



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK NEWS

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

OCTOBER 2021

No. 829

Harvest Service



Join our Harvest Celebration
on Sunday 3 October 2021 at 10 30 am

See page 9 for information on Harvest donations

Sacrament of Communion

The Lord invites you to His Table
on Sunday, 31 October 2021 at 10 30 am

In the Church Sanctuary and on Live Stream

All welcome



Minister

Rev Fergus Cook
5 Blinkbonny Crescent
Edinburgh EH4 3NB
Tel. 466 7503

Session Clerk

Mr Eddie Thorn
Tel. 332 5702

Church Secretary

Mrs Joy McGonigal-Paget
Home Working
Mon - Fri, 8 am-Noon

secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Muriel Morton

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Muriel Morton on 14 September. Muriel was a stalwart member of Blackhall St Columba's Church and due tribute will be paid to her in the November issue of Kirk News.



A private funeral will take place at 10 30 am on Monday, 4 October in the Cloister Chapel at Warriston Crematorium. For details of the funeral webcast see the Funeral Webcast page of our church website.

Following the private cremation a service will be held in Blackhall St Columba's Church at 11 30 am.

Jean Mulholland



It was again with sadness that we heard of the death of Jean Mulholland on 21 September. Jean had been the loved and respected hard working Secretary of Blackhall St Columba's Church from 2001 to 2008.

Although not members of our church Jean and her husband, Douglas, made a considerable contribution to the life of the church not only while Jean was Secretary but in the years after she retired. Onstage and behind the scenes in our musical productions, and rarely a coffee morning or Christmas Fair when they didn't appear to give their support.

Jean put up a brave and dignified fight against the illness which led to her death. She will be hugely missed by her family and a large circle of friends. Our thoughts are with them all.

From the Minister



‘Ordinary Time’

Dear Friends,

As most of you will by now know, I have decided to begin my ministry by following the Revised Common Lectionary. The Revised Common Lectionary is arranged in a three year cycle: year A, the year of Matthew; year B the year of Mark (which is the year we are in now) and year C, the year of Luke. The Gospel according to John is read each year, especially around Christmas, Lent and Easter and also in the year of Mark as it is a shorter Gospel than the others. The sequence of Gospel readings is meant to lead God's people to a deeper knowledge of Christ and a stronger faith in him.

In addition to the Lectionary, we also follow the Christian Liturgical Calendar. This begins its year on the 1st Sunday in Advent and progresses on using events in the life of Christ to mark periods of time in the calendar. After Advent and the Christmas Season, we have The Epiphany. The period is marked by Sundays after the Epiphany until we reach Transfiguration Sunday which in turn takes us up to Lent. After Lent, we have Easter and the Easter Season until Pentecost. With one or two special Sundays such as Trinity Sunday etc., the time after Pentecost runs until we begin again with Advent. This period of time, the time we are in now, is referred to liturgically as 'ordinary time'.

This expression, 'ordinary time', has caused me to reflect recently on the subject of time. If I were writing my all-age address, I would probably start by asking, “why did the little boy throw the alarm clock out of the window?” - “Because he wanted to see time fly!” Instead of cracking jokes though, I will attempt to capture a few of my more serious thoughts.

The Bible has much to say about time. Only recently, I preached on the passage from Ephesians 5:15 - 17 which says; *'Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.'* During that sermon, I spoke about how different lengths of time hold different values according to what we are doing. These ranged from a whole year spent in lockdown to 1/100ths of a second which was the margin between a Gold and Silver Olympic medal in the 4 x100 meter men's relay race.

Many of us will also know the well known passage from Ecclesiastes 3 which is entitled 'Everything Has Its Time'. Verse 3 tells us unequivocally *'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'*. According to the author of Ecclesiastes, whatever it is that we are doing there is a time and place for it. / continued

From the Minister continued

I think the essence of most of these passages is, for me, summed up by the Psalmist who wrote in Psalm 90:12, *'So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.'* This speaks about the value of time and that we should always use it appropriately. Does this mean that we should cram activity into every moment of every day? Not necessarily. For those who are regular readers of the Kirk News, you will remember my last article which recognised the need to sometimes slow down and re-charge our batteries. Sometimes, time spent relaxing, unwinding or simply just being is making the best use of our time. I do feel though that any use of time should be a conscious decision. Who amongst us hasn't at some stage or another felt that we have just wasted time? That is quite a different feeling from enjoying a conscious decision to do nothing and relax.

I guess I have come to the point in my reflection when I say I do not like the expression 'ordinary time'. There is nothing ordinary about the times we live in at the moment and, at any given time in any of our lives, none of us has only 'ordinary' things going on. Whatever your family circumstances happen to be, what is going on in your life is special to you. Whether you are, as a family, welcoming a new life into the world, or mourning the departure of an older life, there is nothing ordinary about the time. In all our extended families we have people starting new jobs and leaving old ones, moving into new accommodation and leaving old ones and, again, nothing about this is ordinary for the people concerned.

As a Church, the time in which we are living is also far from ordinary. We are not only starting again after many of our clubs, groups and activities have been shut for the Summer but, for many of us, we are starting again after an enforced lay-off for over a year thanks to the lockdown brought about by COVID. We have decisions to make not only about how we return to what we once knew but also how we adapt to the changes being brought about by the forthcoming Presbytery Plan. There is nothing ordinary about the time in which we are living.

I turn, as you might expect, to the Bible to sum up. How are we to deal with all the things that confront us at the moment? Whether these things are personal family issues or whether they are bigger corporate issues about our Church or our society, as Christians, I believe we would do well to contemplate Paul's letter to the Colossians in which he said, *'Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.'* (Colossians 4:5)

God bless all,

Fergus

Family News

New members admitted by Resolution of the Kirk Session:

Gillian Susan Clark, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Mrs Elisabeth Downie

Baptism

5 September Oliver Christopher, son of Dianne and Philip Fulton

Deaths

4 August Mrs Elizabeth Beattie

14 September Muriel Morton



music@st.columba's

Piano Recital in the Sanctuary

Saturday 9 October 2021 at 7 pm

As part of the welcome back to Church life and to the music@st.columba's series of events a piano recital will be given by Jia Ning Ng, a Masters student of the Glasgow Conservatoire, in the Sanctuary at Blackhall St Columba's on Saturday 9 October.

Jia Ning Ng will delight us with a range of classical and popular music. Donations can be given at the door, refreshments included, no need to pre-book.

The evening will provide an excellent opportunity for Jia Ning Ng to share her talents playing to a live audience.

Michael Cockburn
Outreach Team Leader



The Lord bless you and keep you

Oliver Christopher Fulton, son of Dianne and Philip Fulton and brother of Jack, was baptised on Sunday 5 September 2021: the first baby to be baptised by the Rev Fergus Cook since his Ordination and the first to be baptised in the church following its refurbishment and reopening from lockdown.



Congratulations and best wishes

Helen Pugh, daughter of Church members, Anne and Russell Pugh and a former member of St Columba's Junior and Senior Choirs, met Matthew Counsell at Durham University in 2012. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, Essex on 6 August 2021.

Both are keen members of St. Mary's choir who sang at their wedding along with the Southern Spirit Singers, a choir from their Durham student days.

Helen's five nieces were bridesmaids and her two kilted nephews played pipes and drum as the bridal party walked from the church to the medieval town hall for the reception.



and congratulations and best wishes also to.....

Morag and Ian Cowie
on their Golden Wedding
Anniversary
15 September 2021



Irene and Tom Clouston
on their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary
16 September 2021

Phyllis and Iain King
on their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary
21 September 2021



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Each year the members of our Blackhall St Columba's congregation rise to this Shoebox challenge bringing joy and hope into the lives of under-privileged children. With your enthusiastic support we can do that again this year.

Flat pack 'Go Boxes', and instructions for filling them, will be available on Sundays from 3 October. During the week they will be available from the Church Officers in the halls.

Due to changes in the regulations toothpaste and sweets are no longer allowed. Please take care to avoid other items which should not be included.

So please, fill your shoeboxes and, if you can, include an envelope with £5 to cover the cost of sending a shoebox.

Packed shoeboxes can be returned any Sunday or handed in to the halls during the week **but they must be returned to the church by Sunday 14 November or they will miss the collection.**

Thanking you in anticipation of another year of your generous support. The Covid pandemic may have made shopping a little less easy but we hope you're up for the challenge!

Adrian Johnston



Though we have not resumed the “normal” collection arrangements for donations to Fresh Start, I would like to thank all those who have continued to ensure that Fresh Start have items to include in their starter packs. The list of what they can accept can be found on their website:

<https://freshstartweb.org.uk>

You can take items directly to the warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, Monday to Thursday 9 am - 4 pm or, if you have one or two items, you can bring them on a Sunday and leave them in the Fresh Start cupboard.

Thank you in advance for your generous harvest donations of food for Fresh Start. Be assured that this means that Fresh Start is better able to help those in need.

Fiona Cooke

Stop Press

**FreshStart
are
currently
short of
pots and
pans and
cleaning
materials.**

Harvest Service - Sunday 3 October Foodbank Donations

As in recent years, the congregation are invited to bring donations of non-perishable foodstuffs to the Harvest Service to be shared between the FreshStart Foodbank and the Edinburgh North East Foodbank.

In the week before the Harvest Service there will be a table at the entrance to the large hall where non-perishable food donations may be left.

Before shopping you might find it helpful to check the websites for these foodbanks to see what, in particular, is needed.

Christian Aid Harvest Appeal



Envelopes will be available after the service on 3 October for anyone who wishes to make a donation. Alternatively, please contact Sheila Mackintosh on 0131 336 1357.

Christian Aid Scotland Registered Charity SC039150

Meet the Minister

As restrictions slowly ease we are pleased to announce that a programme of events for members to meet Rev Fergus Cook face to face has started.

The first “Meet the Minister” event took place on 11 September and going forward over the next 3 or 4 months all members will be invited to attend a gathering. The invitations will be delivered by your elder and it is hoped that as many as possible of our members will take the opportunity to meet Fergus allowing him to get to know the membership better. The events will be either in the afternoon or evening and if the invitation you receive does not suit date/time you can use the email or phone number provided to move to a more suitable date. All the “Meet the Minister” gatherings are in the Sanctuary so come along and see the refurbished church too.

“Meet the Minister” events are fairly informal and of course refreshments will be served. If restrictions ease further it might even be possible to have “home baking” back on the menu.

We are currently working on the dates for these events but they will take place during the month of October, November (none in December) and the final 1 or 2 in January 2022.

If you have any questions re these events please contact the Outreach Team on 07875 558977.

Michael Cockburn
Outreach Team leader

Coming soon.....

The Outreach Team are looking to run a number of more social events over this session. Elsewhere in this issue you will see details of some of these: Des(s)ert Island Discs(see below), an illustrated talk on Art treasures, and concerts. We are also looking to run a film show in November - more on that later.

It is also hoped to run an event in partnership with Eco Congregation Scotland either in the run up to, or post, the COP26 conference. As the climate crisis continues to affect us all this will be an excellent chance to cut through the “fake news” and understand what we can, personally and as a community, do to save this world for generations to come.

For details on this and future events please check the church’s website, social media or catch up with the Sunday intimations.

Michael Cockburn
Outreach Team Leader

Review

Taking place on Saturday 25 September - in competition with the first night of the new season of ‘Strictly’ - ‘Des(s)ert Island Discs’ was planned to follow the style of the well-known, and long-running radio show ‘Desert Island Discs’ - with the addition of a tasty dessert.

In the ‘presenter’s chair’ Shona Cook, our Minister’s wife, interviewed and introduced the music choices of Alan Hunter, well-known to the people of Blackhall, and indeed on the Edinburgh scene in general.

It was a most enjoyable evening. WHO’S NEXT?

Art Treasures of the Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh

We, at Blackhall St.Columba's, are very fortunate indeed! On Saturday 30 October 2021 at 2.30 pm we are hosting a very special event that you will not want to miss.

Dr. Maureen Park will join us to present an illustrated talk on 'Art Treasures of the Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh'.

The Scottish National Gallery here in Edinburgh is home to an outstanding collection of art and we are very lucky to have it on our doorstep. This talk will explore some of its finest paintings from the 15th century to the late 19th century. Among the artists to be represented will be Raphael, Titian, Vermeer, Gainsborough, Constable, Landseer and Monet as well as a range of works by Scottish artists including Ramsay, Raeburn, Wilkie and McTaggart.

Our delightful speaker brings the art she talks about to life and inspires everyone to revisit our art galleries and see these masterpieces for ourselves and with a renewed enthusiasm and greater understanding.

In her early career, Maureen was Assistant Keeper of Fine Art at Glasgow Art Gallery and Curator of Haggs Castle Museum. She has recently retired as Senior Lecturer in History of Art at Glasgow University's Adult Education Department. For more than 40 years she has lectured at the university and for many art, historical and medical societies and has published widely. Her PhD led to the publication of her book, *Art in Madness*, in 2010, and an exhibition on the art produced by 19th century patients at Crichton Royal Hospital in Dumfries.



Sir Henry Raeburn
Revd Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch c1795
National Galleries of Scotland

Kirk Session Report

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 7 September 2021. This was again a virtual meeting conducted via the Zoom conferencing facility as permitted by the Commission of the General Assembly.

Accessible Toilet

It was noted that there is liaison with Edinburgh Council regarding the required building warrant. Realistically when the warrant is approved, by say mid September, then it may be some three months before work completion.

Bequests

The Clerk had received correspondence regarding two bequests to the Church, the first was a bequest from Mrs Violet Troup for £5,000 and the second from Miss May Burns for £10,148.

Church Library

Rona McVinnie, Nurture Working Team Leader, had proposed a Church library. Session supported the initiative which the Moderator hoped would be up and running when there are fewer restrictions. A space at the rear of the Sanctuary would be suitable for the library and an information centre, which would house various in house publications and leaflets, could be incorporated. The Moderator said that the library content would focus on theological and devotional books of a Christian nature or where Christian content or comment was present. Donations of books to the library would be welcome.

Elder Retirals / Resignation

The Clerk advised that the following Elders had notified their intention to retire from active eldership, namely Elizabeth Stuart, Evelyn Watson, Anne Burton, Lynda Davies, Iain King, Phyllis King, Pat Morrison and Moira Purves. The Clerk paid tribute to all the retiring Elders and added that he would be writing to each of them recording the grateful thanks of the Kirk Session and the Congregation for their service. Elizabeth, Evelyn and Lynda had been faithful Elders to their Districts and members during their time as Elders. Anne had been involved in the setting up of the Midweek Service and lunch. Phyllis had given many years of service in supporting the Minister in Sunday worship. Pat had chaired both the Congregational Board and Waƒch Committee and was a previous Presbytery Elder. Iain, an Elder for just short of fifty years, had been the mainstay of the sound and lighting throughout the Sanctuary and halls and the founder of the Blackhall Bulletin. Moira was a former Kitchen Convener and a member of the Flower team. Each and everyone had played their own part in the life of the Congregation

The Clerk also informed Session that he had received a letter of resignation from Ian Templeton, effective from 30 September, as a consequence of Ian and Aline moving to the south of England. / continued

Kirk Session Report continued

Ian had been a source of strength and wisdom in a number of key roles, most notably as Chair of the Congregational Board, Hall Convener, leading on communications for the major refurbishment of the Sanctuary and most recently his work in ensuring the Church was fully informed and compliant on Covid regulations.

Elders' Conference

It was agreed that an Elders conference will be held towards the end of October following morning worship. The conference will provide the Moderator with the opportunity to outline his thoughts and ideas for the way forward.

Harvest Gifts

The Moderator addressed Session on both the date for a Harvest Service, namely Sunday 3 October, and the places to which donations would go. It was agreed that the Harvest gifts will be split evenly between FreshStart and the North East Edinburgh Foodbank. We will continue to have a table outside the Church to receive gifts from both Church and non Church members. In the absence of the printed version of Kirk News it is the plan to issue Harvest (Christian Aid) envelopes to members in the Districts who want these.

Kirk Session Meetings

The Moderator indicated that Kirk Sessions, in line with Church law, had to be held in person or by Zoom – a hybrid model was unacceptable although not for other Church meetings. However, to maintain the skill set which had been built up over the last 18 months or so and to take account of winter weather it might be the case that some meetings would be held by Zoom. However, in the main, going forward the Kirk Session will meet in person.

Office Bearer Roles

The Clerk, supported by the Moderator, appealed to Elders to consider taking on the role of Hall Convener and Editor of Kirk News. Previous requests had resulted in one expression of interest in the role of Hall Convener. It was incumbent on Session to ensure that those roles were filled as well as any other that might become vacant. The Moderator also asked Elders to consider any member in their District who may be interested in taking on the roles in question.

Pastoral Care

Fiona Cooke provided a detailed and insightful report on the recent Faith Nurture webinar “regional conversations on pastoral care” with participants from the Lothians. The challenges in people’s lives – eg loneliness, dementia and illness highlighted being there in a pastoral capacity to help. / continued

Kirk Session Report continued

Group discussions took place and ideas shared about how pastoral care had been delivered during lockdown, which ideas worked and which didn't, ideas for the future and resources which people would like to help them better deliver pastoral care.

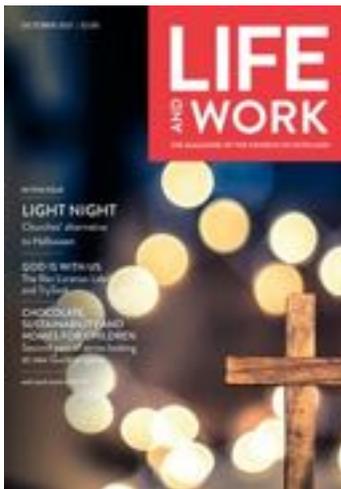
The Moderator thanked Fiona for her report and advised Elders to let members know when they are visiting for pastoral purposes. Based on his recent experience people sometimes forget that it is not just the Minister who undertakes such visits. The Moderator also re-iterated his commitment to keep sending out the printed version of the online service even when "normality" returns.

Roll

The following people were admitted to the roll by Resolution of the Kirk Session:

Gillian Susan Clark (known as Gillie), Stellenbosch, South Africa
Mrs Elisabeth Downie, Edinburgh

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk



It's that time of year again when I ask if you would like to have a yearly subscription for Life & Work, the Church of Scotland magazine.

Your copy will be delivered by your Elder or Visitor so it comes straight to you.

Life and Work also comes in a digital format for those who are trying to give up paper. The website is easy to negotiate if you want to have a wee look.

Over the years I have learnt a considerable amount about life in the various Church of Scotland Parishes and from articles written about the work that is undertaken by the Church all over the world. Do consider taking out a

subscription. I look forward to hearing from you, but hurry as I must order paper copies by 31 October.

Contact me with a note to the Church Office or at rajahewat1@btinternet.com.

Alison Hewat

Being God's rod and staff - Lord Wallace reflects on 9/11

Published on 10 September 2021

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, reflects on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and considers the place of God in tragedy.



This piece was originally published in Life and Work.

For anyone over the age of 25, September 11, 2001 (9/11) is etched in our memory. It should not require a special anniversary to recall the horror and tragedy of that day, but inevitably the 20th anniversary will be an occasion for focus and reflection.

Most of us can remember where we were and what we were doing when we learned of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre and later the Pentagon, and of the plane forced down by passengers in Pennsylvania.

I was in my office in St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, preparing to go to a meeting of the Scottish Cabinet when I was told of the first plane flying into one of the towers.

It was all terribly unclear as to whether it was a ghastly accident or a deliberate act. By the time I reached the First Minister's residence at Bute House, there was news and TV footage of the second plane. It was clear that this was a wicked terrorist act.

The following hours were chilling and anxious, as we repeatedly watched news reports and saw the towers collapsing but, over time, stories of carnage and death were augmented by reports of heroism, including acts of sacrifice, by individuals, fire-fighters, and other emergency workers.

Some weeks later I was sent a collection of poems by pupils at Williamwood High School in East Renfrewshire. Recently, when clearing out papers, I found them (I kept them) and re-read them. They reflect the awfulness of what had happened as well as the bravery of many. But I also noted that a number asked the question: "Where was God?"

I am sure that these young people were not the only ones asking that question. / continued

Moderator's Reflection continued

And many will have asked it in more recent times as the coronavirus death tolls mounted.

But neither is it a new question. The psalmist cries: "My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me?" - words which are echoed as Jesus suffers on the Cross.

I recently came across a quote by the US Presbyterian minister and theologian, Robert McAfee Brown:

"Whatever the status of evil in the world, I know that the only God in whom I can believe will be a God found in the midst of evil rather than at a safe distance from it; suffering the evil rather than inflicting it."

Whilst we may not quite use that formulation, two points nevertheless struck me in reading that.

Firstly, God is not a perpetrator of evil. Many people will have had the experience of insurance companies conveniently claiming an "Act of God" rather than pay out - a handy 'get-out clause', but a grotesque misrepresentation. And there are still some voices who would claim that those who are victims of natural disasters, or suffer from illnesses such as AIDS, are targets of some kind of divine retribution.

Surely such a view is utterly inconsistent with belief in a God who is Love.

Secondly, even in the darkest moments, God is with us and with those who suffer.

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me."

There may be times when such assurance seems far away but even at Ground Zero on 9/11 the world witnessed countless acts of selfless love.

Whatever the status of evil in the world, I know that the only God in whom I can believe will be a God found in the midst of evil rather than at a safe distance from it; suffering the evil rather than inflicting it.

And we must always be open to the possibility of any one of us at any time being God's 'rod or staff', bringing comfort as well as spiritual or practical support to those who are suffering. It could be through challenging injustice or by an act of simple kindness.

Remember, Paul reassures us that, "in everything, as we know, the Spirit co-operates for good with those who love God."

Mid-week PEACE Services

PEACE People Enjoying A Christian Encounter

Starting on Wednesday 1 September 2021 at 12 noon in the small hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church, our mid-week services have resumed.... but in a slightly different form. We hope to have a variety of speakers who will help us to explore various aspects of our Christian faith and life in different ways. There will be praise both traditional and more modern and, most importantly, there will be fellowship.

It is hoped that we will be able to serve a small lunch of soup and a roll followed by tea, coffee and some delicious home-baking. These services are open to all and we really hope that people who have perhaps not managed along before will join our regular attendees to make these gatherings all the richer and more rewarding for all concerned.



What we each can bring to a service is as important as what we hope to gain from it.

So, we hope that many of our members and friends will join us every second Wednesday from 1 September 2021 through to 1 May 2022. A full syllabus will be available in the near future.

These services do not, of course, run themselves and so, if you feel you could occasionally help us by being a driver or by producing some home-baking, please contact Shona Cook by email (shonacook505@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you.

Shona

The ‘Buon Appetito Club’

Calling all ladies!

Whether you are a relatively new member of our church or have been at Blackhall St.Columba’s for years, it is always good to gather over delicious food for a time of fellowship with friends old or new and to get to know each other better.

There is a Curry Club within Blackhall St.Columba’s for the men amongst us and, therefore, it seems only fair that there should be something for the ladies.

Hence, the newly formed “Buon Appetito” Club which will meet every two months starting in November 2021 on the last Friday of the month. We will mainly enjoy the delicacies of Italy but, twice a year, we will play a wild card and try another culture’s cuisine.

Our first outing will be on Friday 26 November 2021 to Vittoria on the Bridge. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Shona Cook -

by email (shonacook505@gmail.com) or mobile (07981 970054)
by 18 October.

Our first gathering will be limited to eighteen ladies (three tables of six) and we will operate on a first come first served basis. So, don’t delay. Get in touch and secure your place.



Church Flowers

As usual Blackhall Members have been very generous in donating money for the Church Flowers and we have been able to give the Flowers to people who really appreciate the gesture. The congregation appreciate both the visual pleasure of the flowers and the distribution covered by this generosity.

As our services are on-line, many people who are unable to attend have also enjoyed the flowers decorating the Church and have remarked on them.

We shall be decorating the church to celebrate harvest as usual this month.

We still need people who are willing to help us to do the flowers in Church.

The flower delivery rota is being resurrected and there are a few gaps, so if you are willing to help us to deliver the Flowers please let me know.

Alison Hewat

rajahewat1@btinternet.com

or leave a message with the Church



Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Meetings will be held at 2 pm on Fridays in the Church Hall.

October 8: We have a demonstration by Pamela Galloway from Dunfermline 'Painting by Flowers'.

November 12: Dawn Weaver from Chester demonstrates 'Wildwood'.

December 10: Karine Murray from East Kilbride gives us 'Christmas Joy'.

Club membership for this year is £20 and visitors' admission is £7.

All are Welcome

Isabel Ingram

Waƚch Committee - supporting Local Charities



We are hopeful for a more 'normal' Christmas this year
but, unfortunately,
there will still be no Christmas Fair.

Due to the number of Coronavirus cases, we think it unwise to plan an event with the chance of over three hundred people in the church premises.

However, if restrictions change, we might be able to organise a much smaller event for the congregation and community and restart our fundraising to support a local charity. We will let you know as soon as we know!

We are greatly disappointed not to be having our usual events but are very hopeful that next year we will be able to plan our usual programme: the summer coin collection, a Craft/Coffee morning and the Christmas Fair.

Help needed! The **Waƚch Committee** will greatly appreciate new members. Our remit is “**Supporting and raising awareness of local charities**”. We have great fun organising the events and if you would like to help us please speak to George Millar or Rosi Watt 332-4027.

George Millar
Convener Waƚch Committee, 332-0947

Knit and Natter

I am delighted to say that we are up and running again, meeting each Monday evening at 7.30 in the Sanctuary. We had our first meeting on September 6th and welcomed back nine of our members. We had a visit from Fergus who outlined his hopes for the Knitvity this year. You will be able to see what has been added to it when the trail is in the local shop windows during Advent.

We would love to welcome anyone who has an interest in knitting, or would like to learn and of course enjoy a good natter too.

Lilian Cockburn. stcknitnatter@gmail.com

Data Protection

Now that church life is beginning to open up again you may find that you are going on to new rotas for various activities. This means more lists which are very handy for swaps and running these activities.

You may also have old rotas on paper or on-line distribution lists which are out of date. Please will you destroy or delete them, as appropriate, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

This only means the actual lists. If you have details of friends in your address book either on paper or on your computer you do not have to destroy these as they are personal to you.

If you are the author of these lists and responsible for keeping them up-to-date, please will you let me know. Equally, if you have given up responsibility for any lists please let me know and let me know who is now responsible.

The Church of Scotland has a system which Blackhall St Columba's must follow in order to ensure we follow the legislation correctly.

Sorry to be a pain but it means you no longer have to hold onto out of date stuff and clutter up your house or computer with it. Marie Kondo would be proud of you.

Alison Hewat (rajahewat1@btinternet.com) or let the office know.

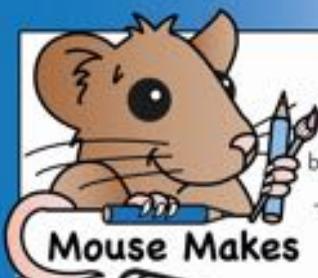
Tuesday Topics

Best wishes to all members and friends. We hope you are all well and that you have enjoyed the recent good spell of weather.

As notified in the August Kirk News we are making plans for a return to our meetings on 11th January. We now require to find Speakers for those meetings. Any suggestions would be gratefully received!! Please contact Eleanor on 0131 332 4827 with any ideas.

Looking forward to a return to our meetings if restrictions permit!!

Eleanor Lowrie, President
Jacky Cowie, Secretary



Mouse Makes

"Come with me across the lake,"

Jesus said to his disciples, so they got into a boat and set out. While they were sailing Jesus slept.

A big storm blew across the lake and the boat began to fill with water. They were in **great** danger.

The disciples went to Jesus and woke him.

They said, *"Master, mater, we are going to drown!"*

Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, *"Be still, be calm."*

The wind stopped and the lake became calm.



Read the story
in Mark 4: 35-41



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

EVENING • JESUS • DISCIPLES • CROWD • LEFT • OTHER SIDE • LAKE • BOAT • SAILED
ASLEEP • WAVES • BROKE • OVER • SWAMPED • DANGER • WOKE • DROWN • QUIET
STILL • WIND • STORM • WATER • SUBSIDED • CALM • FAITH • FEAR • OBEY • WHO



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Kirk News - Sunday
17 October

Please send all items to the Editor:
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Blackhall Bulletin - Sunday
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note this earlier date
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