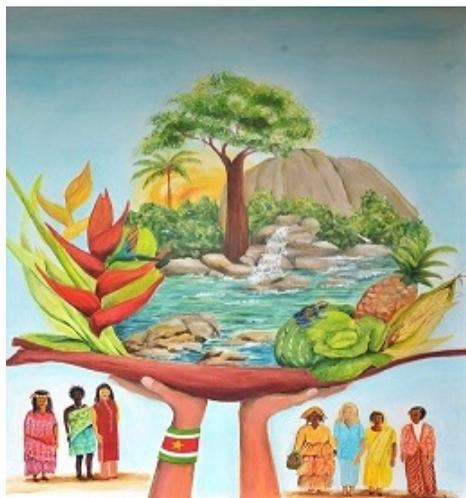
The World Day of Prayer Service this year is written by the Christian women of Suriname.

Suriname, with a diverse multi-ethnic population, is located in Northeast South America.

Our local service this year is hosted by the congregation of Cramond Kirk. We invite people to come along, enjoy the fellowship and find out about Suriname.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Please note the change of time from evening to afternoon.



Cramond Kirk
Friday 2 March 2018
at 2.30 pm
Please join us.

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 am-12.30pm
Tel 332 4431
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Holy Week Services at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Palm Sunday Service 25 March at 11 am
followed by short communion

Palm Sunday Service 25 March at 3 pm (see below)

Maundy Thursday Service 29 March at 7 pm
with Sacrament of Communion

Good Friday Service 30 March at 7 pm

Early Rise Easter Service Sunday 1 April at 8 am
at the Tower on Corstorphine Hill
followed by bacon rolls back at the church

*[Car access to the Tower is by the wooden gate on
Clermiston Road. The gate will be open from 7 30 am.]*



Easter Day Family Service Sunday 1 April at 11 am
*with Easter egg hunt for the children
and followed by short Communion*

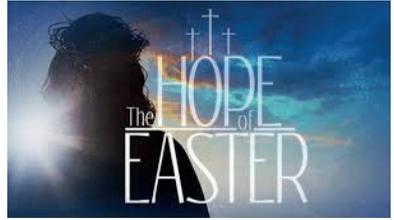
Palm Sunday Afternoon Service, 25 March at 3 pm

This year it is planned to hold a half hour service on Palm Sunday, 25 March, at 3 pm for those who, for medical or other reasons, find the traditional 11am service too long. If you would like to attend, please let your elder know when they visit in February.

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Easter: A Fresh Dosage of Hope

Easter and hope go hand-in-hand. They are synonymous.



The special day never arrives without its uplifting reminder that there is life beyond this one. True life. Eternal life. Wonderful life. Those who live on what we might call the '**fringe of hope**' need a new lease of life. Easter gives it.

Like most people, I've experienced times in my life when people with whom I had regular contact were all at once living with the dreaded disease of cancer or other forms of terminal illness. Talk about people living on 'the fringe.' From hard working colleagues, to women of faith; to young people with a full life ahead to very young children who don't understand what is happening to them, all of these and others with whom I have met represented merely the tiny tip of a massive iceberg of men, women, boys, and girls for whom a new dose of hope was needed. I was reminded then and I know now - as many more struggle with illness - that Easter provides hope.

And then there are those who are grieving over the recent loss of a husband or wife, a colleague, a child, a parent, or a friend. Death has come like a ruthless thief, snatching away a treasured presence and leaving only hollow memories in its wake. The sadness of those who mourn casts a spell of loneliness too powerful for spoken words or shallow songs to break. *What is missing?* To paraphrase the statement of Oscar Wilde:

*'Something is dead in each of them,
And what is dead is Hope.'*

But my dearest friend, there is nothing like Easter to bring hope back to life.

Easter has its own *anthems*:

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**

Easter has its own *Scriptures*:

**I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25–26) / continued over**

Easter: A Fresh Dosage of Hope continued

'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:55–58)

And Easter has its own *proclamation*:

'He is not here, for He has risen.' (Matthew 28:6)

I cannot explain what happens, nor do I need to try. The simple fact is this: there is something altogether wonderful, therapeutic, and reassuring about Easter morning. When Christians gather in churches and houses of worship and lift their voices in praise to the risen Saviour, the dark forces of hell and their prince of darkness are temporarily paralysed.

When Ministers and Preachers of the Gospel stand and declare the unshakable, undeniable facts of Jesus's bodily resurrection and the assurance of ours as well, the empty message of sceptics and cynics are momentarily silenced. As the thrill of standing shoulder to shoulder with those of **'like precious faith'** flows through the people of God, an almost mysterious surge of power floods over us. Oh, the joy and the hope of the Easter message!

The benefits are countless. To list only a few:

- Our illnesses don't seem nearly so final.
- Our fears fade and lose their grip.
- Our grief over those who have gone on is diminished.
- Our desire to press on in spite of obstacles is revived.
- Our differences of opinion are eclipsed by our similar faith.
- Our identity as Christians is strengthened, as we stand in the lengthening shadows of saints down through the centuries who have always answered in antiphonal voice: **'He is risen, indeed!'**

My dear friend, let the message and the reality of Easter give us the hope we so desperately need. There is no depth of sorrow or burden which we carry that the love and the victory of Easter, which Christ has won, cannot reach us and bring us the glorious hope, peace and life eternal which Jesus offers to us and to all those who believe in Him.

This season of Easter, a fresh dose of hope awaits us. It happens every year. *Alleluia!*

With love and prayers,

Your friend and Minister,

Benjamin



Church Diary

February

4	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
7	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
11	11.00 am	Morning Worship
18	11.00 am	Morning Worship
21	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
25	9.30 am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	11.00 am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
27	4.00pm	Service at Strachan House

March

4	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
7	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
11	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism <i>(Mothering Sunday)</i>
18	11.00 am	Morning Worship followed by the Stated Annual Meeting
21	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
25	11.00 am	Palm Sunday service followed by short Communion
	3.00 pm	Short Afternoon Service
27	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House

See page 2 for Easter Services including afternoon service on Palm Sunday.

BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
STATED ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, 18 MARCH 2018

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Church following the 11 am service on the morning of Sunday, 18 March 2018, and all members of the congregation are invited to stay after the service to attend the meeting.

The agenda and reports from the Minister, Session Clerk and Committee Conveners will be delivered by the elders to each household prior to the meeting. These papers should be brought to the meeting.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

Family

We welcome to our fellowship:

By Certificate of Transference

Mrs Antigone (Tiggy) Herbert

By Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Margaret Martin

DEATHS

December

23 Mr Stanley Agnew

30 Mrs Joan Skilton

January

5 Mrs Bunty Roberts

18 Mrs Alison Johnson

Flowers

During February the flowers in church will be donated as follows:

4 The Brockie Family

11 Mrs Jean Cooper

18 Mrs Alison Dunlop

25 Ms Lorna Pascal

Mrs Kathryn Gray and Mrs Heather Milne will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup
Flower Convener

Communion Washing Up Rota

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the washing of communion glasses and trays in 2017. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The rota for 2018 will be sent out shortly.

June Logan

Edinburgh Floral Art Club

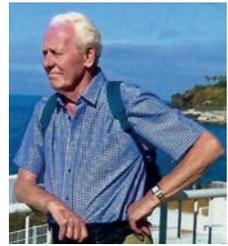
The next meeting of the Edinburgh Floral Art Club is on Friday 9 February at 2 pm in Blackhall St Columba's Church.

The programme is '**POT LUCK**' - the Club entertains.

Ray Oliver

Tribute to Robert Brown

27 January 1936 to 3 December 2017



Bob Brown was born in Edinburgh – one of four brothers. After leaving school he started work as a railway signalman, cycling in early morning out to Pinkhill. At 18 he was called up for national service spending time in Cyprus which he thoroughly enjoyed and taking up his hobby of cross country running.

On returning to 'Civvy Street' he worked for a time with Burroughs Adding Machines before joining Scottish Provident Institution (SPI) where he enjoyed 37 happy years before retiring in 1995. At SPI he made many friendships taking part in the office badminton, cricket, and bowling and organising many Christmas parties for the children of staff.

Margaret and Bob met in the 'Cavendish' dance hall, fell in love and married on 14 September 1964 in Buccleuch Parish Church. In 1967 Ken and Douglas 'the terrible twins' were born.

In early 1969 the family moved to Blackhall and immediately developed connections with Blackhall St Columba's. Bob became involved in all aspects of church life and in 1974 was invited to become an elder. Bob took great care of the people in his district, was involved on many committees, particularly the youth committee, and the youth club, and was always around to give a helping hand. He helped in the running of the children's Venture Week and the Involvement 88 annual golf tournament. He will be greatly missed from Blackhall St Columba's.

In the local community he would be the first to welcome and support new families coming into the area. He was a great neighbour - well known for his cheeky chats over the garden hedge - and very involved in school football and sports days. As a member of Murrayfield Golf Club he pursued his love of golf, making long term friendships which extended off the course with many reminiscences over missed puts and wayward drives! He enjoyed regular walks with the 'Grey Corries', a group of retired gentlemen – often referred to as 'The Last of The Summer Wine' club - who loved the outdoors and sharing banter and packed lunches.

After retirement Bob and Margaret enjoyed many happy holidays together, both at home and abroad, holidays which will provide lots of memories in the times ahead.

A devoted family man, Bob became a Grandpa on 11 January 2010 to his beloved granddaughter Chloe, although this cost him a parking ticket at the Royal Infirmary, of which the family were regularly reminded.

Good company and a caring and generous man who always put other people first, he will be remembered warmly by all who knew him as a special man and perfect gentleman, with a great sense of humour, a man who was full of fun and cheek.

Margaret, Kenneth and Douglas would like to thank the members and friends of St Columba's for all the love and support they have received during this sad and difficult time. The retiring offering at the church for Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis raised the very generous sum of £1,132.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 9 January 2018.

Attestation of the Roll

The Clerk gave a detailed account of the changes in Congregation numbers as shown in the table below:-

Members on Communion Roll at 31 December 2016		693
Communicants admitted during the year:		
By Profession	3	
By Certificate	9	
By Restoration or Resolution	5	+17
Communicants removed from the Roll during the year:		
By Death	26	
By Certificate	4	
Otherwise	3	-33
Communicants as at 31 December 2017		677

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Michael Cockburn had indicated he would be willing to represent the Congregation on the Community Council. Session Members approved this appointment and thanked George Millar for his sterling service over the past four years.

Data Protection

It was noted that there were a number of Data Protection Consent forms previously handed out by Elders still not received. It was explained that after May 2018, if these forms were not held, the Church could not contact those people under the Data Protection legislation.

Deputy Treasurer

Adrian Johnston addressed Session to ask that Sheila Mackintosh be appointed as the Deputy Treasurer. Session members approved this appointment.

Director of Music

It was noted that the Committee set up with the task of sourcing a new Director of Music had interviewed Donald Cameron and in view of his extensive experience in music and leading Choirs, it was recommended that Session approve him being offered the role. Due to holiday commitments, he/

KIRK SESSION REPORT continued

he would be unable to start until 11 February. Session readily approved the appointment of Mr Cameron.

Finance

It was agreed that £100,000 of Congregation funds be transferred to a new bank account for The Building For The Future Project. The new bank account will also accommodate the net sale proceeds from the sale of Church House and contributions to date. Subsequent to the transfer, Congregational reserve funds will be maintained at a level in accordance with that recommended by OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

Roll

Kirk Session was pleased to admit the following new members:-
Mrs Antigone (Tiggy) Herbert, Ravelston House Park, Edinburgh
Mrs Margaret Martin, Queen's Court, Edinburgh

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

IMPORTANT

Data Protection Consent Forms

With effect from May we require members' permission to hold their personal details. Every member should by now have received a Data Protection Consent Form to be returned, duly signed, to the church or, legally, the church will be unable to hold these personal details. If you have received a form which has not yet been signed and returned to the church please return it as soon as possible. If you have mislaid the form or have not received one at all please contact your elder or the Church Office (332 4431).

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

Prayer

(Taken from an Edinburgh Church's Order of Service)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23, v.6.

God, when our hopes fade and life is hard,
when our faith is shaky and the world uncertain,
when we feel that praying is not the thing to do
because we have no words, no good things to say, no way to begin
let us journey to your house, Lord.
Your church: place of sanctuary and peace -
the community of the forgiven,
the body of Christ,
where some have words when others have no voice
where all are welcomed and remembered.

(Contributed)

Blackhall Youth Fellowship 1947-19??

I am planning to put together a booklet of memories of the members of the Blackhall Youth Fellowship in its heyday when it was one of the strongest in Edinburgh. I am in touch with people now elsewhere but I know some of you are still in St Columba's. When you have time I would be grateful for your memories, amusing, serious, perhaps meaningful for you, perhaps significant in your growth as a Christian. What did being in Y.F. do for you? Please write them and send them to me by e-mail to:

houseohill7@outlook.com

or give to me at church. I look forward to putting them together.

Mary Morrison

Tribute to Stanley Clarke Agnew CB

18 May 1926 to 23 December 2017



Stan Agnew, a long serving member of Blackhall St Columba's, was born in Belfast, where his father, Christopher, was on the staff of the Governor of Northern Ireland, and his mother, Eleanor, a primary school teacher. He had a happy childhood, with his brother John, living in the precincts of Government House. A highlight of primary school was winning a trip to London in an essay writing competition. Part of his winnings was a £2 voucher which he spent on a watch, a Meccano set, a train set for his brother, and presents for his Mother and Father. £2 went a long way in those days.

In due course Stan passed the entrance exam for the Royal Belfast Academical Institution before going on to Queens University to study Civil Engineering. Most of his school and University years were during the war, with lessons interrupted by air-raid sirens and trips to air raid shelters. They could hear the bombers, and sometimes see the flames in Belfast. In the school Army Cadet Force, Stan had risen to the dizzy height of Lance-Corporal, where he recalled the training camps, route marches and blistered feet.

Stan spent many summer holidays on his Uncle's farm in County Monaghan, where, most of all, he liked to work with the big shire horses.

His first job took him to Kirkcaldy - a fateful posting. On the railway platform he met a young teacher named Isbell Davidson who, in 1950, was to become his wife. After an itinerant period as a site engineer Stan and Isbell settled in Dumfries where daughters Pat and Christine were born. Spells in Elgin and Dungannon preceded a move to Edinburgh where Stan worked for Scottish Development Department (SDD) and where he rose to the post of Chief Engineer.

52 Blinkbonny Road was the family home for over 50 years. Much needed to be done, mostly by Stan and Isbell themselves. Stan was a very hands on father making time for his girls – reading comics, making swings in the garden, playing on the beach etc. Both girls remember working in the garage as his 'apprentices'.

In SDD Stan worked on the Loch Lomond water supply scheme, which had to go through public inquiries and appeals before getting approval in the House of Lords. It fell to Stan to supervise the works, which were opened by the Queen in 1970. In 1985 his public service was recognised by the award of the CB - Companion of the Bath - by the Queen.

Stan and Isabel were regularly in church on a Sunday morning. Stan served as Chairman of the Congregational Board from 1990 to 1992 and last September was presented with a long service certificate marking 61 years as an Elder.

Stan took great pleasure in his family, his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. After the sad loss of Isbell in 2012, he kept going, even practising some of her recipes. His many interests and hobbies kept him engaged and mentally sharp right to the end. He was loved and respected and will be sorely missed.

A Scottish Government initiative adopted enthusiastically by the Church of Scotland, **Year of Young People 2018** aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.

Ways in which this is being supported by the Church of Scotland can be found in the Year of Young People page of the C of S website and in the January issue of Life and Work. Below is their prayer for the Year of Young People.

Year of Young People Prayer

Welcoming God,

You welcome all of us with your open arms. Inspire and guide us, that we may never hinder your children from coming to you; and remember that we are all part of your family. Bring us together as a loving community for all, that we may learn from each other as we walk side by side in faith.

Loving God,

We pray for those who have come to know you, whether that relationship is new or if they have made a commitment to you and stepped out in faith; we pray that they would grow in grace and knowledge as they continue their walk with you. We pray for those far away from you. Meet them where they are and give them the courage and strength to make the right decisions, that they may come to know and experience your gracious love.

Caring and Compassionate God,

We pray and ask you to guide and protect children and young people from that which may restrict them on their journey in life and faith. We pray for the day when all children in the world can be just that: children. Be with them as they experience the dangers and injustices that are ever present in our world today.

Nurturing God,

We pray for all those who work with and support children and young people - for those of all ages who give their time, talents and love to create a place in churches and communities that can be the foundation of growth, confidence and a relationship with you.

Calling God,

You call us to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share. We come now to answer your call, to lift our minds and voices to you, and to thank and praise you for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and world. We ask that you would walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Guiding God,

As we travel through this Year of Young People and beyond, help us to come alongside children and young people to draw closer to you, to answer your call to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share together, through the Holy Spirit.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.





By the time this edition of Kirk News goes out we will have had the congregational meeting to listen to the architect and to consider the proposed plans for development. The booklet giving information about the project should have been received with the January Kirk News. If not there are spare copies in the vestibule. A voting paper should have been received by post by every member of the congregation. The decision as to whether we should proceed or not will be made by returning these voting slips by 25 February (Communion Sunday).

If the congregation gives the go ahead the Steering Group and the Kirk Session will take the next steps involving fundraising, further refinement of the details of the plan and seeking Presbytery approval.

Email to: BStC.Building4Future@gmail.com

Website: www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Feedback is welcome and necessary to the process. Do not think your comments will not be welcome. We need to hear all points of view.

WaTch Committee supporting Clowndoctors

Thank You for All Your Support

During the service on Sunday 14 January, the Convener of the WaTch Committee, George Millar, presented a cheque for £4,460 to Pip Quinn, Fundraiser for Hearts and Minds, as a contribution to the work of the Clowndoctors project. Pip was supported by Dr Fizz and Dr Crumble, practitioners who had helped at the Christmas Fair.

The WaTch Committee would like to thank all who supported and contributed to their fundraising events during 2017. The Summer Coin collection raised £864, followed by a Craft Coffee Morning in October which contributed £842. The Christmas Fair in December raised £6,400 in spite of a power cut just as the Fair started.

Overall the WaTch Committee events raised £8,056 of which £4,000 goes to the charity and we have received further donations specifically for the Clowndoctors from three other groups.

- The group who visited Valvona and Crolla donated £100
- The Carol Singers at Sainsbury's donated £130
- The Guides who organised the Candlelight Concert donated £230

Every year all our events are well supported by the congregation and the local community and for this we are extremely grateful.

George Millar
WaTch
Committee



FreshStart would like to thank everyone who donated to their 'Cookers for Christmas Appeal'. They raised over £11,000. This money allows them to provide refurbished cookers to clients.

If you have only had a kettle to make instant noodles, porridge or cup a soup, a cooker makes a huge difference. One client who received a cooker was looking forward to making Scotch Broth while another was going to give her children roast chicken for Christmas dinner.

Fiona Cooke
FreshStart Coordinator

Our carol singers at Sainsbury's supporting the Watch Committee's fundraising for Clowndoctors



Fellowship Afternoon Group

Those who braved the snow for our January meeting were rewarded by an inspiring talk given by Alison Elfick on her hobby of patchwork quilting. The importance of choosing colours and sometimes being adventurous with the design or image were pointed out. More than that it seemed that a love of fabric, accomplishing challenges which quilters compete in, and the benefits of sharing the pastime in a group, were what the speaker liked. She (and her husband) brought along many beautiful patchworks of all shapes and sizes which were on display.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 February at 2.15 pm in the Small Hall. Doreen Barker will be talking about different Easter Customs. We look forward to welcoming any visitors either as visitors or to join our Group.

March's meeting will be a floral demonstration with Violet Troup.

Fiona Drinnan

Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland



Saturday 24th February 2018

6 pm for 6:30 pm start

Entry by donation

Popcorn and drinks provided

Film title available on request.

Further information secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Tribute to Peter Wright Dundas

Died 10 November 2017



Peter Dundas, member and elder of Blackhall St Columba's Church, was born into the family business, Ainslies Garage in Bo'ness. As boys Peter and his brother George spent their summers working on the cars and driving them on the forecourt when they were 12 years old. Both were good with their hands and they managed to rebuild a wreck of a car which cost them £12. They sold it for £50, splitting the proceeds.

But Peter did not want to be part of the business and it was taken over by his brother, George. Peter wanted to write and, in particular, to be a journalist. As a child he devoured books and obtained his adult library ticket at the age of 9. However, the librarian had to sanction the books that he chose.

His love of both poetry and prose allowed him to attract and marry his wife, Christina. 'Combined with his gift of the gab she was putty in his hands'. Christina was the inspiration and the driving force behind the first article Peter had published under his own name. He never looked back and had a successful career in journalism working for the Mail, the Sunday Express and Womans Own prior to becoming Public Relations Director at Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

One family story records that Peter was instructed by the Editor of the Sunday Express to travel to Europe and to see how far he could get without a passport. He made it to Calais, where he was restrained by Customs officials. Unable to speak French he phoned the Express in London and, after several hours, they negotiated his release and sent him home. Upon his return the Editor summoned him for a meeting, concluding it by saying 'The mistake you made, Peter, was not getting properly arrested and thrown in jail. That would have made the better story.' That trip may not have resulted in the most fruitful of outcomes but at another time a close journalist friend of Peter was to describe him to son Robbie as 'a true craftsman'.

With children Kirsty and Robbie they enjoyed lovely family holidays going to Arran many times, enjoying walking through Glen Rosa and climbing Goat Fell.

Peter also loved golfing and was a member of the Royal Burgess for 44 years. Back in the clubhouse after a round of golf he and his friends would chat and argue about golf, politics, what was wrong with the youth of today etc. Each week for a couple of hours they put the world to rights.

Sadly in 1998, after 45 years of marriage, Christina died of ovarian cancer. During the last two years, and in particular for the last 6 months, of her life Peter cared for her devotedly, without complaint, showing that not only was he a dutiful husband but an amazing carer.

Father to Kirsty and Robbie and grandfather to Shane, Lorne, Paul, Lara, Jack and Peter, Peter died peacefully in hospital on 10 November 2017.

Midweek Lunch

This is an **urgent plea for help** with soup making. Over the last year we have welcomed new faces to our team. However, more of our long term helpers are having to retire. I need in the immediate future 2 people but any more will be most welcome



There are 2 ways you can assist us.

(1) Make a pot of soup (guidance note available) and hand it in on the morning of the Midweek service, or

(2) Join our team. Teams of 4 people do 2 stints over the months of September to May. The team leader finds out what soup is being made for that day. Helpers arrive 10 - 10.30 am to help set up (although Dorothea does a great job with the tables!). The service starts at 12 noon and lunch is served at its conclusion. After that there is the usual job of clearing up. You would normally be finished about 1.30 pm.

If you know someone who does this ask them what is involved or get in touch with me:

elspethwilliamson@gmail.com or tel 336 2600.

On the other hand do come along to the fortnightly service which is followed by homemade soup and traybakes with tea and coffee. All ages welcome.

Help Needed !

On this and the page facing are appeals for help with the Midweek Lunch teams and with Cameo Club. Please give thought as to whether you may be able to help.

The words below were passed to me recently -

‘Work for God. The pay is lousy but the retirement benefits are out of this world!’

Cameo Club

The Cameo Club, which is mostly for older people, began (it has been verified) twenty years ago on 2 October 1998. It meets every second Friday in the Large Hall with currently twenty-five members and twenty-one people who help.

There are some who have been volunteers since the Club's inception. It is time to appeal for new helpers to swell the ranks and lend a hand. The tasks are simple and the group is a friendly one.

We prepare plates of food to go with the coffees, which have to be served, and there are dish-washing duties.

At present there are two ladies, who, I am sure, would like some assistance, who put together six-monthly programmes of entertainment.

Car drivers are needed to transport members for the 10.30 am start and home again at 12 noon. Some drivers stay for the morning but others enjoy free time between delivery and collection.

We have recently enjoyed our Christmas Lunch outing to the Holiday Inn. We will have a change of venue for coffee during Easter, and we have a bus trip in the Summer for lunch out. I am sure if you speak to any of the members you will find they enjoy meeting their friends at the Club on a regular basis.

There are some gentlemen volunteers - anyone who is willing to give of their time would be welcome. Those who stay for the entertainment enjoy the time-tested performers as much as the members, and there are always some new artistes included in each programme.

If you would like to be a volunteer or just come along and see what is involved then contact Margaret Brown (Convener) 332 5957 or Fiona Drinnan (Deputy) 343 6762.

F.D.

Tuesday Topics

Our first meeting of the year was our meal out, when members enjoyed a pleasant evening at 'HOME' in Queensferry Street.

Our speakers in February will be taking us on journeys - Eric Melvin's talk is titled Luxor to Aswan and he is coming on Tuesday 6th. We will be nearer to home when Chris Gunstone comes on the 20th as our topic for that evening is St Cuthbert's Way. This walking route stretches between Melrose and Holy Island.

In March we look forward to our outing to the theatre to see 'Hello Dolly' at the King's.

If any of our topics interest you, please come along to the small hall at 7.30 pm.

Diana Taylor

Tuesday Topics 30th Anniversary

Here are photos from the 30th anniversary celebration held on 12 December in the Small Hall. Many thanks to Violet Troup for kindly agreeing to make the delicious cake for us, and arranging for photos.



The cake was cut by Lyndy Paton and Judith Lowther, both faithful members and past office bearers. Lyndy was one of the inaugural members 30 years ago, and Judith has been a member for 29 years.

Jacky Cowie

Burns Supper 27 January

We are delighted to announce that, subject to some outstanding bills, an estimated surplus of approximately £1400 was made for the Church's benefit at the Burns Supper held yesterday at the time of writing and going to press. This was made up from sales of tickets the price of which was held from 7 years ago (but this will not happen again!) and an exclusive raffle for those attending which they very generously supported.

A wonderful time was had by all 95 there with everybody appreciating the excellent entertainment given to them by Hamish Mair 'dhu'ing' The Address to the Haggis, Eric Turnbull memorably proposing the Immortal Memory, Gordon Farquharson turning the heat up toasting the lassies with Fay (Maiden Speech) Stirling, declining to be buttered up, replying on their behalf while finally Mike Smith gave Tam o' Shanter laldy in which he engagingly engaged the audience! Dugald Macneill piped for us and Jenny Logan with Margaret Donaldson, accompanying, sang gorgeous airs that tugged at our heartstrings or had us roaring with laughter. Our Minister, Benjamin, was a dab hand saying The Selkirk Grace before all enjoyed a traditional and excellent supper in good company.

We are grateful to the Holiday Inn Hotel for some financial support and raffle prizes, Sainsbury's, Craigleith, for a financial contribution to the cost of welcome drinks and Wilson's, butchers, for the haggis whose spleen Hamish vented. Donald Cameron, our organist, gave us C.D.s made by his father about the life of Walter Scott which every entrant to the raffle (i.e. everybody) won. When did you last hear of a raffle like that?! Finally thanks to Bill Campbell for preparing tickets and programmes, Violet Troup for beautiful flower arrangements for every table which were awarded as prizes to lucky winners, to Julie in the Church Office for inestimable help and to the Stewardship Committee who helped this excellent time happen.

First degree Burns in fact.

Sandy Weir
Convenor, Stewardship Committee



Blackhall's got talent. Hasn't it ?????

The Stewardship Committee has the Church treasurer's agreement that he will for the moment keep aside £500 from the surplus mentioned above. It is intended that this money will be available to offer to those who apply for some, maximum £100 perhaps, to use to make more money to produce a surplus for a specified area of the Church's work and mission including other good causes and charities it supports. Applicants do not have to be members of the Church, can be single, young, old, couples, groups, organisations and even, or even hopefully, Committees. The purpose is not because folk do not have money themselves, nor is it a competition but simply a challenge to the Congregation as a whole to see who will join in the fun and come up with ideas novel or otherwise which, one would hope will, inspire others.

Stewardship Committee will consider all applications which should give simply the amount sought (not for plant, machinery etc.), the beneficiary or benefit, an outline of the 'scheme' explaining how it will produce a surplus and a timescale this should happen in. The money given is meant to be returned, but it won't be pursued if calamity strikes, with the surplus retained by the applicant to donate or put to their identified purpose.

This idea is inspired of course by the parable of the Talents when a master gave servants money to put to good use until they met up with him again. They were expected to do something with it to the master's benefit but only one of them had a good idea that made a difference for the better. However there are plenty possibilities out there and this is an initiative for you to think about and to use your imagination on. So you might get a 'loan' for baking ingredients, knitting/sewing materials, card making material even bucket, soap, cloth etc. for washing cars, preparing a nice 'tea' at home for a small party, gardening products to keep weeds down or promote growth of flowers, photo print paper to enable you to take and develop photos etc. etc. etc. All for producing goods or services to sell to family, friends neighbours and so on.

If you agree we'll report your completed effort in Kirk News so that maybe others will join in a scheme of their own when they read about it. So don't be shy and apply today.

This notion has not been tried before but we hope it can enthuse a few even in our Congregation and elsewhere to join in the spirit and ethos of the venture. /

Blackhall's got talent ... /continued

In any event it will be reviewed in three months, say, and regularly thereafter with the lending capital of £500 restored for the Treasurer's general use if unsupported and not worth continuing.

Have a word about this with any member or Stewardship Committee, phone the Church Office for a contact or Sandy Weir, Stewardship Convenor on 0131 336 2483.

Operation Christmas Child A message to Blackhall St Columba's Church from Samaritan's Purse

Your shoebox was sent to Belarus!

Thank you for being part of sending Good News and Great Joy to 678,942 children in Eastern Europe, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East! Your kindness equips thousands of churches and groups around the world to reach out generously to children in need. Your thoughtful gifts show the children who receive your shoeboxes that you love them and that God loves them too, as they get to hear the Christmas story of the greatest gift of all - Jesus.



(90,756 boxes went to Belarus: we sent 230 of them.)

DEADLINES

Kirk News - 18 March 2018

Please send all items to the Editor:
Christine Denham c/o Church Office
Home tel: 336 5943 or email
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

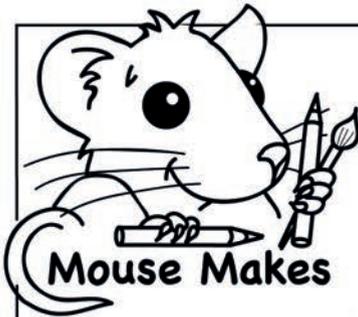
Blackhall Bulletin - 4 February 2018

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



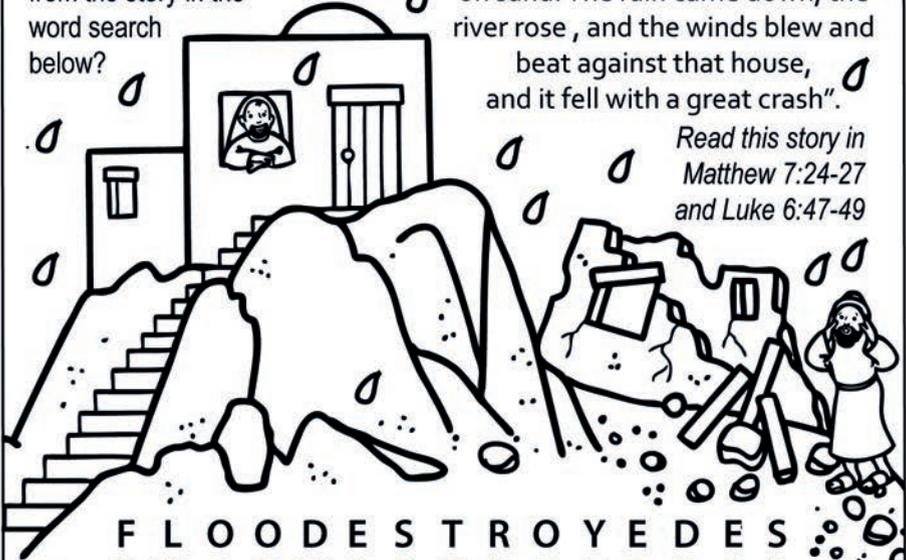
Mouse Makes

Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?

Jesus taught his disciples...
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice

is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

*Read this story in
 Matthew 7:24-27
 and Luke 6:47-49*



F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S
 O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A
 B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N
 G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D
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 A S H E A R T T E W I S E I A
 S O L I D R I V E R A I N S N
 C O L L A P S E D R U I N H T

LISTEN • HEAR • JESUS • WORDS • WISE • MAN • BUILT • HOUSE • SOLID
 FOUNDATION • ROCK • RAIN • WIND • FLOOD • RIVER • BURST • FOOLISH
 SAND • GROUND • COLLAPSED • FELL • DESTROYED • RUIN