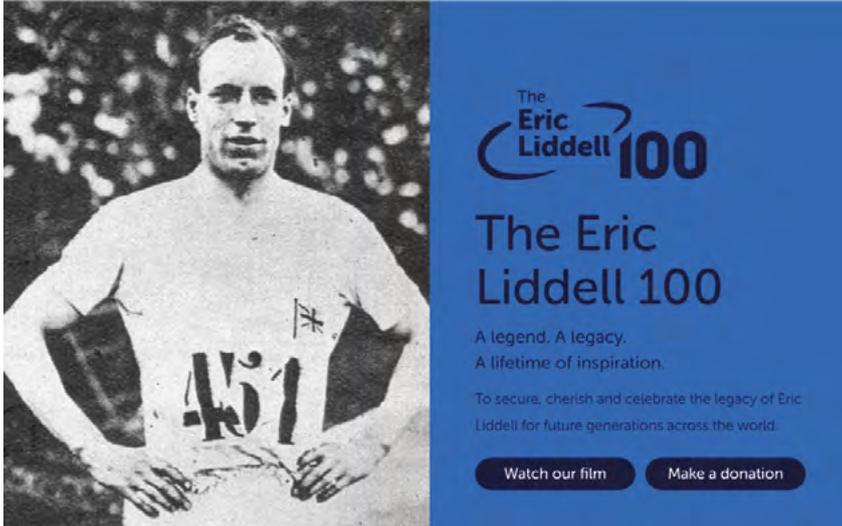


BLACKHALL BULLETIN

September 2024

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

No. 175



Like many of you I spent a lot of July watching the Olympic Games in Paris. I heard many references to Eric Liddell who ran the 400m instead of the 100m for which he was favourite. Most people, thanks to the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, know he changed distances because the heats were to be held on a Sunday and, as a devout Christian, Eric would not run on a Sunday, the Lord's Day. Instead, he was preaching in the Scots church in Paris. He not only won the gold medal, but he also set a World Record of 47.6 seconds which stood for a long time.

But why is he still remembered today and why is there an Eric Liddell Community in Edinburgh? Although he was born to missionary parents in China, at age 5 he and his brother were sent back to Scotland for their education as was the norm then. He went on to gain a BSc in Pure Science from Edinburgh University and as well as being an excellent runner he also represented Scotland in the national rugby team seven times. He returned to China following his parents into the mission field. In 1941 he sent his wife, pregnant with their third child, and with their two daughters, to Canada as he feared for their safety in China. He was interned at the Weihsien Internment Camp with other missionaries. Here he kept the spirits up with his good humour, taught, was in charge of fitness and sport training and helped the elderly. His positive attitude and kindness helped many. To encourage a fellow prisoner whose shoes were falling apart, he gave him his running shoes from Paris Olympics saying the man needed them more than he needed to keep them. He suffered increasingly severe headaches and died in 1945 of an inoperable brain tumour. At Eric's request, The Salvation Army musicians played *Be Still My Soul* outside his window as he passed away.

On a recent Songs of Praise (27th July) we heard of the work of the Eric Liddell Centre set up in 1980 to help the community by hosting a dementia day service, support for carers, befriending service and music therapy to name but a few. There are many events in the Hub on Morningside Road and an exhibition in the Scottish Parliament running Monday – Saturday until the 12th of September.

To celebrate the centenary of his famous win the Centre has launched *Eric Liddell 100* an initiative to help continue and expand their work. To find out more about it go on line to ericliddell.org and have an opportunity to make a donation to help continue and expand the work. A special service was held in St Giles' Cathedral to commemorate Eric and all that he stood for. The Princess Royal as Patron of the Eric Liddell 100 was there to speak of his work and carrying on his legacy. Edinburgh University decided to present Eric with a posthumous honorary degree to mark the centenary of his gold medal win in Paris and his eldest daughter, Patricia, came from Canada to accept it from Professor Grant Jarvie, Chair of Sport.

The secret of my success over the 400m is that I run the first 200m as fast as I can. Then, for the second 200m, with God's help, I run faster.

God made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure.
Eric Liddell

"He who honours me I will honour 1 Samuel 2 v 30
Wishing you the best of success always".

This was the gist of the verse Eric was given when he ran his 400m. The latter part was added to make the welcome note all those attending the service in St Giles received when they entered the church.





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Are you climbing?

As I travel on my way to Edinburgh from Glasgow along the M8, I often notice the brown road sign advertising the EICA, the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena. Although I have never been to that particular one, I have been to other climbing arenas and have even enjoyed a bit of climbing and abseiling when I was younger.

Climbing is a popular activity and has been made very accessible by the advent of 'mobile' climbing walls such as the type that appears at the Blackhall Children's Sports Day, held at Ravelston Park. (This year we were especially blessed with the weather given the previous days' downpours.) For those who didn't see the wall or don't know about them, 'mobile climbing walls' are cylindrical contraptions that rise vertically up into the air from a base at ground level. Into the rock like surface are bolted a number of hand and foot holds, sufficient to allow a climber to make it to the top but not so many as to make it easy. Suspended from arms at the top are climbing ropes which, once clipped on, stop people from falling and injuring themselves.



There is always a range of reactions from people if you ask the question 'are you climbing?' Most youngsters are very keen and even excited whilst others, of a more mature disposition, could be seen to be less keen!

What do you make of lots of different people all putting in a deal of effort to reach the same point, each facing a different arrangement of handholds and footholds? Each person climbs at a different speed, perhaps according to skill and past experience. Often, there is much encouragement and even advice offered by others who are climbing and even by those standing watching from below. Is it possible to think of faith a bit like that?

There is a daunting aspect to committing to a big endeavour, but examples of success and others encouragement can spur us on. Faithful discipleship demands effort and, perhaps, a sense of adventure for we enter unfamiliar and, at times, tricky terrain. We keep going not only because we can see we are progressing but also because we want to see the view from the top. Also, if we are unfortunate enough to slip, to lose our grip and fall, we also have the confidence of knowing that we are securely held.

Psalm 121 is listed as 'A Song of Ascents' and is cited as an 'Assurance of God's Protection'. In the Psalm (listed below), the psalmist asks, 'who will help?' He then reminds himself that God, who made us the heaven and the earth, watches over us and so, we will not slip on the scree nor be burned by the sun. It is only those who attempt the climb, the ascent, that can expect to experience this divine care. Remaining in the foothills, like standing at the bottom of the climbing wall, allows for little direct awareness of God's empowering us to climb higher or to experience His safe keeping if we falter.

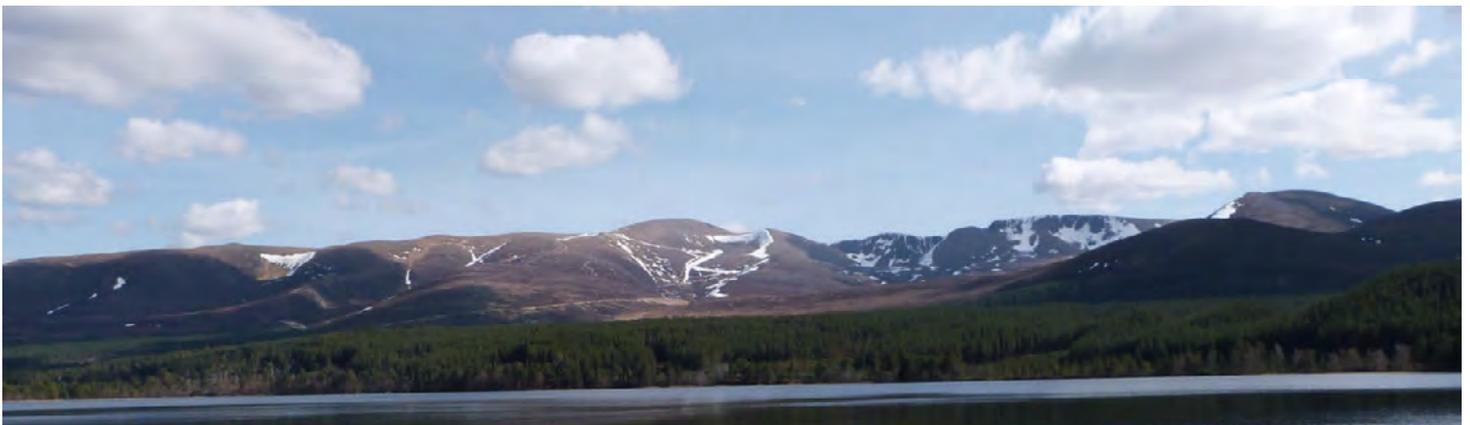
In Blackhall St Columba's Church, faith informs much of our living as individuals and as a community within Blackhall. As we seek to welcome all to the Church to share in what we know, perhaps you too might hear the question; 'are you climbing?'

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

God bless all

Fergus



OUTREACH EVENTS

13th OCTOBER- COLD HARVEST LUNCH

This will follow the Harvest Service and take place in the large hall. It will be a wonderful way to share what the Lord has provided with friends old and new. Further details will follow at a later date. Please see the Church website.



19th OCTOBER- MUSIC@ST. COLUMBA'S

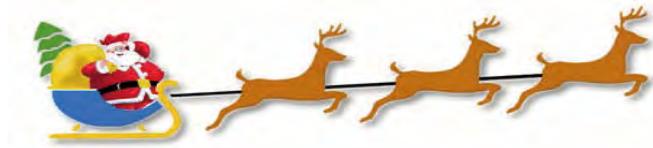


Bernice Sammut Ahard

Please join us in the sanctuary at 7pm to hear this talented pianist. No ticket required but donations for the musician would be appreciated.

2nd NOVEMBER- FESTIVE CRAFTS

Join us for a morning of Christmas themed creativity from 10am onwards. Try your hand at wreath making, be a Kirstie Allsopp at our craft table or make something tasty to take home for later. Refreshments will be served. More details will follow. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of materials. Please give your name to Shona Cook 07981 970054 if you wish to come along.



15th DECEMBER - MOVIES@STCOLUMBA'S

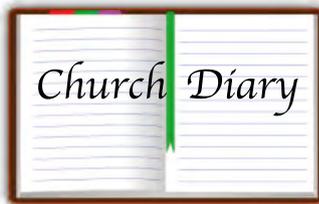
Join us at 6.30pm for a modern classic Christmas movie, *Polar Express*. Featuring the voice of Tom Hanks (who also appears in this as a character in this animated movie), this lovely story is set on Christmas Eve when a young boy boards a mysterious train heading for the North Pole and finds himself on a rather wonderful adventure.

Seasonal refreshments will be served. There is no charge but donations to cover costs will be gratefully received.

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SEPTEMBER

1 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
8 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
15 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
22 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
29 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

OCTOBER

6 th	10.30 am	Communion
	3.00 pm	Communion
13 th	10.30 am	Harvest Service
20 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
27 th	10.30 am	Joint Morning Worship at Drylaw Parish Church

NOVEMBER

2 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
10 th	10.30 am	Remembrance 
		Sunday
17 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
24 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

If you find yourself unable to attend any service in person for whatever reason you can join with us on line when the service is happening (i.e. at 10.30am) or watch later if you cannot do that.
Go to: www.youtube.com/@blackhallstcolumba

Cold Harvest Lunch

Following the Harvest Service on 13th October there will be a lunch to which all are welcome. It will take place in the large hall and will be a wonderful way to share what the Lord has provided with friends old and new.

The Prayer Circle



Do you know someone in need of prayer? A friend or relative perhaps who is unwell, grieving or find themselves in a position where they don't know where to turn?

Blackhall St Columba's Prayer Circle is a small team of people who will pray frequently for anyone in need of help in complete confidence. We are also happy to accept prayer requests giving thanks for a happy event or asking for God's help with any forthcoming personal endeavour or challenge.

Please contact Prayer Circle secretary Betty Watt at lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk or Fergus Cook at Fcook@churchofscotland.org.uk or 0131 466 7503.

Alternatively, please put your request slip into the locked box marked "Prayer Requests" on the table at the back of the Church.



PEACE SERVICES

The PEACE services will begin the 2024 session on Wednesday 4th September and will take place fortnightly at 12.00 noon until Wednesday 11th December when we will break for Christmas.

We will begin again on Wednesday 8th January and will meet fortnightly until Wednesday 28th May 2025.

This takes the form of a 30 minute service followed by a soup lunch to which everyone is most welcome. We are currently putting the syllabus together, but our first meeting will be a service of Holy Communion.

We are always looking for volunteers to make and serve the lunch and extra drivers to add to our pool. If you think you might be able to help in either capacity please contact Ruth Laidlaw on ruthlaidlaw@gmail.com or 07513967974

We look forward to welcoming you.

Shona Cook & Ruth Laidlaw



Save the Dates Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st December 2024



I know it seems quite early to be mentioning Christmas BUT this year something very special is happening at Blackhall St Columba's Church and we can't contain our excitement. As soon as you hear about it, I am sure you will want to share in the excitement too! Our doors will be open wide to welcome everyone, young and not so young, to come into the church at the heart of the Blackhall community and experience for themselves our "Nativity Trail – Mary's Journey" and our wonderful Christmas Tree Festival.. You will not want to miss this event and so get your diaries out and note down the details now.

What? – Nativity Trail – Mary's Journey & Christmas Tree Festival

Where? - Blackhall St Columba's Church

When? – Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st December 2024

On the last Thursday and Friday before Christmas (just as the schools close for the holidays), throughout the day and early evening, we will be spreading the Good News by hosting this interactive exploration of the Greatest Story Ever Told using the church itself and all its halls and buildings. We want to invite members of our community to join us in finding out the true meaning of Christmas in a novel and exciting way as they hear the Angel Gabriel's message and go on their own journey with Mary and Joseph. They will find the shepherds and encounter King Herod before they reach Bethlehem and the stable and discover the most wonderful gift we have ever been given. As if that wasn't enough, we are also offering a Christmas Nativity Escape Room for the older children who come along. In addition, there will be lots of Christmas crafts, some seasonal musical entertainment and, of course, plenty of Christmas treats and refreshments. And this year we are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival. There couldn't be a better way to start your Christmas celebrations !

We look forward to meeting you there.

Shona Cook



some scenes from last year's event



CALLING ALL LOCAL CLUBS, ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

Blackhall St Columba's church is planning a huge event this Christmas and part of that extravaganza is a Christmas Tree Festival.

You are invited to take part by getting your organisation to decorate a tree to be part of the festival. There will be a theme, but more of that later !

If you would like to take part in this festive event or would like more information, please email Ruth Laidlaw on secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



WATCH COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING 2024

WATCH Committee
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fun morning!

And.....it's never too early
to think about Christmas ~ honest!
St Columba's Christmas Fair - Sat 7th December @ 2pm
~ put it in your diary! ~
PROCEEDS GOING TO
Blood Cancer UK

Our Charity this year is **Blood Cancer UK**. We had an inspiring and insightful talk by Elizabeth Ann Holmes which left us in no doubt is a very worthwhile cause. We hope you will, as always, support our fundraising efforts for Blood Cancer UK.

We started with the Summer Sunday morning **Coin Collection**.

Next is our **Autumn Coffee Morning** which will be held on Saturday the **5th of October 2024** from 10am to 12 noon in the Church Halls. Please do pop in and enjoy delicious coffee and home-made treats. Also peruse the stalls of home baking and jam, crafts, cards, sewing and knitting. Other stalls will be selling pottery, garden produce, plants and flowers.

The **Pets Calendars** will also be on sale, ready for posting in time for Christmas.

Then we have our famous **Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December 2024 at 2pm** in the Church Hall. Details in the poster to the left. Please put it in your diary now.

The Stall Holders meeting for the Fair is on the 18th of September at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We welcome old and new stall holders and anyone willing to help.

Lynn Bunney, Watch Committee

Blood Cancer UK funds research to find a cure for the various types of blood cancers. Blood cancer is a type of cancer that affects your blood cells. Leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma are some of the most common types of blood cancer. Blood Cancer UK provides information and support for people suffering from blood cancer by phone or online. It also campaigns to ensure patients get the support they deserve and need. A cause we are sure you will want to support.

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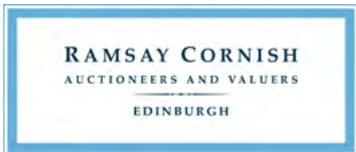
Despite some encouraging economic signs so far this year, demand for home starter packs (household items) and membership of The Pantry Shop has grown significantly. The cost-of-living crisis continues to dominate the work by FreshStart and although the school holidays are over pressure on low-income families remains.

FreshStart’s Pantry had introduced a “family” weekly rate for the school holidays which enabled families (with children) to leave the pantry with 40% more shopping in their basket. They paid £6.50 rather than the usual £4.50 but it makes a huge difference to them. Without this help and the Community meals run by FreshStart, many families would have had no choice but to use a Foodbank or skip meals. Donations of tinned and long dated packet food items are always appreciated to help stock the Pantry Shop.

Demand for starter packs grows as people from the city and new to the area find accommodation in the northwest of Edinburgh to set up home. If you have any surplus plates, bowls, pans, bedding, towels or curtains then please bring them on a Friday to the church hall between 10 and 11.30am where our duty volunteer will happily accept them. The FreshStart website (www.freshstartweb.org.uk) provides an up-to-date list of items needed as will our duty volunteer.

Again, thank you for your generous support as we help those in need in our city.

Lilian & Michael Cockburn
FreshStart Co-ordinators
(cockburn_carfrae@yahoo.co.uk)



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Soup 'n' Chat



Before the summer break on the 24th May 2024 the Soup 'n' Chat celebrated one year in operation and had a good turn out to enjoy the soup, company, chat and cake (well you need cake to celebrate). Regulars, Chat hosts (on duty and not) and others involved in the venture attended and all had a great time. City Councillors Hal Osler and Vicky Nicolson along with our own MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton joined us to celebrate this worthy achievement. Soup 'n' Chat then took a summer break to ensure the Chat Hosts and Catering team are rested and ready for the new session.

Soup 'n' Chat is back on Friday 30th August in the large hall from 12noon to 2pm or as long as the soup lasts! It will then run every two weeks on Fridays so please note the following dates:

- 13th and 27th September
- 11th and 25th October
- 8th and 22nd November
- 6th December
- 3rd and 17th January 2025

Soup 'n' Chat is open to all in the community, so if you would like to come along why not bring a neighbour or friend with you too. A warm welcome awaits.

Any questions or if you would like to help as a chat host please contact me on 07875 558977.

Michael Cockburn
Lead and admin Volunteer



Our wonderful catering team without whom we'd have no soup to chatter over !



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FIRST AID PROVISION WITHIN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Should anyone in the church buildings or grounds become unwell, the location of the First Aid Boxes, Wheelchairs and Defibrillators are as follows:

One First Aid Box is kept in the cupboard at the back of the sanctuary. That cupboard has a key with an orange label which must not be removed from the lock. There is clear First Aid signage above this cupboard. This box also contains a first aid dressings **kit**, with plasters, bandages, etc.

The second First Aid Box can be found on the table as you enter the annex room to Dorothea's office. There is clear First Aid signage on the annex room door. A duvet and a pillow contained in a duvet bag clearly marked, are available for those who may fall or need attention outside the church building. It sits on top of the First Aid box, also clearly marked. The first aid dressings **kit** for this box, is kept in the kitchen cupboard by the window.

There is a check list of contents inside each First Aid box. The boxes are checked regularly but should anything be missing or need attention please contact Betty Watt.

We now have three wheelchairs. All have two footplates. One is kept at the back of the Sanctuary. The other two are kept in the ladies' cloakroom area, opposite the kitchen. One is a modern lightweight wheelchair, the other is much older, heavier wheelchair which should only be used in an emergency. Its tyres require inflating periodically, whereas the more modern wheelchairs have solid tyres that only require inspection.

A defibrillator is mounted on the wall in the corridor opposite the kitchen, with clear signage. It is checked monthly and available for use by anyone in an emergency, whenever the church and halls are open.

A second Public Access Defibrillator, has been installed inside a yellow cabinet on the outside wall of the large hall, behind and to the right of the War Memorial. It is clearly visible from the road. To access the defibrillator in an emergency dial 999 and the operator will give the code needed to open the cabinet. There is a light inside the cabinet that activates if needed during the hours of darkness. It is also checked every month.

Both these defibrillators are registered on The Circuit, which means the Scottish Ambulance Service know their exact location by post code, (as well as the guaranteed hours of access to the defibrillator outside the kitchen.) The manuals for both devices are kept on top of the First Aid Box in the annex room to Dorothea's Office.

An accident/incident book is positioned on the wall below the defibrillator, opposite the kitchen. Please ensure anything of note is recorded, dated and signed at the time of the incident.

Please feel free to contact me anytime, through the church office, if you have any questions.

Church Office 0131 332 4431

Betty Watt



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SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

When I first moved to Edinburgh, having retired from school teaching in Fife, I was keen to join three groups – Church, Choir and Country Dancing. I was so glad to find that I could get involved in all three at Blackhall St Columba's!



Now, seven years on, I actually teach the country dance class where I was first made so welcome back in September 2017. It's a social class, where the emphasis is on fun, not footwork, and we meet each Thursday evening in the large hall at the church. We cover a variety of dances each week, but each one is explained and walked through, so everyone can have a go. The group meets from 7.30 – 9.15, with a short break for refreshments and chat.

As we start back for our new session, I'd like to encourage you to think about coming along. It's not just for "church folk" – but for the community in Blackhall and beyond. Also, you don't need to have danced before. While some in the group are dancers with years of experience, many of them are rediscovering skills first learned at school, or at Guides; and there are also those who have just come along as beginners during the last year. Like most Country Dance groups, there are lots of women, but we are fortunate in having quite a few men too, and everyone mixes together, encouraging each other with a nod or a helpful gesture as they learn each new dance. We have a Festive Fling at Christmas and our Spring Fling before we finish at Easter; and both of these occasions include live music and a buffet supper. As you'll see from the photos, we enjoy celebrating together.



Do consider "giving it a go", as they say in all the sports adverts! Scottish Country Dancing is highly rated as a positive activity for improving fitness, both mental and physical, and our two most senior dancers, both in their nineties, are great example of how true that is. Don't leave it that long, though – September 2024 is a good time to start.

No special gear is required – just a pair of comfortable shoes and a bottle of water and you're ready to reel!!!!!!

Just text me on 07908805364 for further information or come along to the large hall – the blue door facing Queensferry Road – on Thursdays at 7.30pm, from 19th September.

Muriel Stenhouse



Blackhall St. Columba's Art Club

Following a mixed summer where weather is concerned, I'm sure Art Club members will be looking forward to starting a new term.

This year's annual exhibition was held on 21st to 27th May and we were delighted with the turn out for our Preview night.

The chosen charity for this year was 'Midnight and Beyond'. Based in North Edinburgh, the charity workers aim to engage directly with young people involved in anti-social behaviour and youth crime. Much of the work takes place during the small hours, hence the name. We hope the funds we raised will be put to good use in supporting their work with youngsters.



Our committee would like to thank everyone who supported the charity by buying artists' paintings and handmade cards, for and donations.

The Club starts up again on Monday 3rd September when we look forward to seeing current and new members.

For further information please contact:-

Joyce Whytock, secretary,
family.whytock@blueyonder.co.uk or myself, Marge Whiteside, whiteside32@btinternet.com



TUESDAY TOPICS

Tuesday Topics is a group who meet in the small hall in St Columba's Church at 7.30pm....on a Tuesday ! This year we have changed a few things about the group. We are now going to meet monthly, but our Topics will still be as interesting as ever. The annual subscription is £20 with a charge of £3 if you just come as a visitor which you are most welcome to do. We now include men so if anyone wishes to come to our talks, please feel free.

To start off our new session we have:

1st October - Butterflies of the Pentlands. A talk by Bob Douglas accompanied by some of his wonderful photos.

29th October - The story of the Sahara Desert. With Henry McMeekin

26th November - Malta, Paul's Island and its George Cross. A fascinating talk by Professor Anthony Busuttill

We will then have a break over Christmas and return on 7th January 2025 with our members' lunch at Howies.

For further information, keep an eye on the Kirk News and Blackhall Bulletin.

We look forward to our faithful members returning and would love to welcome any new people. You don't have to be a member of the church ... we are about interesting talks and friendship.

For more details contact Lyndy Paton on 07460212174 or 0131 332 7377 or Sheila MacKintosh on 0131 336 1357

NORTH WEST HERITAGE

North West Heritage is a local history group which meets from September to April offering a series of talks to members and interested Membership is £15 per person or £25 per couple for seven talks. Visitors are welcome to attend at a cost of £3.00 which is payable at the door. We meet in Davidson's Mains Parish Church North Hall at 7.30 pm. There is good parking in the church car park. The dates for September – November 2024 are:

25th September 2024 - "Bridgescapes - A journey through history celebrating Scotland's bridge-building heritage". Speaker L. Bruce Keith.

23rd October 2024 - "Ruxton - the first modern murder". Speaker Tom Wood

20th November 2024 - "Edinburgh Fire Brigade - commemorating 200 years since the start of the Edinburgh Fire Engine Establishment". Speaker Dave Farries

For further information please contact the Secretary, Charlotte Cowe by email : charlotte@dmains.co.uk or by phone on 0131 336 2494

BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

GOLF OUTING 2024

Once again the Annual Golf Outing was held at Ravelston Golf Club on the 28th June. There were 14 players and 17 staying for a delicious high tea, our thanks go to Ravelston for a most enjoyable day.

The winners this year were:

- Involvement "88" Golf Cup:** George Millar
- Murrayfield Ladies Cup** Pam Harrington
2nd Frances Douglas
3rd Amy Foster
- Murrayfield Cup** John Turner
2nd Sandy Weir
- 9 Hole Prize** Diane Ross

David Thomson Frances Douglas

Thank you to Murrayfield House for their sponsorship.

David Thomson

Frances Douglas



Dee@Breath-Works and Yoga with Esme have joined forces to create a supportive yoga community within the heart of Blackhall.

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CAMEO CLUB

Cameo stands for “come and meet each other” so every second Friday we have coffee and entertainment in Blackhall St Columba’s church halls between 10.30 and 12.00 noon. Cameo Club is for the community, so please come along and enjoy what is on your doorstep. We welcome all.

On Friday 6th September we look forward to having two new entertainers – Elaine and Izzy who call themselves “Take Two”. We would like your support on 4th October when we have The Rock Choir, part of a nationwide singing group who we welcomed last year, when they were a great success. They will definitely brighten up your day. On 29th November we will not be in the halls, as members will be enjoying a Christmas Lunch at one of the local hotels. There will only be one meeting in December when, on Friday 13th December we will be having a Christmas themed morning. Our regular pattern of meetings will recommence on Friday January 10th.

If you are local we can provide car lifts. We do need additional drivers. Volunteers are always welcome !
For further details please call Fiona Drinnan on 0131 343 6762

KNIT AND NATTER

By the time you are reading this, Autumn will be approaching, and we will be getting ready to start our new session. This begins on Monday, September the 9th and we hope to welcome some new members as well as of course our regulars.

We meet in the Sanctuary each week (entering by the hall doors) at 7.30 pm and as well as some knitting, enjoy good natter over a tea or coffee and a biscuit. Whether you are already a knitter, have not knitted for some time or a beginner, you are welcome to join us. We mainly knit baby and toddler items for Pregnancy Counselling and Care (Scotland), but we also do blankets for FreshStart and sometimes have projects for the Church too. For more information please e mail me at stcknitnatter@gmail.com

Lilian Cockburn



This is a small selection of some of the items we have knitted recently.

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Blackhall Horticultural Society

This summer is proving to be challenging for gardeners, with very cool wet weather and occasional warm sunny days which make us feel more optimistic about whether our plant and vegetables will succeed! The invasion of slugs in unprecedented numbers has been reported throughout the UK, and the creatures can be found ambling across our gardens on damp evenings and mornings, sending us out on slug patrols.

The 2024 session started with a very popular talk on soil from George Anderson of Beechgrove Garden. We moved on to Bonsai and Houseplants, finishing with Roses in April. In June the visit to Inverleith Park Allotments on a fine summer evening was enjoyed by everyone. Rounding off the year the group held a plant sale in May at the Christian Aid coffee morning, which was a great success, raising over £600 half of which went to Christian Aid.

At the AGM in May Sheena Blair announced her retirement and Louise was voted in as the new president. Louise has been hard at work with the committee and there are some great talks lined up for the coming year. The autumn session includes:

9 th September	A Gardeners Life by Caroline Mathias
14 th October	Low Maintenance Gardening by Chantal Fenton
11 th November	Tool Maintenance by Colin Wren
9 th December	Social Event

The group meets at 7.45pm on the second Monday of the month from September to May in the small hall at Blackhall St Columba's Church. Look out for each month's poster displayed locally in Tescos and Sainsburys and on the church notice boards. You can also check out our Facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/211472892232483.

Talks are open members and non members, we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

If you would like more information please email Louise, Horti President, at blackhall.horti@hotmail.com



Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Edinburgh Floral Art Club resumes its activities in the large hall at St Columba's Church on Friday 13th September. We look forward to welcoming visitors and prospective new members at any of our meetings; we are a friendly group with a shared love of, and interest in, flower arranging.

Meeting eight times a year our Session runs from September to May (inclusive) with a break in January. We gather on the second Friday of the month ready for our demonstrator (or activity) to start at 2pm and conclude with refreshments and a chance to chat, usually heading home around 4pm. The flower arrangements produced by our demonstrators are raffled off and lucky winners can be spotted carrying home beautiful flowers after each event. (see below).

In December and February of this Session we aim to have 'hands on' activities where members and guests can create their own floral art. Each month we have a 'bring and buy' stall selling floral sundries, books on flower arranging and other flower-related items donated by members as well having other fundraising activities most months (e.g. quizzes, bottle stall etc).

If you love flowers and enjoy watching floral artistry at its best and if you wish a relaxing and inspiring start to the weekend, then do come and see what we are up to!

For more information contact our Chairman, Mrs Suzie Stark, 07888 942561.

Syllabus Autumn 2024



13th September 2024 - Val Guest on Tour from Darlington, 'Flamboyance of Nature'

11th October 2024 - Sara Barrow, National Demonstrator on Tour from Preston, 'Colours of a Rainbow'

8th November 2024 - Heather Curry from Gosforth, 'Winter Cheer'



PROBUS CLUB NEWS



BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB

The Club has a healthy membership, and is looking forward to a very interesting and varied programme next session. In October we will hear from Pam Mitchell, a Motivational Speaker. This will be followed in November by a talk from the CEO of the Scottish Book Trust, which is our chosen charity for the session. In December, we will have a talk on the King's Theatre upgrade and future, which will be of interest to many, followed by tea with Christmas treats.

In January, Simon Bendle will again visit us to talk this time about Sophia Jex-Blake, the English physician, teacher and feminist, who led the campaign to secure women access to a university education. This will be followed a week later by our Post Christmas Lunch. We look forward to a talk on The Toxicology of the Home by Prof Ken Donaldson in February, and in March Dr Keith Gilroy will give a talk on the history of the Fire Brigade. This will be followed in April by our AGM with refreshments. Membership is open to ladies aged 55 and over, who are retired, and we meet at Blackhall Bowling Club on the second Thursday of the month from October to April, from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Enquiries from ladies who are interested in joining are welcome, and should be made to the Secretary, details below.

Christine Proudfoot, Secretary. Phone: 0131 343 1761 Email: proudfootchristine2@gmail.com

Blackhall Probud Club

The Blackhall Probud Club is part of a UK-wide group which organizes social events for retired gentlemen in the local area. With a membership of around forty, we will be meeting this coming session on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3rd October through to 3rd April 24 at the Blackhall Bowling Club on Keith Row at 10:00 to chat over tea/coffee/biscuits before listening to a talk given by experts and enthusiasts across a wide range of subjects. We also hope to organise one or two lunches (including Christmas) to which partners are invited, Quiz, Pie and a Pint sessions after a couple of the talks as well as local walks lead by one of our members.

Talks planned for the coming session include: *D Day*, *Scottish Lighthouses*, *On the Busses* and *The History of the Scottish First and Rescue Service*. All of which bode well for a diverse, interesting and entertaining series.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to join us, please contact the Secretary for more details or come along to the first meeting on Thursday 3rd of October.

We look forward to meeting you.

Keith Gilroy, Secretary, Blackhall Probud Club
Phone: 0787 327 5854 Email: ksgprobud@icloud.co

CRAIGLEITH PROBUS

Over the summer months, Larry Walls, our speakers secretary, has been busy arranging our winter talks, and what a wide selection of themes he has covered - in other words something for all !

We start our session at 10am for coffee/tea on **Wednesday 2nd October** with a talk at 10.30am about Holyrood Park. There is far more to the Park than just our city's backdrop of Arthurs Seat ! Are you aware of its rich bronze age history ? Or the diverse flora and fauna on this volcanic plug? Or this being the hunting grounds of David 1, and other members of the Scottish Royal family?

Do you know anything about Uzbekistan and the Silk Road? We know the former from being a Pointless answer on TV! But this doubly landlocked former USSR state was invaded by Alexander the Great, gold and cotton form part of its economy, and, with a network of trade routes known as The Silk Road, has brought together people and cultures from across Asia shaping the course of history. Hear more about this on **Wednesday 16th October**.

Moving on a month, on **20th November** we will hear *What's behind the cockpit door?* (I hope it's a pilot), while on **4th December** Alastair Macdonald will explain about *The Edinburgh Poorhouse*. As Christmas approaches, on **18th December** we hear the story of Pipe Major Robert Roy, MBE, DCM, from his daughter, Alice Soper, who on finding an old suitcase full of papers and photos collated them into her book *The Piper of Tobruk*.

And what will 2025 bring us ? We will hear about Gentle Giants (giraffes). Arctic Convoys, and how Coal Mining and the Twin Tub Washing Machines are connected.

Probud is a worldwide association of clubs for semi-retired or retired people from all walks of life; in our case we meet fortnightly at Blackhall Bowling Club from October to April with coffee/tea plus chocolate biscuits from 10am followed by a talk at 10.30am lasting an hour. If you would like more information just drop me an email.

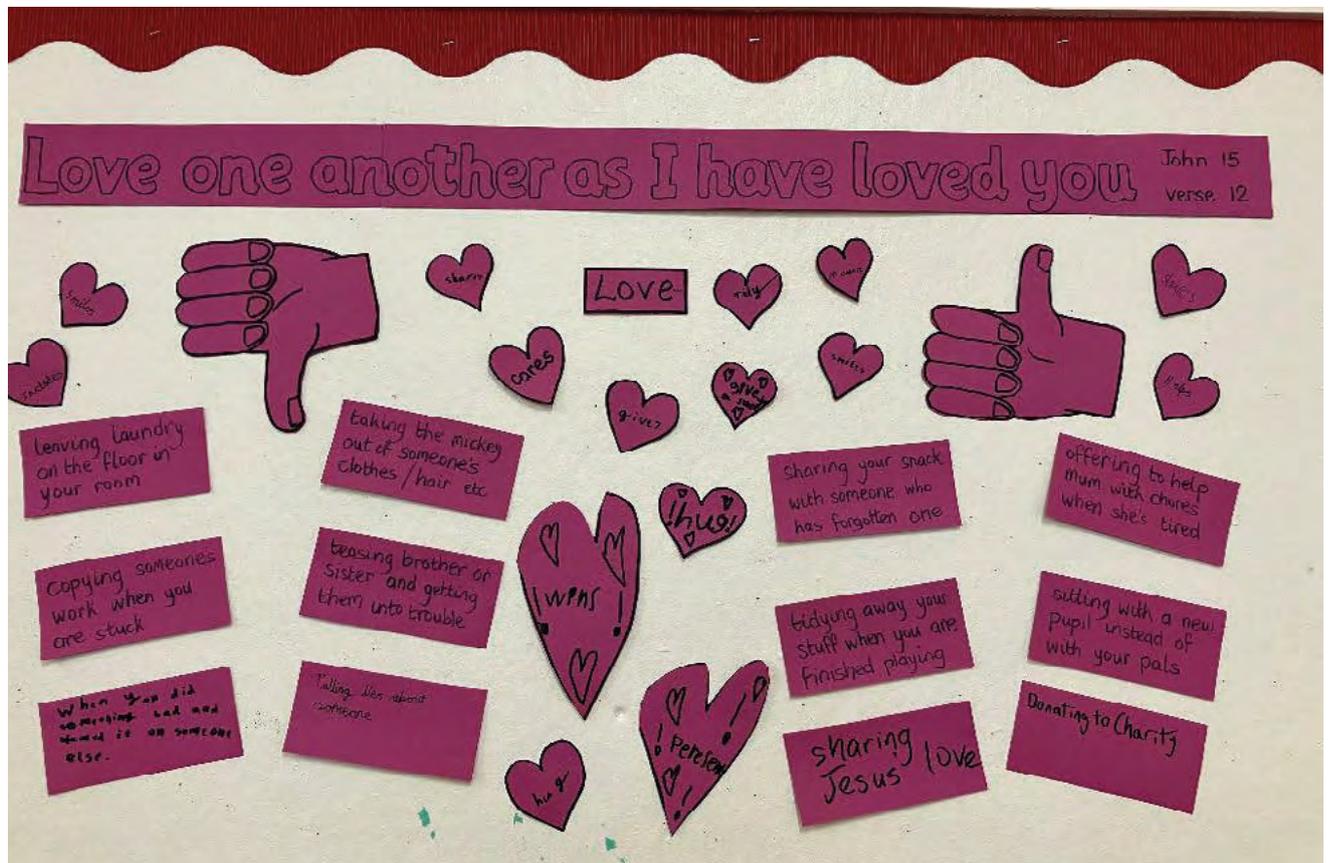
John MacLennan - Past President : johnmaclennanuk@gmail.com

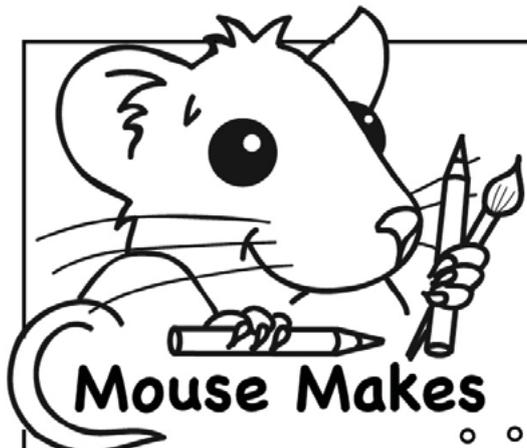
SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club never goes on holiday! While some children went off on holiday during the summer with their families, coming back to tell us of their adventures, and the leaders also enjoyed having a break from routine, Sunday Club was there throughout the summer for local children who were not away and for children who were visiting the area on holiday.

The usual format for Sunday Club is that we stay in church for the first part of the Sunday morning service, then leave to go to our own room where we take part in activities such as storytelling, crafts and games, returning to the service as it comes to an end. Below, you can see the results of one of our sessions.

If you or your child would be interested in finding out more about Sunday Club, why not come along one Sunday morning or alternatively phone me (Amy Donaldson, 0131 332 1354). We have children who come along regularly and some who come occasionally. It matters not – all are welcome.





HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
 _____ you, O God!
 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

Mouse Makes

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.

He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and
 spring _____.
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

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 O G D O P R O D U C E R
 I H J O Y V S H A R E I
 L A N D H E P R A Y D N
 T H A N K S G I V I N G
 Y P F E R T I L E E P S
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 S E A S O N F O O D A A
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 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

JUNIOR SINGERS

Once again, the Junior Singers have been busy. We started off the '23 – '24 season with a performance of Noah and his Floating Zoo, sang several times in church, including the Gift Service, the Christingle Service and the Youth Service. On top of that, we sang during one of the services for the residents of Strachan House and we gave a Christmas Concert to the residents of Queen's Court. As the season came to an end, we were still hard at work preparing for another performance in October '24.

After the summer break, Junior Singers will meet up again on Thursday, 15th August in the upstairs hall of Blackhall St Columba's from 3.45 – 4.15pm. We are always looking for new members to join our ranks so if your child is in P3 – P7 and enjoys singing, why not consider coming along one Thursday or phone me, (Amy Donaldson 0131 332 1354) for more information.



Blackhall Nursery

News September 2024



Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we put the children at the heart of everything we do. We provide a safe, healthy and happy environment where children grow and develop through play and active learning. This year is our 25th Birthday and we have a year's worth of celebrations planned.

As always, the summer term passed by in a flash. The children were very busy learning through play. Since Easter we have learned how to keep ourselves safe, with help from a Pauline, our local crossing patrol and Green watch from Drylaw Fire Station. We have been keeping ourselves healthy and had visits from some parents- a Nurse and a Dentist, who came in to share their expertise with the children. We tasted all sorts of different healthy foods, including passion fruit, avocado and fennel and moved our bodies to take part in Woodland walks, a tennis lesson, dancing and yoga. The children who were leaving us had visits to school, meeting their 'BFG', their new classmates and their new teachers. We watched our tadpoles and caterpillars grow and change.

In June, thanks to some amazing fundraising by our parent committee, we all went to East Links Farm Park for a full day trip – a very exciting trip out. It was a wonderful way to mark the departure of those children heading off to school and we now look forward to welcoming a new cohort due to start in August.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer full day (6 hours) places for 3-5 year olds during term time.

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



Pink Panther Explorer Scouts and Leaders set off on their expedition to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland where they will take part in activities with Scouts from around the world. Bon Voyage!



Can you help?

Every week we give over 200 young people the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: resilience and the skills they need for life.

But we have another 60 on our waiting list. Will you help us to give more skills to even more young people?

But we have another 60 on our waiting list. Will you help us to give more skills to even more young people?

Trustee – Young Adult

We are looking for a young adult (18 – 25 years) to join our Trustee Board. A background in Scouting is not essential. Training will be provided. This is a great way of practising skills, expanding a CV and fulfilling CPD requirements.

If you think you could help, please contact:
23rdgsl@gmail.com

Girlguiding **Blackhall Guiding**

202 and 202B Brownies are looking forward to thinking of others this term and working on their take action theme. They are looking forward to a visit to the Edinburgh Chocolatarium and watching their friends in the Edinburgh Gang Show this year. They are looking forward to going back in time when they sleep in Beamish Museum in County Durham and go broomstick training in Alwnick Castle. **Nicole Harland – 202&202B Brownie**



202A Rainbows had an end of term trip at Craigies Farm and spent the time playing indoors, handling some of the farm animals and fruit picking. A few of the girls earned their Bronze Award and two earned their Silver. **Barbara Bon – 202A Rainbow Leader**

Rainbows and Brownies joined in with the Edinburgh County Animal Antics event.



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides took over the Odeon Cinema to watch the Girlguiding Exclusive of Inside Out 2

Last term 202C Brownies were busy following their brownie law and thinking of others before themselves. They held a bring and buy fundraiser before the Easter holidays and raised nearly £400 for Fresh Start. They then visited Sainsburys, armed with FS wish lists, to spend the money. The Brownies were very enthusiastic and learned so much, not just about budgeting and using a calculator but thinking about other people in the community and their needs **Helen Abbott – 202C Brownie Leader**

In June, 157th Rainbows celebrated Eid which included learning about the story of Abraham and having beautiful henna tattoos. We also held an end of term and a Promise ceremony at Cramond beach. This term we continue to work towards our Rainbow section awards. **Claire Slaine- 157 Rainbow Leader**

Blackhall Guides enjoyed a fun night of water games in the park at the end of last term and are looking forward to going to camp this term. **Lorna 202 Guide Leader**



16 202&2202B Brownies were excited to have a visit from our Edinburgh County Commissioner who presented them with their Gold Awards that they had worked really hard to achieve.

202 Rainbows have welcome many new Rainbows and we are working on our Know Myself theme badge. The older Rainbows are looking forward to a District sleepover. **Nicola McDermid – 202 Rainbow Leader**

Volunteer with Girlguiding Edinburgh?

Could you spare some time to volunteer with us? It's an exciting time to be part of Girlguiding as we get to grips with our most exciting (and biggest) programme overhaul in 100 years!

We are looking for enthusiastic adults to help with Rainbow, Brownie & Guide units city-wide,

Full training and support provided. See our website or register online for more information:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com



A snapshot of what we have been doing at Blackhall Primary School



Primary 7 Camp at Lagganlia. An amazing group of individuals who worked together throughout the week and supported each other in a variety of different activities including, Gorge walking, Abseiling, Mountain biking, and Hill walking, as well as making beds and keeping their dorms tidy. Well done all.

P4J had loads of fun with Markey Mark from Destination Judo . The taster sessions gave the children the opportunity to try out a new activity and there were smiles all around which was great for all to see. You never know, we may have some future Olympic medallist amongst us.



We had a fun and successful day at the cross country event which was held at Inverleith Park in March. Despite the rain and mud, all the children were superstars...smiling throughout the event with some outstanding performances from certain individuals. Pictured above are the team from our P7s and P6s.



1P6 playing Whip & Top, Hoop & Stick, Skipping, Marbles and Spinning Tops in outdoor learning this was also part of their Victorian project.



P5s learned about the fire triangle and the right wood to use for fire. We made banana boats and cooked them in tinfoil over the fire.



P4s took a trip to the park and helped to tidy up the community during Children's Mental Health Week. We are very proud of you! We also learned some calming strategies and read about children who have made a big impact on the world.



Volunteers from P7D read a Scots Poem in assembly to commemorate the life of Robert Burns. Mr Jackson also read a verse! They all did a great job



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

Minister
Rev Fergus Cook
5 Blinkbonny Crescent
Edinburgh EH4 3NB
Telephone 466 7503

Session Clerk
Eddie Thorn
Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary
Church Office
Tues-Thurs 9-12 noon
Tel: 332 4431 or email
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

DEADLINES

Kirk News (November edition) **Friday 18th October**

Please send all items to the Editor;
Judith Mair, c/o Church Office
or by e-mail to: judith.mair@hotmail.com

Blackhall Bulletin (December edition) - **Sunday 27th October**

Please send all items, including **Advertising Enquiries**
to the Editor: Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office
or by email to: bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk



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Welcome to the area. We do hope you enjoy living here. To help you find your feet, Blackhall St Columba's Church website gives you all you need to know about activities happening there for young and old. From leisure activities like painting and dancing to our youth groups and junior singers. You can find it all at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or contact the office by phone (see above) or e mail secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or

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