

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

March 2022

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

No. 167

*A brighter dawn is breaking
and earth with praise is waking*



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'God's Immutability'

Greetings Blackhall Community,

Nowadays, we live in a time when news is almost instantaneous. The advent of mobile 'phones which are capable of taking photos or recording film and then posting that material immediately on to various social media sites or sending it to news outlets anywhere has meant that virtually anyone can now become a news reporter. Our ability to receive news on our 'phones, tablets and other devices has also meant that we are used to constant updates on the latest and most current news stories from anywhere in the world. Like most things, these changes have positive and negative aspects.



One of the issues about writing an article for an 'old school' publication, such as the Blackhall Bulletin, is knowing when it will be actually produced. In order to fit in with the time taken to construct a magazine such as the Blackhall Bulletin, printing schedules, publication dates and delivery dates, often articles are written some considerable time earlier than people actually receive, and hopefully read, them. This article you are reading now, in our March publication, was actually written at the tail end of January. The problem is that the things that are in the news, the things that are most concerning us as I write this article may well not be the things that we are concerned about in March when the Bulletin is available to everyone.

Let me give you some examples. With regard to foreign events, the news is all about the worsening situation in the Ukraine. Whilst diplomatic efforts are being stepped up, there is also a build up of actual forces on the ground and there are greater threats of international sanctions being proposed if Russia invades. By the time you read this article, the situation may be ticking along much the same as it is now, it may have calmed, and a diplomatic solution presented itself or it may have degenerated into an actual conflict. Elsewhere, North Korea has launched another test missile. This situation again may, by the time you read this, have calmed into some form of peaceful dialogue or have degenerated into a greater issue with the threat of conflict.

Does this mean that a magazine such as this has nothing to offer and cannot comment relevantly on things that are happening in our country and our world today? I don't think so.

I have commented before that it is said that 'the only constant in life is change' but that is not the case. I started this article with the title - 'God's Immutability'. That is a highly theological concept but can be boiled down quite simply. The word 'immutable' is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as '*unchanging over time or unable to be changed*'.

What God's immutability means is that however the world changes and however our individual lives change, God does not. He is the same today, as I write this, as He will be when you get to read it. He was the same yesterday and as he will be next year and all the years after.

How do we know this? There are many passages written in the Bible that allude to this or even state this outright.

These passages go right back to the Old Testament with examples such as;

"God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14) or,

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished." (Malachi 3:6).

The Psalms too talk of the unchanging nature of God with statements such as;

"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." (Psalm 33:11).

We are not confined to the Old Testament. The New Testament records the words of James, Jesus' brother;

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17).

Also, speaking about Jesus, the author of Hebrews tells us;

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8).

What does ‘God’s Immutability’ mean for us though? It means that, whatever our problems are when we read this article, we can go to the unchanging God and rely upon him and His promises. As I said, I don’t know whether the things that are troubling the world or the country now will still be troubling them when you receive this Bulletin, but I am absolutely confident that something will be troubling them. The same is true on an individual basis. Everything may be going well in your life at the moment, or you may have real worries about yours or a family member’s finances, for example. If finance is no great concern, your worries may be about yours or a loved one’s health, either physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. Whatever our concerns are, whether they are personal or for others or about the general state of the country or the world, God invites you to bring those problems to Him.

As you read this article, we are preparing for Easter. This year, Easter Sunday is 17th April. This means that the period of Lent begins on 2nd March and ends on 14th April. Easter, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb, is another example of how God is shown to be reliable, unchangeable and eternal. Read Isaiah, chapter 53, to see how Jesus’ death on the cross was predicted hundreds of years before He was born.

Jesus was sent to the earth so that people could be reconciled to God. He was sent as a preacher, a teacher and a healer that all peoples might be able to turn to God with their problems and, through Jesus, have the ability to bring their worries, their fears and their problems to God. Reading the Psalms shows us that people have always been able to do that but actually knowing Jesus has made it easier for many. This Lent, as Christians everywhere prepare themselves for celebrating the risen Christ, why not find out more about it for yourself. Then, when Easter comes, you can join in the celebration, the celebration of an unchanging, constant God who invites all to get to know Him and to bring their worries and concerns to Him.

God bless all,

Fergus



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 5th March at 7.30 pm

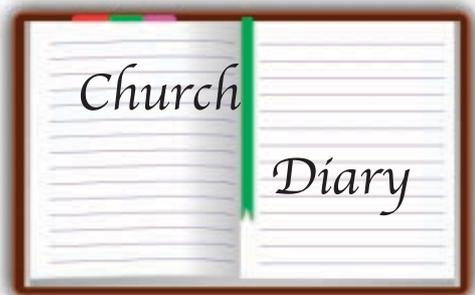
FOOTBALL & FAITH

An interview with Aberdeen & Scottish International

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MARCH

6 th	10.30 am	Youth Service
13 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	3.00 pm	Re-dedication of Sanctuary & Celebration of Induction

APRIL

3 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship With Sacrament of Baptism
10 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship Palm Sunday
14 th	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
15 th	7.00 pm	Good Friday Service
17 th	8.00 am	Early morning Service Ravelston Park followed by rolls and hot drinks
	10.30 am	Morning Worship Easter Sunday

MAY

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



**Easter Morning
Early Rise Service
Sunday 17th April**

**Come and join us
in
Ravelston Park**

**at 8 am
for an Easter Day Service
followed by
rolls and hot drinks at
Blackhall St Columba's
Church
ALL WELCOME**



*To all our readers from the
Minister and congregation
of Blackhall St Columba's*

“Love...changes Everything”

There is such depth in these three simple words, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and sung by Michael Ball in the musical “Aspects of Love”. Loving, and being loved, has such a positive impact on us, whatever our age or situation. While it is expressed and experienced in so many different ways, genuine love gives life meaning and purpose, makes us feel valued, assuring us that we matter.

Much has been written and spoken about love, in both spiritual and secular contexts. During those restricted weeks in January, when my usual group activities were again postponed, I took a nostalgic look back at “Call the Midwife”, where Jennifer Worth, the original midwife on whose memoirs the series is based, reflects in one particularly moving episode –

**“Love is not a gamble, but a gift
It is not to be fought for, but simply given and received
And not to be judged, nor measured, but embraced and celebrated
As the greatest gift of all.”**



Photo from Pixabay.com

Her words may sound poetic or even spiritual, but they are based on her daily experience, working among families in a disadvantaged area of east London in the 1950s/60s. In most cases, after the trauma and agony of childbirth, the baby is placed in the arms of the mother – and her face softens from exhaustion to utter joy. Love is instantly evident for this little person who has done nothing to earn it or deserve it. That love will be tested throughout childhood and the teenage years, but there is nothing to compare with the powerful bond that is formed in those early moments.

It gives us a glimpse of God’s love for us – we’ve done nothing to earn it and, even if we do accept it, by faith, most of us then find it hard to love others in the way we should. Living in Blackhall in 2022 bears no comparison to life in post-war Poplar; yet we still struggle to show unconditional love, love without judgement or prejudice.

The good thing is, it’s not just down to us – as Lloyd Webber’s song concludes –

**“Love ... changes *everyone*,
Love will never ever let you be the same.”**

It’s not so long since we celebrated when “Love came down at Christmas”. As we move towards Easter, we could allow God’s unlimited love, as shown in the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus, to change us as individuals – enabling us to share that love in our everyday encounters with others.

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On Sunday 20th March 2022 3pm

You are invited to join with us (Covid restrictions permitting) to join with us to celebrate two events in the life of Blackhall St Columba's which could not be marked at the time.

We will rededicate the newly extensively refurbished Sanctuary which was completed in 2021 and join with friends from near and far to celebrate the induction of Rev Fergus Cook as our minister - just two years after the event!

After the short service there will be time to share fellowship and enjoy afternoon tea in the halls and see for yourself the changes.

Please do come along and join us !



CAMEO CLUB

We are pleased to say that Cameo Club can once again welcome anyone elderly or an individual who would like some company for a couple of hours every second Friday. We meet in the large hall at Blackhall St Columba's Church between 10.30-12noon. Lifts by car can be arranged if you contact one of the numbers given at the end.

There is no cost for membership though if you opt for a lunch outing, which we have in the Spring and December, there is a charge to cover costs.

Meetings will continue to be subject to any change in Covid restrictions. No-one should come along if they have any signs of infection, and at present we wear masks when moving around.

If you have not been to Cameo before, you will be made welcome by members and volunteers - ladies and gentlemen. If you do not require a lift, just come along. March meetings are on Friday 11th and 25th and every second week after that.

New drivers and helpers can always be given a role, so if you have time to spare and would like to help, please phone one of the numbers below.

Margaret Brown 332 5957

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762



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FRESH START

Since its inception over 20 years ago, Fresh Start has appreciated the many donations of goods for their starter packs from the people of Blackhall.

Spring cleaning is a good time to remember Fresh Start. Goods donated help those starting out in a tenancy after homelessness. The items which are often in short supply are curtains and small electricals such as toasters, kettles and irons.

Fresh Start also run a pantry where members, for a small weekly fee, can choose grocery items. If you can spare the odd tin or packet please help to keep their pantry stocked.

You can either take items, goods or food, directly to the Fresh Start warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive (Monday – Thursday 9-4) or bring to the church halls on a Friday morning 10-11.30. It is hoped to place a box for food items in the halls to allow people attending groups to drop off food items.

Lists of items required for starter packs and The Pantry will be on the hall notice boards or you can access these lists on Fresh Start's website

[Helping People Make A Home For Themselves - Fresh Start \(freshstartweb.org.uk\)](http://freshstartweb.org.uk)

There are also volunteering opportunities from hit squads to do gardening.



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After a successful exhibition in Blackhall Library in December, where five paintings were sold, the art group got off to a great start this new year and we are already busy planning for our exhibition in the church halls between 11th and 15th May. Due to the Covid restrictions this will be the first exhibition for two years, so it is good to be taking a step towards some normality again. As usual a donation from the proceeds from the exhibition is given to a local charity and this year our chosen charity is Scran.

Scran is a local social enterprise which helps young people between the age of 15 to 19 who face barriers to mainstream learning to develop vocational and interpersonal skills in the catering industry through work experience in their cafe, food truck and hospitality events. Their inclusive vocational and community-based approach helps nurture the confidence, skills, experiences and relationships needed to thrive in learning, earning and life.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information about the art group, which meets on Monday and Tuesday mornings at the church halls please contact Valerie Gordon valeriegordon2015@btinternet.com or Mobile 07738 201911.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

As reported in the December 2021 issue of the Blackhall Bulletin, country dancing was starting its new term on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Sad to say this didn't happen because of further restrictions due to Covid and the new variant. A decision was made to postpone meeting again until 3rd February. By the time you receive your March Blackhall Bulletin, hopefully we will have been dancing for five weeks. We will continue meeting for a further four weeks; 10, 17, 24, 31 March. This will be our end-of-term spring party.

We will be pleased to welcome any new members (ladies and gentlemen). Come along to Blackhall St Columba's large hall for an evening of good fun and laughter, 7.30 - 9.00.

You will receive a warm welcome.

Margaret Brown
332 5957

TUESDAY TOPICS

Tuesday Topics re-started on 25th January after a break of nearly two years due to the pandemic. We are now meeting in the refurbished Sanctuary of Blackhall St Columba's Church, still on alternate Tuesdays starting at 7.30pm with a talk/ presentation, followed by coffee, tea and biscuits. The group is mainly ladies, for all ages. Visitors, including men, are always very welcome, and visitors pay £2 per visit.

We began on Burns Night when Peter Thomson, from St George's School did a superb presentation on the musical 'Rabbie', followed in February by presentations by Rosie Ellison from Film Edinburgh, and historian Roy Johnstone.

Our forthcoming talks are:

In March, on the 8th we are looking forward to a talk entitled 'The Scales of Justice' presented by Shona Cook, who used to be a Procurator Fiscal. On 22nd, Norah Summers is doing her talk entitled 'Tuesday's Child'.

In April, on 12th we will hold our A.G.M. and then a talk by our Minister, Rev. Fergus Cook, talking about 'A Life of Crime!' (Prior to becoming a Minister, he was in a serving Police Officer). On the 26th, Fred Daniels is revisiting us to present 'Golden America Part 2 – Deadwood to Yellowstone'.

In May, our last meeting on the 10th will be an Afternoon Outing for a Meal.

For further information about Tuesday Topics, details can be viewed on the Church web-site at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk under Community Activities, and / or you may contact: Jacky Cowie, Secretary, or Eleanor Lowrie, President.

EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB

We are pleased to resume our meetings (Covid permitting) at 2pm in the church hall at Blackhall St Columba's. New members and visitors are always welcome. Events coming up are:

11th March an open meeting when Ada Paul from Ayr will demonstrate "Flowers for all Occasions".

8th April Annabel Findlay from Stirling will demonstrate "Out and About".

13th May Esther Kuck, a florist with a shop in Portobello will visit with a demonstration of "Wild and Wonderful May".

The Club is 70 years old this year and we are celebrating with a lunch and demonstration in the Braid Hills Hotel on **Sunday 6th November**. It will be open to all and more details will be in future editions of the Bulletin.

Isabel Ingram

KNIT AND NATTER



We have had a very busy few months during which we have undertaken different projects as well as our usual donations. In the last edition we had been knitting poppies and these were used to create a hanging for the church which could be seen as people entered the Sanctuary by the main door.

The Knitvity scene was displayed in the Sanctuary over Christmas having had the addition this year of King Herod, camels, and a stable. Our choir of angels and flock of sheep also increased in size.



The Christmas tree festival made a welcome return in December and as a group we decided to enter a tree decorated with items made from left over wool including "lights". The public chose our tree as their favourite senior tree. Thank you very much to everyone who voted for us.

The nursery at The Fort asked for hats, mitts and scarves so that the children could spend more time outside and keep cosy while they played. We have done that and are about to make a delivery to Pregnancy Counselling and Care as well.

If you would be interested in joining us on Monday evenings in the Sanctuary at 7.30pm you will be made most welcome.

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NORTH WEST HERITAGE

Thursday 24th February 2022
Women, Work and the First World War Speaker: Ruth Boreham
 Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall at 7.30 pm

~
 Wednesday 16th March 2022
History of Edinburgh's Hospitals
 Speaker: Eddie Shaw
 St. Columba's Church, Blackhall at 8 pm

~
 Thursday 28th April 2022
The Barnton Branch Railway
 Speaker: Kenneth Williamson
 Followed by AGM
 Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall at 7.30 pm

ARCHIVE RESOURCES IN BLACKHALL LIBRARY

When North West Heritage was started in 2000 it was suggested that we start an archives cupboard as there was nowhere in the area to store materials. The cupboard has been in the library since then with various records stored there. As no-one has shown any interest in the contents of the cupboard for several years, we have been asked by the librarian to remove the archive material and cupboard. Before we dispose of any material we would like to ask if anyone knows of any other archives which may be interested in storing these pertaining to Blackhall.

Please contact Charlotte Cowe at charlotte@dmains.co.uk if you any suggestions. It seems sad they will be lost if no one comes up with anything.

These are:

Minutes for the "Blackhall Co-ordinating Committee" from 1950-1991 when this committee was disbanded. The co-ordinating committee appears to be a forerunner of the current community council as they acted as a local pressure group on various community issues while also being responsible for the organisation of the annual Blackhall Children's Sports Day.

There are also Minutes for the Blackhall Knitting Circle from 1952-1977.

Blackhall Census returns 1891 and 1901

Excerpts from the diary of Hugh Cleland, Blacksmith at Craighleith Quarry 1866-1868

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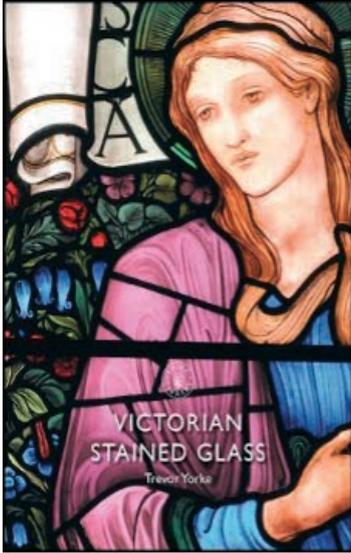
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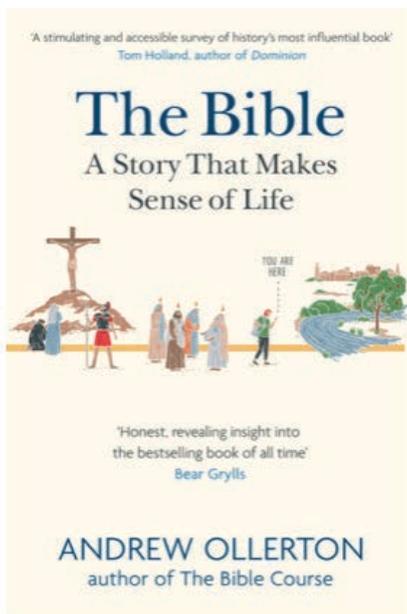
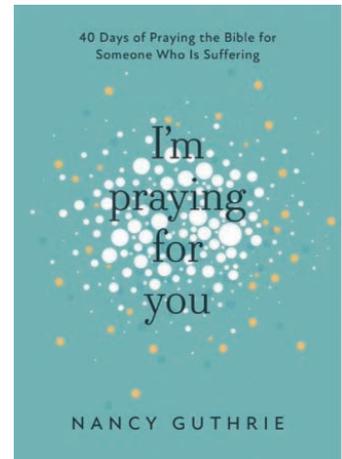


Victorian Stained Glass
by Trevor Yorke, Shire Publications, £8.99

This beautifully illustrated guide will introduce you to the world of Victorian stained glass. Victorian stained glass is often magnificent, and can still be found in countless British churches, municipal buildings and homes. It is often glowing with colour, with designs influenced by the Gothic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement, and even the Art Nouveau, as a new century dawned. Its famous designers include A.W.N. Pugin, and Pre-Raphaelites William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. Trevor Yorke, a historian, tells how Victorian craftsmen re-learned the lost medieval art of colouring, painting, and assembling stained glass windows. But also, as this was an age of industry of how windows became templated, and mass produced

I'm Praying for You - 40 Days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering
By Nancy Guthrie, 10Publishing, £6.99

Through 40 carefully chosen scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens the wealth of Scripture that teaches us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering.



The Bible: a story that makes sense of life
By Andrew Ollerton, Bible Society, £11.99

The Bible has been called the greatest story ever told. This book explores how the story of the Bible not only helps us understand our own lives, but also gives us a framework for making sense of life in general. We can see how the narratives in the Bible mirror the narrative arcs we go through.

Wherever you stand with the Bible, whether you are seeking to find out its meaning for your own life or just want to know more about its stories, this book is a fantastic starting point.

Blackhall Community Trust



The Board of Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) is very much hoping that community events will be on the cards again in 2022; we look forward to seeing everyone again before too long.

We hope the community and those passing through Blackhall in December enjoyed the Christmas tree in 'the dip' which was organised by BCT. Many thanks to Cloudberry for the electricity supply, Craighleith Blackhall Community Council for sponsoring the tree and Catalyst Event Production Services for providing and installing the lights.

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the Community Asset Transfer of Ravelston Park Pavilion and adjacent land from the City of Edinburgh Council to Blackhall Community Trust, on behalf of residents. There is an urgent need for a new building to accommodate Blackhall Nursery so that local families can access their free 1140 hours early learning and childcare entitlement, funded by the Scottish Government, in Blackhall. In December, the City of Edinburgh Council advised the Board that a local resident had made a complaint against the Council for not following the correct procedure for certain aspects of the Community Asset Transfer. As we understand it, this relates to the period of notice for the CAT (which happened several years ago now). As this is the Council's process, at the time of writing, the Board of BCT is not sure what role, if any, BCT will have. In short, we're still waiting for the CAT to happen! On the positive, now that architect Malcolm Fraser of Fraser Livingstone has been working towards final designs and a final location, we have been able to reduce the size of the land considerably which BCT is asking to have transferred. The Board asked the Council if this was possible some time ago, but was told 'no'. Now it appears to be possible, and the Board is very pleased.

If you'd like to support Blackhall Community Trust, you can do so by donating through BCT's JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/blackhallcommunitytrust>, or by texting **BCT**, followed by the amount you would like to donate (max £20) to **70085** e.g. BCT10 to donate £10. Texts cost the donation amount plus your network's standard charge.

Please consider becoming a member of BCT (free) or better still, share your skills by becoming a volunteer member of the Board! Blackhall is defined by the Blackhall Primary School boundary. Email blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com for more information about membership/becoming a director. 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 or follow us on Facebook @blackhallet or Twitter @BlackhallCT.

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SPRING THOUGHTS IN MY GARDEN

So far, when looking out my window the signs of spring bulbs have followed their course with winter aconites and snowdrops being followed by dwarf iris, and numerous dwarf tulips. As has been said for over a hundred years, 'take anyone and put them in a garden, and you make a new creature', and recently the beneficial and therapeutic value of gardening have been stressed with the concept of green prescribing and a pilot research project being conducted by RSPB via several medical practices in Edinburgh - in fact it is being outside and looking at the birds and the plants! <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/rspb-news-stories/nature-prescriptions>.

The trend towards using 'instant colour' or bedding plants, which are normally non-frost tolerant plants, to fill planters is waning with the preference for more sustainable plants with an ideal compromise using more of the traditional hardy annuals such as clarkia, cornflower, nigella, and garden pinks. Let's put it another way - the flowers being chosen are more suitable for pollinating insects as when selecting and improving the preferred characteristics of 'bedding plants', the breeder has selected large floral ones and continuity of flowering in place of the ease for pollinators. (*In case this is becoming confusing, the seed production for such plants is carried out in sterile glasshouse conditions rather than in the field!*)

Sharing plants among fellow gardeners is part of the gardening benefit, and I gleefully accepted an offer of a tray of home-grown sweet peas, and it was with sweet peas, over sixty years ago, I received my first prize in a flower show ! Sweet Peas can be grown in various parts of the garden, and the height can vary from one foot with dwarf varieties such as Knee Hi, to six foot or more with mixtures such as Galaxy or Royal. Initially being grown from late Tudor times it was the Eckford family in the mid-Victorian times, who improved the overall quality of this popular garden flower, an ideal one for cutting. Once in flower in mid/late summer, butterflies and bees will be enthralled ! Although quite easy to grow from seed, to save time visit your local garden centre to buy a pack of seedlings. And finally, don't ever consider eating them - they are not edible and will give you a very sore stomach.

Another group of plants that are once more increasing in popularity are herbaceous perennials which, with care, should provide colour from mid spring until early autumn. Maintaining such a border is an all-year-round hobby with planting spring flowering bulbs such Crocus, Daffodils and Tulips in the autumn, and then planting pot grown plants in the early spring. Choose plants to give a range of flower shapes plus of course time of flowering such as Astilbe, Geum, Gaillardia, Salvia, Achillea, Rudbeckia, and Aster. A herbaceous border is often thought of as work in progress but don't let that put you off! Talk to those who tender the border at the Botanic, and pop into Lauriston Castle and admire the input by their Friends group who are replanting the beds around the Castle having propagated much of the new 'stuff' themselves. They will both tell you how easy it is.

As for me, my spring thoughts will focus on visits to other gardens such as the Savill Garden, Windsor, and Floriade 2022, at Almere, Netherlands - yet another benefit of spring gardening thoughts!

John MacLennan





BLACKHALL BOWLING CLUB

Blackhall Bowling Club is tucked away behind the old Colony houses in Keith Row. People say, “I did not know there was a Bowling Club there”, but we have been here since 1898 and are continuing to thrive. We have a healthy membership of both Ladies and Gents who enjoy the Bowling and the social events which the Club organise.

The Club is always keen to welcome new members.

Bowls is a very enjoyable sport, providing exercise and fresh air in good company. During the Bowling Season we have a busy schedule. There is a ‘Hat Night’ on a Monday night which is a mixed friendly game (all members welcome), and our Ladies meet on a Wednesday afternoon for a friendly game of bowls, a cuppa and a chat. There is also an opportunity to play in internal competitions organised by the Club, and both Ladies and Gents play in a number of external Competitions and Leagues. We also have coaching most Saturday mornings.

In normal times, the Club also organises several social events (usually one per month) and with restrictions being eased we hope to resume a full calendar of social events this year.

The Club is now preparing for the coming season which will kick-off with our annual Cheese and Wine on the Wednesday prior to Opening Day which will be on Saturday 23rd April.

New members can be assured of a warm welcome. So why not give bowls a try?

We are holding Open Days on Sunday 8th May and Sunday 22nd May. Anyone interested in giving the game a go please just come along between 2pm and 4pm on either of these days. We have all the equipment you will require. Alternatively, you will be welcome to attend one of our Coaching Sessions on a Saturday morning between 10.00am and 12noon. These will commence on Saturday 30th April.

If you are interested in joining the Club or if you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or by emailing the Club as detailed below. Further information about the Club is also available on the Club Website blackhallbc.com

Eileen Batten – President

Phone : 0131 332 3527

Email: blackhallbc@live.co.uk

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Blackhall Guiding

202A Rainbows have had a few new Rainbows starting this term and we had lots of fun making pancakes using tea lights, thanks to Nicole Harland. We also have a new volunteer as well who started in January. The girls had lots of laughs with her. **Barbara Bon - 202A Rainbow Leader**

Ellie and Laurie of 202 and 202B Brownies both achieved their Brownie Gold Award by working very hard to gain all 6 themes and both ran a brownie evening. Future leaders in the making.

202 Rainbows are enjoying being back in the church hall and have made sand keyrings and decorated tea-light holders. They are also working on the Skills for my future badge. **Nicola McDermid 202 Rainbow Leader**

Nicole Harland of 202 and 202B Brownies was presented with a Guiding Hero Award and was also a finalist at the Edinburgh Local Hero Awards for what she has done to support children and families in the Blackhall Community.



202C Brownies had great fun on their recent sleepover at Innoflate. We're all looking forward to our trip to our trip to Dalguse in the spring. **Helen Abbott - 202C Brownie Leader**



202 and 202B Brownies have both had an action packed start to this term. 202 Brownies chose to do the Skills for My Future and Be Well theme this term and started off by using a saw, hammer and screwdriver to create their own model. They then had a visit from Corstorphine First Response who taught the girls some first aid. 202B Brownies chose to work on the Express Myself theme and Be Well and have enjoyed making zip wires and models out of clay. They also did some feel good activities talking about how to be calm and relax when everything gets to much. The girls in both units asked to learn about different animals so have enjoyed a visit from a variety of animals including ducks, meerkats, skunks, tarantulas and many more. They have also been crafting different animals. In February the girls enjoyed a sleepover to innoflate and some fun Saturday days out. In May both 202 and 202B will be going to PGL Dalguse for a weekend away. **Nicole Harland 202 and 202B Brownie Leader**

157A and 202 Guides are enjoying a mix of trips, outdoor activities and zoom sessions. An exciting night of ice skating followed by hot chocolate and mince pies provided an unusual location for our newer Guides to make their promise. We have also explored what Guides do, wear and enjoy eating in other countries, and have learned some new First Aid skills. **Moira Easson 202 Guide Leader**



There was lots of excitement when 202 Brownies got to use real saws, hammers and screwdrivers to make fantastic creations.

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!

At the moment some of our units are looking for more enthusiastic leaders/unit helpers to join their packs. If you would be interested, please email the address below or apply using the link below

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

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

blackhall.districtcomm@gmail.com

Blackhall Nursery News Spring 2022



Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we respect the children's rights, encouraging them to choose, to play and to voice their opinion. We recently reviewed our Nursery Vision, Values and Aims to bring them in line with the United Nations Rights of the Child and up to date research on how children learn. Our new Values are: Kindness, Inclusion, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Confidence. We hope that all our children and families will embrace these.

The children have been enjoying exploring Ravelston Woods, den building, tree climbing and having snack and stories outdoors. We celebrated Burns on 25th January with Scottish Country dancing, tartan weaving and haggis tasting and as I write this we are looking forward to Chinese New Year with plans for exciting snacks, songs, lantern painting and dragon dances. In March we will celebrate World Book Day and everyone is invited to come to Nursery dressed as their favourite book character.

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.

We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. The Nursery enjoys an excellent reputation within the community but don't take our word for it, please take a look at the parents' comments on our Care Inspectorate report available at www.careinspectorate.com.

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.

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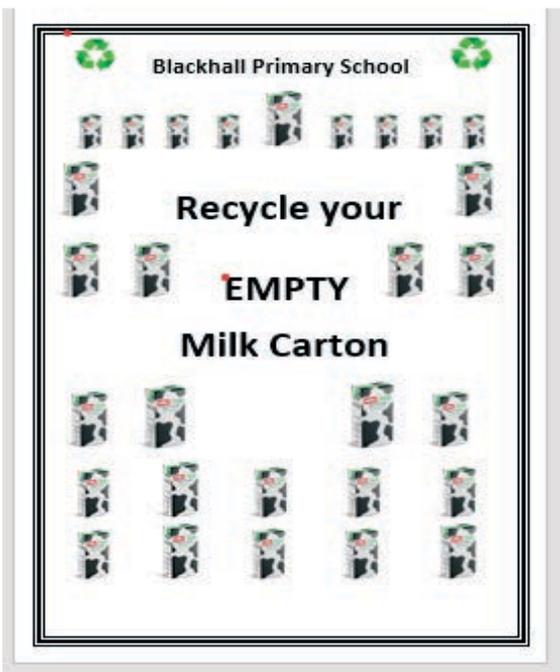


BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 2B



This term P2B are learning about the rainforest. So far, we have learnt about where the rainforest are in the world and the different layers of the rainforest. We adopted a jaguar and have made a fact file all about jaguars.



ECO GROUP NEWS

Blackhall Primary ECO Group are proud to announce that we are now able to recycle all our empty milk cartons.

Around 865 cartons per week are being flattened and recycled. That's a lot of cartons saved from going to landfill as well as quite a lot of milk being drunk.

Pupil Reps from all the year groups meet regularly to discuss ways in which we can look after our school and wider environment.

BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 6/5

Primary 6/5 have been creating their own tartan designs. Using a variety of different colours and styles they produced a wide range of tartan patterns.



This was then used as a backing to display an outline of a thistle, the national flower of Scotland. The photo below shows the diverse and colourful that were created.



Bible Bite

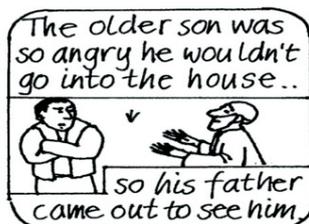
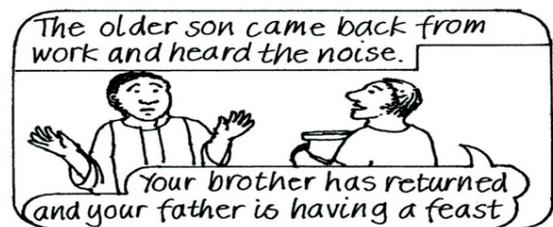
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...



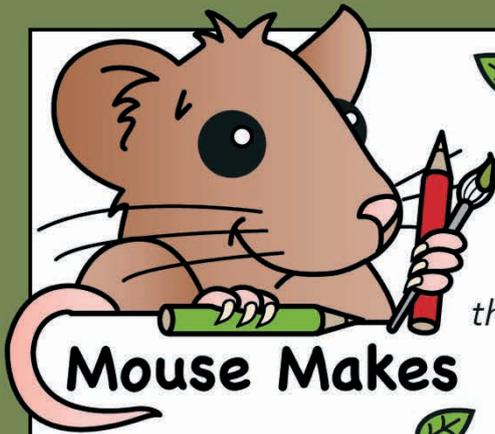
But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.



Now you've read the story of the Lost Son, can you complete the wordsearch?

f	c	l	o	t	h	e	s	d	x	h	v
o	e	y	t	s	o	r	r	y	v	u	b
t	l	e	e	a	n	g	r	y	m	g	w
l	e	f	d	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	y
p	b	l	o	i	n	f	a	t	h	e	r
f	r	y	o	u	n	g	e	r	n	d	h
e	a	o	o	s	n	g	v	o	p	o	o
a	t	c	p	o	t	d	m	x	n	l	u
s	e	n	s	e	s	l	a	v	e	d	s
t	e	w	w	o	r	k	m	a	n	e	e
i	n	h	e	r	i	t	v	h	u	r	r
n	i	h	u	n	g	r	y	p	i	g	s

- angry
- celebrate
- clothes
- country
- father
- feast
- feeding
- found
- house
- hugged
- hungry
- inherit
- lost
- money
- nothing
- older
- pigs
- property
- senses
- slaved
- son
- sorry
- workman
- younger



Mouse Makes

GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31



_____ to everyone who asks you
Luke 6:30

_____ to those that hate you
Luke 6:27

_____ for those who are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

_____ those who curse you
Luke 6:28

_____ and you will be forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

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 wide 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 for the past two years has been curtailed somewhat but we are still holding regular meetings via Zoom which are well received by our members. Talks have included topics as diverse as “*The life and times of Deacon Brodie*”, “*Wildlife Conservation in South Africa*” and “*Researching your family’s genealogy*.” Two fascinating talks planned for March 2022 are “*Scots women who chose to challenge*” and “*Conservation of the stone built heritage*” presented by members of Historic Environment Scotland and the British Geological Survey respectively.

Face-to-face meetings will hopefully restart in the autumn, subject to Government restrictions. In the meanwhile, we are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to join us, please contact the Secretary for more details.

Keith Gilroy, Secretary, Blackhall Probus Club.
Phone: 0131 312 6060
Email: ksgprobus@virginmedia.com

CRAIGLEITH MEN’S PROBUS

Our sessions this winter have been hampered by the ongoing restrictions with some of our meetings taking place within Blackhall Bowling Club while others have been via Zoom. But it should be highlighted that we did endeavour to meet in some form with coffee mugs in hand!

Of course, meeting outside is not such a problem and so we are looking forward to a walk around in the *Grassmarket*, *Greyfriars Kirkyard* and *Magdalen Chapel* on **Wednesday 13th April**. As with all our meetings everyone is welcome. *Greyfriars Kirkyard* has numerous associations with Harry Potter, many names on the tombstones became characters in the books by JK Rowling. Scottish poetry students will know William McGonagall is interred there. The Kirkyard is rich in being the resting place of numerous famous Scots - such as the architect, William Adam; the botanist, Robert Sibbald, and John Wilson of Kilmaurs, one of the Covenanters who was executed after the Battle of Rullion Green. *The Grassmarket* also has a rich history and was one of the main markets of the Old Town where livestock were sold, as well as a place of execution. *Magdalen Chapel*, now the home of the Scottish Reformation Society, has a history dating back to mid 1540s and various artifacts associated with the Covenanters. To many it is one of Edinburgh’s hidden gems. If you would like to join us on this walk, please drop an email to infocpc21@gmail.com

Our AGM, on **6th April at 10.30am** and will be followed by a talk by Ken Williamson on ‘The Titanic - The ship that never sank’. Perhaps Ken has the true and factual story on how RMS Olympic sank in place of RMS Titanic. Conspiracy theories can be enjoyable to hear, although I do doubt the one that Elvis was seen driving a Lothian bus in 1983!

Do get in touch with us if you want any more information by emailing us at infocpc21@gmail.com or email me at johnmacleannanuk@gmail.com

John MacLennan : Past President

<https://craigleithprobus.myfreesites.net>.

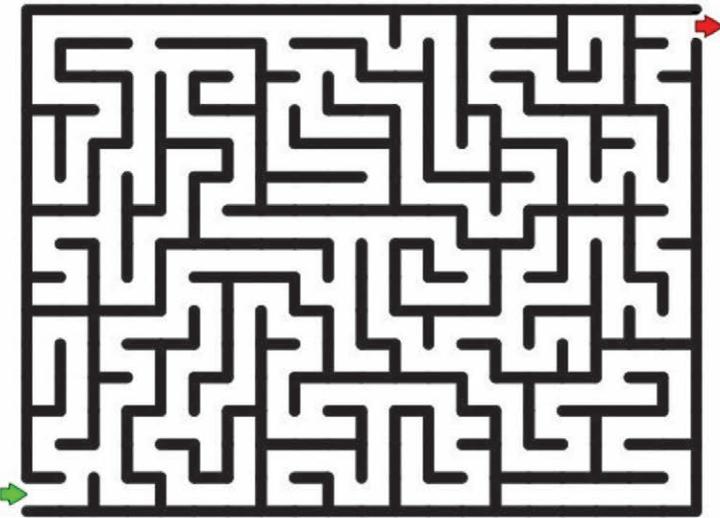
PUZZLE PAGE

WORDSEARCH FOR LENT

How many words can you find that are linked with Lent, Easter or the month of March ?

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| care | growing | preparation |
| desert | learning | repentance |
| disciples | lent | seeking |
| Easter | love | selfdenial |
| family | mothers | spiritual |
| fasting | nursing | teaching |
| finding | nurture | thankyou |
| flowers | prayer | worldwide |

e e f e p d n t l y r l g p i
 l c r t r y f a m i l y n u
 a a n e e i a g i e t e n u h
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 k g d i s c i p l e s g a g u
 n o i t a r a p e r p r k e f
 a g g n i k e e s r o o r r l
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 t a h r i y s e t h l i n t w
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 t i i p t r e e v l m g d u r
 p i l d e t r e s e d m f n s



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	4		3		7	8
5						
		8		7	3	2
6		3		5		

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Church Secretary
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 in Church Office from
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 Tel/fax 332 4431

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

Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 1st May

Please send all items, including Advertising
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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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