



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2019

No. 811



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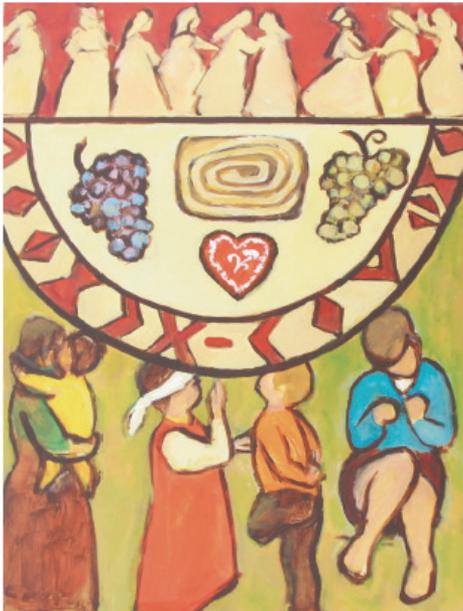
World Day of Prayer 2019

Come - Everything is ready!



The World Day Of Prayer is a prayer movement celebrated around the world on the first Friday of March each year.

The World Day of Prayer service this year is written by the Christian women of Slovenia on the theme, 'Come - Everything is ready!'



Artwork, by Slovenian artist Rezka Arnus

Our local service this year is hosted by the congregation of -

Holy Cross Church

36 Quality Street

Davidsons Mains

Friday 1 March 2019

at 2.30pm

Followed by refreshments

Do come and join us you will be warmly welcomed.

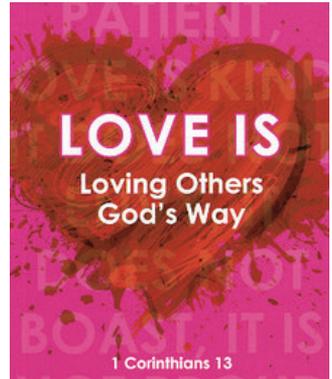
Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

MINISTER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sharing God's Love

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”
(1 John 4:7)*

Ahhh, February 14th... it's Valentine's Day once again and the red roses are pouring out the doors of the florists, the Hallmark cards are flying off the shelves, heart shaped boxes of chocolates are purchased, and restaurants are booked weeks in advance so that people can find ways to express their love on this one day of the year.



Undoubtedly, February is a month in which a lot of attention is given to the subject of love. The sad reality however is that many people have a narrow view of what 'real love' looks like or how it's supposed to act. With today's world view a lot of people are operating on the assumption that love is either sexual or some mysterious thing that just happens and over which you have no control.

So, what is real love? Well, let's first of all say that, love is not lust or an emotion, or merely a sentimental state of mind. There is romantic love, and there is love of family and friends. But the Bible tells us there is a higher kind of love which is not based on feelings, but rather on a commitment of our will. That is, 'real love' is a choice.

In 1 Corinthians 13 we read, **“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”** In other words, this love is patient and kind. It's not envious or arrogant or rude. It's not selfish or easily angered. It doesn't keep a record of how others have wronged us. It puts up with a lot and endures with hope. It doesn't run away when the going gets difficult. Real love never stops loving.

Furthermore, the Bible goes on to say in 1 John 4:7-8 that love comes from God because **God IS love – real love.** No mystery here. Love is clearly defined by the Bible and rooted in Him. He shows us this love through the life and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ for us. / continued

Minister's Food for Thought continued

So, how can we truly reflect 'real love'? One way at least. It was Jesus himself who said, **“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** (John 13:35) By understanding the nature of love and then choosing to operate in it we declare ourselves as followers of Christ. It isn't the t-shirt we wear or the little fish on our cars. Jesus desired that we present to the world a picture of love. 'Friend or Foe' they'll know us by our love. Will you love others, as you love yourself? And will you do it for Him?

Let me say in conclusion that, even if you don't have a sweetheart this Valentine's Day, perhaps you can think of someone who could benefit from an expression of love from you. Just think, there may be someone in your life who won't be hugged or told someone loves him or her if you don't take the initiative.

Lastly, but most importantly, tell the Saviour of your soul, the Maker of your hearts and the Creator of love itself that you love Him. After all, He loves you!!



With blessings to you and yours,

Benjamin (Minister)

Palm Sunday, 14 April 2019
3pm service

Following positive feedback after the service last year, there will be a half hour service on Palm Sunday (14th April) at 3pm for those who for medical or other reasons find they cannot attend the traditional 11am service. If you would like to attend, please let your elder know when they visit in February.

Early Rise Easter Service
Sunday 21 April 2019 at 8 am
in Ravelston Park

With the thought that more people might be drawn to the Early Rise Easter Service if the venue was more readily accessible, it has been decided that it should take place not at the Tower on Corstorphine Hill but in Ravelston Park. Still at 8 am. We hope to see you there.

Bacon rolls as usual at Blackhall St Columba's.

Church Diary

February

| | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 3 | 9.30 am | Early Family Service |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| 6 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 10 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| 17 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| 20 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 24 | 9.30 am | Sacrament of Communion |
| | 11.00 am | Sacrament of Communion |
| 26 | 4.00 pm | Strachan House Service |

March

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 3 | 11.00 am | Youth Sunday All Age Service |
| 6 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 10 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| 17 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship followed by Stated Annual Meeting |
| 20 | 12 noon | Mid Week Service followed by light lunch |
| 24 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship |
| 26 | 4.00 pm | Strachan House Service |
| 31 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship followed by Short Communion |

BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, 17 MARCH 2019

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Church following the 11 am service on the morning of Sunday, 17 March 2019, and all members of the congregation are invited to stay after the service to attend the meeting.

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

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

Family



Baptism

January

27 Hamish Robinson, son of Sonya and Stuart Callion

Death

December

24 Mrs Irene Reid

Flowers

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

- 3 The Brockie Family
- 10 Mrs Jean Cooper
- 17 In memory of Mrs Mary Gillie
- 24 Mrs Pascal

Mr and Mrs Sandy Weir will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup,
Flower Convener

Communion Washing Up Rota

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the washing of communion glasses and trays in 2018. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The rota for 2019 will be sent out shortly.

June Logan

Edinburgh Floral Art Club

The Club meets once a month at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall from 2 pm till 4 pm. Come along and have an enjoyable afternoon watching beautiful flowers being arranged.

Friday, 8 March

We welcome Kate Russell from the Wirral. The title of her demonstration is "Out of the Attic".

Visitors welcome £7. Annual subscription £40.

Christine Morrison



All members of the congregation will soon be receiving a leaflet, similar to that which went out over a year ago, which explains that the Kirk Session have approved the final plans drawn up by the architect and that we are now at the stage of inviting tenders from possible contractors. This leaflet is based very much on the presentation which our project manager, Fay Stirling, made to the Session. It goes into greater detail than would be possible in Kirk News and includes detailed architect's drawings and plans, each with accompanying explanations. The aim is to distribute the leaflet before the February Communion and the hope is that it will help to answer any questions people might have.

The steering group and the fund raising group in particular, are most grateful to everyone who supported recent events, including the concerts and the Christmas Tree Festival.

Concert

Saturday 23 February at 7 30pm Tickets £7

Blackhall St Columba's Church

The next concert in the 'Music@St.Columba's' series will be held on Saturday, 23 February, in the Sanctuary.

Gavin Pettinger is an oboe and cor anglais player of national renown and is a senior member of the music teaching staff at Fettes College.

Lena Dykes is a violinist who has played with the RSN and other orchestras. She also teaches at Fettes College.

They will play a variety of classical and modern pieces accompanied on the Petrof piano including:

Vivaldi concerto, Queen of Sheba, Farewell to Stromness, The Dark Island and All in the April Evening.

As usual, there will be a few surprises in the programme. We encourage everyone to attend what will be a thrilling concert by two professional musicians.

226 Years of Eldership ...



On Sunday 4 November 2018 five Elders were presented with Long Service Certificates. (L to R) Alison Hewat (32 yrs), Muriel Morton (35 yrs), Jean Wishart (38 yrs), Elma Scott (42 yrs) and Christine Morrison (47 yrs).

On Sunday 20 January 2019 (L to R) Fay Stirling was ordained to the Eldership, Phyllis King was presented with a Long Service Certificate for 32 years service and Dianne Fulton admitted to the Eldership at Blackhall St Columba's.



... and 82 more years of Eldership

Although, sadly, not able to be present in church when the other certificates were presented, Jack Burton and Margaret McArthur have also been given Long Service Certificates, Jack for 50 years of service and Margaret for 32 years.



Altogether these 8 certificates are recognition for 308 years of extremely committed service to the Church. Represented in the group are Session Clerks, Congregational Board Chairpersons, Presbytery Elders, Magazine Editors and more. Amongst them are those who have helped launch and run Fresh Start, organised car rotas, nurtured our relationship with Pirie Mission, led the Prayer Chain, led services, contributed musically - both singing and instrumentally - helped with Midweek service/lunches, helped with the Cameo Club, served on coffee rotas and otherwise generally contributed to the multitude of tasks for all the various aspects of Blackhall St Columba's Church life. What would this Church have done without them? Well done and thank you so very, very much.



FreshStart

For those who might be thinking of spring cleaning remember that Fresh Start is always grateful to receive items on their Starter Pack list. There is a copy of this list on the hall corridor notice board. Someone is on duty in the church halls on a Friday morning between 10 and 12 to receive any donations.

The following came in from Fresh Start in January



Are you having a clear out? Did you get some lovely, shiny new appliances for Christmas and not sure what to do with your old ones? Well, Fresh Start can help. We can get your old appliances to a new home where they'll be really appreciated.

Our electrical shelves are looking particularly bare at the moment so if you are able to donate any small electrical items e.g. toasters, kettles, irons, lamps then please bring them down to our warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, EH4 4BR. They don't have to be brand new, just clean and in good condition. We will then get these items PAT tested and out to people who need them to set up their new home. Thank You!

Fiona Cooke

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Building For The Future

Fay Stirling, Project Manager, presented a report outlining the Steering Group's proposals and Session agreed:-

- To proceed in line with the project plan to deliver the Phase 1 works within a net cost of £1.1m, funding for which has been raised
- To progress to tender for the main contract on the basis of the architect and consultant design documents agreed with the Steering Group and the interior design outlined in her presentation.

Catering Convener

It was noted that that Elspeth Williamson had volunteered to take on this role. The Clerk added that Anne McLennan is in charge on Sundays for the tea and coffee after the Services.

Congregational Roll

Session noted the following:-

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| Number on the roll as at 31 December 2017 | | 677 |
| Admitted | | |
| • By Certificate | 3 | |
| • By Resolution | 6 | 9 |
| Removed | | |
| • By Death | 21 | |
| • By Certificate | 3 | |
| • Otherwise | 8 | 32 |
| Number on the Roll as at 31 December 2018 | | 654 |

Correspondence

It was noted that Poppy Scotland had acknowledged the donation of £730.50 from the Remembrance Sunday Service retiring offering. It was also noted that the President of the Edinburgh Brass Band had thanked the Congregation for the proceeds from the retiring offering when they played in the Church in December. / continued

Director of Music

It was noted with acclamation that Donald Cameron, our Director of Music, had been awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List.

Local Church Review

It was reported that the Local Church Review Report submitted to Presbytery in December had been well received. This leaves the Elders and Congregation to work as a team to deliver our aspirations for the future.

A copy of the aforementioned report submitted to The Presbytery of Edinburgh follows this article.

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

**Blackhall St Columba’s
Local Church Review Report**

There’s a sense of excitement at Blackhall St Columba’s moving forward with extensive plans for the future. These include developments along twin tracks, in Church premises, the Sanctuary and Halls (Stages 1 & 2) and in ministry/ personnel – appointing a Youth & Community/Family Worker (Stage 3). Architects have been commissioned and the Sanctuary is to be transformed into a friendly space with greater flexibility, movable seating and a café area. Blackhall Church is a busy Community Hub in an area where there are few other venues for community groups to gather. The renovations will go hand in hand with strengthening existing relationships and the development of new ones. The vision for the refurbishment recognises a) that ‘modern worship requires a more flexible space and more welcoming entrances and atmosphere’ - an approach which reflects the theme of the recent Presbytery Seminar about ‘The Place of Space in the Mission of the Church’- and b) community outreach and mission. Reflecting the parish demographics, families and young people are coming around and there’s a wish to offer support to children, parents and young people.

A Stewardship programme began 18 months ago with a review of the talents members of the congregation bring to the life of the Church. Funds are tight with such a large capital project and other sources of support such as the *Go For It Fund* are also being considered. /

Local Church Review Report continued

There are 9 Committees of Session stemming from the move to the Unitary Constitution. Session Clerk Eddie Thorn and Elders support the Minister, Revd Benjamin Abeledo, and part-time pastoral assistance is provided by Revd Gordon Farquharson. A Project Manager has been appointed to co-ordinate the renovation works. With the array of activities, strategic thinking and major developments being undertaken the importance of a manageable ministerial work-load cannot be under estimated. The proposed Youth & Community/Family Worker is not seen as feasible yet and Blackhall St Columba's is exploring ways of re-allocating funds to help support it.

Worship

Blackhall St Columba's Mission Statement is "to glorify God, proclaim Christ and serve others." "Praise" is described as "the heartbeat of our life." 11.00am Sunday Worship is supported by 225 people with 45 attending a 9.30am first Sunday of the month Service which changes to every Sunday during July and August to let families have the rest of the day for their own activities. There is also a regular midweek service. Worship is primarily led by the Minister, members of the congregation participate in reading lessons and share in leading worship; there is a Worship Committee which, with the Minister, oversees developments. A developing music ministry is supported by a Church Choir and a recently formed praise band. Worship continues to evolve; a variety of forms of Services aims to "enable people to come to Church when it suits them".

Discipleship

An active prayer life includes 3 home prayer groups, a weekly prayer meeting and an intercessory prayer chain. There are Christianity Explored, and other Bible study groups, including preparation for baptism, confirmation and marriage. An Alpha course is planned for February 2019. The Sunday Club provides for children and young people and Primary School Scripture Union groups are supported.

Service

A wide range of activities from pastoral visits to Fresh Start to Christmas gifts for prisoners' children, support 3 aims: to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the congregation, to meet the needs of the wider community, and to support the practicalities of running the Church and Halls, which comprise the primary community resource in Blackhall. The Bible Society's Trauma Healing Course is to be offered in the community.

Evangelism/

Evangelism

'Evangelism and service go hand in hand' so that in the many points of contact and activities, including faith specific ones, there are opportunities to reach out and communicate. A welcome letter is sent to new residents in the area with an info pack about Church and Community. 'Kirk News' magazine (for the congregation) is published 7 times between quarterly publications of the 'Blackhall Bulletin' which is distributed to the parish. There are a website and church Twitter account. A Summer Holiday Club takes place each year as does Carol Singing at Sainsbury's.

Fellowship

A large array of activities from 'Knit & Natter' to Movie Nights to Toddler Teas provides many opportunities to develop relationships. All groups using the halls are visited by elders and an effort is made to make connections with the life and worship of the Church.

Blackhall St Columba's describes its **Next Steps** as:

1. Building Worship

- a) By expanding participation and involving more of the Congregation in vital support ministries e.g. the welcome team, sound desk, beadle team.
- b) Offering a menu of Worship choices to grow the intergenerational appeal of the Church.

2. Building Depth and Strength

- a) Increase involvement of members, offering opportunities to volunteer and participate.
- b) Strengthen skills, ensuring opportunities for training and development.
- c) Making more of Kirk Session meetings and offering Elders' Conferences ('Building for Change' was the theme of the recent first KS Conference).
- d) Building relevance and opportunities to respond.
- e) Focus on young members enabling them to grow into leadership roles. /

3. Building Breadth

- a) Develop further understanding of, and engagement with, the community, with a focus on young families and youth.
- b) Seek to appoint a Communities and Families Worker (**Phase 3** or earlier).
- c) Conduct a survey within the Parish to identify need and opportunity.
- d) Use the work and fund-raising involved in the building programme to build community spirit within the Church and hall-user groups.

4. Building for the Future through Church buildings Refurbishment

- a) Ambitious project to provide more flexible and welcoming space.
- b) Architects engaged, fund-raising underway, necessary permissions from Presbytery and CARTA will be sought and the hope is work could begin in Spring 2019.

Phase 1 – Sanctuary: including removal of pews, new heating & lighting, new entrance and vestibule, chancel extension, office and vestry upgrade; 100% funds realised.

- c) **Phase 2** – Halls, fit for purpose as a Community Hub.

The papers completed by the Working Group may, in the opinion of the LCR Team, be regarded as model documents, providing clear and succinct information.

Banish the Winter Blues - find those dancing shoes

The nights are getting shorter but still a dark time of year.

Banish the winter blues by finding your dancing shoes and enjoy -

The Church Spring Ceilidh

Dance, song, music and good company for this social event

Saturday 30 March 2019 starting at 7pm

All welcome and just £5 a ticket

Tickets from the church office (332 4431)

What are you waiting for-spring is not far away to celebrate.

Michael Cockburn, Outreach Team, 332 4841

Another date for your Diary

**Heart & Soul Swing Band
at Blackhall St Columba's
on 11 May 2019**

The Church of Scotland swing band, Heart and Soul, will give a concert in Blackhall St Columba's on Saturday 11 May 2019.

Make sure it's in your diary now.
No charge but a collection will be taken.

WA+CH Committee Cheque Presentation



The charity chosen by the WA+CH Committee for 2018 was Alzheimer Scotland, based at the Prentice Centre in Granton (Scottish Charity SC022315). We agreed to donate all funds raised in 2018 to the charity and we expect our donation to be used to provide training for volunteers in this area.

At the service on Sunday 13 January 2019 we were delighted to present a cheque for £8,470 to Sally Davidson, Community Fundraiser, Alzheimer Scotland, in front of the congregation.

George Millar
WA+CH
Committee
Convener



There may have been fewer singers than usual for the carol singing this year, some perhaps deterred by the move to the outdoor venue at Homebase, but clearly they were there with their usual happy enthusiasm to support the fundraising.

Fellowship Afternoon Group

On 15 January we had a presentation from Revd B Abeledo about Susanna Wesley (1669-1742) who was an inspiring figure. She is called the Mother of Methodism and, of course, two of her sons were John and Charles Wesley who were instrumental in founding Methodism. At the time of its upsurge Methodism was involved with many social issues including prison reform and the abolition of slavery.

Next on our syllabus is an illustrated talk at 2.15 on Tuesday 12 February in the Small Hall about the National Library. The speaker will be Veronica Denholm.

In March our talk, with demonstration, will be about Fabergé Eggs. There will be a raffle for a replica egg.

All our meetings are open and refreshments are provided. Visitors are very welcome.

Fiona Drinnan

Tuesday Topics

Very best wishes to all our members and friends for 2019

Our next session looks very exciting with a variety of interesting speakers. On 15th January we had our post Christmas meal out at Howies in Waterloo Place where, judging by the loud-chatter, everyone was enjoying themselves! On 22nd January Dr Jane George gave us a fascinating insight into the ordeals the women who were Scottish Suffragettes suffered for their cause. Unfortunately it took the First World War before women's worth was truly recognised and many years before full suffrage for women was granted.

On 5th February Fred Daniels will be recounting tales of his tours in America and on the 19th there will be a talk about Spitfire Women Pilots by Roy Johnstone. We plan a visit to the Kings Theatre to see My Fair Lady on 5th March and, back in the hall, a talk by Alan Ross on the History of Craigeith and the Royal Victoria Hospital on 19th March.

As always, all are welcome to attend any of our meetings. Visitors pay £2 and the annual membership is £15.

Eleanor Lowrie, President Tel. 0131 332 4827
Jacky Cowie, Secretary Tel. 0131 332 1066

STATEMENT - UK must not withdraw from the EU without comprehensive agreement in place.

Published on 15 January, 2019.

UK Government must make a commitment that the UK will not leave the European Union without a "comprehensive agreement" in place, the Church of Scotland has said.

Rev Dr Richard Frazer, convener of the Church and Society Council, said a no deal scenario would be "reckless" and cause damage to the nations of the UK for generations to come.

He said the Westminster Parliament and UK Government must look beyond party politics and maintaining or gaining power and focus first and foremost on the good of the country and everyone who lives here.



The minister said both bodies must "work actively towards consensus in all parts of the UK" about the future relationship with the EU and use whatever mechanisms are necessary to create the time for this to happen.

Dr Frazer has released a statement and a prayer following a vote in the House of Commons which saw Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal rejected by 432 to 202.

"Following today's vote to reject the EU Withdrawal Agreement, the Church of Scotland recognises that we, as a society, are divided.

"The UK Government has been unable to reach a deal with the EU that the UK Parliament is ready to accept and there is no clear alternative on the table.

"However, it is not just within the UK Parliament where there is a lack of agreement.

"Many of our communities are also divided and, indeed, as individuals, many of us feel pulled in different directions about what is best for our society and for our families.

"We must find a way to move forward that respects the beliefs and needs of everyone in the UK and moves away from the current view in which different groups are described in opposition to one other.

"We need a much more respectful dialogue, one which is based on listening attentively rather than shouting louder.

"The Westminster Parliament and UK Government must look beyond party politics and maintaining or gaining power and focus first and foremost on the good of the country and everyone who lives here. /

“Reconciliation across our divided society needs a different approach; one in which we can take a deliberately slower and more thoughtful approach to discerning our future relationship with the EU.

“Decisions about the nature of our relationship with the EU will have consequences for generations to come.

“Britain has been an integral part of the EU and its institutions for over 40 years so the UK’s departure will be a significant change for all concerned, in the UK, in other parts of Europe and beyond.

“European countries are our closest neighbours and it is imperative that we are able to work and live alongside them.

“We must avoid leaving the EU without a deal; to do so represents a loss of good faith with our closest neighbours on which we depend for our common good.

“Regardless of what happens next, the UK should actively choose to remain a generous and committed member of the international community encouraging people and ideas to move freely.

“Isolation and separation are not in anyone’s interests, particularly in a world where many of the problems we face, including climate change, migration, violence and economic turbulence, must be addressed together.

“Isolationism tends to breed fear, misunderstanding and hatred and we must do all we can to avoid these taking root.

“The Church of Scotland calls on the Parliament and Government to make a commitment not to withdraw from the EU without a comprehensive agreement in place.

“To do so would be reckless not only in the short-term but would damage our ways of relating to one another for generations to come.

“Furthermore, the Church calls on the UK Parliament and Government to work actively towards consensus in all parts of the UK about our future relationship with the EU and to use whatever mechanisms are necessary to create the time for this to happen.

“That will also involve leadership and the putting aside of party politics and sectional interests by others as well.

“What we do, and how we do it, over these coming weeks will have an impact not just for the next few years but for generations to come.

“It is therefore vital that what we do, we do deliberately focused on building consensus and relationships. /

“The Church is called to be a community of prayer, one which brings our own weakness and divisions before the God who we believe made and loves all creation.

“In the coming weeks and months, we are committed – in every part of Scotland – to praying for those who hold weighty responsibilities in these times.

“We are also committed, in humility, to seek to model the sort of deep listening, discernment and reconciliation that is necessary at this time.”

A prayer for Brexit

Living Christ,

You are present with us in all times, sharing the brightness of our joy and walking with us through times of darkness.

You speak words of wisdom into our folly,

You speak words of reassurance into our fear,

You seek out those who are lost and looking for the way.

In these times of confusion, uncertainty and fearfulness about our nation’s future, we need your wisdom, your reassurance and your compassion.

Speak to all of us now, leaders, citizens, fearful residents, those with a voice and those whose voices seem never to be heard. We lay before you the life of our nation and long for your gentle rule to be established amongst us.

As our leaders try to make decisions that will address an impasse, Give them wisdom and a true capacity for discernment, that at the forefront of people’s minds is not political advantage but the wellbeing of all people.

As people feel fearful of what the future holds, help us to build a community in which all feel welcome and heard and a truer sense of belonging to one another is established.

As we witness heated argument that could so readily turn to aggression, Sooth us and inspire in us all your gentleness, that we may curb attitudes that lead to strife.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who sought to welcome the stranger, to bind up the broken hearted and to pave the way for costly peace making.

Amen.

[The foregoing Statement and Prayer are extracted from the News/Events pages of the Church of Scotland website.]

A date for your diaries
Sunday 19 May 2019, 1 - 6pm
Princes Street Gardens



FOLLOW ME ...

STEPPING INTO DISCIPLESHIP

Worship. Congregational Stories.
Exhibitors. Activities. Inspiration.

Back for 2019 ... the 'in conversation' tent with already confirmed guests Kezia Dugdale MSP and the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE hosting a conversation on Remembering Srebrenica.

Join our new Massed Choir to play a part in closing worship. Rehearsals will be held remotely throughout Scotland, so why not get your choir involved? To register interest visit <https://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/choir>

Do you have a musical act within your church that could play a part in Heart and Soul? If so then please supply a link to a video of a performance at <https://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/stage> to be considered to play on the Main Stage.

Keep in touch with announcements at www.heartandsoul.org.uk

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

STILL INSPIRING AFTER 260 YEARS



Robbie Burns would have been delighted to join us at the Holiday Inn Hotel for another absolutely excellent Supper held in the honour of this fascinating man and poetic genius who was born in 1759. If you don't believe me read his work and you can't disagree.

Eddie Thorn did him full justice proposing the Immortal Memory and, as was Rabbie's habit, Donald Stirling had a few kind words addressed to the Lassies. Women in Burns' life were not treated as such and were far from inferior citizens as their correspondence with him also clearly shows. Amy Foster replying for the Lassies, for a large part in rhyme, proved in an outstanding tour de force that proved beyond doubt that since then the female sex is just as capable, entertaining and strong. (Stronger, Ed.)

Proving the point, literally, was Muriel Stenhouse who in addressing the Haggis so eloquently nevertheless showed it no mercy when wielding her trusty blade. Dugald MacNeill had piped them in to a rousing reception too - little did that haggis suspect.

Jenny Logan, accompanied by Margaret Donaldson, delighted us with her usual dynamic singing in two "sets" leaving the audience enraptured having experienced the highs of romantic love to the depths of lost dreams, love and a broken heart. Tears were in our eyes – but at the brilliantly funny lyrics she sang.

Martha Egner, another member of our choir, sang a musical arrangement of "To a Mountain Daisy" by Donald Cameron who accompanied her. Not a premiere but frankly outstanding. What music, what a voice.

The evening was compered by Sandy Weir with an exclusive raffle adding to the excitement and, to be honest, fundraising. Violet Troup and Elizabeth Watling produced delightful table flower arrangements which were presented to our performers and others as prizes.

Thanks are due to our sponsors, the Holiday Inn Hotel, Sainsburys and Wilson's, Corstorphine Butchers. Principally thanks go to those 65 from a' the airts, not just church members, who supported the evening which resulted in c. £960 being raised for the Building for the Future Appeal.

Sandy Weir, Stewardship Team Leader

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Are you good with words?..... capable on a computer?
..... interested in what's going on?

You could be the person we are looking for!

KIRK NEWS is looking for a NEW EDITOR

You could make a great contribution to spreading the
news around Blackhall St Columba's.

Want to know more?

Contact Julie in the Church Office
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



The small print This is a voluntary
post and handover will be available if
required.

DEADLINES

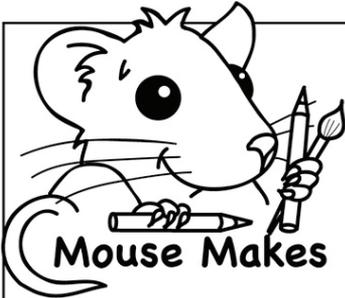
Kirk News - 24 March 2019

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 - 3 February 2019

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



WHAT IS LOVE?

Cross out every other letter to find the Bible verse, then look it up.

OHNKEWJLOSHCNP
CGHUADPBTFEKRA
FJOMUORD
VWEURDSKEV
TOEGNP



God's love is...

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet.

"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsme tp nvdi
uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp
uibu fwfszpod xip cfmjfwft
jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu
ibwf fufsobm mjgf."
Kpio 3:16



How does God show he loves us?

Look at this in a mirror!

su tot evol siH beworh eog
otni nio2 ylno zid gnibne yd
ew tsrt oz ,bhow etl
etil evst tngim
miH ngnort
e:A nrol 1

HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?

Cross out all the xxx to find out!

xxGixivxexxtxhxaxnxkxsxxtxoxxtxhx
exxLxoxrxdx,xfxoxrxxHxexxiixsxxg
xoxxoxdx,xxHxixsxsxxtxeaxdx
fxaxsxtxlxoxvxexxnxdxu
rxxexsxfxoxrxxexvxxexr.
xpxsaxxlmxx
1x3x6:1

"The steadfast **love** of
the Lord *never* ceases"
Lamentations 3:22



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