



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK NEWS

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

MAY 2020

No. 820

**Love
never
fails.**

**Coronavirus
impacts all of us.
But love unites
us all.**

Join us in prayer
and action for our
neighbours near and far.

Faith Maxwell carrying
her son Hilary across
fields in Kenya.

**christian
aid**

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caid.org.uk

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Minister

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ZOOM.....Join us.....Join Shona



Join us for coffee on Sunday at 11.15 am after the online service

See the Sunday online service section of the website for Zoom coffee morning details.

Chat with Shona Cook, our Minister's wife, on Thursdays at 3 pm

Shona invites you to a weekly 'Getting to Know' you meeting via Zoom on Thursdays from 3pm.

Enjoy the opportunity to get to know Shona and catch up with one another.

This link will also be available on our Church Facebook page.

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

Due to difficulties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot at this time be sure about distribution arrangements for printed copies of the June 2020 issue of the Blackhall Bulletin.

It will, however, be available online on the Resources page of the Blackhall St Columba's Church website.

www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/Resources

From the Minister



Greetings Friends,

I am reminded, while writing for this issue of the Kirk News, of the expression; “If life gives you lemons..... then make lemonade!!” We have just heard the announcement that the country is to continue with its quarantine and its lock-down procedures for at least another three weeks.

By now some, especially those who, for health reasons, began their lock-down early, may be tempted to think about the opening words of Psalm 13 “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” If that is how you are feeling at the moment, remember that the psalmist finishes by saying “my heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.”



Instead of dwelling on the negative elements of the lock-down, I want to consider what I see as some of the positives and some of the opportunities it provides. In other words, having been given lemons, let's try to make some lemonade!

Although I would much prefer to meet people face to face over a coffee and some cake, I have spent many happy hours now on the phone speaking to different members of the congregation. Some of our conversations have been enlightening. One lady, who has been housebound for a number of years, shared that the current events have actually resulted in an improvement in her situation! She still has carers getting her shopping and coming to the house to help her but the advent of on-line church and the increased contact from friends and family mean she is much more connected with society and the church than she was before the crisis! Another lady shared that, when she is in her garden, people passing now say 'good morning' and speak to her - passing the time of day when previously they would not. /continued

From the Minister continued

Although it is a serious problem, the lock-down has provided many people with more time on their hands. This time is an opportunity to sit and reflect on what is important in life. Previously perceived essentials are now relegated to behind our health, our families and our friends. Especially for people who are either self-isolating or enduring forced isolation, the realisation that human interaction is essential to our well-being is now beginning to dawn on those who previously did not value it or took it for granted.

Many in the different communities are now seeing a different side to their neighbours as Thursday by Thursday they stand side by side clapping, banging pots and pans and playing musical instruments. Society is perhaps now realising what the church has advocated since the time of Jesus - that people's worth should not be judged or assessed by how much they earn or by what prestige their job title holds. The people who are being defined as key workers are the people who society has often looked down upon; refuse collectors, delivery drivers, shelf stackers and till operators. Whilst many have often held the NHS and the emergency services in high esteem, there is possibly a realisation that many are not paid their true worth. Whilst many of these reflections are worthwhile, we should also engage in and encourage others to engage in spiritual reflection.

One thing that we as Christians know about is the peace that is offered to us by God through Jesus Christ. This Sunday I will be preaching using the text from the Gospel according to John 20:19-31. The disciples are themselves in lock-down. They have self isolated themselves from fear of what will happen to them now their Lord and master has died. Jesus appears to them, through locked doors, and the first words he says to them are: "Peace be with you." This comfort that we can all take from the good news of Easter is one that we are called to share. Jesus continued to bring comfort when he spoke to the disciples saying "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

For the last couple of weeks, I have emphasised the Good News of Easter which is that Christ is not dead. Instead, he is alive and continually making himself known in the world through the lives of others - through their words and through their deeds. Jesus Christ is alive today and is visible for those who have eyes to see him. Jesus is alive in the actions of the many selfless people who risk themselves to help others. He is alive in the words of those who instead of criticising others offer words of support, encouragement and love. / continued

From the Minister continued

Although there are many problems in the world at the moment (when has there never been?) there are also many good things going on. As one of my daughters said “it’s like God has said you’ve all made such a mess of the world I want you all to go to your rooms and think about it!” Whilst I don’t necessarily agree with the theology of it, I think there is an underlying truth to the sentiment. Since we have gone into lock-down air quality throughout the world has improved. Wildlife has never had it so good. Even here in Edinburgh, during one of my many phone calls, someone said they had noticed a marked improvement in the wildlife visiting their garden.

This crisis will come to an end. When it does, I hope and pray that we shall take some of the lessons learnt during this time and carry them forward. This will mean valuing other people in a more meaningful way. It will mean reducing our carbon footprint and our endless consumerism. It will mean continuing to find new and inventive ways to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. With the latter, many other benefits will follow. This is how the lemonade we make now can be enjoyed later, hopefully, in the summer and beyond. To this end, I pray that, in the days ahead, we and the lives we touch know that Our Lord walks with us, guiding us and filling our hearts with the joy and love of His Risen life.

God bless,

Fergus



Kirk Session Report

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 14 April 2020. This was a virtual meeting conducted via the Zoom conferencing facility.

Building for the Future

It was noted that in line with Scottish Government guidance, John Dennis had closed the works in the Sanctuary. The building had been secured and is being checked regularly by the John Dennis Contracts Manager.

We have signed a mutual cessation agreement with John Dennis, to ensure no additional costs are incurred due to the temporary suspension of works.

At time of closure there were approximately 5 weeks left till completion of the contract. However, in the opinion of our Project Manager, the considered view following discussions with our architect, is that it may take up to 8 weeks following recommencement to reach completion.

Communication

The Moderator expressed his thanks for the various suggestions that have been sent on to him covering communication in response to his current Services on Youtube. The details of these Services are now on the Website. He is currently investigating the possibility of members using their phones to access the Service, however, it is considered to have too many limitations, not least that there is a cost involved, and that it is “live” which means that anyone joining the Service would need to be there right at the start. If they joined later, they would miss the earlier part of the Service.

One of the suggestions related to the use of CDs or DVDs. After discussion, it was agreed this would be considered as an option if any difficulties could be overcome. Another item raised was whether the Blackhall Bulletin could be sent out in email format. After some discussion, it was again indicated this was a possibility.

Both the Moderator and Session Clerk emphasised that the Elders role is very important in the communication area and it is essential that the Elders keep regular contact with the members in their Districts.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Dr Russell Barr thanking the Kirk Session for the gift in recognition of his service as Interim Moderator during the period of the vacancy. In line with normal practice, a gift is made to the outgoing Interim Moderator and Dr Barr asked for the gift be given as a donation to Fresh Start.

/continued

Kirk Session Report continued

It was noted that an acknowledgement had been received from Rev. Gordon Farquharson thanking the Congregation for the collection to mark him finishing as our locum minister. The note follows this report.

Finance

Adrian Johnston, Congregational Treasurer, advised that in the first three months (to 31 March) Congregational Giving had dropped by 4.4%, mainly due to the loss of Services in March. Consequently a deficit had been incurred for the first quarter. The Finance Working Team will be meeting in early course to consider various options to look at regularising the position.

Meantime members should be encouraged to pay by Standing Order or send FWO envelopes direct to Sandy Weir, Gift Aid Convener.

Members of the Kirk Session, as the trustees, approved the Congregational Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Hall Charges

Ian Templeton, Hall Convener, advised a communication was about to be sent out to all Hall users intimating a waiving of charges for the current period. It was noted that Mike Whiteside had agreed to share the role of Hall Convener.

Outreach

Michael Cockburn reported that the Spring Ceilidh was the first casualty in the Outreach Team's activities just before the country went into Lockdown.

Edinburgh Council had given permission for our annual early Easter Sunday Service in Ravelston Park but again due to restrictions this had been revoked. The accepted invite to attend the annual Eco Fair at Blackhall School in late May is also unlikely to happen with the school closed.

Unless there is a relaxation in regulations, the usual stall at the Blackhall Children Sports Day in Ravelston Park on the first Saturday in June will also be cancelled. On that same day the Picnic & BBQ at Canty Bay is most likely to be postponed.

Pastoral and Prayer

Fiona Cooke reminded Kirk Session that the Prayer Chain is still operating. Requests for prayer, which should have permission from the person being prayed for, can be passed on to Lesley MacKenzie.

Fiona went on to make the following points:-

- What has become clear as members have been contacted is how many are not on-line and do not have smart phones. /continued

Kirk Session Report continued

- We should phone people for a “chat”, though we will often find that our role is listener rather than talker. Without exception we will be thanked for phoning.
- There are families where someone is a carer. It could be they are caring for someone with dementia or have a care duty for a young adult or a child with complex needs. In normal circumstances there probably would be some kind of respite whether a day care centre, a support worker providing time off for the carer, or even school. We should be mindful of the carer.
- We should keep in touch with our community, not just the church community, and pick up on any issue where we can provide emotional, spiritual or practical help.

Resilience Planning

It was noted that the Resilience Planning Group, consisting of Rev Fergus Cook, Eddie Thorn, Adrian Johnston, Jacquie Lowe, Fiona Cooke and Fay Stirling had met once – on 26 March via Zoom conferencing. There had been no requirement for a subsequent meeting and this would be reviewed going forward until normality returns.

All Elders Districts had been contacted to see if members need any assistance and/or support at this time. No one member was in need of immediate help but a number of Elders are maintaining contact with a number of the more vulnerable in their Districts. It was encouraging that a good number of Elders are maintaining contact by email or other media and that had enabled members to hear the Services being put together by our Minister.

There is a small team of volunteers ready to assist members as and when required. The Session Clerk emphasised the importance of Elders maintaining regular contact with the Members within their District and where possible to pass on the details of the Sunday Services.

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

Note of thanks from Rev Gordon Farquharson

Dear Eddie

I'm totally overwhelmed and touched by the generosity of this presentation.

As you know I was very happy to serve in the Congregation which was my first placement as a potential candidate for Ministry.

St Columba's has always held a special place in my heart and in Elizabeth's, having been the source of many happy memories and friendships, which will continue through the present crisis into what we all hope will be a bright future.

I remain in readiness to make any contribution I can to ensure the valuable witness to the community and to the City of Edinburgh made by Blackhall St Columba's.

Thank you for the kind words of your message and speech.

Please take any opportunity to share my sincere thanks with the membership - I'm sure you will.

Best wishes

Gordon

'Reflections from the Moderator-Designate', published on the following pages is extracted from the May 2020 issue of Life and Work, magazine of the Church of Scotland. Due to the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic this issue is published online with free download at -

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/downloads/life-and-work-may-2020.pdf> and on our own church website at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/Resources

Download the May issue and take the opportunity to read and enjoy all the really interesting articles it contains:

Feeding the Hungry

The daily reality at Edinburgh NE Foodbank

God's Not Finished With Scotland

An interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Martin Fair

War's End

Marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day, George Wilkes reflects on the role of churches in peacebuilding across Europe.

Plus many other regular features

If you find you would like to read it every month our Blackhall St Columba's L&W contact is Alison Hewat rajahewat1@btinternet.com



Reflections from the Moderator-Designate

The following are brief reflections on the passage which the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Martin Fair planned to use during the week of the General Assembly.



'One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!'. And they left their nets at once and followed him.' Mark 1:16-17.

Day 1

Last year, the General Assembly, and therefore the church, committed itself to both the Radical Plan and the findings of the Special Commission. Since then many folks have been hugely busy working out how to translate these various ideas, goals and principles into practical out-workings. Naturally enough, much of the effort has been directed at the business of restructuring – the reshaping of the central bodies and the creation of larger regional units ('super presbyteries').

But deep down, we're all aware – or should be! – that restructuring in itself will prove to be of little help to us unless it is accompanied by a wholehearted recommitment to the mission to which Jesus called us. To put it another way, unless our new shape frees us up to do that which we are primarily called to do then malaise and decline will doubtless continue unabated.

Is this a counsel of despair? Not a bit of it! I for one remain entirely hopeful. I've said on numerous occasions that if I thought there was no hope for the Church of Scotland then I'd quit ministry and find something more useful to do with the remainder of my working life.

But here I am. Still here. Not going anywhere.

God isn't finished with Scotland and will, I pray, use us powerfully in the days ahead as a channel through which his love, joy and peace will be known afresh to the peoples of our nation and beyond.

So as we continue with the necessary business of redesigning the way we operate, let it go hand in hand with a full-blooded, no-holds-barred, commitment to what Jesus called those first disciples to: fishing for people.

Day 2

I have some wonderful memories of growing up within the family of the church and not least within the infant department of the Sunday School. Maybe that's because my best friend and future wife was one of my young classmates!

But alongside that, I can remember us singing and, of all the choruses we sang, 'I will make you fishers of men' was among my favourites – the words and the accompanying actions! / continued

Reflections from the Moderator Designate continued

During my seven years of Summer Mission on the beach at Girvan, that song was still a fixture in the repertoire of songs that we'd use in our engagement with the local kids and families.

Times have changed. The exclusiveness of the language is problematic now. The song is certainly of its time, a bit dated we might say.

But while we might want to sing a new song, let's rejoice in the timeless truth that Jesus is still calling us to follow him and, as the gospels have it, to 'fish for people.' The most serious mistake we could make – and perhaps have? – is to tell ourselves that the task of fishing is 'of its time' and somewhat dated now. How we go about it must be worked out anew in every time and place but that we do it is not up for debate. It's why we're here – not an optional extra.

The seas around our coastlines may have suffered from seasons of over-fishing. We caught too many fish. In terms of fishing for people, in this season we've barely got into the boat.

Day 3

There are some wonderful old black and white pictures of the fisherfolk of Arbroath – the town in which I've lived and ministered throughout the whole of my ministry. What strikes me most in these grainy old images is that everyone was involved – the bairns, the men and the women and the grandparents. It might have been the menfolk who went to sea but the land-based part of the endeavour was equally important; baiting the lines, mending the nets, gutting the fish and of course heading off far and wide to sell the catch. We can be sure that nobody was sitting around with time on their hands!

Recovering the essential mission of the church - fishing for people - will require that all of us are involved. There may still be room for the occasional rally featuring a renowned evangelist but the basic business of fishing for people is more to do with what each of us is about in the day to day ordinariness of life. And while some will still be called to 'leave what's known and dear' in answer to a particular call, for most of us our fishing ground will be right where we are - among our neighbours, colleagues and friends.

Though having a working knowledge of what our faith is all about will of course help, you won't need a doctoral degree in systematic theology. More important will be your love for people and your willingness - like those first fishermen - to be obedient to Jesus' calling.

Day 4

Fishing for people does require that those of us who have answered Jesus' primary call to follow him are ready and willing to speak of the one to whom we have committed our lives. Silence isn't golden.

But the speaking part should be woven seamlessly into the whole of our living.

Jesus promised those first followers that he would teach them, or show them, how to fish for people and we might argue /continued

Reflections from the Moderator Designate continued

that the greater part of those few years that he was among them was given over to fulfilling that promise.

When we reflect on the gospel accounts, and see then what he 'showed them', it's abundantly clear that there was plenty of 'doing' alongside all of the 'speaking.' It's clear that Jesus cared for people - not just because he said so but because he showed it to be so. He healed the sick, ministered to the crushed and broken in spirit, sat with those who were excluded and marginalised, ate with those who knew only that they didn't belong and were despised.

All of that was integral to the business of fishing for people. And it still needs to be today. We're a long way from that time when we had some kind of right to preach – and a long way from any realistic expectation that many were interested or would listen.

That's why the doing and the serving and the caring are so vital in this age.

If we want the opportunity to stand up and speak, first we need to kneel down and serve. Fishing for people demands nothing less.

Day 5

I've never been keen on fishing and therefore know very little about it. Nor, I suspect, would I have the patience for it. From what I've seen, it seems to involve a lot of hanging around doing, well, not very much!

But I do know this much; you need some kind of bait. I once took my boys fishing while on a holiday abroad and was advised that the best bait was chunks of Kentucky Fried Chicken!



I wonder if that's perhaps how we've thought about church, and mission - the whole business of fishing for people? Maybe we've told ourselves that if we come up with the right bait then the fish - people - will come swimming right up, and in. Have we imagined that if we got our music right, or changed the version of the pew Bible, or projected the words, or served better coffee, or installed nicer toilets that people would come?

If so then we've been guilty of using the wrong bait. There's nothing wrong in any of the above but 'doing things better' is no substitute for offering the love of God made known in Jesus. When first present, people were drawn to Jesus. That hasn't changed.

But there's something else about the idea of bait. By implication it involves luring, or drawing fish, to us. What if, in sending us out, Jesus means for us to... go out! So we're not to 'stay in' and lure people to us; we're to 'step out' and take with us the greatest gift we have to offer. Jesus.

Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes - Coronavirus

As you might imagine, the closure of the church and suspension of services is having an effect on the income of the church whilst many of our costs continue. Action has been taken to reduce those costs where possible and that includes using the Government scheme to support some of the staff salaries and turning the heating to frost protection only.

Regular givers who use the weekly freewill offering envelopes, have recently been asked for support in continuing those offerings during this suspension of services. To allow this to happen an arrangement has been put in hand for those able to do so, and who wish to do so.

There are 3 options that we would like to suggest:

- 1. Make the payment directly to the Church's bank account with Bank of Scotland:
Account Name: Blackhall Parish Church; Sort Code: 80 02 22;
Account number: 00584961.
Please use your name as the reference and if possible add "WFO".**
- 2. Post your offerings in the form of a cheque, payee Blackhall Parish Church, and accompanied by one of your WFO envelopes for reference, to Mr Sandy Weir, 12 Hillpark Road, Edinburgh, EH4 7AN, who is looking after the WFO records meantime.**
- 3. Hand deliver your offerings, cheques preferred, in one of your WFO envelopes through Sandy Weir's letterbox at 12 Hillpark Road.**

If you are able to make your offerings in this way, your support would be greatly appreciated to help with the ongoing expenditure associated with the work of the church. However, if that is not convenient for you, please do not feel any pressure to do so.

We look forward to the day when Sunday worship can resume and to seeing each other in Church again.

God bless you.

Adrian M Johnston
Treasurer



Support our work in affected communities around the world

The coronavirus outbreak threatens the health of our neighbours near and far. Together we must respond quickly to help the most vulnerable.

Coronavirus has shown us that our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before.

And now it is spreading across the world's poorest countries, putting people living in poverty at great risk.

These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV.

As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impacts of the virus deeply. We must respond now.

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

Christian Aid's response

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and hand washing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through and keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

With your help we can do even more.

A single donation of:

- £30** - could provide a family with hygiene kits and safe water,
- £50** - could help pay for a community toilet and handwashing block
- £100** - could help set up a clean water point

For details of how to donate go to www.christianaid.org.uk

A prayer in a time of Coronavirus

For the health workers tending the seriously ill
for the scientists working on a vaccination
for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends
for the media outlets working to communicate reality
for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers
for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning
for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities
for the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness
for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important

Thanks be to God.

For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones
for those who were already very anxious
for those immune suppressed or compromised
for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions
for those in the 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories
for those watching their entire income stream dry up
for those who have no choice but to go out to work
for those who are afraid to be at home
for those who are more lonely than they've ever been
for those who are bereaved and grieving.
God be their healer, comfort and protection,
be their strength, shield and provision
be their security, safety and close companion

And raise up your Church
to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet
to be present to the pain
to respond with love in action
if even from a safe distance.



God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Random Lockdown Thoughts



What day of the week is it?

Listening to Radio 3 as usual and finding the people working from home are showing us much more than the programme's choice of music. Helps to hear how they work from home.

We live in a cul-de-sac, a very short street. On Thursday afternoons we sit or stand on our doorsteps chatting to our neighbours. We learn a great deal from them about how they are coping and doing things. One family made a video to share with their wider family. It was most entertaining.

My sister lives in Vancouver and she is under their variation of lockdown. North Americans eat out a great deal and she is getting food deliveries from her favourite restaurants as a treat. On her big birthday she shared them online with the people she was meant to be dining with. It worked very well. Must try it.

Our cat is spending more time with us. She knows something strange is happening and she is checking up on us. She is a beautiful ginger girl and has us completely under her paw. Shown above on my study chair.

Shopping lists must be a great deal more specific as we are taking it in turns to do our weekly shop at crack of dawn (for us). C'flower and pots do not cut it.

Licensing laws do not allow us to buy alcohol during senior shops! Is that a subtle message?

Walks are difficult as we live at the bottom of a short but steep hill, so I take the car to a lovely local street and walk along one side and back the other. It's beautiful and people are very considerate and walk or run in the road when going past. I think it's the walking stick which helps. They are also very friendly, and we greet each other as we pass.

Nature is blossoming, the birds are singing, the air is much cleaner and clearer than usual. We do not have a garden but have lots of plant pots which need a great deal of TLC at present. We've started to sort things out.

Have you Kondoed your home? We've found stuff we had forgotten we had and are making a pile for the Charity shops when they reopen as we obviously do not need it. In the process we have lost other stuff which we just put down for a moment as we interrupt ourselves to do something else.

Simple things make us laugh or cry very easily. It's a highly charged time emotionally.

We are getting deliveries from local shops which have adapted their existing systems to cope with their customer's needs. We can order from them and they include us cheerfully on their next round.

Everyone has more time and is kind, cheerful and helpful. I do hope this lasts beyond lockdown as it makes the world a nicer place. So much will change afterwards but kindness and care need not disappear.

Alison Hewat

Watch Committee supporting Local Charities

In these challenging times the Watch Committee are very keen to continue their remit to support local charities this year as usual.

Over the last 28 years the committee have worked to support and raise awareness of local charities raising over £280,000 through a programme of events with the help of the congregation of Blackhall St Columba's, the organisations which meet in the halls and the local community.

This year we intend to hold a Coffee Morning in October and we have also booked the halls for the ever-popular Christmas Fair to be held on Saturday 28 November.

In the meantime please save up your loose change which you can bring to the Church services during July and August or when we are up and running again.

We will be deciding on our charity for this year soon and thereafter we will arrange opportunities for the charity to publicise their work at church and at our events. Our contribution can make a significant difference to a small charity and it is important that we do the best we can this year.

Last year we were pleased to donate £8,220 which was shared between Beach Wheelchairs Portobello and Kindred, a support group for families of children with complex support needs.

George Millar, Convener Watch Committee



Knit
and
Natter



Although we are unable to enjoy our Monday evening meetings meantime, it does not mean that we have been idle. I've managed to catch up with quite a few of our group and have been sent the evidence of more knit than natter just now.

Lilian Cockburn

A message from



As you can imagine, it has been a very busy few weeks at Fresh Start and while we took the difficult decision to stop accepting all donations of goods and cancel all of our volunteers, our staff team have been working around the clock to put contingency plans and emergency services in place so we can still support our vulnerable clients throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

As many of you know, Fresh Start typically support people who have been homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless many of whom are unemployed, surviving on low incomes or benefits, have mental and/or physical health conditions and have limited or no support networks. Sadly, it is these very vulnerable people that will be hit the hardest through the COVID-19 crisis.

Since the end of March, Fresh Start have been delivering Emergency Packs of food, cleaning items and toiletries to some of the most vulnerable people in the Edinburgh community. We are currently running this service with our immediate staff team in order to keep to very strict social distancing measures and I'm delighted to say that in the last few weeks we have been able to send out over **500 Emergency Packs** to some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in need. We have also been working very closely with partner organisations to assist in the delivery of hot meals and packed lunches, particularly in North Edinburgh, and have set up a direct phone helpline so we can support clients in whatever way they need.

As an organisation, Fresh Start will strive to continue delivering as many Emergency Packs as possible throughout the COVID-19 crisis and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all for your continued support during this challenging time.

Take care and best wishes.

Jen





BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

‘Although our buildings are shut, the Church is not a building! The Church is the worshipping community and we are as strong as we were before this crisis began’
..... Fergus Cook, Minister

Keep up with news of the Blackhall St Columba’s Church community by regularly checking our website

www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Check out our new Facebook page.

Search for 'Blackhall St Columba's Church'

Follow us on



@BStCC_EH

Please note extended deadline for June Blackhall Bulletin. Deadline for the July Kirk News has been given below in the usual way but could change. Please check online for updates.

DEADLINES

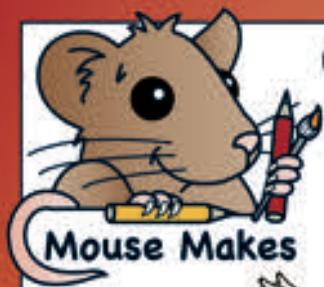
Kirk News - Sunday 5 July (tbc)

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 - Sunday 10 May

All items should be sent to the Editor:
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"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

Mouse Makes

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



Read Galatians 5:13-26



Which symbol goes with which fruit?



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

- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
 AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
 PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
 GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
 FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
 SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE