



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK NEWS

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

NOVEMBER 2018

No. 809

1918

Lest we forget

Remembrance Service

Sunday
11 November 2018
at 10 50 am

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



2018

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

Defibrillator Training Notice

The Church now has its own defibrillator or “Heart Start” machine.

A Training Officer will come to the Church to deliver training on 3 separate dates, in the near future.

Training will be approx. 2 hours long and accommodate up to 20 people in each session.

There are 3 lists for names on the hall notice board, one for each session.

This training is open to all members of the congregation, hall users and interested members of the community and you are invited along to any session that suits you.

Elizabeth Watt
lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk

GIVE BL  D

Blackhall St Columba's Church Large Hall

Wednesday 14 November

2 - 4 pm and 17.30 - 19.40 pm

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Experiencing the Christ of Christmas

Christian preacher of a bygone era, F. W. Boreham, tells a charming story, told to him by his mother while they sat around the fireplace one evening. As a young woman of seventeen, she had set up an appointment to meet her cousin in Canterbury, near the Cathedral. She went as planned but her cousin was not there. Somewhat “dejected and disgusted” about this broken appointment, she was not in the happiest disposition.



A man with a very intellectual countenance but a gentle presence who had seen her walk up and down offered to show her around while she waited and explain some of the Cathedral’s features and its history. He had a wealth of information with incredible insights. As they parted, he gave her his card and without looking at it, she slipped it into her purse. In the end, it turned out that her cousin had become ill and hence, never showed.

On her way home in the train, she finally took out the card. It simply said, “*Charles Dickens*”. She gasped at the thought that she had been face to face with one of the greatest story tellers of all time and regretted her lost opportunity of knowing through whose eyes she was seeing the great Cathedral...one who was so in tune with the stones and personages that intersected where they had met. But preoccupation had pre-empted that inspiration.

Sadly, history has a habit of repeating itself and regrets of that nature have a long reach. The story of Christmas is a classic example of this. Just think, on that quiet night so long ago, lying in the manger was the answer to all of life’s successes, struggles, disappointments, and regrets. The hopes and fears of all the years had met in Him that night in a makeshift crib in the little town of Bethlehem. A carpenter, a humble maid, a band of shepherds, and ordinary people responded in awe at the blessing of his arrival. And yet, as always, there were those who were busy about their business and had no time to pause and ask, “**Who is He in yonder stall?**” What a loss! They missed a divine appointment. /continued over

Minister's food For Thought continued

Then there were those in power that felt threatened by Him and wished to silence Him permanently. Christian writer, Malcolm Muggeridge, said it well: ***“All new news is old news happening to new people.”*** Just as the Garden of Eden is lived out every day in somebody's life, the Christmas message is lived out every day in all of our lives. Today in our schools and even businesses and the corridors of political power, the message of Jesus is blatantly silenced or mocked. This is not new.

Today, we have the unique privilege of being able to look back and read the whole story. There was a Cross that loomed in a fearful symmetry with the manger. Emmanuel, God was with us. Born to be lifted up, **“to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.”** Bethlehem foretold the magnitude of the need and the supremacy of God's answer.

Our world is broken. Many a family will have a vacant chair this Christmas because a life has been snatched from their circle. Humankind is wounded, and hollow speeches bereft of wisdom are the landmarks along the way. We look into the future a little bit like the virgin Mary, knowing we have the Saviour but not knowing what swords will pierce through our hearts. Hopes and fears intersect as we journey.

But let us draw strength this Christmas. We are pilgrims, journeying through life. The story of Bethlehem is the most beautiful and the greatest story ever told, the story of God's visitation. Imagine the shepherds who tried to raise perfect lambs looking at the Lamb of God. Imagine the kings who studied the stars coming to the One who made them and was the King of kings. Imagine Simeon, who had waited all his life for the Messiah, holding in his arms He who would soon be carrying Simeon in His own. Imagine Mary, fearing the sword that would pierce through her heart, finding out that the child in her arms was the redeemer of every heart that came to Him, the great I AM. Imagine Joseph the carpenter, who “saved” him from Herod's slaughter, finding the very designer of the universe saving him from his sin.

Missing Dickens and being fearful are legitimate regrets or fears in a world of unknowns. But finding the Saviour and having Him explain all and take you to your destination is what Christmas is all about: hope within and hope for the future. He is the One and only Prince of Peace. Do you know Him?

Let me wish a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year to you and yours.

Benjamin (Minister)



Church Diary

November

4	9.30 am	Early Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Celebration of Elders' Service
11	10.50 am	Remembrance Sunday
14	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
18	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
25	11.00 am	Morning Worship followed by Short Communion
27	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House
28	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch

December

2	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Edinburgh University Brass Band, 1st Sunday in Advent
9	11.00 am	Nativity/Gift Family Service
12	12 noon	Mid Week Service followed by light lunch
16	11.00 am	Service of 9 lessons and Carols with the Church Choir
18	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House
23	11.00 am	Morning Worship 4th Sunday in Advent
24	7.00 pm	Christmas Eve All-age Family Service
	11.00 pm	Carols with the Choir
	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
25	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Family Service
30	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Short Communion

Sing Aloud, our Praise Group, meets regularly once a fortnight on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings in the Small Hall. We have recently enjoyed singing to the Cameo Club and look forward to future participation within the church.



New folk are always welcome so please come along and join in with the singing or playing an instrument.

Marge Whiteside

Family

Deaths

October

14 Mrs Norma Murray



Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Our meetings are held monthly (September - December, February - June) at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall from 2 - 4 pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

Friday 9 November - Janet James from Solihull, will give a demonstration entitled 'I did it my way'.

Friday, 14 December - David Ryland from Cumbria, a national demonstrator, will treat us with a festive demonstration entitled 'A little bit of Christmas'.

Come along and enjoy beautiful flowers being arranged. Visitors are most welcome (£7).

Christine Morrison

Flowers

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

November

4 Scouts

11 In memory of Bunty Roberts

18 Mrs C McGowan Smith

25 Mrs Jess Park

Mrs Elaine Barelay and Mrs Fiona Drinnan will deliver the flowers.

Violet Troup,
Flower Convener

Christmas Carols at Sainsbury's

Sunday 16 December
at 2 pm

Come and join the
Christmas carol singing
at Sainsbury's



Proceeds to
Alzheimer Scotland
Scottish Reg Charity SC022315

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL



Reminder: Filled shoeboxes must be handed into the church on or before Sunday 11 November.

Flatpack shoeboxes, together with leaflets and packing lists, are available in the large hall after the service until Sunday 4 November and in the Church Office at other times.

Please put new items only in the box. Do not sellotape the box closed as all boxes are checked at a checking centre: just put a rubber band round the box to keep everything secure. Boxes cost about £5 to send and if you would like to donate this also, please put the money in an envelope on top of the contents in the box.

We really appreciate your support again this year.

If you need any more information please see Adrian Johnston.

Communion

Looking after communion arrangements is one of those behind the scenes responsibilities essential to church life. Andrew Walls has been responsible for the smooth running of communion services here in Blackhall St Columba's for the last five years but has now stood down. For your years of commitment and attention to detail, well done and thank you, Andrew.

Taking over from Andrew as Communion Convener is Jim Laing. Jim, we wish you well.



Music@St.Columba's

Supporting Building for the Future (B4+F)

As part of the programme of events to both raise funds for the refurbishment works and to make contact with the community through the use of the music gifts in the church we have planned a series of Saturday evening concerts under the broad banner “Music@St.Columba's”. The musical styles will vary greatly from month to month and we are confident everyone will find something to suit their musical tastes.

The first event was on 27 October and featured the Foot Stomping Gospel Band. This was a high energy black gospel type show with a fabulous band and a set of singers all of whom could be professional if they so chose. However they are all Christians with other jobs and they do this in their spare time. They do not often play in individual churches since their appeal is large enough for them to be regulars at the Usher Hall and Glasgow Concert Hall but they came to Blackhall St Columba's to support our efforts to become a church more relevant to the local community. If you missed it make sure you come to the next event.

On 17 November, our own Philippa Wood is going to sing songs from The American Songbook. That is songs written in the early part of the 1900s by the likes of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, all of whom were both great composers of memorable tunes and great wordsmiths capturing the angst of young love lives and the burden of being black in America. Songs like “Smoke gets in your eyes”, “Summertime”, “East of the Sun”, “Send in the Clowns” will be on the programme. She will be backed by Donald Cameron, our Director of Music, on keyboard, Grant Somerville on guitar and Robin Crouch on bass. There will be some classical material thrown into the mix to show off Philippa's beautiful soprano voice as well as some piano solos like the theme from “Love Story”, something from Winifred Atwell and some material which we hope will be new to you. However, it will be melodic, gentle and wonderful to listen to if you want to be taken back a few decades to when tunes were tunes and singers were crooners.

In the New Year we plan an evening of piano and organ music. This will mix classical and modern popular styles on both instruments played by guest organists and pianists as well as our own members. It will be an opportunity to hear the organ show off its capabilities as a theatre organ or a classical instrument which handles Bach very acceptably.

Later in the year we have a professional violinist and oboe/cor anglais player coming to treat us to music from a wide variety of musical genres. The violinist / continued

Music@StColumba's continued

The violinist has played with the RSNO and the oboe player is Director of Music in an Edinburgh school so that will be a very special evening and not one you will ever see anywhere except at St Columba's since they are coming in support of our work and not to further their musical careers.

There are other plans in the pipeline but that is sufficient to whet your appetite. Even if you are not attracted by a particular evening yourself do think about publicising the evenings and even buying tickets for friends and relatives. I can guarantee every evening will be of the highest quality and at £10 a head they will represent excellent value for money as well as making a significant contribution to the funds available for the refurbishment.

Donald Cameron LLCM, Director of Music and Organist



Music@StColumba's

Philippa Wood

Sings "The American Songbook" (and some surprises)

Sat 17th
Nov
7.30
Tickets
£10/£5

Smoke gets in your eyes
Bewitched, Bothered
Summertime
East of the Sun
Send in the Clowns

St Columba's Church,
Columba Rd EH4

To book tickets: PHONE 0131 332 4431
www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



Since the last edition of Kirk News went to press we have received the splendid news that our initial target of £1.1m for phase 1 of our plans has been reached. This is a great achievement by the congregation and thanks are due to everyone who has helped raise this total in any way. It

has been clear for some time that our optimism has been justified but now we really can plan ahead with even greater confidence. The process of obtaining all the necessary permissions is well under way and the plans have now been submitted for listed building consent as well as for Church of Scotland approval. We are therefore well on target to start the actual work in the sanctuary by the end of May as planned.

At the same time we are working hard on all the associated preparation which has to be done. Designs are being drawn up for the interior of the Sanctuary in terms of wood finishings, soft furnishings, chairs and so on and proposals will be considered by the steering group and will then go to the Kirk Session for approval in January. We are also in the process of selecting specialist suppliers for the audio/visual installation. The logistics group is currently continuing to work on the process of clearing the storage space under the church with the help of the various organisations which use it and, again, their co-operation is greatly appreciated. They have also begun to look at what we will need to do to enable us to use the large hall for worship when the time comes.

The fund raising group also continues to work hard. Although we have raised the money necessary for phase 1 some of this is in the form of pledges which will be met over the course of five years so it will be very much to our advantage to continue to raise the total actually collected at this stage. In addition, it was always envisaged that we would go ahead with phase 2 of the plans as soon as possible after phase 1 and, of course, this means raising the money necessary to do so. Phase 2 concentrates on the halls and associated areas and, as is well known, these are badly in need of attention and upgrading so we are very much hoping for further generous support as we look ahead to this part of the project.

As part of the fund raising effort there will be a Christmas Tree Festival in the Sanctuary from 6 to 9 December. There will be 38 trees decorated by the various organisations which use the church so it will indeed be spectacular. /

Building for the Future continued

A series of concerts has also been planned which began with the Foot Stomping Gospel Band on Saturday 27 October. There are other concerts already arranged and details for these are in the article written by Donald Cameron, the church organist, which is also contained in this edition of the Kirk News.

To sum up, this is a very complicated and challenging task but the tremendous response from the congregation has given heart and energy to the steering group and the prospects ahead are very exciting. Once again, many thanks.

Blackhall St Columba's Church Christmas Tree Festival 6 to 9 December

Thursday 6 December	6 pm to 8.30 pm
Friday 7 December	11am to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8.30 pm
Saturday 8 December	11am to 4 pm



Tickets £5 for adults & £1 for children

Refreshments will be served

TOGETHER WE PRAY

3 November 2018 was designated National Day of Prayer to be celebrated throughout the Church of Scotland.

This prayer is taken from the resources provided for that day

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Dear God

We pray for our congregation.

May worship be truthful, passionate
and honouring to you.

Whether in ancient hymns or new songs,
may we unite in praise and offer our whole lives
as worship to you.

In our life together may we encourage where there is struggle,
celebrate where there is joy,
grow together in our understanding of the Good News,
be unafraid to challenge,
honest enough to confess our mistakes
and may we remain hopeful as we dream dreams.

In our mission make us bold and adventurous.
In our weakness may we know your strength.
May we have the great joy
of seeing others come to faith in you.

May we be resilient
in our pursuit of justice
and have the humility to share
in the work with others.

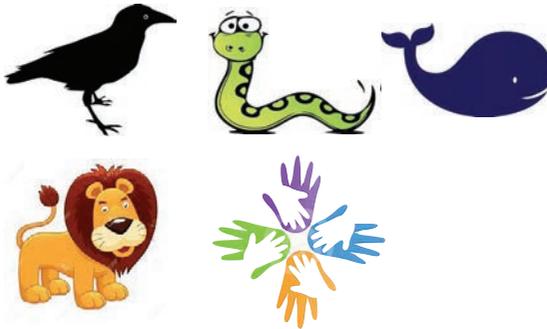
May our congregation be a place
where the gifts of many are united in common purpose,
where all are allowed to flourish and be valued,
where together
we are built into a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit,
as together we grow in love.

AMEN

Sunday Club

The children have been busy this term with crafts and stories based on bible study (see if you can guess what they've been learning about from the pictures below...).

They really enjoyed their harvest play, 'The Harvest that God Made' with enthusiastic participation from all those involved, and are looking forward to more fun with the bible next term. Please get in touch if you would like any more information on Sunday Club and what the children have been up to.



Lorna Rogers
Sunday Club Co-ordinator
lornajrogers@hotmail.com

Crèche

We are still looking for volunteers to join the rota so if anyone thinks they can help, please contact Ruth Laidlaw. ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 9 October 2018

Local Church Review

Local Church Review (LCR) was enacted by the General Assembly in 2011 and replaced the Superintendence Quinquennial Visitation programme as the Presbytery's process for Congregational Review. The Presbytery has the responsibility for conducting a review of every congregation in its bounds, normally every 5 years.

The object of the LCR is for the Presbytery:

- to give counsel and encouragement to the congregation;
- to facilitate the congregation in setting out their priorities and plans for at least the next 5 years;
- to give advice or take supportive or remedial action where anything unsatisfactory is found in the state of the congregation or not in accord with church law and order.

At the start of the evening the LCR team met with the Session without the Moderator being present and discussed the plans for the ensuing period. In accordance with normal process the Moderator had met earlier with the LCR team.

An interesting and full question and answer session took place covering various matters raised by the LCR team to which fully satisfactory answers were provided by Elders.

It was pleasing to hear the LCR team expound the view that Blackhall St Columba's is an encouraging church to visit.

The LCR report will go before Presbytery in December and this will be made available to the Congregation thereafter.

Defibrillator

It was noted the defibrillator had been received and this will be located in an appropriate place in the corridor between the halls. Betty Watt will organise training on its use. (See page 2)

Sound System

Session agreed to a proposal to purchase new microphones and stands to enhance the sound equipment within the church. These items would be able to be used after the Building Alterations but are required now. The cost of £996.60 including VAT was approved. / continued

Retiring Offerings

Session agreed that the retiring offerings will be as follows:-

October Communion	Indonesian Earthquake/Tsunami Appeal
Remembrance Sunday	Poppy Scotland
Christmas Services	Fresh Start, Scottish Bible Society & Bethany Christian Trust will all share the Donations equally.
February Communion	Crossreach Bluebell Pre or Postnatal Depression Service
Easter	Mary's Meals
June Communion	To be considered at next Session meeting

Welcome Team Leader

Jack Burton is stepping down from this role and a successor is needed. The Moderator thanked Jack on behalf of the Session for his sterling work over the years.

Welcome Team Training

The Moderator advised that Rob Rawson from 121 George Street will be providing training on a Saturday morning in January 2019. The session is intended to last no longer than three hours.

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Mrs Norma Murray

On Sunday 14 October we were all saddened and shocked to learn of the death that morning of Norma Murray. Norma was a good friend to many of us and a faithful and hard working member of this Congregation. In fact she was to be one of eight Elders due to receive a long service award on Sunday 4 November.

On my first visit to Blackhall St Columba's Norma recognised me as a visitor and made sure that I was made welcome – all the more when she gleaned that I was, like herself, a native of Wigtownshire.

Norma was a fine lady and will be sorely missed

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

Look back with thanks, Look forward with joy

The theme of this year's harvest service.

Following the pattern of recent years children and adults were invited to bring gifts of food for onward donation to the FreshStart and Edinburgh NE Foodbanks and in the days after Harvest Sunday several carloads were duly delivered and received with thanks.

Led by Amy Donaldson, St Columba's Junior Singers gave a joyous rendition of 'It's Harvest Time' and the Sunday Club led by Lorna Rogers gave a lively presentation of 'The Harvest that God Made', linking, step-by-step, the tiny seed to the bread on our plates.

Sally Davidson from Alzheimer Scotland, the Watch Committee's chosen charity for the year, spoke to the congregation of dealing with dementia and the work of the charity.

Another presentation announced the launch of this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal, with the challenge to beat again the previous year's number of boxes.

Music, as always an integral part of the service, was provided by the Praise Band and singers and, more traditionally, by the Organ and Church Choir.

An uplifting service was topped off by a harvest lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese and shared friendship.

Harvest Sunday is always a joyful day when we give thanks once again for God's glorious creation, His bountiful harvest, and His gifts of all kinds. How much more joyful when the gifts He has given are shared with others in so many different ways.



Look back with thanks, Look forward with joy.



Harvest
Sunday photos
provided by
our new
church
photographer
Donald
Stirling



Craft Coffee Morning

The WaTch Committee and friends would like to thank everyone who supported the Craft Coffee Morning on a very wet 13 October and made it such a success. As a result of the generosity of everyone who attended, donated goods, demonstrated their craft, provided baking or helped in any other way, £943.05 was raised for Alzheimer Scotland.

Quiz Sheets

Quiz Sheets based on **sweets past and present** are available from WaTch Committee members at Coffee time after Church or from the Church Office at £1 per sheet. A £15 voucher will be awarded to the person with the first correct entry drawn at the Christmas Fair on 1 December 2018.

George Millar
WaTch Committee Convener

Christmas Fair - Saturday 1 December

The following stalls are seeking donations please:

Books Bottles Bric-a-Brac

Fashion Accessories - *new or nearly new*

Hampers Light and Bright - *new items only*

Tombola Toys and Games

We will also be grateful for homemade Craft, Baking and Sweets

More Christmas Fair information on pages 24 & 25



WA†CH Committee

Christmas Fair

**On Saturday 1st
December at 2 p.m.**

In the Church Halls

Entrance 50p per Adult

Proceeds to Alzheimer Scotland -
the Prentice Centre in Granton



FAIRTRADE STALL

Please come and support us at the next 2 stalls on 11 November and 9 December. Traidcraft (our supplier) is going through a period of restructuring in order to continue supplying goods to Fairtrade Traders like us. The more orders we give them the better for trade which supports the producers and artisans in 3rd world countries.

ADVENT CALENDARS:

Real Advent Calendar with story book and chocolate £3.99.

Nativity Advent Calendar (no chocolate) has puzzles & jokes on the back £2.99.

Divine Milk Chocolate Advent Calendar with chocolate £3.99.

We will have some on the stall on 11 November but an order placed in November will be delivered in time for the beginning of December.

Our Christmas brochure has lots of wonderful gifts plus a larger range of food than we can stock. Take one to browse and give us an order anytime. Deliveries are within a few days.

Elspeth Williamson
elspethwilliamson@gmail.com



FreshStart

A much appreciated Blackhall St Columba's harvest delivery to FreshStart for use in their food starter packs.

Fellowship Afternoon Group

At our October meeting it was, once again, good to see Grant Douglas MBE. We all enjoyed a presentation about his Investiture this year which included film of him receiving his award from HRH Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace. We heard that his “Sup Spoon” invention is now being sold in over ten countries abroad to help those with eating difficulties. Although the next development, to provide a smaller version for children, is still being tested, Grant hopes it will be possible to produce.

As a Group we are now preparing for the Christmas Tree Festival which will run from Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 December.

We meet next on Tuesday 13 November at 2.15pm in the Small Hall. We will hear from Bob Barker about the Diamond Wedding Cruise he and Doreen took from Singapore to RSA. There will be slides of the twelve ports where they docked.

All who are interested will be welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available.

F.D.

Tuesday Topics

Our session opened on 25 September with a most interesting talk by Dr Louise Williams, an archivist from the NHS, regarding the history of health in Edinburgh. We had an excellent attendance of 43, including several newcomers.

On 9 October Christine Murdie showed us superb photographs of wildlife taken in and around our city. Tubes of Smarties were given out at this meeting for members to fill with coins (after eating the contents!) for our charity “Scotland’s Children’s Air Ambulance”.

We are now looking forward to talks on Genetics, the Air Ambulance and the Scottish Parliament as well as our Party night with music from Quern.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

Any enquiries please contact Jacky Cowie, Secretary 332 1066 or Eleanor Lowrie, President, 332 4827.

Burns Supper

Holiday Inn, Edinburgh City West

Saturday 26 January 2019



Here we go again !!!!

Yes, happy as can be! We are delighted to announce the date of our next Burns Supper following the extremely well received 2018 production. We are equally delighted to present for your discernment and delectation but never discombobulation an absolutely stunning cast that has been assembled with every expense spared. They include in no particular order:-

Mr Eddie Thorn - Immortal Memory.
Mr David Stirling - Toast to the Lassies.
Miss Amy Foster - Reply for the Lassies.
Mrs Muriel Stenhouse - Address to the Haggis
Mrs Jenny Logan - Songs we will love.

There is more talent on display but we want to keep you on tenterhooks and anyway you already can see this is not a show to be missed. So do not waste time now but order your tickets as soon as you can since they are limited - & we've booked the hall with microphone this time and have these financial commitments to honour!

Venue is the Holiday Inn Hotel, City West (Craigleith), with Reception from 6 pm, seated by 7 pm. carriages at 11 pm (you can leave earlier if you have to catch a bus). Cost of your two course meal with tea/coffee and entertainment is £35 (compared to £30 in 2011) and the surplus we hope to make will go to the Building for the Future Appeal.

Further details & tickets are available from members of the Stewardship Team below, who will take credit for it all if it goes well, or the Church Office to any of whom you should submit your order or raise any queries you have.

So let's be hearing from you Lassies & Laddies.

Your Stewardship Team:

Maha Campbell, Anne Hamilton, Donald Mackie, Eric Turnbull & Sandy Weir

Where have all the talents gone? Long time passing

(with acknowledgement to Peter, Paul & Mary. You know who I mean.)

About 10 months year ago Stewardship Committee thought it would be a good idea to keep aside some money (£500) from the last Burns Supper to “lend” to individuals and groups who applied. They would use this to acquire materials or whatever was needed to invest in to produce some goods or services that would be sold to make extra funds for any approved good cause including Church organisations and other charities. The loan would be repaid if all went well and the surplus donated or used for the purpose intended.

Inspired by the parable of the talents of course it was also meant to be fun to see who would come up with ideas, both traditional and novel, and see how successful “loan” applicants would be. Trouble has been – no applicants and no inspiration it seems.

The Fund will be credited to the Building for the Future Appeal if no interest is shown before the end of March 2019 but meantime it’s left with you to see if you can come up with ideas that could include, but certainly not limited to, knitting, sewing, baking, jam making, handicrafts, artworks, gardening, car washing, Fair Stalls etc. You name it.

Of course it is appreciated that goods that have been donated by kirk members have been made from raw materials they have willingly bought themselves. The Fund, though, is not intended only for those who cannot produce these things but to be able to record and demonstrate how time and talent can both combine to produce money for good purposes. And importantly so inspire others as well.

Anybody interested please contact any member of the Stewardship Team directly or via the Church Office.

Sandy Weir,
Stewardship Team Leader
0131 336 2483, weirsmachine@blueyonder.co.uk

**List of Stallholders for Christmas Fair
Saturday 1 December 2018**

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

All donations for the above stalls will be gratefully received in the Church from 10 am to 12 noon, 2 pm to 4 pm, and 7 pm to 9 pm on Thursday 29 November and Friday 30 November.

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

All proceeds will be donated to
Alzheimer Scotland, Scottish Reg Charity SC022315



Tombola Stall



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

We will be very grateful to have any unwanted **new** items for the stall. Please look at home and ask your family and friends for any donations, such as, gifts or purchases that were a mistake!

PLUS

We will appreciate your ideas for vouchers please suggest a business that you use, or know of, that might donate a voucher or a prize.

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

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

Please make suggestions to the Tombola team by contacting

Rosi Watt 332 4027 rosijwatt@outlook.com

Jacquie Lowe 315 3375 or Jess Park 332 3863

Christmas Hampers

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

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

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



Thank you

Your help will be greatly appreciated in raising money for Alzheimer Scotland
Scottish Registered Charity SC022315



blackhall playgroup

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - Blackhall Playgroup have been chosen for the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme (small round token) and with your vote we will secure funds to help us purchase new resources to support learning through play.

You can vote for playgroup at the following Tesco stores:

Tesco Metro @ Davidson's Mains

Tesco Express @ Queensferry Road

Tesco Superstore @ South Queensferry

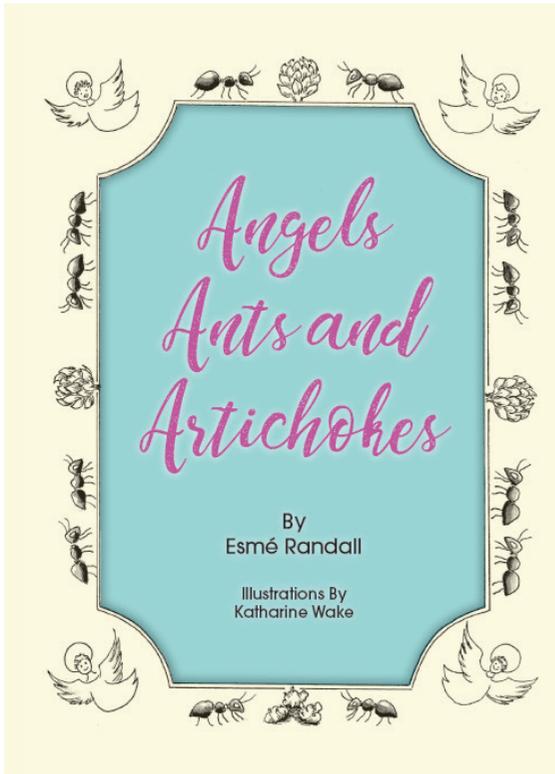


To vote you will need to make a purchase of any value within the above stores between 1 November to 31 December. Every time you shop ask your cashier for a token and vote for Blackhall Playgroup's 'Let's Play' project at the voting boxes. Playgroup children, parents and staff thank you for your support.

Blackhall Playgroup is a small friendly playgroup offering early learning and childcare in a play based setting for children from their second birthday. Based in St Columba's Church upper hall we meet Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 11 30am during school term time.

Our early years qualified staff support children's curiosity, social skills, wellbeing and learning through play in a caring and fun environment.

Blackhall Playgroup, St Columba's Church, Columba Road, EH4 3QU
07999 514809 blackhallplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC011212



This engaging book of poems captures vivid pictures of nature, people and spiritual things which are both charming and thought provoking. Together with the accompanying drawings by Katharine Wake they will appeal to many people of all ages.

This book is being sold to aid with the cost of extensive structural work required at the **Church of the Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh**. By purchasing a copy, price £6.00, you will help to save this lovely Episcopal church.

Copies are available from Blackhall St Columba's Church Office

DEADLINES

Kirk News - Tuesday 4 December

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

Please note early deadline

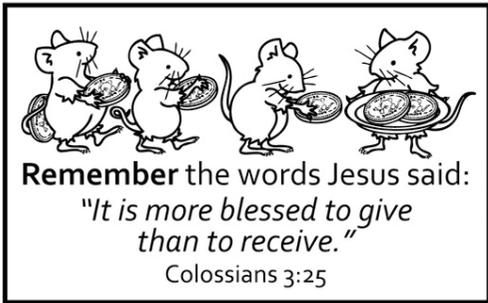
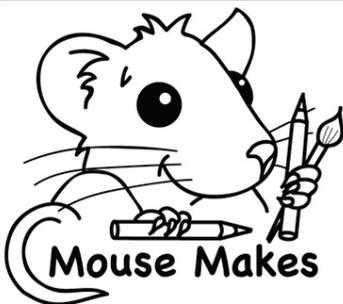
Blackhall Bulletin - December issue deadline was 28 October.

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

Enquiries about advertisements should
be sent to Kay Rich:

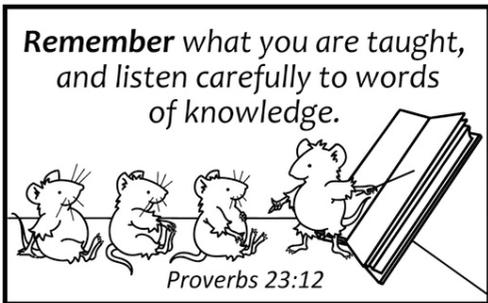
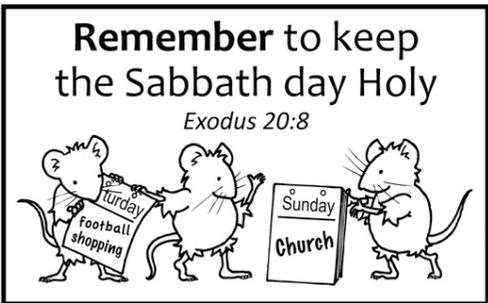
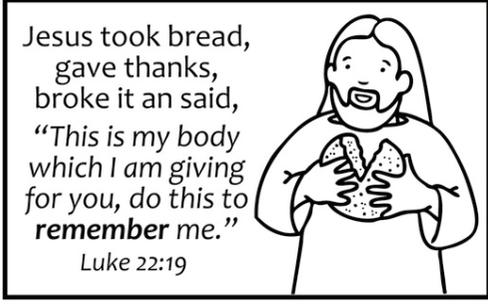
8 Queen's Ave South

Tel: 332 8502



Remember
all the
commandments
of the Lord
and obey them

Colossians 3:25



Cut out, colour and keep these cards to help you to remember God's words to us.