



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK NEWS

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

JULY 2018

No. 807



TeamBuilders Holiday Club BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

30 July - 3 August 2018 Ages P1 - P7
10am - 12noon

Please download and complete application form from
www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Cost: Donations welcome

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



Exciting news for Fresh Start but they need your vote.

Most of us know of the great work done by Fresh Start in helping formerly homeless people set up in new homes.

Fresh Start have been shortlisted to receive a Nationwide community grant of up to £50,000!

If you are a Nationwide Building Society member, i.e. hold a savings or current account or have a mortgage with them, then you are eligible to vote via the following link

<http://www.nationwide.co.uk/communityfundingvoting>

It literally takes a minute to do!

Voting closes at 3pm on Friday 20 July.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for and donated items to Fresh Start this year. Twenty carloads of donations have made a difference. There will be no Friday collections over the summer. Volunteers will be ready to receive donations on a Friday morning from 7 September.

Fiona Cooke, Coordinator

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Stay in the Game...Keep Swinging!

For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practising what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. (Romans 7:15)



Much as I would like to say differently, I don't have a lot of spare time these days, but when I do, I like to play the occasional game of golf with my son (Stephen). He is about my height and he can certainly hit the golf ball much further than I can!! If I wasn't in Christian ministry, I might admit to being envious. Well, ministry aside . . . I admit it. I wish!!

Honestly, much as I would have liked to emulate my fellow Spaniard and golf hero, the late Severiano (Seve) Ballesteros, I've never improved over the years to the point where I still don't quote my life verse (or *golf* verse) every time I step up to the tee: "***The things I want to do, I don't do, and the things I don't want to do, I do!***"

In reality, my golf ball typically takes a couple of lurching bounces before I watch it fall over some embankment and hear that familiar splash or lose it altogether behind a tree, bush or deep into a bunker. Who thought it would be a good idea to put a pond, trees and bushes and even a bunker in the middle of a beautiful golf course anyway?! Again - if I wasn't a Minister . . .

Here's the funny part, though: after watching my ball land in some murky abyss, I start giving advice. As soon as my son steps up to the tee, I instruct, "***Keep your head down . . . keep that arm straight. . . make sure you follow through!***" As if I've earned the right to teach anybody!

I suppose the only reason my son politely listens is because I'm paying for the round. Humour aside, *is it not true to say that knowing what to do is not the same thing as doing what you should do?* I know (in theory, at least) how to hit a golf ball straight as an arrow; I know the principle for posture and form. But when it comes to actually hitting the ball, I can throw all my knowledge out the window . . . or into the pond.

/ As Christians

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued

As Christians, we can sometimes think that if we just *knew* better, we would *be* better . . . you know - more spiritual. So, we search for quick-fix tips, books, videos, even professional counselling for our problems: “**The Secret to Christian Living**” or “**Five Effective Steps to Powerful Prayer**” or maybe attend a conference or Christian event that promises complete blessing and the answer to our predicament by the end of the week!

We get caught up in thinking, “**If I could just learn *that* principle or take *that* study or read *that* book, I’d master my life of holy commitment.**” Perhaps it’s time we learned a lesson from a man who knew more than any other Christian. If there ever was someone whose life was worth emulating, it is the Apostle Paul.

But reading chapter seven of his letter to the Romans, you’ll discover that he, too, struggled with sin and failure. Yes, Paul knew the answers to the questions, but all his *knowing* didn’t eliminate the battle he faced in *living*. He wasn’t released from wrestling against the same things that you and I battle every day. Even the Apostle Paul knew what it was to fail and fall short.

Don’t misunderstand the point. Paul wasn’t giving us a green light to sin and keep doing what we shouldn’t do. He emphatically reminds us later of our responsibility. But he *was* encouraging us to keep swinging . . . to stay in the game . . . not to give up just because we’ve sent another golf ball sailing into the woods.

The truth is, no one has it all together just yet. That day of glory is yet into the future. Jesus Christ, the God-Man, is the only player who ever shot a perfect round . . . mercifully He’s given us His scorecard!

Have a wonderful summer; enjoy your golf (if you play); read a good book and above all else, keep close to Jesus and read His Word. After all, there lies the secret of a godly and rewarding life. Sadly, it doesn’t guarantee a perfect swing!!

In His service and yours,

Benjamin

(Minister)



A Prayer for Armed Forces Day

For Blackhall St Columba's Remembrance Sunday has always been special but since the arrival of Benjamin as our Minister, on retirement from Army chaplaincy and service in peacetime and in war conflicts, it has almost certainly made us more aware of the service given by Armed Forces Chaplains. Several former ministry students who have shared Blackhall life as part of their training have also gone on to serve as Armed Forces Chaplains.

It seems therefore, although Armed Forces Day was marked on 30 June, not too late to include this prayer in our magazine as a mark of our respect for all of them. The prayer was written for Armed Forces Day by Rev Dr Marjory Maclean, Convener of the Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces Committee.

Spirit of Peace,

On this Armed Forces Day

When our country gives thanks for those who are willing to stand in a place of danger,

We give thanks for the spirits of those who are dutiful, disciplined and unselfish.

For those keeping watch today at sea, on land, in the air, we pray,

For their loved ones waiting and worrying,

And for their chaplains serving alongside them to befriend and encourage them.

For those whose service lies now in the past we pray

- Especially those scarred by it in body, mind or spirit -

For the military charities supporting them and their families,

And for the civilian communities and parishes in which they live.

For those who will take up their duty in days yet to come, we pray,

For personnel undergoing recruitment and selection, and in training,

For those given the burden and privilege of leadership in crises yet to unfold,

And for our politicians who have the most difficult decisions to make.

Spirit of Peace,

On this Armed Forces Day

Bless the men and women of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force

As they wrestle with the duties and questions we find difficult,

And as they try to keep safe your lovely created world.

Amen

Family

We welcome to our fellowship:

By Certificate of Transference

Mrs Rosamund Davidson

By Resolution

Mr Donald Cameron and
Mrs Elizabeth Cameron

Baptism

June

3 Esmé Alison, daughter of
Charlotte and Jed Case

Deaths

June

2 Miss Catherine Fegan
6 Mrs Jessie Shaw
21 Mrs Ada Gregor

Flowers

The flowers in church will be
donated as follows:

July

- 1 Mrs Jacquie Lowe
- 8 Mrs Anne Burton
- 15 Mrs Joan Welsh
- 22 Mrs Ruth Mitchell
- 29 Mrs Violet Troup

August

- 5 In memory of Bob and
Margaret Scott
- 12 Mrs Elaine Walker
- 19 Mrs Anne Anderson
- 26 Mrs Joan Welsh

The flowers will be delivered in July
by Mrs Elizabeth Watling and Mrs
Ishbel Robertson and in August by
Miss Susan Scrimgeour and Mrs
Billie McKinnell.

Violet Troup



Esmé Alison,
daughter of
Charlotte and
Jed Case was
baptised by the
Rev Gordon
Farquharson on
Sunday 3 June.

Church Diary

July

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 22 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship |
| 29 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship followed by short Communion |
| 31 | 4.00 pm | Strachan House Service |

August

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 5 | 11.00 am | Venture Week Holiday Club - All Age Service |
| 12 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship |
| 19 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship |
| 26 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship followed by short Communion |
| 28 | 4.00 pm | Strachan House Service |

September

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 2 | 9.30 am
11.00 am | Early Family Service
Morning Worship |
| 5 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service |

PLEASE NOTE: The Halls are closed for annual general maintenance on the **weeks commencing Monday 16 July and Monday 23 July 2018**. Should anyone require access please arrange with Church Office to confirm.

Our Young People need you!

Crèche

After almost a lifetime of service, Alison Torrance has stepped down from her role running our crèche on a Sunday morning. It is our intention to have a rota of adults to provide this crucial service and we are looking for people to volunteer. As is always the case, the more volunteers we have the less often you will be required. Our babies and toddlers need you!! If you can help, please contact Ruth Laidlaw on 07513 967974 or ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com

Sunday Club

After many years of dedicated service, Michael Cockburn is stepping down from his role in the Sunday Club. If you think you have what it takes to help in the Christian education of our young people then I would love to hear from you – Ruth Laidlaw on 07513 967974 or ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com

Venture Week Holiday Club

This will take place from Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August with the Venture week service on Sunday 5 August. We are appealing for volunteers to help with the running of this club and would ask you to add your name to the list on the notice board in the halls corridor or contact Fiona Morton f.m.morton@hotmail.co.uk or Ruth Laidlaw ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com Many thanks. [See more on pages 18 and 19]

Thank you from Alison Torrance

I'd like to thank you all for the very generous gift I received as I stepped down from running the crèche. It's been an absolute joy looking after all the wee ones, and knowing their families, through the years. I'd also like to thank Suzanne Scott for all of her help over many of the 30 years that I've been involved.

Alison Torrance

Sunday Club

Welcome to Sunday Club! You may have noticed a few changes with the Sunday School: we have rebranded from 'Challengers' to 'Sunday Club'; and I have recently taken on the co-ordination role, trying to fill the very large shoes of Fiona Cooke who stepped down last year.



The children have had a busy time learning about events and stories from the Bible through numerous creative projects, culminating in our Promotion Service in June. We look forward to welcoming the children back after the summer break, and if you would like any further information, please contact me on lornajrogers@hotmail.com or 07930 956058.

Many thanks, Lorna Rogers

Diane Ross MBE

Congratulations to congregational member Diane Ross on being awarded the MBE for services to Scouting and to the community in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year.



Asked how she first got involved with the 23rd Diane admitted to a crush on the Cub Leader! The crush may not have lasted but her love of Scouting continues to this day. She says -

'From a Cub Leader at the 23rd Midlothian (as it was in those days) I moved on to the 82nd at Cramond. I have held various other posts Deputy District Commissioner, District Commissioner, thoroughly enjoyed twenty years working with the Cubs in Gang Show and also many years at the Royal Military Tattoo. Going full circle I find myself back at the 23rd now in Craigalmond! Over this time I have had great support from an amazing team of leaders who all give up many hours for our young people.'

Grateful thanks goes to my family who have encouraged me throughout my Scouting career and with all my other interests.'

St Columba's Junior Singers

St Columba's Junior Singers meet every Thursday afternoon during school term time in the Upper Hall from 3.30pm - 4.15pm to sing, take part in musical games and occasionally play instruments as an accompaniment to our singing.

This session has been quite a busy one for us. We have sung in church on several occasions, taken part in the Christmas Nativity, entertained the residents of Queen's Court at Christmas and sung during some of the monthly services held in Strachan House Nursing Home. By the time this magazine is published, we will be on our summer break but will be back in action again on Thursday, 30 August.

Anyone who has a son or daughter in P3–P7 who is interested in our happy, lively group, or would like more information on it, can either phone me on 332 1354 or come along one Thursday – we will be delighted to see you. There is no audition – the only requirement is to enjoy singing!

Amy Donaldson



Pennies Aid 2018

During the promotion Sunday Service (10 June) the congregation heard once more of the great success by the children in raising £124.78 for the Pennies Aid. The children of the Sunday Club during the year bring their pennies each week when they attend. This collection took place between September 2017 and May 2018 and is all their work. It is not connected to the summer services appeal for bringing of pennies (referred to as “summer pennies”) in the bank bags which is part of the WATCH committee fund raising for a selected charity.

Although the boys and girls had counted the pennies the vote on their favourite gifts took place the week after because things were just that busy preparing for the Promotion Service (in which you may have noticed the children were mega involved). They decided to send the following gifts to help people around the world namely;

A basket of chicks	£30
A hand pump	£30
An antibiotics supply	£18
A can of worms (improve ground to farm)	£15
A fruit tree saplings supply	£14
A supply of fishing equipment and training to improve family food and/or earnings	£13

The remaining £4.78 as a donation towards helping children when disaster strikes.

Most of these gifts are sustainable not just one offs and will MAKE A DIFFERENCE. This is our guiding principle in Sunday Club of Christian teaching converting love into action with very positive outcomes. Since starting in September 2010 the children have raised £1,903.78 in total and sent 66 gifts between 44 countries.

As a congregation we should be proud of the efforts of the children in this Sunday Club project and the many other ways they participate in the fellowship and worship.

Michael Cockburn
Sunday Club

Work has continued on the Building for the Future project since the last issue of Kirk News. Members of the Steering Group have met with the architect to refine the original brief. This led to further meetings with the architect, structural engineer and services engineer and work has now begun on more detailed surveys for phase 1. These are needed in order to move on to the next stage of the design and development process which will enable us to apply for approval in principle from the Church and from the local authority planning department.



As is well known, no permissions will be given until the necessary funding has been secured. Happily, a very good start has been made on this.

The Appeal was launched at an open meeting on Saturday 26 May when the Treasurer explained the challenge ahead of us, the ways in which people can help and how we can hope to progress with the project if all goes well. In essence, we need £1.1 million for phase 1 and the same again for phase 2. Phase 1 will include everything to do with the sanctuary including new doors from Queensferry and Columba Roads, new heating, lighting, electrics, sound system and so on. At the time of the launch of the Appeal, we had already secured funds from the sale of Church House, a part of our reserves and donations and pledges amounting to £813,470 so we are well on our way! The Treasurer stressed that donations of any size, whether made by one-off payments, standing orders (which can be monthly over a period of up to 5 years) pledges of annual payments or, indeed, in any other form will be very much appreciated. All donations will be acknowledged and thanked for and only the treasurer himself and the gift aid convener will know how much any individual has given or pledged.

It was always going to be necessary to phase the project, not just for financial reasons but because we will have to use the large hall for worship during the time when the sanctuary is out of commission. However, as soon as the full amount of funding has been secured for phase 1 we will continue the process to build up funds for Phase 2. Ideally, this would allow us to start work on phase 2 as soon as phase 1 is completed but that is still some way into the future.

There are many variables in the programme which will affect when we can start and how long it will take. Some of these are in our own hands, such as the fund raising, but we will have little control over the process of getting permissions from the various bodies involved. / continued opposite

Please read this if you Gift Aidor if you do not

A big thank you goes to everybody who donates to Blackhall St Columba's. Without your support past present and future the Church's work and mission would both, literally and figuratively, be very much the poorer. For our Congregation there are challenges and exciting times ahead, just what we've all faced most of our personal lives, and we all look forward to seeing what the future brings for St Columba's. Our part is to help that future be bright and your giving will go towards achieving that.

Many members give by Gift Aid which, as you know, allows 25% to such donations to be reclaimed from the taxman. If you Gift Aid you must pay income or capital gains tax sufficient to cover the sum reclaimed in a tax year (to 5 April) on ALL your donations. So if you donate £2000 under Gift Aid to a number of charities in a year, including St Columba's, the sum of £500 is reclaimed and you must pay at least this amount in tax in the year. **If you are not paying enough tax now or in the future please let me know so that I no longer make claims on your donations which, of course, I need to know. Your giving is personal and kept strictly confidential.**

Gift Aiding of donations is not available to everybody for a number of reasons and all giving is equally appreciated. So it's fine if gifts can be increased by 25% through the taxman and just as fine if they cannot. As long as we're doing our best what more can be asked?

Thanks again then to everybody who gives of their best. If you have any queries ever please get in touch.

Sandy Weir
Gift Aid Convenor
Tel 0131 336 2483
Email weirsmachine@blueyonder.co.uk

Building for the Future continued

That said, the architect's current indicative programme would envisage work possibly starting on site in April 2019 with a view to it being completed by Christmas that year.

There is a long way to go before we can be sure that that timetable might be met but it is exciting that so much is actually happening and with the help of the whole congregation and others involved with Blackhall St Columba's it is not unrealistic.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 8 May and Tuesday 28 June 2018

Building For The Future

Session was advised that the Architect and Structural and Service Engineers have commenced the more detailed surveys of Phase 1 required for the purpose of proceeding to the next stage of the design development process. A letter has been submitted to the CARTA Committee, 121 George Street seeking the requisite approval to the planned works.

The Congregational Treasurer advised that all pledge forms and donations will be formally acknowledged.

Bequest

Session noted with gratitude that the late Miss Catherine Fegan had bequeathed £5,000 to the Church.

Blackhall Bulletin

It was noted that some houses across the Parish had not received the Bulletin following the change in the method of distribution. The matter has been taken up with the distribution company.

Correspondence

It was noted that a letter had been received from Jack Burton on behalf of the 'Mid Week Lunchers' with a cheque in the sum of £350 towards the cost of a defibrillator (that will be situated in the Sanctuary in due course) and advising that a like sum had been donated to the Vine Trust.

In addition three letters of thanks were received from:

- North West Carers – in respect of a retiring collection of £646 at our Easter Services.
- My Name's Doddie Foundation – in respect of a recent retiring collection.
- Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection – in respect of our 2017 Christmas gift collection

Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that the Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership had agreed a grant sufficient to purchase one defibrillator. This will be located in the halls area so as to be available to the general public. Session agreed that in due course the second defibrillator would be located in the Sanctuary.

Finance

A report from Adrian Johnston, Congregational Treasurer, advised:-

- Following the transfer of £100,000 to the Building For The Future account the Congregational funds (taking into account the under valuation in the investments) now total just over £105,000 – this figure does not include the aforementioned £100,000.

- Income for the first three months was slightly behind that recorded for the same period in 2017. However it was acknowledged that it was not uncommon for Quarter 1 income to be out of kilter with the previous year and the position should regularise over the coming months.
- The cost of heating the church had shown a marked increase. The Fabric Convener pointed out that this was a result of the central heating system now functioning effectively and resulting in the Congregation now worshipping in a degree of comfort not accustomed to in recent winters.

An Elder instanced the case of two members in his District who faced the choice of supporting the day to day needs of the Church or financially supporting the BFTF project. Reluctantly they could not do both. The Minister responded that in such a situation, the running costs of the Church and buildings was the priority.

Harvest Food Donations

It was agreed that the donations again be divided between FreshStart and Edinburgh NE Foodbank.

Recommendation to nominate the Moderator of the General Assembly

A note had been received from the Office of the Principal Clerk inviting recommendations for the Moderator of the General Assembly 2019-2020. Any member of the Church of Scotland may recommend a candidate for the role but that person must be a minister, elder or deacon and they must give their consent to being recommended.

Roll

Session agreed to the admission:-

- By Certificate of Transference – Mrs Rosamund Davidson, Orchard Brae Avenue, Edinburgh
- By Resolution – Mr Donald Cameron and Mrs Elizabeth Cameron, Larkfield Gardens, Edinburgh

Sound

The Minister advised that the issues with the sound system had been both disappointing and unsatisfactory. Jonathan Coy and Iain King were both working hard to resolve the difficulties and were hopeful of fixing the problems so that the system can last until it is replaced as part of the Building For The Future Phase 1.

Watch Committee

Session agreed that proceeds from the Watch Committee's events in 2018 would go to Alzheimer Scotland based in The Prentice Centre, West Granton.

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

Musical Notes

Having been in post now for 3 months I am very much enjoying playing the organ and working with the choir as they contribute to the worship every Sunday. We have seen a fair variety of musical styles and the choir has handled them all very competently for which I am very grateful. I have played a few classical pieces as voluntaries and some old classic hymns and choruses during the offering. Feel free to join in if you know them since my preference is for great melodic lines whether well-known or not and the aim of the music must always be to serve the worship of God.

In the 9.30 family service on the first Sunday of the month, with a smaller congregation and the choir not present, it can be overpowering to use the organ, given its location so far from the “business end” of the church, and playing modern hymns or choruses that younger people might find attractive is more of a challenge even with an instrument as flexible as the one in Blackhall St Columba’s.

Since May we have been pulling together some instrumentalists and we now have a small band comprising: Piano, Accordion, Saxophone, Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Guitar, Bass Guitar and Cajon (Spanish for “box”! originally from South America which is effectively a little drum kit in a box and mercifully quiet compared with a full drum kit) and we have a couple of choir members prepared to lead the singing of new songs with this group.

On 10 June we had “Promotion Sunday” when the young people progress up through the youth departments and some of the band played for the whole service including singing a piece before the service instead of the usual voluntary. The picture /continued



Musical Notes continued

The picture shows the band although our flute and sax players were unavailable that day. No doubt “big” hymns still need the organ to do them justice, however, the positive response I have received encourages us to move ahead and develop this enthusiastic little group of musicians for occasional use.

I don’t want to limit new style to a band format of course since there are probably a number of people who regularly attend the church who can play a variety of orchestral instruments to an acceptable standard. If we can gather that resource then we can vary the styles of music we use with a number of subsets of the musicians.

We also need people who would be prepared to learn new songs and occasionally lead the singing from the front of the church so if you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument then I am sure we can use you in the ministry of music within the church and we can see what gifts God has given us to use in His service.

In the meantime thank you for your welcome to your church and Libby and I look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months.

Feel free to contact me on donaldcameron2010@gmail.com or 07957 573695

Donald Cameron
Director of Music. Blackhall St Columba



Thank you, John

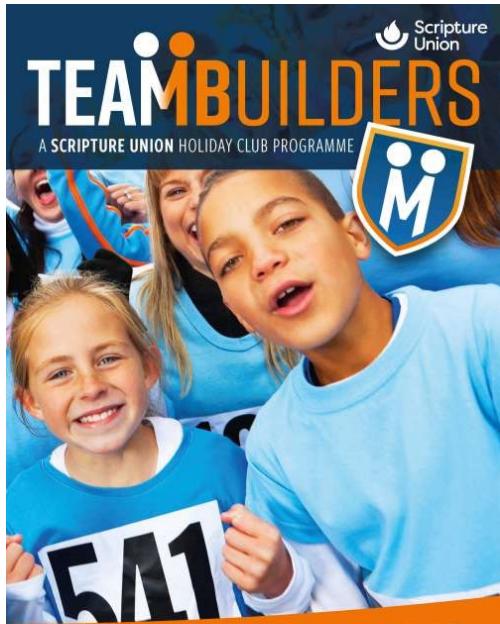
On a beautiful summer Sunday Church Choir members marked John Greenwood’s return from the choir after some 40 years of singing with an *al fresco* buffet lunch party and presentation.

It won’t be the last of John’s singing in church: he will just be doing so alongside wife, Isla, downstairs instead of in the Choir Gallery. John, we will miss your company and your singing upstairs but otherwise look forward to seeing you on Sundays as usual.

Venture Week TEAMBUILDERS Holiday Club

**Monday to Friday
30 July - 3 August
10 am - 12 noon**

**These are some of the
ways your help is
needed**



Volunteers Venture Week will take place from Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August with the Venture Week service on Sunday 5 August. We are appealing for volunteers to help with the running of this club and would ask you to add your name to the list on the notice board in the halls corridor or contact Fiona Morton f.m.morton@hotmail.co.uk or Ruth Laidlaw ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com Many thanks.

Sports equipment needed Our theme this year is based around sport so we are looking for pieces of sports equipment to decorate the halls etc. If you have anything you could lend us e.g. tennis racket, cricket bat, football etc (it doesn't need to be new, vintage would be good too!) we would be very grateful. Please hand them into the office where there will be a box to collect them. Please make sure you name them so that we can return them to you.

St Columba's bakers step forward, please If you would like to contribute to Venture Week and are interested in making something plain with NO NUTS, like a traybake, fruit loaf, gingerbread, fairy cakes or something along these lines, this is what is needed.

/ continued

Venture Week continued

As many of you know, there is a slot for snacks during the day in Venture Week. In the past we have provided plain biscuits to go with the juice we give the children, and this is an experiment. We are planning to cater for about 50 children, but the helpers will need a snack too.

We should love to have your help with snacks for the first three days (Monday 30 July, Tuesday 1 August and Wednesday 2 August) as the other two days are organised.



Please could you get in touch with me, Alison Hewat, and do this either by putting a note into the office or sending me an email to rajahewat1@btinternet.com, so that we can discuss what you suggest and decide which day is best for you and Venture Week. We don't want everything to come on the same day.

Children's drinking cups We are an Eco Congregation and so we try not to pollute our lovely world or waste resources. Over the years Venture Week has used disposable plastic cups for the children's drinks and we want to stop doing this. We have a few reusable plastic cups in the kitchen and we should like to start using this type of cup for Venture Week. If you have any spare reusable plastic cups and would like to give them a good home, please bring them to the church kitchen. They will be extremely useful to Venture Week and to other events where we cater for lots of children.



No thanks



Yes please

If you have any questions please get in touch with me,

Alison Hewat rajahewat1@btinternet.com

Holiday Club Application Form: The application form is printed on the back page of this magazine or can be downloaded from our church

website www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

This year the WaTch Committee, with the agreement of the Kirk Session, is supporting Alzheimer Scotland based at The Prentice Centre at Granton Mains Avenue, EH4. (Scottish Charity SC022315)

They provide a service for individuals who have a diagnosis of 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 some government and local authority funding but also relies on the support of other organisations to continue its work. All the funds we raise this year will go to the charity and it is likely that our donation will be used to provide training for volunteers.

The Committee starts the fundraising through the Summer Coin Collection. Empty money bags are available in the vestibule of the Church and the bags, duly filled, can be handed in at any service during the summer.

We will also hold the Craft Coffee Morning on Saturday 13 October. Our final event will be the popular Christmas Fair on Saturday 1 December at 2 pm – a planning meeting for all involved in the organisation of this event will be held on Monday 10 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 10 September at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall
- **Craft Coffee Morning** on Saturday 13 October from 10 am to 12 noon
- **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 1 December at 2 pm

The WaTch Committee very much appreciates the wonderful support given by the congregation and the local community over the last 26 years which has raised over £250,000 and we hope that you will continue to support us this year.

George Millar, WaTch Committee Convener

Umba - Hearing Dog for the Deaf



In May, Umba, the young cocker spaniel (then age 17 months), undergoing training as a Hearing Dog for the Deaf, supported financially by our congregation through Wa†ch Committee fundraising, came on a ‘catch-up’ visit so we could see how well she is doing.

Harvest Service Sunday 7 October

Foodbank Donations

The Kirk Session have agreed that, as in recent years, the congregation should be invited to bring donations of non-perishable foodstuffs to the Harvest Service to be shared between the FreshStart Foodbank and the Edinburgh North East Foodbank. Before shopping you might find it helpful to check their websites to see what, in particular, is needed.

This is **in addition to** the ongoing arrangement for donations of non-perishable foodstuffs to FreshStart which may be brought to church any Sunday and placed in the box in the vestibule of the church.

Housegroups

Monday Afternoon Housegroup

This Bible Fellowship Group continues to meet at Apartment 3, 2 Barnton Grove, when we are considering the Book of Revelation and what it means for today. The next meeting is on Monday, 16 July, at 2.30pm when we will be looking at Chapter 2, and thereafter on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm. There is room for one or two more to attend but please let Bob or Doreen Barker know on 339 6010 if you wish to come.

Monday Evening Housegroup

This group, meeting at the home of Mary Morrison, has now finished for the summer.

We begin again on Monday, 3 September, from 7.30 - 9pm. Anyone interested in discussing certain themes in the Bible is welcome to join. Among other topics we have looked at the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and have enjoyed each other's thoughts and company. We have all benefited.

Prayer Time

At this time of year there are special things to pray about. Scripture Union camps are underway at Altnacriche, Glenshee, King's Cross in Arran, Lendrick Muir and North Berwick. Most of these will run all through the school holidays with successive groups of young people arriving, being catered for, being entertained, having fun, learning about God's love in Jesus and being challenged to follow him.

PRAY for the catering staff, the speakers, the leaders that they may have stamina and grace in all relationships, that the Holy Spirit will work and lives be changed.

PRAY for locally based missions across the city including our own in Blackhall, for Marie and her team that they may be used by you to communicate God's love for everyone.

Mary Morrison

Midweek Services

We restart on Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 12 noon. Do spread the word and encourage others to come along. We hold the short service followed by lunch of homemade soup and homebaking every fortnight until Christmas and then from January until mid May. Everyone welcome – no age limit.



I will shortly be preparing the new rota for next session. I am hugely grateful to those brave souls who have agreed to join the rota. (Note I am not saying “volunteered”!). It is not as daunting as you might think. Prepare a pot of soup (guidelines given) do a traybake or similar and come along about 10.30 am on the day to help set up, serve lunch and clear up afterwards. Only 2 stints in the 8 months.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank those who have served on the rotas and who are retiring. Some people have been doing this since these lunches started so a well earned retirement is due. Why not come along and enjoy the lunch!

If anyone else on the current list is thinking of retiring please let me know as soon as possible so I can rejig lists. Also if you are reading this and think “I can help” please do get in touch with me or Anne Burton.

Enjoy the summer!

Elspeth Williamson, 336 2600 elspethwilliamson@gmail.com

Tuesday Topics

Tuesday Topics resumes for the next session on 25 September at 7.30 pm. The Committee are currently planning the new programme which is looking very promising.

A warm welcome is extended to all existing and any new members.

Any enquiries please contact:

Jacky Cowie, Secretary, Tel. 332 1066 or
Eleanor Lowrie, President, Tel. 332 4827



Church Picnic 24 June 2018

On a glorious June afternoon, around 35 of the congregation, friends and dogs met in Ravelston Park for a picnic. We enjoyed singing choruses, a rather competitive game of rounders in which all ages participated, our picnics and one another's company.

Our grateful thanks to Elizabeth Smith for bringing her keyboard so that we had live music, to Iain King for providing the sound system and to Blackhall Nursery for providing the power source.

Ruth Laidlaw



Celebration of Hope 15 - 17 June 2018 in Falkirk Stadium

I have been asked to report on the Celebration of Hope weekend. The meetings led by Will Graham, Billy's grandson, went ahead as planned. A small group from Blackhall, small enough to fit in Benjamin's car, went to Falkirk on Sunday evening and enjoyed being there.

I read afterwards that 2000 people attended that evening and 150 made a decision to follow Jesus. They will now be being encouraged in churches they have chosen to attend.

In our secular Scotland we must support and be thankful for any efforts to make known the Good News of Jesus.

Mary Morrison

Church Golf Outing Involvement 88 Cup

The Church golf outing, held on the afternoon of Friday 1 June 2018, was again played over Ravelston Golf Club with a good turnout of 18. The weather for a change was not good and we had to call a halt after everyone had played at least 9 holes. The afternoon started reasonably well but thunder and lightning rolled in and heavy rain gave everyone a real soaking.

The winners this year were:-

Involvement 88 Cup	1. Jenny Clark
Handicap Cup	1. Peter Jenkinson 2. Sandy Weir 3. David Pollock
Ladies Cup	1. Frances Douglas 2. Diane Ross 3. Pat Horn
Nearest Pin (9th)	1. Alan Francey

Once again a big thank you to Ravelston for the use of their Course and for the delicious meal which was enjoyed by all. Thank you also to Frances Douglas for sorting out the score cards and to Gil Anderson for looking after the Trophy engraving and liaising with Murrayfield House to whom we say thanks for their support and sponsorship of the Event.

Mike McKinnell



FAIRTRADE STALL



It has become clear over the last few months that we are not selling as much as we have done in the past. We do not advertise cheap foods and it is easier for a lot of people to buy their Fairtrade goods in the supermarket who can afford to charge less on some items. However, it is important to support the producers in 3rd world countries and that is what we aim to do by getting our stock from Traidcraft which is a charity set up exactly for that purpose. There is a monthly Bulletin from Traidcraft which is in the rack on the wall between the halls. This shows the good work done and the help given to struggling producers. Feel free to have a look.

We always have catalogues available to take away or just to browse through on the day a stall is held. There are many goods in that catalogue ranging from stationary to gifts to home items to food. We can only stock a limited selection but we will take orders anytime. Delivery is usually within a week of ordering.

PLEASE DO SUPPORT OUR STALL so we can keep it running. It is held in the summer between services on 8 July and 12 August. On 9 September we revert to the second Sunday of the month after the 11am service.

Elspeth Williamson elspethwilliamson@gmail.com

Youth Fellowship Reunion Sunday 16 September 2018

Blackhall once had a flourishing Youth Fellowship. It began in 1947-8 under the ministry of Rev J.G. Matheson. The tenth, twenty first and fortieth anniversaries were celebrated and some are still around to celebrate the seventieth! Plans are underway to have a church service on 16 September followed by lunch at the Holiday Inn in the “events suite” so that we can reminisce, look at photos etc without disturbing others! It is hoped also to have available by then a book of “Memories of Blackhall Youth Fellowship” to which former members from near and far are contributing.

Some original members are still around and if you know anyone who was ever in the Fellowship at any time and would like to come please make it known and ask them to contact me on houseohill7@outlook.com

Mary Morrison

The Lost Coin

Read Luke 15: 1-8



Can you find the lost coin?

Can you also see the lost sheep?

There is a mouse hiding in the picture too, can you find him?

What else can you see in the picture?

DEADLINES

Kirk News - 23 September 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 - 29 July 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



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

VENTURE WEEK
HOLIDAY CLUB
at Blackhall
St Columba's Church
Scottish Charity No. SC008756

Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August 2018

From 10:00 to 12 noon

For children of Primary 1 to 7 age

Cost: Donations welcome

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

To register for this Christian Holiday Club, complete the application form below and **return by 27 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 AUG 2018.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS (e.g. asthma)

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

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

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