

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

June 2018

PRODUCED BY BLACKHALL ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

No. 152

When Prince Charles met Grant



What a couple of memorable days Mum. Dad and I had in London! It felt like we were away for a fortnight rather than just a few days.

The investiture itself was the highlight, it really started when our taxi was allowed to drive through the archway in Buckingham Palace and I couldn't help but wave at all the school children who were watching on! Our taxi was directed to the

ramp where a member of staff was ready to guide me 'behind-the-scenes' and during which she told me that Prince Charles was hosting the investiture.

Mum and Dad were guided to the grand ballroom where the ceremony was taking place and ended-up sitting in the front row opposite where Prince Charles was standing and I could see them via a live TV stream to where all the recipients were waiting to be called to go for their investiture.

Whilst waiting, a staff member approached me to ask if it was OK for Prince Charles to shake my hand!!! When my name was eventually called forward and I met Charles, I was touched when he said 'I believe you invented a most brilliant spoon' and he asked what other ideas that I had in the pipeline.

Afterwards, there was a long queue for photos, but as soon as I was spotted in the queue, I was ushered through and got my photos taken with my parents outside. Fortunately it had dried up by then. Then the police enquired if we had a car in the Palace and when we told him that we wanted a taxi, he went out and flagged one down and directed him into the Palace grounds (taxi driver thought he had done something wrong being directed into Buckingham Palace by an armed Police Officer!)

Other highlights included a delicious lunch at the Shard, seeing the musical 'Kinky Boots', going to Madame Tussauds as well as travelling to and from London first class by train.



Well Done Julie!

Congratulations to Julie MacPherson of Blackhall (left, below) who recently represented Scotland in the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast. Here are a few of her thoughts about the experience.



I have just returned from the Gold Coast having represented Scotland in badminton at the Commonwealth Games. This was my first Commonwealth Games and it was an amazing experience to be part of a multi-sport event in which Scots get to compete under the Scotland flag.

Four years ago in Glasgow I was part of the Achieve programme which is for young athletes who have the potential to get picked for the next Commonwealth Games. This allowed us to go and watch different sports and visit the athletes' village which gave me a great insight to the atmosphere and bond that Team Scotland have, so it was an amazing feeling to be part of the team for Gold Coast.

I played in both the team and individual events. Scotland reached the quarter-finals of the team event losing out to Malaysia, the eventual silver medallists. In the individual events, I lost to strong English opponents who also went on to win silver. Despite these losses, I gained a wealth of experience by playing former Olympic. World and Commonwealth medallists. I'm now back in training again for the next one in Birmingham 2022!



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Beginning with a Question

Whether in an exam paper or job interview, beginning with a question seems a proper place to start. It helps to bring a sharper focus, it's conversational, it reveals gaps in knowledge, and it's quite natural.

Children seem to use questions instinctively to find out more about our world and everyday life. Of course, there are lazy questions and there are thoughtful and profound questions. The difference is hard to explain, but anyone who has ever heard or asked a great question, asked at the right time, will immediately know why good, careful, thoughtful questions are always worth asking.



When it comes to questions about faith, Christians have often pointed to the example of God asking Adam and Eve, **‘Where are you?’** (Genesis 3:9), and the way in which Jesus interacts with people in the New Testament. Here are just a few of the questions of Jesus:

What are you looking for? What do you want me to do for you? Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me? If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? Do you want to be well? Do you see this woman? What good is it to gain the whole world but forfeit your soul? Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Who is greater, the one seated at the table, or the one who serves? Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? Which of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God? Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God? Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ but do not do what I command? Why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For which of these good works are you trying to stone me? Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? Would you like some breakfast? Have you come to believe because you have seen me? I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? Do you love me?

Perhaps starting with questions isn't such a bad idea after all, is it? Even so, some may be suspicious or reluctant of starting with questions. Some may find them leading or loaded. But, as you can see, Jesus used questions, which, for me, is the strongest reason to use them.

Time and time again, when Jesus asked a question it suddenly brought everything into focus, not just for the one he was asking, but for everyone listening as well. His questions were and are personal, direct, challenging and certainly demanding. Indeed, His questions demand, from everyone, a response, so that everyone can see more clearly the motives, behaviours, assumptions, and all the harshness that often rages under the surface. Questions can help us to concentrate, pay attention, and think together. A good question can transform a frustrating discussion into a life-changing moment, when reality breaks through ignorance or illusion.

In these moments, when we gently ask the right questions of others or ourselves we can sometimes get under a question, and meet the one behind it. In the words of *T.S. Eliot*, **“Oh my soul, be prepared for the coming of the Stranger. Be prepared for him who knows how to ask questions.”**

My dear friend, the message of Jesus continues to come in power, reality and compassion and is able to answer the deeper questions that come bursting out when the door is opened. Today, maybe, like so many others, you have many questions and you are seeking for answers. Let me encourage you to draw near to Him and let Him bring you to a place of certainty and assurance. He knows who you are and every detail of your life, including your doubts.

As you draw near to Him, also be prepared that He Himself will ask of you, one or two questions which will demand from you an answer and a response. I wonder, what will you say and what will you do?

Wishing you every blessing

Benjamin
(Minister)



Since the previous edition of the Blackhall Bulletin went to press the congregation has voted to embark on the Building for the Future project and the Kirk Session has authorised the steering group to take the next steps.

The aim is very much to complete the whole project encompassing both the sanctuary and the halls but, of course, there are both practical and financial implications to this. Leaving aside the financial ones for the moment, it is clear that we could not have both the sanctuary and the halls out of commission at the same time. We will therefore be doing the work on the sanctuary as phase 1.

The architect is currently working on developing more detailed plans, for the work to be done on the sanctuary. This is quite a lengthy process and will involve more consultation with the steering group to take account of ideas, which they and members of the congregation have put forward. When the specifications have been agreed the architects will prepare documents for submission for planning permissions and building warrants and of course, authority from the Presbytery and Church Head Office to go ahead. When all that is completed tender documents will have to be prepared and the tender process itself will have to be gone through. Only after all that can we expect to see any physical work being done.

Of course, all of this is dependent on our being able to raise the money for the project and the fund-raising sub-committee has already been planning for this. By the time this edition of the Bulletin goes out the fund-raising process will have been launched at an event on Saturday 26th of May. As previously indicated, the sale of Church House and a significant number of pledges already received mean that the campaign is off to a very good start. Given this, there is every reason to hope that we will be able to get the necessary funds and permissions to start phase 1 as soon as the plans have been fully developed and also to hope that phase 2 can follow relatively soon afterwards.

We are embarking on an exciting stage in the church's history and, although there is bound to be some disruption along the way, the end result is an enticing prospect. Although the process itself is about bricks and mortar the underlying purpose is all about the church community and hopefully it can help to bring everyone together in a shared enterprise, including not only the congregation as such but also all those who use or visit the halls. There will be regular updates in the Blackhall Bulletin to keep you abreast of what is happening.



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Tom Scott, Rural Landscape, sold for £1,100



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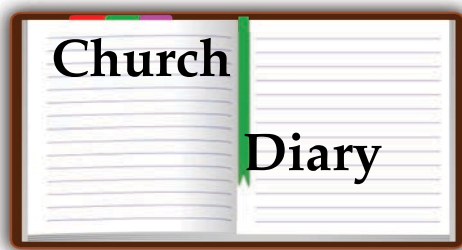


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JUNE

3 rd	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
10 th	11.00 am	Sunday Club Promotion Service
		All Age Service
17 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
24 th	9.30 am	Communion Service
	11.00 am	Communion Service
26 th	4.00pm	Service at Strachan House


JULY

1 st	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
8 th	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
22 nd	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
29 th	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
31 st	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House

AUGUST

5 th	11.00 am	Venture Week Service – All Age Service
12 th	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
19 th	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
26 th	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
28 th	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House





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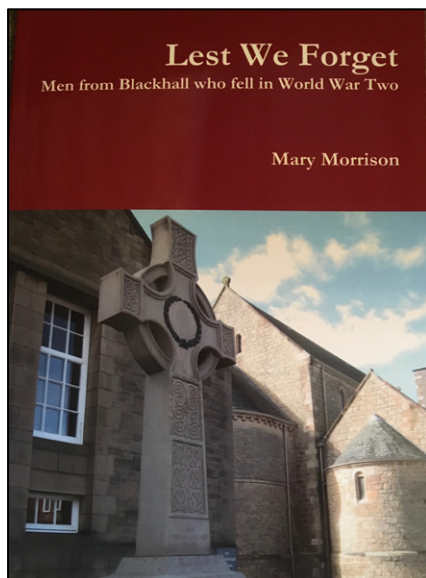
Prayer Corner

Hosea 14 v 9: *If you are wise, you will know and understand what I mean. I am the Lord and I lead you along the right path. If you obey me we will walk together.*

Everyone has trouble persevering at one point or another. It may be difficult to continue physically because your body needs sleep, healing or sustenance. Or perhaps it is your spirit that is struggling with decision and worries that are too massive for you to handle. You may feel yourself slipping from a successful course because you have exhausted all of your resources. However, there is a course that will never fail to sustain you. God fortifies and encourages us in many ways. It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect (2 Samuel 22 v 33). Allow yourself to be weak. Let go of the fight and struggle so that God can be strong in you and for you to rely on. Let Him be your never-failing source that leads and takes you through onto victory. He will sufficiently supply what you lack and satisfy your deepest yearnings. It is His desire to fill you with hope, knowing that you will have joy and peace. He will surely satisfy your soul! *You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living being. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving towards all he has made.* Psalm 145 v 16-17

Dear God, I will open my hear to your lavish love. Thank you for drawing me to yourself and for giving me a new beginning in Jesus. Amen

DM



LEST WE FORGET

This recently published book by Mary Morrison follows on from her previous one entitled BLACKHALL WAR MEMORIAL and attempts to identify the men from Blackhall who lost their lives in WW2. Their names are not on the War Memorial. The book is available, priced £3, from the Church office and from Blackhall Public Library.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH JUNE

This month the flowers will be donated as follows:-

- 3rd Mrs Margaret. McArthur
- 10th Mrs Evelyn Watson
- 17th Mrs Pat McLeod
- 24th Miss Susan Scrimgeour

Miss Pat McLeod and Mrs Alison Hewat will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup (Flower Convener)





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FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON GROUP

Our programme has come to an end for the Summer. We will be back in September with a new syllabus. If you have an interesting subject you would like to present to us we would be happy to hear from you as soon as possible.

This year we have had a demonstration of patchwork craft and talks about places as far away as Cambodia and Nazareth. We finished in April with a performance of Scottish tunes on accordion and electric guitar – a combination that worked well.

Thanks to all our speakers and entertainers. We will be taking part in the usual rivalry at the Quiz Night on Tuesday 17th May.

I would like to wish all our members an enjoyable time over the next few months.
Fiona Drinnan 343 6762

TUESDAY TOPICS

We have enjoyed a very good year, particularly pleasing because this has been our 30th year. All meetings have been very well attended, with topics ranging from 'The Secret Herb Garden' to most recently 'Travelling in China from Gansu to Beijing'. This year's Charity was St. Columba's Hospice, and over the year we raised £300 for their funds. An outing to the Edinburgh Gin Distillery for a guided tour, with tastings, completed the session.

Very many thanks are due to the six members of the committee for their sterling service to Tuesday Topics and who are now standing down, in particular Diana Taylor, President for three years, Sheena Wilson, Secretary for three years, and Maggie Smith, Tea Convener for four years.

The Office Bearers for 2018 – 2019 are
Treasurer (continuing into her 5th year), Sheila Mackintosh,
President, Eleanor Lowrie
Secretary, Jacky Cowie
Tea Convener, Lorna Fox

The new session will start on 25 September in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church at 7.30. As always all ladies, visitors and any gentlemen who wish to attend will be very welcome. Details of our programme will be in the September issue of the Blackhall Bulletin, when further information can be obtained by phoning 332 1066.

Jacky Cowie



At the time of writing, the Club is busy preparing for its Annual Art Exhibition; however, by the time you read this, the Exhibition will have finished.

We hope that many of you will have had time to visit and view the work by our enthusiastic and talented members, and perhaps may have purchased a painting (or even two!) and/or some hand painted greeting cards. Or you may have made a donation to our chosen charity this year, the **Edinburgh and Lothian Branch of Down's Syndrome Scotland**. Some of you may know that a group of parents and carers with their pre-school age children with Down's Syndrome, meet regularly in the Church Hall. We will be able to announce the amount that was presented to this charity in the next edition of the Blackhall Bulletin.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on May 15th and we "rest" over the summer. The Club will restart on Monday and Tuesday mornings in September. If any readers of the Blackhall Bulletin would like to join us - beginners or experienced artists - please contact our membership secretary Anne McLennan on 0131 336 4327



Meet the Team

Holiday Inn Edinburgh City West are hosting an evening for our locals to come along and meet the new management team.

Join us for complimentary drinks and small tasting plates from our new menu.

Sign up on the night for our loyalty card which gives 20% off food and beverage purchased in the hotel.

5th July at 6pm Holiday Inn Edinburgh City West

Please RSVP by 29th June by contacting the team on events@hiedinburghcitywest.com or call 0131 311 4903

WATCH COMMITTEE

This year the WATCH Committee are supporting Alzheimer Scotland based at The Prentice Centre at Granton Mains Avenue, Edinburgh EH4. (Scottish Charity no. SC022315)

They provide a service for individuals who have had a diagnosis for dementia and their families and carers. They offer information and advice, family outreach support, carer support and education, day centre opportunities, befriending and community activities.

The charity receives government and local authority funding but relies on the support of other organisations to continue its work. All we raise will be donated to the charity and it is expected that this will be used to provide training for volunteers.

The Committee starts the fundraising with the Summer Coin Collection. Empty money bags can be picked up from the vestibule of the Church and the bags, duly filled, can be handed in at any service during July and August.

We will be holding the Craft Coffee Morning on Saturday 13th October which provides an opportunity to view and purchase examples of craft work while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea with a scone or two. Our main event will be the popular Christmas Fair on Saturday 1st December at 2 pm – a planning meeting for all involved in the organisation of this event will be held on Monday 10th September at 7.30 pm. More details about the Coffee Morning and the Christmas Fair will be published in forthcoming editions of the Kirk News and the Blackhall Bulletin.

Dates for your diary

- **Christmas Fair Planning Meeting** for Organisation representatives only on Monday 10th September at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall
- **Craft Coffee Morning** on Saturday 13th October from 10 am to 12 noon
- **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 1st December at 2 pm

The WATCH Committee very much appreciates the magnificent support given by the Blackhall St Columba's congregation and the local community over the last 26 years, raising over £250,000 and we hope that you will continue to support us this year.

George Millar WATCH Committee Convener



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Blackhall Community Trust Update


Our next public meeting is on Tuesday 5th June at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church. Everyone is very welcome.

Thank you very much to residents who took part in our public consultation on five possible site options for a new Ravelston Park Pavilion. We were really pleased with the interest and expressions of support we received at our public meetings and exhibitions as well as through our online survey.

Overall, consultees preferred Option 4, a location close to the existing building which would provide enough space for a community hub and a fit-for-purpose home for Blackhall Nursery. This location would also enable Blackhall Nursery to continue to operate during construction. The findings are currently being collated and will form a detailed options appraisal. Our business plan will then be developed based on the final option. Of course, planning permission has yet to be sought and this will provide another opportunity for local people to share their views. More information on our next steps will be available at our public meeting on Tuesday 5th June.

Blackhall Community Trust membership has increased dramatically during the consultation – thank you for this demonstration of your support. Our next newsletter will include the membership form again so please consider joining us.

Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) continues to organise a number of activities. The Book Club meets in Ravelston Park Pavilion on the first Thursday of every month. **The BCT walking group** now goes on monthly walks. Our next **coffee morning** at Cloudberry for those who are new to the area or who would like to feel more connected to the community is on **Thursday 28 June 10-11.30am**.

Blackhall Community Trust: Join our email/mail list or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.  [@blackhallct](#)

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www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk

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CAMEO Club

(Come And Meet Each Other)



Cameo had a change of venue for our Easter outing. Members were taken in cars to the Capital Hotel on Clermiston Road where we enjoyed coffee and warm pastries. A very successful outing with about 35 members, drivers and helpers presentthe staff were very pleasant and helpful.

Our summer outing on Friday 25th May was again to Pettycur Bay Hotel, Kinghorn. We always enjoy our two-course lunch there and the beautiful views across the bay.

If you would like to come along to Cameo once a fortnight for coffee, pancakes etc and entertainment (not forgetting a good blether) then please get in touch with either Margaret or Fiona. Transport can be arranged.

Margaret Brown 332 5957
Fiona Drinnan 343 6762

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VENTURE WEEK



HOLIDAY CLUB at
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Scottish Charity No SCO08756

Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August 2018
From 10:00 to 12 noon
For children of Primary 1-7 age
Cost: Donations welcome

JOIN IN THE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS, LEARN ABOUT CHARACTERS FROM THE BIBLE, SING SOME SONGS, TAKE PART IN CRAFT ACTIVITIES, PLAY GAMES AND MUCH MORE!

To register for this Christian Holiday Club, complete the Application form and return by 27th JULY to the Church Office, Columba Road. Please note that your child may be included in a group photograph unless you instruct otherwise. There is no entrance fee for this holiday club.

.....

APPLICATION FORM FOR VENTURE WEEK HOLIDAY CLUB

CHILD'S NAME

ADDRESS

TEL NO. DAY TEL.NO

DATE OF BIRTH

PRIMARY CLASS CHILD GOING INTO IN AUG 2018

MEDICAL CONDITIONS (e.g. asthma)

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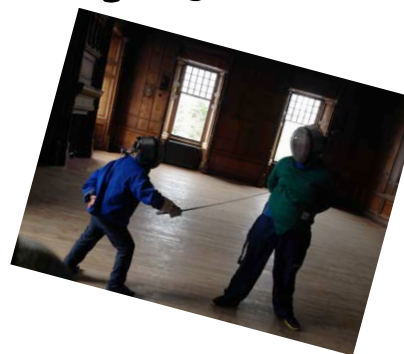
MY CHILD MAY BE INCLUDED IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH Yes/No

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

SECURITY NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN THEIR CHILDREN IN AND OUT EACH DAY.

Blackhall Guiding

Blackhall Brownies and Guides take over PGL Dalguise



In March Blackhall Brownies and Guides had a fantastic weekend away to Dalguise. It may have been snowing and cold but many girls gained a new found confidence, made new friends and conquered their fears. The girls enjoyed taking part in many activities in the daytime which included abseiling, climbing, survivor, archery, fencing, Jacob's ladder, challenge course and vertical challenge. In the evening they enjoyed being detectives in a real life game of Cluedo and singing songs and eating smores around a warm campfire.



Nicole (202 and 202B Brownie Leader)

Volunteers are needed to help at Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units at Blackhall St.Columba's

What do we want from you?

- Able to spare 1-2 hours a week during term time.
- Willing to complete a DBS check (paid for by Girlguiding)
- Enthusiasm for volunteering with children

What's in it for you?

- Great CV experience and potential for references
- Opportunities to complete qualifications including first aid
- Opportunities to go on trips and try new things
- A chance to meet new people
- Guaranteed fun every week!



Contact blackhallguiding@gmail.com for more information



THE 23RD SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This is an appeal to all parents, grandparents, friends, neighbours and colleagues to step forward and volunteer to become a leader or a helper with the 23rd Craigalmond Scout Group.

No experience is necessary, as we shall teach you how to have fun and enjoy working with young people. Some initial training is essential but you can do most of the learning on the job! Some Beaver Leaders are leaving this summer, so it is imperative that we find replacements before then to ensure the continuation of the Beaver Colonies. If there are no volunteers, it will mean the closure of the Monday Colony, as the remaining leaders cannot function on their own. All the boys and girls enjoying the Scouting experience will be left high and dry. Sadly all the local Colonies in Craigalmond District are full to capacity so there are no spaces to offer our Beavers.

The Scout Troop is a big priority. Once we appoint a Scout Leader we have been promised assistance for a while from other groups in the District. Already we have Cubs marking time waiting to be the first Scouts under the new leadership. Exciting times for a new Troop, a challenge for a renewed Scout team.

I appreciate that life moves very fast these days and everyone has their own priorities but perhaps some of you reading this will remember the great times you had as a Scout or a Guide and decide that you could give something back to help the struggling 23rd. Surely no one wants to stand by and see the decline of the Group. Age is no barrier - take it from one whose Scouting career started at the 23rd in 1963!

Please come forward. Your skills are needed.

Diane Ross

Acting Group Scout Leader, Deputy District Commissioner
diane.ross@blueyonder.co.uk

BEAVERS
AGED 6-8
CUBS
AGED 8-11
SCOUTS
AGED 10-14

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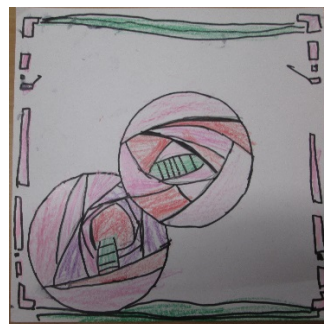
BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 3R

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH

We have been learning about Charles Rennie Mackintosh. He was born in Glasgow in 1868. He was inspired by nature and all the things around him. He was famous for his roses. We drew his roses. To draw the roses, we drew a circle by drawing round a cup and we followed the curve of the circle to make bendy lines inside the outside circle. We made the curves until they got smaller into the centre. Then we drew straight lines to make the stem. Finally, we coloured in the rose in all different shades of pink, purple, red and green for the centre. We went round all of the lines in black felt-tip pen and we added our own design with rectangles and thorns to the outside. After that, we got to write our names in Charles Rennie Mackintosh writing. We enjoyed doing it, even though it was very hard. Lots of us thought we couldn't do it, because it was too tricky, but then we kept going until we could do it and we never gave up!

Here is some of our artwork



BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 7

P7 STEM Trip

On Thursday 1st February 2018 the P7 classes from Blackhall and Clermiston went to Edinburgh College to learn more about STEM. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We were split into groups to do different activities. For Science we did an egg drop. This was when we had straws and balloons, just straws or just balloons. We used these items to make a secure basket that was attached by a mini parachute so that it could fly down without breaking. This was really fun, especially when the egg smashed. (It was not a real egg!) For Technology we used sensors that are used in cars to detect how much petrol is being poured into the car. We used water as petrol. For Engineering we constructed bridges using card. When we had finished we put small 50g weights on them. For Maths we did different activities such as: sums, estimating, co-ordinates and much more. The last activity we did was a mix of everything that we had done. The Bloodhound Car Challenge! Many people have heard of the Bloodhound SSE trying to break the land speed record. Our speeds were ranging from 42 mph to 86 mph! We cut and shaped our models using a hot wire. (A professional did this). Once we had finished, wheels were added and a small rocket so that they could be raced. We had so much fun at Edinburgh College and learned loads.

Adriana and Claudia

THE MOSQUE



On Tuesday the 30th January we went to Blackhall Mosque. When we got there we took our shoes off and put them on a shelf. We sat down and got shown a presentation about Islam and the events they have in the Mosque. We went to the main hall where we sat on comfy carpets which have lines that make sure the Muslims pray towards the Kaba in Mecca. At the end we dressed up and asked questions, we also had refreshments. We had so much fun as everyone was so kind. Many thanks to everyone for making us so welcome.

Sienna and Emily

WARDIE CROSS COUNTRY RACE



On the 5th February a selected group of children from P6 and P7 went to Wardie playing fields to compete in the annual cross-country race.

Despite it being very muddy and wet everyone finished the race with a score that they were proud of.

Euan and Klara from P7A thought this year's cross country race at Wardie was much harder than last year's and a lot of people had improved their running skills.

Approximately one hundred people ran in each race and a large amount of Edinburgh Schools took part. If you came in the top five, you received a medal.

Aillish Young got 1st place in her race and Calum Barlow got 4th place in his race!

Euan and Klara.



BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS

SUMMER TERM



Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we put the children at the heart of everything we do. We provide a safe, healthy and happy environment where children grow and develop through play and active learning.

Summer term is always a very busy time in Nursery and so far the children have had thoroughly enjoyable outings to Gorgie City Farm where they met the goats, piglets, sheep and cows, as well as the tortoise and bearded dragon! Thanks to the funding we received from the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee, we have been able to provide the children with Tennis & Ball Skills lessons which helped greatly in developing their balance and eye-hand coordination as well as allowing them to practise their throwing and catching skills. The summer term brings more opportunities for our 'Tuesday Trot' around Ravelston Park which helps towards promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The children have been eager to continue with the Tuesday Trot in all weathers throughout the Winter months and they are now managing to complete many laps of the Park – Bravo!

Our health promotion will continue throughout June as the Blue, Yellow, Green and Red Teams compete against each other at the Nursery Sports Day, followed by a cuppa for adults and an ice cream cone for the children. By the end of term, the children's excitement will reach new heights as they take part in different sports activities, such as football, dancing, judo, Enjoy-a-Ball and parachute games during our Health Fortnight. By then we will all be ready for the summer holidays!

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer places in morning and afternoon classes, providing sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes for 3-5 year olds during term time. We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. We are currently in discussions with the City of Edinburgh Council regarding being part of a pilot scheme to deliver 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare (up to six hours a day, term time only) from August 2018. The nature of this pilot scheme means that the Nursery will only be able to offer these extended hours to a small number of children.

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2nd birthday by downloading an application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.

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Calling for new Committee Members to the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee

We've had a great year at the Blackhall Children's Sports Committee. Our two main fundraising events, Wine Night (11th Nov) and Quiz Night (3rd March) were a great success. Both were a sell out and raised more money than ever before to fund the BCSC Annual Sports Day (2nd June) and our Sports Awards for individuals and groups in Blackhall. We also held the Family Fun Day (3rd Feb) and the Family Cycle Run (13th May), which were great fun family events for the community.

The Blackhall Children's Sports Committee (BCSC) has been in existence for over 100 years. It was formed in 1909 as a voluntary, non-profit, organisation with the aim of promoting and organising children's sports and activities in our own community. In 2017, the BCSC awarded almost £6,000 in sports funding to the community. Now in 2018 it's just as relevant to the community as it was then, encouraging grassroots activity in sports and helping our community stay fit and healthy. Children who benefit from the awards range from toddlers right up to senior school level.

All these events wouldn't happen if it wasn't for our fantastic Committee, this year chaired by the enthusiastic Diane McLachlan. The Committee is made up of 16 volunteers, usually, but not exclusively, parents of children in Blackhall. Tenure on the Committee is for 2 years. The first year is spent shadowing and learning the ropes, then in the second year you take on a role to help the events and awards happen. It's very rewarding and you get to know some great people. There's a lot of fun on the way and we all muck in for the benefit of the community.

We are now looking for 8 new members this year starting in August 2018. If you're interested just get in touch through our Facebook page @BlackhallChildrenSC and Twitter account @blackhall_csc or just speak to one of the Committee members if you know us, a list is on our website <http://www.activeblackhall.com/bcsc/>.



Behind the scenes at Quiz Night this year



Taking a breather during Wine Night

Thank you to all our Committee members for your time and enthusiasm. Without you it all wouldn't have happened. Have a great summer and we look forward to lots more fun events and awards in 2018/19.





CRAIGHLEITH PROBUS



The members of Craighleith Probus are now relaxing in their gardens after a most enjoyable winter session. Our last activity was an outing to Royal 'Dick' Vet at Easter Bush where we had an excellent guided tour as well as talk. Several of us were confused why it is called the 'Dick' Vet, and we are all wiser now, having learnt that this was because it was established by William Dick in the early 1800s. (Now that's an ideal question for a 'pub' quiz!).

Our meetings start again on October 3rd when Eric Melvin will be telling us all about the infamous Burke & Hare. This is followed on October 17th with a talk on 'Famous Brewers of Scotland' given by John Martin. Over the winter months we have a varied programme including talks on subjects such as ancient gravestones, can potatoes feed the world? and John Le Carré.

We meet in Blackhall Bowling Club on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10am for coffee or tea plus biscuits with a talk for 45 minutes or so starting at 10.30am. There is always an open door to any retired or semi-retired gentleman and with membership only £25 you will find it an ideal way to spend those dreich Wednesday mornings.

If you would like any more information please just email me, johnmaclellanuk@goolemail.com, or the club infocpc21@gmail.com.



BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB



In October, our first talk of the 2017/18 session was given by one of our own members, Helen Ross. In her talk, which was both amusing and touching, Helen gave us a rare insight into her career as the first lady Procurator Fiscal. At the next meeting in November, Annie King outlined the work of the Teapot Trust which helps children in hospital to relax in clinical surroundings by providing materials and support to participate in art work. While giving our pre-Christmas talk in December on the work of Faberge, Deonaid Wilson managed to create a most beautifully decorated egg. This and all the other examples of her work left us amazed at her skill.

On 11th January, Dr Eric Graham gave us a talk and slide show of the smacks that sailed from Leith and their importance in both trade and travel from the East coast of Scotland. A week later we enjoyed our annual post-Christmas lunch at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. February brought us a most amusing talk by Sandra Thomson on her years and experience in the Jute trade. Our last talk of the session was given in March by the Reverend (Lt Col) Benjamin Abeledo on his time as an army chaplain in Afghanistan.

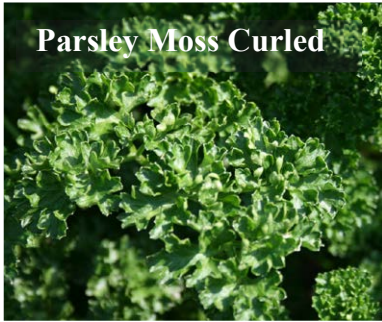
If you are interested in the Blackhall Ladies PROBUS Club, please contact the Membership Secretary at 2 Groathill Gardens East, Edinburgh EH4 2LT. The next session will begin on **Thursday 11th October 2018**.
Christine Proudfoot

Membership Secretary, Blackhall Ladies PROBUS Club

Blackhall Horticultural Society

The summer months are when the 'horti' members relax in their gardens, and ensure that greater Blackhall is kept green and colourful. However it would fair to say time is also spent visiting other gardens locally and further afield. One of the enjoyable local garden openings is in Trinity, and is organised by Wardie Parish Church; being close to the Botanics one can guarantee at least one of the gardens being opened belongs to a Garden staff member thus ample free advice available. The dates for 2018 are Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June, but for more information please look at <http://www.wardie.org.uk/activities-events/the-wardie-year/open-gardens>.

What to grow each year is tricky as one can never guess what the summer or winter weather will be like. Are you aware that there are now more vegetable seeds sold than flower seeds? Growing vegetables is always fun



Parsley Moss Curled

and there are numerous varieties of decorative vegetables as well as those we grow for consumption. Consider the puckered leaves of Parsley Moss Curled. Parsley is an easy herb to grow and as well as its attractive leaf structure it has the benefit of being used widely in the kitchen and as a medicinal herb for various conditions such as osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Parsley also strengthens the immune system and can give relief to indigestion. Another vegetable with attractive foliage is Swiss Chard; its thick stalks can be yellow, red or green. The health benefits of Swiss Chard include its high fibre content as well as

its high levels of magnesium, iron and potassium. The leaves can be blanched, steamed or stir-fried; the stalks are great on pizza and in soups, sauces and stews. Chop and mix Swiss chard leaves and stems with early spring greens for a simple salad. This season I am growing a dwarf French bean called Purple Teepee, and although the main feature is the culinary use of the purple pods, which are held well above the leaves, I chose it because of its decorative value.



Dwarf French bean

At time of writing our programme of talks for 2018-19 has not been finalised although our first meeting of the autumn to spring will be a social get together on Monday 10th September and our meetings continue monthly on the second Monday of the month until May.

For more information please email blackhall.horti@gmail.com or myself johnmaclellannanuk@gmail.com

John MacLennan : Hon President

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St Columba's Scottish Country Dance Club

Our end of term party held on Thursday 12th April was a great success, with around 35 members and guests. Thank you to all our members for providing, as usual, a delicious supper.

Our class has had a successful year thanks to Elizabeth Stuart guiding us through the dances both old and new and looking after our finances. Have a well-deserved break, Elizabeth!

We will hope to start up again in September. In the meantime, we wish all our members an enjoyable summer.

Margaret Brown
332 5957





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Scottish Curry Awards 2014
Takeaway of the year



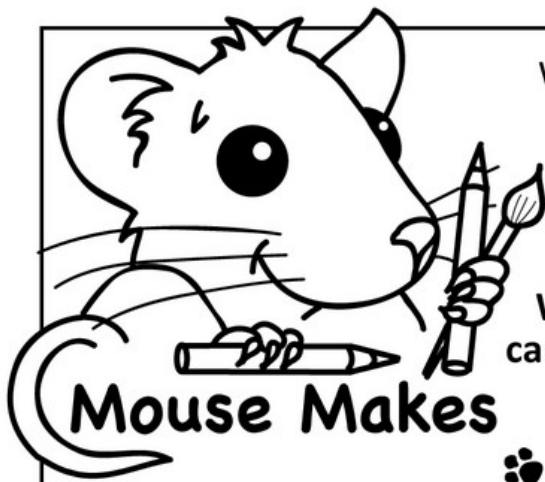
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Which animal did Noah let out of the ark first?

Genesis 8:7

What plague of animals came out of the River Nile?

Exodus 8:6

What insects did John eat in the wilderness?

Matthew 3:4

Which animal can we learn from?

Proverbs 6:6

Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?

Luke 3:22

Which animal did Jesus ride on?

Matthew 21:7

DID YOU KNOW?



Four of the miracles Jesus performed were to do with fish.

1. Feeding of the 5000
Matthew 14:15-21

2. The coin in the fish's mouth
Matthew 17:24-27

3. When Jesus called His first disciples
Luke 5:4-11

4. At the Sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection
John 21:4-11



DID YOU KNOW?

There are four animals that are small but the Bible says are extremely wise... the **ANT**, the **HYRAX**, the **LOCUST** and the **LIZARD**.



Look up
Proverbs 30:24-28
to find out why.



Which animal goes with which bible character?



LAMB	HOLY SPIRIT
LIONS	BALAAM
LOCUSTS	JESUS
DOVE	JONAH
RAVENS	PAUL
BIG FISH	SOLOMON
DONKEY	DANIEL
BEES	ELIJAH
SNAKE	JOHN
PEACOCK	SAMSON

D O G C A M E L A M B G A
 P L I Z A R D O V E Q N N
 F Q P E A C O C K G O A T
 I U R A V E N U S X D T F
 S A B U L L K S H E E P R
 H I S N A K E T E O E I O
 L I O N H Y R A X R G G

Find the animals in the word search

SHEEP • GOAT • LION • LAMB
 DONKEY • RAVEN
 SNAKE • DOVE
 LOCUST • QUAIL • HYRAX
 CAMEL • DEER • FISH • FROG
 GNAT • PEACOCK
 ANT • OX • LIZARD
 DOG • PIG • BULL



Knit and Natter

We are nearly at the end of another year of Knit and Natter and again have been busy with making a variety of knitted articles and doing lots of nattering. Of course there has to be coffee and biscuits to sustain us each Monday evening while we live up to our name!

In June we will deliver the blankets to Fresh Start and the baby and toddler knits – jumpers, cardigans, toys, blankets, hats and mitts – to the Early Years Centres in South Queensferry and The Fort.

We are very sorry to have lost Nan Robertson from our number after her recent death. We will miss her cheery company, not to mention her constant supply of knitted squares.

If you would like to join us on Monday evenings we would be delighted to have you along. Please don't think your knitting won't be good enough, all are welcome. We continue until June 25th and will resume in September, date as yet to be confirmed.

Details from: Lilian Cockburn
stcknitnnatter@gmail.com

Fairtrade Stall

We run all year round. Our next stall is on 10th June. During the summer when there are two services (one at 9.30am and one at 11am) we run the stall between the services. Please do support us. Remember that orders can always be given if you have a look through the catalogues (always available).

If you think you would like to join the team and assist on a stall just ask for more information when the next stall is on.
elspethwilliamson@gmail.com



Midweek Services

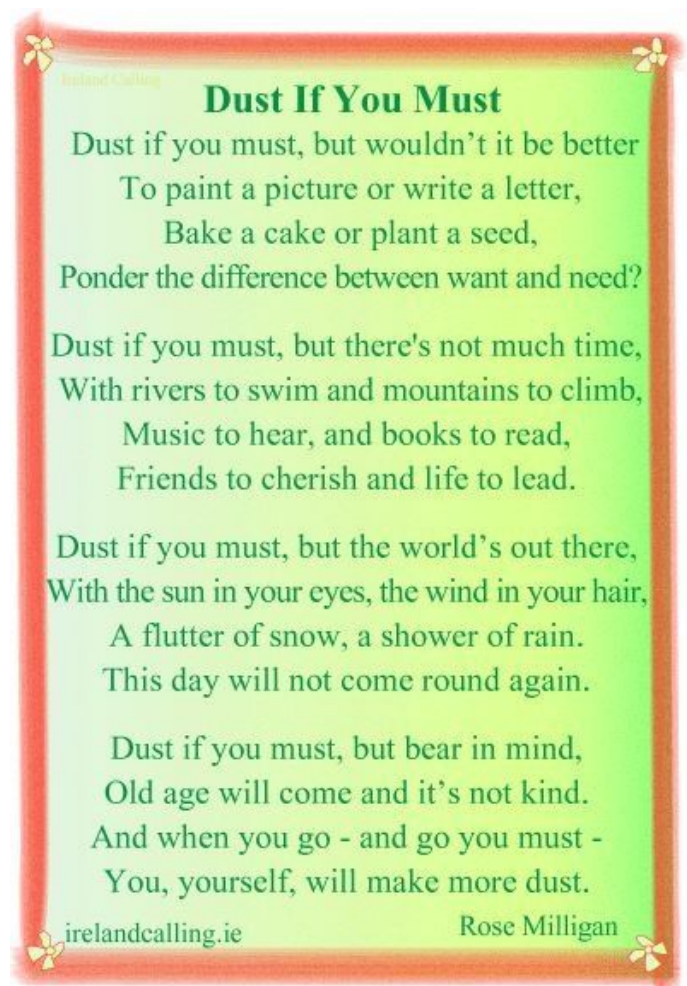
We stop for the summer after Wed 2nd May and will restart in mid September.

We meet fortnightly from September to May for a short service followed by a lunch of homemade soup, tray bakes and coffee or tea. Altogether a very relaxed sociable get together. If you have not been why not come along in September and see what you think. Watch this space for more information.

A huge thank-you to all who have helped in any way. We have great teams of soup makers who also serve and clear up. In addition there are one or two people willing to make extra soup when necessary. We have had an interesting selection of speakers all of whom give us food for thought. It had been good that the numbers attending have increased so that we have to set up six tables. There is always room for more attendees so keep this in mind – there is no age limit. Lifts can be arranged.

The new rota of helpers will be prepared over the summer so if you think you could help us by serving on one of the teams please do get in touch. We are losing a number of soup makers who have been involved since the services began and who feel it is time to hang up their ladles – quite rightly so. Please ask for more info from

Anne Burton and Elspeth Williamson or contact **the Church Office** (332 4431) and Julie will put you in touch with one of us.



Sundays at BStC's

All Year

10-10.30 Prayers in the Small Hall

September to June

9.30 am Family services 1st Sunday of most months

11.00am Morning Worship (except Remembrance Sunday 10.50am)

Tea, coffee and juice served after 11.00 am service - All Welcome

10.00 am Open Door (11-14 years)
Marie Abeledo

10.50 am Sunday Club (3 – 10 years)
Lorna Rogers 332 4431

10.50 am Creché (under 3 years)
Alison Torrance 312 6421

July and August

9.30 am Family Services every week

11.00am Morning Worship

Communion Sundays

9.30 am and 11.00am on the last Sunday of February, June and October

An informal celebration of the Lord's Supper shall be held on the last Sunday of January, March, April, May, July, August, September, November and December.

Minister's Vestry Hours

Wednesday 10.00 – 12 noon

Midweek Services/Lunch

Alternate Wednesdays at 12 noon Ann Burton 539 5879

Uniformed Organisations

Rainbows Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Brownies Tuesday & Wednesday

Guides Tuesday (Seniors) & Friday

There is a waiting list for all of the above contact

Blackhallguiding@gmail.com

Beavers Monday & Friday

Cubs Monday

Explorer Scouts Monday

Graham Scrimgeour

leaders@pinkpantherexplorers.org.uk

Club and Group Contacts

Art Club	Anne McLennan
Monday 9.45am/Tuesday 10.am	336 4327
Badminton Club	Linda Finnie
Various	lindafrinnie@hotmail.co.uk
Cameo Club	Margaret Brown
Friday (alt) 10.15 am	332 5957
Children's Dance Classes	Edinburgh Dance Academy
Thursday pm/Sat am	337 3402
Curry Club (Men)	Michael Cockburn
As arranged	332 4841
Fellowship Group	Fiona Drinnan
Tuesday as arranged 2.15pm	343 6762
Floral Art Club	Violet Troup
2 nd Friday monthly 2pm	539 6173
Horticultural Society	Lorna Sinclair
2 nd Monday (monthly) 7.45pm	07880 605 914
Jubilo	Jubilo Secretary
Sunday 7.30pm	info@jubilo.org.uk
Junior Singers	Amy Donaldson
Thursday 3.30 pm	dnldsnia@yahoo.co.uk
Knit and Natter Group	Lilian Cockburn 332 4841
Monday 7.30 pm	stcknitnatter@gmail.com
North West Heritage	Charlotte Cowe
Monthly – day and location vary	336 2494
Pilates	Diane Sidey 339 7548
Thursday am/pm	diane@sideys-pilates.co.uk
Playgroup	Sarah Adam 07999 514 809
Mon-Fri 9am – 12 noon	Blackhallplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk
Praise Band	Amy Donaldson
Sunday Family services at 9.30 am	dnldsnia@yahoo.co.uk
Scottish Country Dancing	Margaret Brown
Thursday 7.30pm	332 5957
Sing Aloud Praise Group	Marge Whiteside
As arranged	332 6744
Tap Classes	Jane Marryat
Wednesday 7pm	312 7048
Toddler Group	
Tues 9.30 am	blackhalltoddlers@yahoo.co.uk
Tuesday Topics	Sheena Wilson
Tuesdays (alt) 7.30pm	332 4078
Yoga	Esme Lopez 07800 850 307
Monday 9.45am	esme@yogawithesme.com
Zumba	Gabi Brown 07720
867 472	
Tues 8pm/ Sat 10am	gabi@zumbaedinburgh-gabi.com

Minister

Rev Benjamin J A Abeledo

Pastoral Assistant

Rev Gordon Farquharson

Session Clerk

Mr Eddie Thorne

Organist and Director of Music

Mr Donald Cameron



Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh
Scottish Registered Charity No SC008756

Minister

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Edinburgh EH4 3NB
Telephone 315 2019

Session Clerk

Eddie Thorn
158 Craigleith Road
Edinburgh EH4 2EQ
Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary

Ms Julie Nicol
in Church Office from
Mon-Fri 10.00-12.30p.m.
Tel/fax 332 4431

DEADLINES

Kirk News – Sunday 1st July

Please send all items to the Editor,
Christine Denham, c/o Church Office
(Home tel: 336 5943) or e-mail:
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 30th July

Please send all items to the Editor,
Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office
(Home tel: 312 6035) or e-mail:
bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Advertising Enquiries

Enquiries regarding advertising
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