

# BLACKHALL BULLETIN

June 2021

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

No. 164

## CHARLIE'S HAIRCUT RAISES OVER £3,000

Blackhall Primary schoolboy, Charlie Waller, who has been growing his hair for three years, made an amazing amount of money in May when he was sponsored to cut off his man-bun for charity.



A week before his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, Charlie visited local barber, Fine Fellas, to have his 30cm long golden hair cut off in four pony-tails, ready to send off to be transformed into a wig for a child who has suffered hair loss through illness or as a result of medical treatment.

The primary 3 pupil had created a short video, asking family and friends to support him by giving to The Little Princess Trust, to cover the cost of creating the wig – and was surprised to find that his initial target of £200 was overtaken in a couple of days. Within a fortnight, his total stood at nearly £2,000, with a further £1,000 promised by Edinburgh law firm, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, where his dad works.

Charlie said, “I have been growing my hair long since I was about four or five, when I read a story about a boy who donated his long hair to charity. I thought it was a really nice idea so I started growing mine too. I also thought man buns looked really cool.”



The longer his hair grew, the more he enjoyed trying out different ways to wear it, with some amazing plaited creations by mum for special events. But his plan was always to grow it long enough to donate to a child who needed new hair.

He explained, “Lots of people do not have hair because of special treatment or medicines that they have to take and the Little Princess Trust makes wigs for them to wear if they want to. My hair is going to be a wig.”

A keen member of the local Beavers and cyclist with Edinburgh Road Club, Charlie also takes part in classes and performance groups with Edinburgh Dance Academy and enjoys drama and musical theatre with Captivate. His family were absolutely astounded at the generosity of people who responded to his video story and are grateful to the 128 supporters who made donations to his Just Giving page. They are also very proud of him and his determination to follow through with his plan to help another child.

*What an inspiring story, I'm sure you'll agree. If you want to support Charlie it's not too late. This is the link for his Just Giving page.*

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Charlie-Waller07?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=Charlie-Waller07&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=18f5b36c2a654dcd80fcc7a51e311639](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Charlie-Waller07?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Charlie-Waller07&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=18f5b36c2a654dcd80fcc7a51e311639).



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Greetings to all in the Blackhall community.

### "With great power comes great responsibility"

The adage 'with great power comes great responsibility' is a proverb that has been popularised by the Spider-Man comic books written by Stan Lee. It is so popular that, after comics, graphic novels and several films, the expression is sometimes referred to as the 'Peter Parker Principle'. Peter Parker was the name of the character who became spider-man following his encounter with a radioactive spider.

Stan Lee, the comic book author, was far from the first to coin this phrase or express its sentiment. In 1906, Winston Churchill, the then Under-Secretary of the Colonial Office, said: "Where there is great power there is great responsibility." Additionally, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1945, stated "great power involves great responsibility." There are also many others who have expressed this sentiment in varying forms at different points in history.

The earliest example of this concept, that I can find, is in the New Testament. Although the words are different, I believe the meaning behind the words is similar if not the same. It is written in the Gospel according to Luke 12:48, N.R.S.V.: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Another translation reads: "To whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked."

The question we must now consider, therefore, is to whom has much been given or, using the Peter Parker Principle, who has much power? Whoever we are in life, it is very easy to see ourselves as 'normal'. Our own situations will almost always lead us to think that there are people with more than us, more power, more influence, more money and so on. We shall also, if we are honest, recognise that there are people worse off than us as they have less, less power, less influence, less money and so on. All this can lead us to think that we are somewhere in the middle. As I expressed earlier, many of us will use this thinking to believe that we, whoever we are, are 'normal'.

I'd like us, here in the United Kingdom, in Edinburgh, in Blackhall, to think about that for a second. Where do we really sit in the category of those people who have been given much?

According to 2020 figures and conversion rates:

The average income in the United Kingdom is **£30,074.68**

The average income in China is **£6,890.59**

The average income in South Africa is **£4,184.11**

The average income in India is **£1,469.79**

The United Kingdom has a far smaller population than any of the other examples I have used. The average income of someone in the United Kingdom is over 4 times greater than the average income of someone in China, which is in turn more than 4 times greater than the average in India.

Having an understanding of what our relative wealth is in relation to the rest of the world should give us pause for thought, especially in relation to a recent article written by Rodger Harrabin of the BBC.

He writes:

"The world's wealthy must radically change their lifestyles to tackle climate change, a report says.

It says the world's wealthiest 1% produce double the combined carbon emissions of the poorest 50%, according to the UN. The wealthiest 5% alone – the so-called "polluter elite" – contributed 37% of emissions growth between 1990 and 2015. The authors want to deter SUV drivers and frequent fliers – and persuade the wealthy to insulate their homes well. The report urges the UK government to reverse its decision to scrap air passenger duty on UK return flights.

And it wants ministers to re-instate the Green Homes Grant scheme they also scrapped recently".

The report came from the UK-based Cambridge Sustainability Commission on Scaling Behaviour Change. It's a panel of 31 individuals who study people's behaviour relating to the environment. They were tasked to find the most effective way of scaling up action to tackle carbon emissions.

The lead author of the report, Prof Peter Newell, from Sussex University, told BBC News: "We are totally in favour of technology improvements and more efficient products - but it's clear that more drastic action is needed because emissions keep going up. We have got to cut over-consumption and the best place to start is over-consumption among the polluting elites who contribute by far more than their share of carbon emissions. These are people who fly most, drive the biggest cars most and live in the biggest homes which they can easily afford to heat, so they tend not to worry if they're well insulated or not. They're also the sort of people who could really afford good insulation and solar panels if they wanted to." "The wealthy", he said, "simply must fly less and drive less".

These ideas have also been supported in a recent report of the UK Climate Assembly. It suggested, for example, a proposed series of measures targeting carbon-intensive behaviours such as shifting away from meat and dairy produce; banning the most polluting SUVs and imposing frequent flyer levies. The report said: "The goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change cannot be achieved without radical changes to lifestyles and shifts in behaviour, especially among the wealthiest members of society. If change across society is to be brought about at the speed and scale required to meet agreed climate targets, we need to shrink and share: reduce carbon budgets and share more equally."

Both reports are the latest pronouncements in a long-running dialogue over what it means to be "fair" while tackling climate change. Poorer nations, such as India, have consistently argued that they should be allowed to increase their pollution because their emissions are so much lower per person than emissions from rich nations.

This year The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. Ultimately, they can only make proposals and promises. It is going to take real change in all our behaviour to make a serious impact on climate change. I believe that we here in Blackhall fall within the category of people who have been given much. A lot is being required in lifestyle changes to make a difference to climate change. However, as Jesus said: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Best wishes and blessings to all

Fergus Cook

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## HELLO AGAIN - IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME

It's so good to be back with a "hard copy" again and know you can read all that's going on in Blackhall and St Columba's. I'm sure, like me, you will be inspired by young Charlie's story on our front page.

If you missed copies – they were produced but only online versions – you can find them on the church website – [www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](http://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk) - under 'Resources' in the drop down menu and you'll find the issues you missed including our special 40<sup>th</sup> birthday edition.

Services are now taking place again in our newly refurbished sanctuary. You are very welcome to come and join us, **but** due to Covid rules, you will have to book your place. To do this please call the church office on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. You can also join the service on live streaming which you can access by the church website (details above). We would really love to see you and to let you see the changes that have happened in the last year.



## CALLING ALL AMATEUR SLEUTHS

The days are getting longer, the skies are getting bluer, a familiar orange sphere is appearing above us quite often now and, at last, we are emerging from lockdown as restrictions are being lifted. If you feel that you have exhausted all the possible walks in the area in recent months bundled up against the cold and are in desperate need of something new to look at and to do, look no further!

Blackhall St. Columba's Parish Church has just the thing to give your local walk a new lease of life and get your mental juices flowing again. A Treasure Hunt with a difference will be launched in the not too distant future and it can be done in all weathers, at any time that suits you and totally within the current COVID restrictions. Do it alone, with family or with friends and get to know Blackhall even better than before. All you will need is a pen and an eye for detail.

Our treasure hunt takes the form of a Murder Mystery Quest which will have you eliminating suspects and murder weapons until you solve the riddle of the ghost of Ravelston Woods and uncover who carried out the grisly murder and with what. Once you know those facts you can submit your answers to the church office and perhaps you will be the lucky winner of a £25 Amazon voucher!

The hunt will take you just a couple of hours to complete, so, what are you waiting for? Keep an eye on Blackhall St. Columba's Parish Church website for details on how to download the Quest.

Good luck, detectives!  
Shona Cook

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# TAK TENT O' TIME, 'ERE TIME BE TINT



Throughout the last year, one of my “go-to” places has been Saughton Park and Gardens. With its colourful floral borders, the formal rose garden and open green spaces, it has offered many enjoyable walks, especially once the coffee shop introduced its takeaway menu. Whatever route I take, I am always drawn to one landmark – the 17<sup>th</sup> century sundial, with its four faces, each with its own cherub and and salutary inscription.

It's the Scots saying, “Tak Tent O' Time, 'ere Time be Tint”, shown here on the third layer, that I find most fascinating. The contemporary version, to “make the most of our time as we don't know how long we have”, loses a lot in translation, especially the effective alliteration that makes the Scots phrase so memorable; yet the advice is just as relevant as it would have been four centuries ago.

Our various experiences of the last year and a half have surely taught us not to take life for granted. Through the ever-changing social restrictions that allowed us to stay as safe as possible, we had to learn again the value of each day, making the most of the present, unable to make definite plans for the future.

Now, however, as the summer approaches and the vaccine programme is having a positive impact, living life to the full is gradually becoming possible again. Time to spend with those we've missed for so long; time to return to groups and activities that were so much a part of our lives; time to make the most of new opportunities to build friendships and develop shared interests.

The words of the Old Testament book of wisdom, Ecclesiastes, remind us, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”. Let's pray that it is NOW the time, not just to be positive about our daily lives but to be confident about future plans that will help us to make the best use of the time that we have.

“Tak Tent o' Time” ..... we are reminded even closer to home, for Irene, one of the Blackhall Country Dancing ladies, has a 20<sup>th</sup> century sundial on her house in Craigmook Road with that same Scots inscription.



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Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift.



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# NORTH WEST HERITAGE



With the role out of the Covid vaccination and the reduced number of people infected in Scotland, the Art Club are hoping that we will be able to start classes again in late August or September. Our members are very keen to see each other and get the support from others with our drawing and painting.

In the meantime, we are continuing with our monthly challenges. In February we had to paint a wintry scene in Edinburgh, March was to depict 'the Joys of Spring' and April is to paint something in our kitchen. As many of our members have been doing lots of painting at home, we should have enough paintings to put on an exhibition whenever we can do so.

With the weather having been so dry and sunny recently, getting outside to plant seeds, tidy borders, cut grass and even just sit outside with a cup of coffee is a big distraction from getting down to painting! However, some members have taken sketch books when out on walks and others have been doing online painting classes.

Valerie, the art club chairperson, sends out a newsletter every week to share what artistic or other activities members have been doing to keep busy and to keep in touch with all. Hopefully by the time this goes out we will have plans in place to actually be seeing each other soon.

## TUESDAY TOPICS

Hello to all members and friends of Tuesday Topics, Blackhall St Columba's Church.

As you know, we have now been close since early March last year. Writing this at the end of April, it is still too soon to have made plans for, or have any information about, a date to start another session of Tuesday Topics. By the time you are reading this in June, most of our members should have had both anti-covid injections, we should be almost out of the current lockdown and looking forward to summer.

Till then we wish all our member and friends a health, safe and happy summer.

Jacky Cowie, Secretary  
Eleanor Lowrie, President

Like all other groups we have not met during this session 2020/21. It is hoped to resume meetings in the autumn assuming restrictions have been removed. I would hope to be able to announce a syllabus in the next edition of the Blackhall Bulletin.

One of founding members, Margaret McArthur, passed away on 13 February 2021. I first met Margaret at our inaugural meeting in 2000. This was in response to a plea by the librarian of Blackhall Library who envisaged a group to promote historical information about the area. She was a great supporter of the group becoming our archivist for a few years. She had already written two books, *Bonnie Blackhall* and *Blackhall Past and Present*, prior to her involvement with North West Heritage. She then took on the task of producing another book, *Memories of Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes*, which took many months of interviews and editing before being published in 2007 to acclaimed praise. It is wonderful to have this publication as so many of the contributors have also passed away, but their knowledge and stories live on for the next generations. Margaret stood down from the position of archivist in but still attended our meetings for some years. She was also a fine amateur artist and produced the painting which graces the cover of *Memories of Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes*.

Another of our founding members, Marjorie Easton, died on 13 April in Strachan House. Again, I met Marjorie at the inaugural meeting and met her regularly when she was our president. She was also our Treasurer when she stood down from being president. She had been a teacher until her retirement so, being organised, chaired our meetings very efficiently. She had great enthusiasm for the group and, after giving up her presidency in 2007, attended regularly until ill health caught up with her about three years ago. Very sadly her husband, Murray, died just 11 days after her. They had spent their whole lives together having been school sweethearts. Murray, who had been an architect, designed the logo for North West Heritage.

Charlotte Cowe  
Secretary

## Edinburgh Floral Art Club

The Chairman and Committee of Edinburgh Floral Art Club hope to welcome members and friends, old and new, to the Club in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall, on Friday 10 September at 2pm. This will of course depend on Government Guidelines at this time.

Isabel Ingram

## KNIT and NATTER

With restrictions now starting to ease, I hope to soon be able to distribute the items we have knitted over the winter to Fort Early Years Centre and Pregnancy Counselling and Care who we are now supporting. Queensferry Early Years Centre have changed their remit and felt our knits would be better used elsewhere. Fingers and toes crossed (though this makes knitting a little awkward) we will be able to meet up again in the Autumn.

If anyone would like further information on what we do please contact me at [stcknitnatter@gmail.com](mailto:stcknitnatter@gmail.com)

Lilian Cockburn



## ST COLUMBA'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Looking back my diary, I notice that our last Thursday evening country dancing was on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 !!!NO Spring Party on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and NO Christmas Party. Here we are in 2021 and NO dancing at the beginning of the year and again NO Spring Party!! Our shoes are sitting in the wardrobe waiting patiently for the COVID-19 restrictions to be lifted!

A 'phone call round the members was a good way of keeping in touch and pleased to say that all were in fairly good spirits, albeit a bit fed up. As was mentioned in that 'phone call, we hope to be able to have a "socially distanced" get-together in the large hall ... perhaps in September/October. The Church Office will keep us informed. Also, we will require to follow the guidelines laid down by the RSCDS.

In the meantime, keep safe and have a good summer.  
Margaret Brown 332 5957



## CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

Unfortunately, we are still unable to meet on alternate Fridays in the large hall of St Columba's Church.

Our last get-together was on Friday 13 March 2020 (!) and here we are still unable to catch up with each other because of the continuing restrictions. The vaccine has brought hope, but we must be patient and wait to see how the situation progresses.

We know from speaking to members (and helpers!!) that they are missing the club very much and longing to see their friends again for coffee and a good blether!

Keep well and stay safe  
Margaret Brown. Fiona Drinnan

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You perhaps remember that before lockdown that Fresh Start were planning to open a homeware shop. Due to circumstances, priority was given to opening The Pantry, a community food club, helping members make their money stretch further.

As the Hub developments continue, Fresh Start are looking forward to opening their new Shop. The Shop will share the premises with The Pantry and sell homeware at affordable prices.

This provides another Fresh Start volunteering opportunity. If you would like to volunteer with Fresh Start in The Shop, please contact [Abigail@freshstartweb.org.uk](mailto:Abigail@freshstartweb.org.uk)

Please check that the goods you are donating are items on Fresh Start's starter pack list. Unfortunately, if items are unable to be used, Fresh Start must pay for their disposal from their funds. That beautiful crystal rose bowl and bric a brac would be better placed in a charity shop as Fresh Start cannot use these. Currently due to restrictions they are unable to accept duvets, cushions or pillows but bed linen is still required.

For the list of items wanted please visit Fresh Start's website

<https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/uploads/Starter-Pack-Leaflet-2021.png>

Fresh Start also run a PAT testing service (approved member of Edinburgh Trusted Trader) If you know of anyone requiring PAT testing, please suggest they take a look at what Fresh Start can offer.

<https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/pat-testing>

## KiltWalk 2021-JOB DONE

The KiltWalk is an annual fund raiser in Scotland which last year raised over £2 million for some 900 charities. By tradition thousands walk together on a prescribed route but 2021 was different due to Covid-19 (who would have thought).

Never having entered before, I signed up to raise funds for FreshStart, a charity close to my heart, because it was to be a virtual walk over the weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April and even better, you chose "your walk".



I picked a favourite local walk South Queensferry to Blackhall (Church to Church) via the Dalmeny Estate approx 10 miles. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (the day I had picked) you could not have asked for better weather (almost too hot).

Lilian and I rallied business and personal contacts and together we did the walk) and were rewarded by raising together £660 which with the £330 contribution from the Hunter Foundation and, if people ticked the right box, HMRC will also pay over £65 so all in all FreshStart should receive £1,055. The only downside in a virtual walk is you have to present yourself with the medal that comes through the post rather than collect at the finish line - perhaps next year.

I know of a number of people in Blackhall also signed up to the KiltWalk and raised good money for their selected charities so well done to them and I hope you had as superb a day as I had - well done and maybe next year we will all walk together for "the cause".

Michael Cockburn  
Outreach Leader  
Blackhall St Columba's Church.

## IS IT SUMMER IN YOUR GARDEN?

It is still not too late to brighten up your planters. But why not consider the value of 'edibles'? One of the easiest to grow is Swiss Chard, a close relative of beetroot. Sow the seed directly into your container, previously filled with a multipurpose compost/growing media. The seed is large enough to be space sown and so 'place' the seed about an inch apart then thin to three inches apart. To assist germination, soak the seed for fifteen minutes in lukewarm water. As the name suggests 'Bright Lights' is one the colourful ones to try with stem colours range from white, reds, to lipstick pink. Harvest by pulling off young succulent leaves on a regular basis from the outside of the plant. Try to ensure the growing media remains moist by regular watering. Beetroot also is ideal for containers but of course leave them until they are golf ball size before harvesting.

Herb planters are also worth considering and Basil, known as the queen of the herbs, is one of the easy ones to try from seed, and 'Genovese' is one of the favourites. An alternative is to buy a pot of already growing basil in the supermarket, and, by gently separating the clump into four or five smaller ones, produce one's own plants. Basil enjoys a warm sunny location and if the plants become tall (over nine inches) cut them back by half. Remembering that their value in Italian cooking, making your own pesto will be the next step blending in perhaps garlic, parmesan cheese and olive oil. Other annual herbs include lemon grass and rocket and deviating off the theme consider the increasing range of microgreens/leaf vegetables such as Pak Choi and Tatsoi Tah Tsai.

Entertaining the next generation, perhaps leads on from this, and so try growing microgreens in mini containers such as eggshells, egg boxes or the plastic tray in which the cheese slices came - in fact with a sheet of moistened kitchen paper laid on the base of the tray gives an ideal environment for windowsill gardening, and for producing microgreens!

Gardening is one hobby or interest that has no age or fitness barriers. From its therapeutic value to its culinary worth it is clear why gardening continues to grow in its appeal!

John MacLennan



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# Blackhall Community Trust



The Board of Blackhall Community Trust is delighted to share good news with the Blackhall community – finally! Five years after the formation of the Trust, which came about as a result of an extensive community consultation at the time, real progress is being made to deliver on the community needs which topped the community wish-list. Since 2016, the Board has been working through the wish-list of more than a dozen ideas and suggestions. These included setting up walking and coffee groups, which have proved very popular in recent years (pre COVID-19). However, we now hope to push forward with two items at the top of the wish-list - creating a community space in Ravelston Park Pavilion and delivering ten more free places for local three-to-five year olds at Blackhall Nursery. The Trust Board will continue to work hard to provide more facilities and opportunities for more residents in the coming months and years.

This big step forward has been completing the Community Asset Transfer of Ravelston Park Pavilion from the City of Edinburgh Council to Blackhall Community Trust, on behalf of Blackhall residents. In turn, the Asset Transfer was only possible because of the successful Court of Session petition in April 2021 by the City of Edinburgh Council to dispose of the inalienable common good designation on the building and adjacent grounds. Until the disposal, no alteration of any kind could be made to Ravelston Park Pavilion. Now, work can begin in earnest on devising a new Ravelston Park Pavilion for the Blackhall community.

In early May, the board of directors/trustees applied for a grant to the Scottish Government's Strengthening Communities Fund to employ a fulltime development officer for three years. The intention is that the development officer will work on community engagement and communication, creating and delivering a fundraising strategy, managing the design, consultation and planning process for the new Ravelston Park Pavilion and supporting the BCT Board. By the time the Blackhall Bulletin goes to press, we should know the outcome of this application!

After the years – literally – of form-filling, consultations, grant applications and much more, there is light at the end of the tunnel for the BCT Board. If you are interested in becoming a trustee/director at this most exciting time, please get in touch by email.

All Blackhall residents are warmly invited to show their interest and support by joining Blackhall Community Trust (free). Blackhall is defined by the Blackhall Primary School boundary. If you live outside Blackhall but are involved in a Blackhall community group, you can be nominated and co-opted. Email [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com) for more information about membership. Also email us and let us know if you would like to sign up for our e-newsletter. Visit our website [www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook @blackhallet or Twitter [@BlackhallCT](https://twitter.com/BlackhallCT).

I would like to thank the hardworking Board of directors/trustees of Blackhall Community Trust (a limited liability company and a charity) as well as our loyal Trust members. Without you, this would not have been possible!

Tina Woolnough, Chair, Blackhall Community Trust

# THE PINK PANTHER EXPLORERS

This year the Pink Panthers have been taking part in a combination of virtual and in person nights. One particularly entertaining zoom night has to be our 'Would I Lie to You' themed night which was filled with hilarious fibs as well as some unbelievable true stories. In January we had two nights focused on Global Issues such as homelessness and the refugee crisis. These topics provoked lots of discussion between our explorers which was really great to see. In early February we had a photography competition run by one of our new leaders, Oliver, who taught us about different styles of photography and what makes a good photo. We also played lots of games online such as capture the flag, codenames and fishbowl. We also spent a night covering some of the top awards in scouting such as the chief scouts awards, young leader belt and DofE as well as splitting up into breakout rooms to create plans for achieving them. A highlight of our virtual nights has to be our talk from Mollie Hughes, the president of scout Scotland, about her experiences climbing both the north and south routes of Everest as well as being the youngest woman ever to ski from the Antarctic coast to the south pole. This talk was incredibly inspirational and a privilege to be able to attend.



for the first time in a year. Over the last few weeks our patrols have been playing name games to get to know the new explorers as well as playing different team sports in the park. The explorers have recently been enjoying playing some impressively competitive games of ultimate frisbee and rounders. The explorers have also been doing some backwoods cooking at Davidsons Mains park.

We were able to go back to face to face scouting on our last week before Easter and completed an Easter Egg hunt around Blackhall in our patrols. This was great to see everyone back at explorers and having fun decoding morse code to find out where the next clue was. In early April we had a 'day camp' at the Dalmeny Estate the explorers all had great fun pitching hammocks, building and cooking on fires and whittling some spoons. It was really lovely to get back to something similar to a normal camp



In our journey back to normality our explorers have been going on their DofE expeditions (with covid restrictions in place). 12 explorers took part in their Bronze DofE final walking expeditions which on top of walking consisted of completing their project and cooking dinner. We also have 3 explorers completing their silver and hopefully gold DofE expeditions this summer along with 3 other explorers from Bore Stane by canoe, and they have recently completed their silver practice on the Edinburgh canals due to travel restrictions at the time. They have been training both online and in person about first aid, canoes and different bodies of water. In the future we hope to see our week long explorer camp in August be able to go ahead, subject to the current restrictions easing off.

Overall, we have had a very exciting term so far and we are looking forward to being able to get outside together in the summer and being able to camp for the first time in over a year. As usual the Explorers want to thank the Leaders for being so committed to our unit and making explorers feel normal in a time that is incredibly abnormal.



Fraser Dunmore

# Blackhall Guiding



202A Rainbows returned to outdoor guiding at the end of April but they've had so much fun running around Ravelston Park, sometimes in the rain. We've had two new girls starting and welcomed them to Rainbows. We've played getting to know you games where one of the leaders would start by saying her name and then something she liked to eat or do using the first letter of her name-Molly said she liked magic and pretended to pull a rabbit out of her hat. . We played running around action games and Grandmother's footsteps. **Barbara Bon- 202A Rainbow leader**



202 and 202B Brownies have enjoyed crafting over zoom making bath bombs, a mini version of themselves out of fimo and many other exciting things. The girls have been extremely excited at getting back outdoors and are enjoying seeing each other face to face. They have enjoyed planting seeds to watch them grow, making kites and the girls look forward to an exciting end to the term by having a trip to the beach to have our annual sausage sizzle. **Nicole Harland 202 and 202B Brownie Leader**



202nd Guides continued to meet on zoom where they hosted some great guests including a chef when they cooked along and the national space centre. They have started to meet outdoors again and enjoyed going paddle boarding. **Claire Slaine - 202 Guide Leader.**



Rangers have been excited to be back to face to face Guiding this term. We enjoyed making s'mores over a campfire and playing games outdoors. We also had a great time making chocolate lollipops and participating in a murder mystery game on Zoom. **Chelsie Wyatt - Ranger 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!

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[GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com](mailto:GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com)



# Blackhall Nursery News Summer 2021



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.

The children returned to Nursery on 22<sup>nd</sup> February following lockdown – and settled back in as if they had never been away! They dressed up as their favourite book character for World Book Day in March and even wrote their own books. The summer term is always a busy one as we begin to think about moving on, either to school or back to Nursery for another year. This year we will be following the Edinburgh wide transition project based around the Julia Donaldson story, ‘The Smeds and the Smoos’ and have lots of fun activities planned including looking at friendships and change. We are also watching our caterpillars grow as we learn about the life cycle of a butterfly, and eagerly await the arrival of some frog spawn for our pond.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday by downloading an application form at [www.blackhallnursery.co.uk](http://www.blackhallnursery.co.uk) or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.



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Primary 1B have been enjoying all things spring! They have created these colourful patterns to brighten up the classroom.

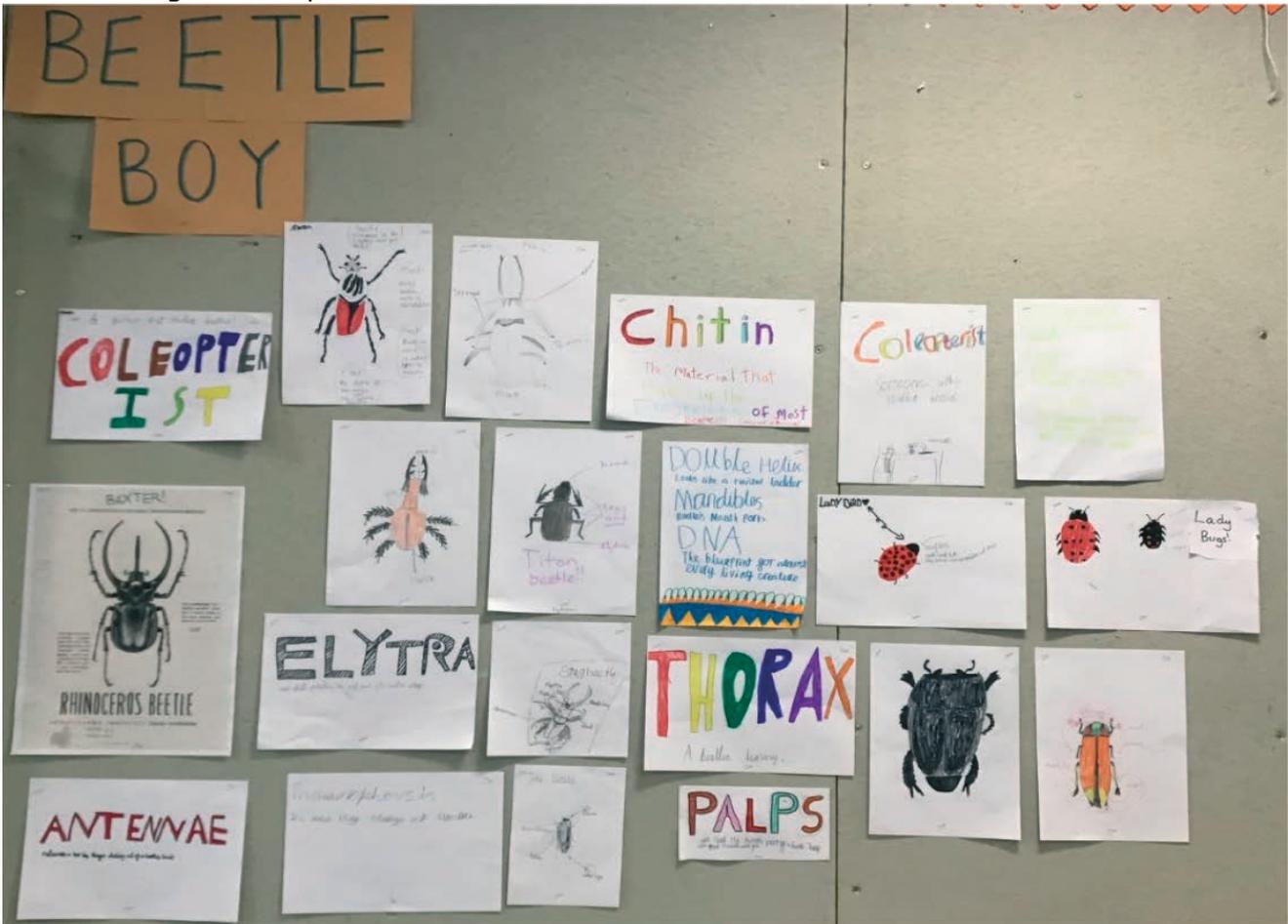


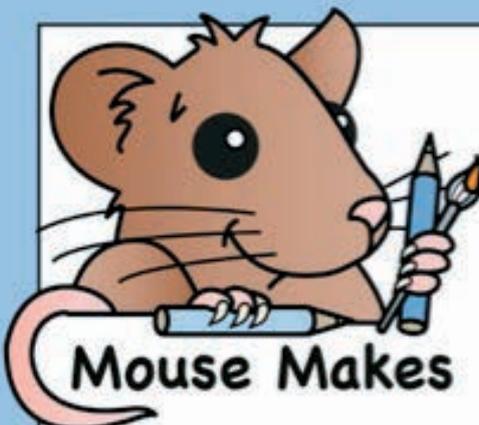
Primary 2 have been enjoying learning about pop art. They have created their own pop art self-portraits inspired by the style of Andy Warhol.





Primary 5A have been researching beetles after reading their class novel 'Beetle Boy'. They have also been creating 'wanted' posters for one of the main characters.





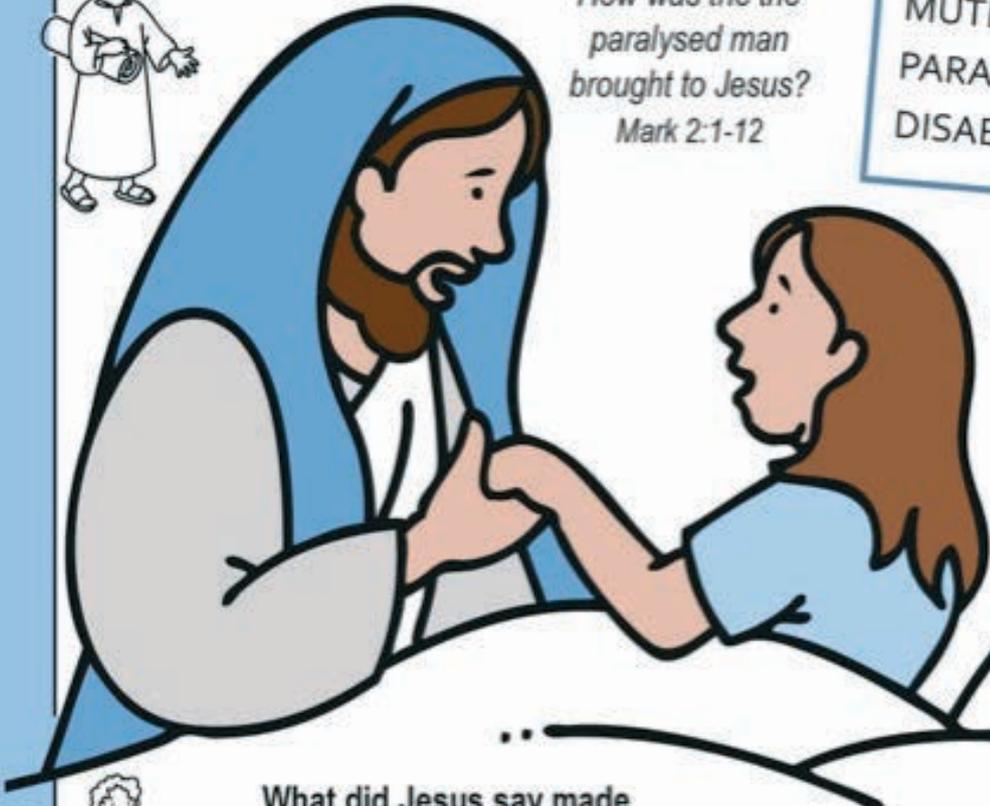
### JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?  
*John 4:46-54*

Who did Jesus heal from fever?  
*Mark 1:29-31*

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?  
*Mark 2:1-12*

- Jesus healed and made the...
- SICK
  - DEAD
  - BLIND
  - DEAF
  - CRIPPLED
  - SINNER
  - MUTE
  - PARALYSED
  - DISABLED
  - ABLE
  - WALK
  - FORGIVEN
  - ALIVE
  - SPEAK
  - MOVE
  - SEE
  - WELL
  - HEAR



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?  
*Mark 5:1-20*

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?  
*John 5:1-15*

What did Jesus say made the woman well?  
*Matthew 9: 20-22*



*"There are many things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."*  
*John 21:25*

How many men were healed from leprosy?  
*Luke 17:11-19*



What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?  
*Mark 10:46-52*

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?  
*John 11:1-45*



# BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB



We were unable to enjoy our full programme of events this session, but the Club has offered a series of Zoom presentations since January 2021, commencing with a talk by Alex Wood on Attitudes to Illegitimacy, Scottish Cases. This was followed in February by a talk by Andrew Crummy on the Tapestries of Scotland. In March we heard James Robertson give a talk on the importance of time and place in his work as an author and poet, for which the speaker kindly agreed to donate his fee to charity. For these Zoom presentations, which were well attended, we entered into an arrangement with Blackhall Men's Probus Club to share, and in turn our members were able to share presentations arranged by their Club in March, April and May. Social events on Zoom have included a joint Quiz, and a Wine Tasting.

Our AGM did not take place in April, and it is planned to hold it in October 2021, at the beginning of our next session, for which we also have a very interesting programme of talks arranged. We hope to be able to meet up again at Blackhall Bowling Club for these events, however all events can take place on Zoom if necessary. It is expected that there may be a few membership vacancies, so if you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary for more details.

Christine Proudfoot, Secretary.

Phone: 0131 343 1761

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## Blackhall Probus Club



The Blackhall Probus Club is part of a UK-wide group which organizes social events for retired gentlemen in the local area. With a membership of around fifty, we normally meet on the first and third Thursday of the month from October through to May 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 diverse range of subjects. We also organise two lunches and a summer outing each year to which partners are invited.

Due to Covid-19, our programme has been curtailed this year but we are having monthly Zoom presentations and quizzes which have been well received by our members. Talks so far have included topics as diverse as “The life and times of Deacon Brodie”, “Attitudes to illegitimacy” and “The preservation of ancient human remains”. We hope to re-start our face-to-face meetings in spring 2022 or earlier, subject to Government restrictions being lifted, but in the meanwhile our monthly Zoom presentations will continue.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to join us for our Zoom presentations, please contact the Secretary for more details.

Keith Gilroy, Secretary, Blackhall Probus Club.

Phone: 0131 312 6060 Email: [ksgprobus@virginmedia.com](mailto:ksgprobus@virginmedia.com)



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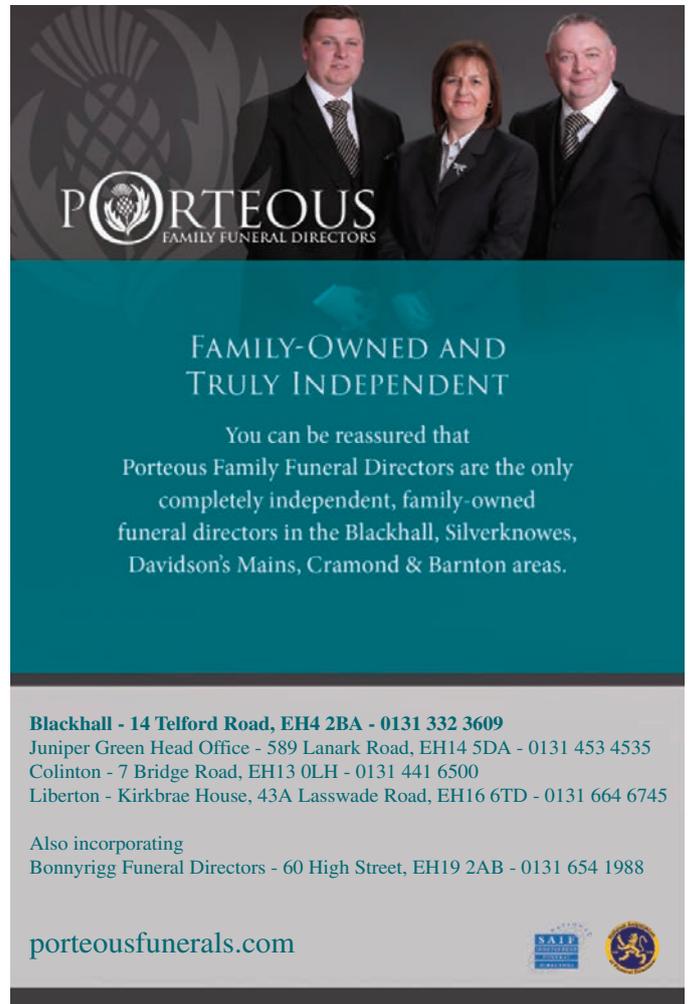
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## CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB



Now that the second “jab” against Covid 19 has been received, Craigleith Men’s Probus are looking forward to normality returning. By the time of reading, I can guarantee our gardens will match those of the Botanics, and after a few daily jaunts we will be looking forward to returning to Blackhall Bowling Club, once a risk assessment has been carried out, for our fortnightly meetings. Our first event is a pre-season lunch on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Bonhams – if you would like to join us to taste, not only a first rate meal, but also great companionship, please just let us know. At CPC we pride ourselves on being inclusive and open, not a stuffy group of fuddy duddies, and a good example of this must be the manner in which we ran the Club over the winter and spring with weekly sessions on Zoom which alternated with social chat, and nattering among friends, old and new, and a talk where we learnt that little bit extra such as the scient fiction written by James Leslie Mitchell aka Lewis Grassic Gibbon which stimulated several of us to read ‘Gay Hunter’ and then talk through its literary merits, while others were just enthralled to hear about The Craigleith Junction to Barnton Railway which answered lots of questions ranging from which retail nursery in Davidson’s Mains was better to the virtues of going to school or work by train. If you have not heard Ken Williamson speak, you are missing a real treat!

Little did we all think in summer 2020 that this group of retired gentlemen would become, in a matter of weeks, experts on electronic means of communication such as Zoom, and that, to brighten up the grey haired group, we would be joined by several members of the Ladies’ Probus Clubs – that is an idea worth pursuing.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March we held our AGM, and we were delighted to welcome Larry Walls as our new President whose interests range from international trade and chambers of commerce to football – but one should say that most of our Presidents have had a wide range of interests with examples being ‘trustee law and railroads’, sailing, Durham life and FW Woolworths, Dolly Parton, Yorkshire and the Irish way of life – as I mentioned, we are an inclusive Club! Do give us a try and for more information just email us at [infocpc21@gmail.com](mailto:infocpc21@gmail.com) or drop me an email at [johnmaclennanuk@gmail.com](mailto:johnmaclennanuk@gmail.com), remembering that no Probus meeting is ever complete without a mug of coffee (or tea) and just a few chocolate biscuits !

John MacLennan: Past President

<https://craigleithprobus.myfreesites.net>



# Village Coachworks

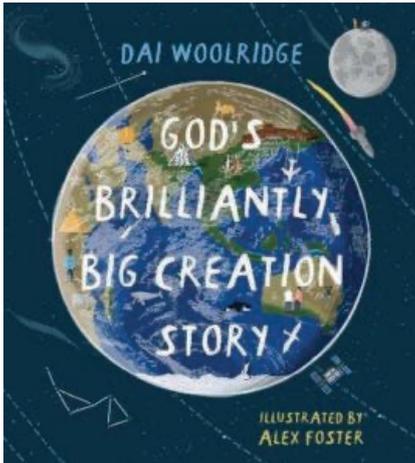
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## BOOK REVIEW CORNER



### **God's Brilliantly Big Creation Story** By Dai Woolridge, Bible Society, £6.99

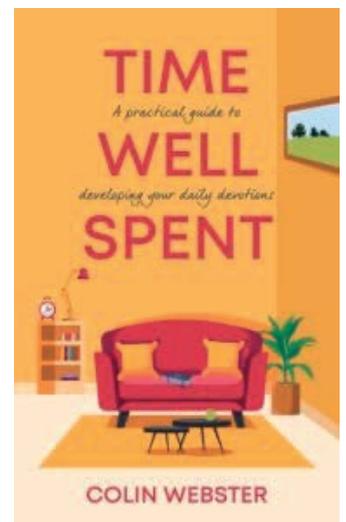
Here's a good way to introduce young children (aged three to six) to the Genesis creation account. Written with rhythm and rhyme, the book covers the awe-inspiring journey through the days of Creation, and it is full of fun and beautiful imagery, from the vastness of the solar system to the immediacy of small animals.

The book would be good for reading aloud to preschool-aged children, and for use with children starting to learn to read. It will help parents looking for a fun, fresh way to introduce children to the Christian faith.

### **Time Well Spent – a practical guide to developing your daily devotions** By Colin Webster, 10Publishing, £2.99

When it comes to growing our devotional life, we may not know where to begin. Perhaps we feel so busy that we can't possibly add yet another thing to our 'to-do list'. Or maybe Bible study time feels more like a strain on the brain rather than fuel for the soul, and we wonder if it's worth keeping going.

This book tackles these concerns head-on. It explains what a daily devotional time should involve, provides tips as to how to set aside the common distractions of life, and explains why time with God really is time well spent.

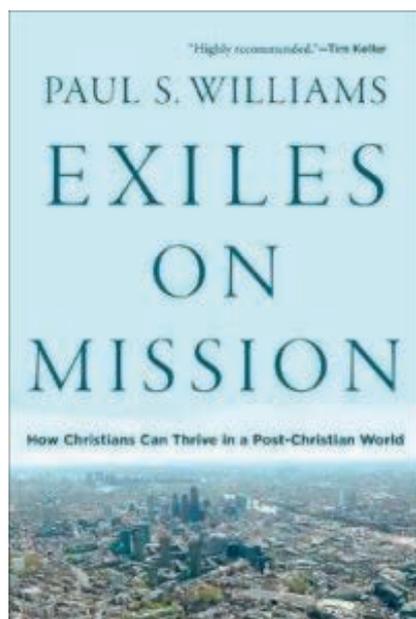


### **Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World**

By Paul Williams, Bible Society, £13.99

Paul Williams, the CEO of Bible Society, explores the experience of living as Christians in the 21st century, including the dissonance with culture that is often felt.

He calls for a truly missional understanding of post-Christendom Christianity, providing constructive tools to help readers understand culture and form a missional response. Williams invites us to reimagine local churches as embassies of the kingdom of God and Christians as ambassadors in all spheres of life and work.



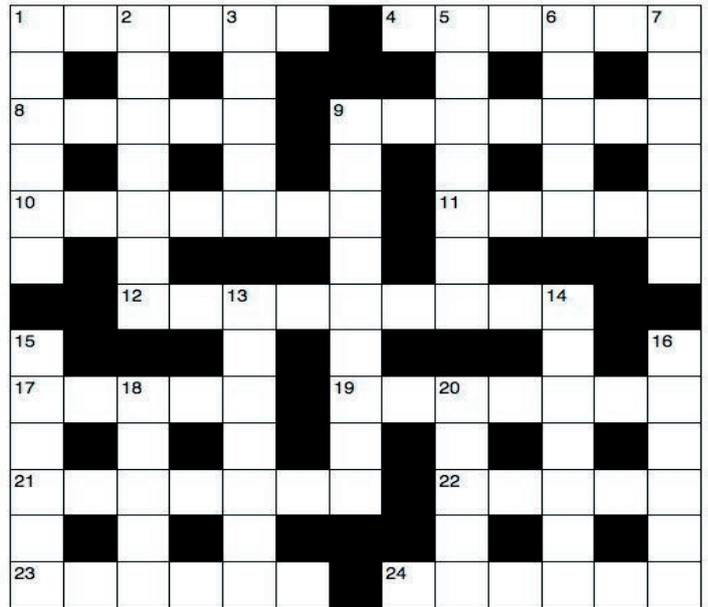
This book encourages readers to embrace the language of exile for the scattered and gathered Church in the post-Christian West, and to imagine ways to engage in missional living. It helps Christians to integrate their faith with everyday life, and see how their efforts can align with God's missional purpose for the world.

# Puzzle page

An easier sudoku this issue and more Bible searching for the crossword answers

			7	8	6	3		
3	4				9			8
			2				7	1
	7				3	1		
9	5	2	4		8	6	3	7
		6	9				4	
4	6				1			
2			8				1	3
		3	5	4	2			

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## Crossword Clues

### Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

### Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



**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  
 158 Craigleith Road  
 Edinburgh EH4 2EQ  
 Telephone 332 5702

**Church Secretary**  
 Ms Joy McGonigal-Paget  
 in Church Office from  
 Tues-Fri 10.00-12.30p.m.  
 Tel/fax 332 4431

## DEADLINES

### Kirk News – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

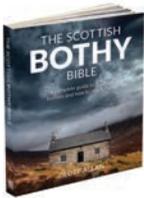
Please send all items to the Editor;  
 Christine Denham, c/o Church Office  
 Home tel: 336 5943 or e-mail:  
[kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](mailto:kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk)

### Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Please send all items, including Advertising  
 Enquiries to the Editor: Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office  
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