

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

NOVEMBER 2019

No. 816

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10 November 2019
at 10 20 am
(note earlier time)

Followed by
the laying of wreaths
and Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Robert Laurence Binyon

Minister (Vacancy)
Interim Moderator:
The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr
Locum:
Rev Gordon Farquharson
Tel. 343 1047

Session Clerk
Mr Eddie Thorn
Tel. 332 5702

Church Secretary
Ms Julie Nicol
In Church Office from
Mon-Fri, 9.00-12.30pm
Tel. 332 4431
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

For the Fallen (1914)



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon, 1914

From the Minister



Dear friends

Autumn is a season for poetic reminiscence as each year's promises are seen to wane with the withering and falling leaves, a time when expectations fade as we near the end of the year. We seek more warmth indoors and reflect on the immediate and the historic past.

Soon again we will remember the human fallen.

Commemoration of the First World War – the Great War, the war to end all wars, wasn't it? - marked our last Remembrance season.

And now in late 2019 we commemorate the outbreak of World War Two, 20 years after that first Armistice and only 80 years ago.

The current media storm around Brexit has revived some language and slogans from the years of European turmoil that would be better forgotten. Many of us old enough to remember the realities must regret such allusions that often reveal misunderstanding. Learning from the past has to be a careful process.

Unfortunately some of the nostalgia aroused by successful movies, TV serials and documentaries, all available now, can give rise to mythology which may distort our thinking. I caused trouble in the Primary School (the cruel headmaster) when I pointed out that the re-enactment of the Evacuation was much too generous to the girls and boys. Rationing meant a much less lavish reception tea than the Mums and teachers had prepared! The times **were** cruel, stark and difficult and while hardships were made more tolerable by warm comradeship, shared humour, teamwork, togetherness and dogged determination, life was difficult. My own memories of World War Two are basic: I couldn't keep my gas-mask but I still have my ration book and an identity card; I recall the powdered egg and the lack of sweets! I remember Korea though, and the Falklands as well as too many more recent conflicts.

In the season of Remembrance such memories bring sobering warnings of the values of peace. Sadly there may be few folk indeed who will have no memories of loss or danger or fear. But are the memories real enough to ensure a peaceful world while the blight of climate change means storms and devastation of landscapes affecting livelihoods and international relations?

/continued

From the Minister continued

The message of ‘Lest we forget’ (from Kipling’s poem ‘Recessional’) has to be repeated to every generation.

While the world benefits from the advances of science and the applications of technology, moral progress is bafflingly slow. Cruelty and intolerance and victimisation persist. Our daily news proves how careful we all have to be in relationships, in political allegiances and in maintaining the principles of faith.

Remembering means keeping in mind the thoughts and feelings and experiences we have lived through, and using them to influence the future. If this can be done effectively then collective wisdom will be shared and goodness justice and peace will prevail. As Christians we share this hope and we are called to share it all around. While we remember with gratitude and respect, may we go forward with determination to make the world a better and a safer and healthier place. Past, present and future are always part of our lives, whether in personal, family or community terms, and have to be considered with care. We cannot live in the past or let the past control the other two dimensions, for time and the world move on and we have to cope with daily changes. Recent world events should provide us with a healthy perspective on things and guide us to act with good judgment.

*Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced.
Psalm 105*

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Farquharson, Minister

Wednesday Prayer Group

All are welcome to come to the Wednesday Prayer Group. The Prayer Group will meet on alternate Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 11.30 am in the Small Hall. Dates until December are 13 November, 27 November and 11 December.

Church Diary

November

3	10.30 am	Morning Worship
6	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
10	10.20 am	Remembrance Service*
17	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
24	10.30 am	Morning Worship followed with short communion
26	4.00 pm	Strachan House Service

** Please note earlier start time of this service*

December

1	10.30 am	Morning Worship for 1st Sunday in Advent
4	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
8	10.30 am	Family Gift Service
15	10.30 am	Choir Service
17	4.00 pm	Strachan House Service
18	12 noon	Mid-Week Service followed by light lunch
22	10.30 am	Christmas Service with St David's Brass Band
24	7.00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.00 pm	Carols round the Christmas Tree
	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
25	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Family Service
29	10.30 am	Morning Worship with short communion

Harvest Sunday

Following the Harvest Service carloads of food were taken to each of the FreshStart and Edinburgh NE Foodbanks. Thank you for your generous support and thank you to Fiona Cooke and Sandy Aitken for making the deliveries. Our photo shows just a fraction of the FreshStart delivery.

Thank you too to the flower team who decorated the Large Hall for this special service and to those who delivered flowers to members not able to be with us in church.



Family

Deaths

October

16 Mr Jack Burton



Jack Burton

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Jack Burton following a period of illness. Jack made a big contribution to the life of Blackhall St Columba's Church and due tribute will be paid to him in the January 2020 issue of this magazine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne and the family at this sad time.

Flowers

The flowers this month will be donated as follows:

- 3 The Scouts
- 10 In memory of Bunty Roberts
- 17 Mrs Christine McGowan Smith
- 24 Mrs Jess Park

Mrs Elaine Barclay and Mrs Fiona Drinnan will deliver the flowers.

Violet Troup, Flower Convener

Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Our Club meetings are held monthly (September to December and February to June) at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall from 2 to 4 pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

Friday 8 November -

Julia Loudon from Earlston will give a demonstration entitled 'After a Fashion'.

Friday 13 December -

Sara Barrow from Preston will Demonstrate 'Mistletoe and Wine' to get us into the mood for Christmas!

Visitors welcome (£7).

We don't meet in January and have a Club Day in February so our next demonstration will not be till March.

Isabel Ingram
iingram@btinternet.com

KIRK SESSION REPORT

At time of writing there has not been a meeting of the Kirk Session since the publication of the last Kirk News.

The Vacancy and the work underway in the Sanctuary are the major items of interest at this time and both are reported on elsewhere in this edition of Kirk News. I believe that we are fortunate in having Brian Duffin as the Convener of the Nominating Committee and both Fay Stirling and Jim Bishop overseeing the work in the Sanctuary.

Boundary Wall Repair

The logistics of getting to the stage of reinstating the damaged wall has taken some time but by the time that members of the Congregation read this publication the work will be underway.

Volunteers

Members will have seen the 'Your Promise' leaflet and heard the appeals for volunteers to assist in a good many of the activities that make up Congregation life. Volunteers play a major part in all aspects of the workings of Blackhall St Columba's and if you feel that you can help then please speak with your Elder or myself.

Jack Burton

Tribute will be paid to Jack elsewhere in this publication. However it is only right and proper that on behalf of the Kirk Session I record in some small way the work that Jack did for this Congregation. He was a former Session Clerk and Chairman of the Congregational Board and discharged these responsibilities with considerable dedication, sensitivity and diligence. Jack was a loyal and faithful Elder and like other former Session Clerks readily offered assistance to me in my role.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

GIVE BLOOD

Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall

Wednesday 6 November 2019

2 - 4 pm and 17.30 - 20.00 pm

Vacancy Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee, consisting of thirteen members, was elected by the Congregation on Sunday 18 August in a meeting chaired by the Interim Moderator, Very Rev Dr Russell Barr. At our first meeting, Brian Duffin was appointed as Convener and Ruth Laidlaw as Secretary.

To help the Nominating Committee, Presbytery appoints an Advisory Committee of three people. In our case, the Advisory Committee comprises Rev Alistair Keil, minister of St Andrew's Clermiston, Rev Anne Logan, retired minister and formerly of Stockbridge and Sheila Minty, elder. One of the first steps was therefore that the Nominating Committee should meet with the Advisory Committee and this took place on 5 September.

We discussed the process which we were proposing to follow, and the challenges which arise from the church's overall position of having many more vacancies than eligible ministers to fill them. This is exacerbated by relatively few men and women entering the ministry and a resulting shortage of probationers ready to accept a call. Notwithstanding this imbalance, we were encouraged to present our circumstances and needs honestly rather than offering a rosy but incomplete picture in the hope of attracting more applications.

The first main task is to prepare a Parish Profile for publication. This will be advertised on the Church of Scotland website in a list of current vacancies – which is updated frequently. The standard approach is to provide a “click-through” web link alongside the name of the church and the primary contact details. Consequently we are preparing a Parish Profile in a format suitable for on-line viewing, following Guidance published by the Church of Scotland as to the contents and subject matter to be covered.

The Committee has been meeting during September and October particularly to discuss the style and text of the Profile. The Kirk Session has been asked to approve a draft and has done so. The Advisory Committee will now be asked for comments and we hope to release the Parish Profile very shortly. It will be available directly to interested ministers but will also form part of the church's website so that it is available to everyone. Julie Nicol has carefully designed the layout and style of the Profile so that it works as a standalone document (with appendices) in its own right but also sits appropriately within our general website.

/ continued opposite

It's great to see the Sanctuary work progressing to the stage where new things are going in! Up till now it's mainly been removal of old flooring, pipework, cabling etc. In the past few weeks, however, new pipes are visible, cradles for cables are evident beneath the floor joists, and joist repairs are complete. We can really sense a new era dawning!



But we've not lost touch with our heritage.... we've been fortunate that all of our pews have either been sold to members of the congregation, or have gone on to others who will repurpose the wood into new objects. A great example of this is the work being done by a craft carpenter, Stewart Reid, to make picture/photo frames from the pew wood. There are still some of the A4 size frames available, and you can contact Ruth Laidlaw if you'd like one. We're also planning to have some of the wood used to build a new lectern for the Church, so we will have a continuity of the heritage.

The next steps for the contractors are to extend the Apse area, then to install the underfloor heating and the new floor. They will then protect the floor so that when it is finally unveiled it will be in beautiful condition. Work is going to plan currently, and our target for returning to the Sanctuary remains at May 2020.

Look out for updates on the notice boards and take a look at the time-lapse sequences on the website.

Fay Stirling, Project Manager

Nominating Committee Update continued

The next stage will be to see what interest is forthcoming and what further steps we should take. But I must warn that future updates from the Nominating Committee will be careful not to give any indications of the status of applications nor details which might lead to interested ministers being identified. I am sure the reasons for strict confidentiality are understood and the Committee asks for your trust so that we may conduct our work in private. Our objective is to nominate a single candidate for consideration, and until then please do not ask for details or expect to receive them, apart from updates such as this.

Brian Duffin
Nominating Committee Convener

Data Protection

As you probably all know now, there were changes to the Data Protection Act last year which meant that all sorts of organisations had to change the way they behave. Your bank and utility company and any social clubs you belong to, amongst all sorts of other groupings, had to ask your permission to keep data about you.

This applies to the Church of Scotland too, and so to Blackhall St Columba's Church. This means that we must be careful about how we use the data you have already given us permission to keep.

In order to do this the Kirk Session has to formulate a policy for us all to observe. This will take time to set up, and once it has all been agreed to will be put onto the Church website. If people do not wish to use a computer of any sort to see it, your Elder or the Church office can provide you with the information.

Most of us will be affected by this, especially those of us who are on any Church rota. Rotas provide names and telephone numbers so that people can swap duties where necessary. We are being asked to keep safe any copies of rotas we have. This means not leaving a copy lying around or pinned to a notice board or stuck on the fridge for anyone to see. Keep it in a drawer or cupboard, whatever is practical for your own way of life, so that you can refer to it easily if need be, but anyone visiting your home does not have easy access to it. The lawyer at the Church of Scotland suggested that we look after it the way we would a £20 note.

It also means that if you are the owner of the rota, you must be careful about how you distribute it. If you hand it out, put it into an (old) envelope before putting it into a pigeonhole or handing it over.

If you send it by email, you will probably have a distribution list of email addresses to use for this purpose. Please send any email to yourself using the bcc (blind copy) feature for the distribution list so that only your email address shows up. You don't see everyone else's address. Please also be careful in replying to other emails and do not use 'reply all' unless it is entirely necessary. This means that email addresses do not get shared unnecessarily.

Now this may be obvious to many of us, and you may feel that I'm teaching Granny how to suck eggs, but unless the message gets to everyone and we are disciplined in our computer usage, problems can occur. /continued

Data Protection continued

Blackhall St Columba's Church can be audited about how we use data at any time by the Church of Scotland legal department and once our data protection policy is in place, we can all check that our usage of data is entirely legal.

Please feel free to ask me any questions you have about this. If I don't have the answers, then I will ask experts for help.

Alison Hewat

Blackhall St Columba's Data Protection Coordinator

Tel. 332 4842 or write % Church Office

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

**Reminder: Filled shoeboxes must be handed into the church
on or before Sunday 10 November.**

Boxes, and instructions for filling them, are already available in the small hall. Please put new items only in the box. As in the past our boxes will go to Belarus so woolly hats/gloves etc might be appreciated. Due to changes in the regulations toothpaste and sweets are no longer allowed.

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

**Filled boxes must be returned to the church by
Sunday 10 November or they will miss the
collection.**



We really appreciate your support again this year. If you need any more information please see Adrian Johnston.

WaTch Committee

Craft Coffee Morning

The WaTch Committee and friends would like to thank everyone who supported the Craft Coffee Morning on 19 October and made it such a success. As a result of the generosity of everyone who attended, donated goods, demonstrated their craft, provided baking or helped in any other way, £875.55 was raised for this year's charities, Beach Wheelchairs Portobello and Kindred. Thank you.

Quiz Sheets

Quiz Sheets based on the subject of '**Seaside Holidays**' are available from WaTch Committee members at Coffee time after Church or from the Church Office at £1 per sheet. A £15 voucher will be awarded to the person with the first correct entry drawn at the Christmas Fair.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will be held in the halls on **Saturday 30 November at 2.00 pm**. Most of the usual stalls will be there and the children can take an early opportunity for a chat with Santa in his Grotto. Please come and support our fundraising for Beach Wheelchairs Portobello and Kindred.

George Millar, WaTch Committee Convener





Blackhall St Columba's Church



Christmas Fair

**Saturday 30 November
at 2 pm**

in Blackhall St Columba's Church Halls

Stalls include:

Baking, Bottle, Books, Bric-a-brac,
Fashion Accessories
Hampers, Light and Bright, Sweets,
Toys and Tombola

Entrance 50p per Adult

All Proceeds to:

Beach Wheelchairs Portobello
(registered charity SC046190)

and

Kindred
(registered charity SC000264)



kindred
*for parents of children
with complex needs*

Carol Singers

Wanted

The Outreach team is looking for keen carol singers to take part in two events in the run up to Christmas.

So do not be shy, come to either or both and sing your heart out. Good practice for the festive services in the hall.

More details from
Michael Cockburn
(332 4841).



Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on at Blackhall Dip

**Thursday 5 December
at 7 pm**

The first event is the lighting up of the Christmas Tree in the Dip at Blackhall on Thursday evening on 5 December. The organisers have asked us to have a group of carol singers to sing 2 or 3 carols to help 'set the scene' for the festive season as the tree (provided by the Craigleith Blackhall Community Council) is lit up to bring joy and brightness to all who pass it.

Carol Singing at Sainsbury's

The second event is on Sunday 15 December at 2pm at Sainsbury's in Craigleith Retail Park. This is their charity weekend but they are happy for us to collect for our WATCH Committee chosen charities:

**Beach Wheelchairs
Portobello
and
Kindred**

Midweek Services



These are well under way with good attendance. There is ample room for more people so please think about coming along. There is a short service followed by lunch consisting of homemade soup, rolls and home baking plus tea and coffee. You are assured of a warm welcome and good chat. Transport can be arranged.

We do desperately need some more drivers willing to pick people up around 11.30 am and return them home about 1.15 pm. No need to stay for the service if you can't.

It has been suggested that it is helpful to give advance notice of our speakers so below is a list from now until Christmas.

November

6 Doreen Barker
20 Brian Duffin

December

4 Bob Barker
18 Donald Cameron

Any queries to Elspeth Williamson:
Tel. 336 2600 or Email elspethwilliamson@gmail.com

Tuesday Topics

The Autumn session of Tuesday Topics started on 24 September and has not been without some surprises so far! Our MP Christine Jardine was due to speak to us on the opening night. We were shocked to hear Parliament was to be recalled the following morning and were rather anxious. However, she did not let us down and delivered a very interesting talk on Women in Politics then left to catch the Sleeper Train to London, having first given an interview for Sky Television from the hall storage room!

Our next panic came on 8 October when that evening's speaker called off at 4 pm due to ill health! Lyndy Paton quickly came to the rescue and asked her sister, Norah Summers, to come through from Falkirk at very short notice to speak to us. Norah gave us a most interesting talk based on her summer travels.

We are now looking forward to talks on The Water of Leith Conservation Trust, the History of Riddles Court, The work of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association (our chosen charity this year) and an illustrated talk on Polar Bears. Hopefully there will be no further surprises!

All members and any visitors are very welcome. Membership remains at £15 for the session or £2 per evening.

Eleanor Lowrie, President. Jacky Cowie, Secretary

Edinburgh's Christmas 2019

Nativity and Carol Concert

You are warmly invited to take part in continuing the joyful Edinburgh tradition of celebrating Christmas with an outdoor Nativity and Carol concert in the centre of the city.

This year's concert will take place on the Mound on Sunday 1 December from 3 pm – an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather together to celebrate Christmas – to share the peace and goodwill of the season.



Join with choirs from across the city singing familiar Christmas carols and featuring the Salvation Army Brass Band.

Choirs include: Origin Scotland and the Blackhall St Columba's Choir, Wester Hailes Education Centre School Choir, and St Andrew's and St George's West Choir.

The Nativity scene, gifted to the city by Sir Tom Farmer, will be on display throughout the Christmas festival.

At the concert this scene will be blessed by Archbishop Leo Cushley, and followed by a Christmas address from Bishop John Armes and prayers for the city by Revd Angus Mathieson the Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery.

The Rt Honourable Frank Ross, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, will conclude the event with a word of thanks.

Andrew Gregg, the city centre Work Place Chaplain, will link the parts of the concert.

Wrap up warm and come along! (If the weather is inclement, the concert will move indoors)

A number of charitable causes are being supported through this event:

Origin Scotland and the Blackhall St Columba's Choir are raising support for the Cape Town Gospel Choir in their mission to promote unity and understanding despite racial, social and economic divisions in South Africa. Representatives will carry out a bucket collection during the event.

The Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal – the event is acting as a collection point for donations of new unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. / continued

Edinburgh's Christmas 2019 - Nativity and Carol Concert continued

The volunteers will then wrap the gifts, which will be distributed to children and families in the city through The Salvation Army's own networks, local groups and social services.

Gift ideas for children and young people:

- **0-3 years:** soft toys, colourful and fun educational toys, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes;
- **3-5 years:** books, dressing up clothes, cars, lorries, dolls, action figures and soft toys, colourful and fun educational toys, CDs (music, stories and nursery rhymes), suitable DVDS, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles, footballs;
- **5-9 years:** dolls and action figures, educational games and toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs and family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, word search, crosswords, skateboards, sports equipment and clothing;
- **9-12 years:** games and toys, sports equipment and clothing, stationery, CDs, DVDs, books, T-Shirts, hair ornaments, gloves, scarves, hats;
- **13-16 years:** CDs, DVDs, books, toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats and other fashion accessories.

Blue Christmas – the Christmas season can be a time of stress, anxiety and loneliness for many people, and in recognition of this, Workplace Chaplaincy will provide a Listening Post at the Christmas Present donation point with people available to talk to. These are people who will listen, who will care and respect what is said in confidence.

Edinburgh's Nativity and Carol Concert is brought to you by:

City of Edinburgh Council, Sir Tom Farmer, Underbelly and Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together (ECCCT)

Written by: Andrew Gregg, City Centre Work Place Chaplain

Andrew.gregg@WPCScotland.co.uk

**List of Stallholders for Christmas Fair
Saturday 30 November 2019**

Books	Senior Choir	Alison Hewat Elspeth Williamson
Bottle	Badminton Club	Linda Finnie
Bric-a-Brac Large & Small CDs DVDs	Kirk Session	Dorothea Mair
Baking		Fiona Drinnan Ishbel Robertson
Children's Books	Brownies	Claire Slaine
Fashion Accessories		Christine Denham Pat Macleod
Floral Craft / Craft & Cards	Craft Group	Moira Purves Violet Troup
Children's Craft	Guides	Claire Slaine
Hampers		Ann Wood Katy Millar
Light and Bright	Church Office	Julie Nicol
Santa's Grotto		Ann Pugh
Sweets	Toddlers Tuesday Topics	Lyndy Paton
Teas	Wa†ch Committee	Anne Hamilton
Tombola	Wa†ch Committee	Rosi Watt
Toys, Games etc	Playgroup	Sarah Adam

All donations for the above stalls will be gratefully received in the Church Halls from 10 am to 12 noon, 2 pm to 4 pm, and 7 pm to 9 pm on Friday 29 November and on Saturday 30 November between 10 am and 12 noon. **N.B. Due to refurbishment works in the church goods cannot be handed in before Friday.**

All proceeds will be shared between:
Beach Wheelchairs Portobello, Scottish Reg Charity SC046190 and
Kindred, Scottish Registered Charity SC000264



Tombola Stall



Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the Tombola last year. We are hoping to have your wonderful support again.

We will be very grateful to have any unwanted **new** items for the stall. Please look at home and ask your family and friends for any donations, such as, gifts or purchases that were a mistake!

PLUS

We will appreciate your ideas for vouchers: please suggest a business that you use, or know of, that might donate a voucher or a prize.

These may include
beauticians, cafes, florists, garden centres, hairdressers, restaurants, shops, sports clubs or events

Just a few of our ideas but please help us by thinking of other businesses or people with skills who might donate their time.

Please make suggestions to the Tombola team by contacting

Rosi Watt 332 4027 rosijwatt@outlook.com

Jacque Lowe 315 3375 or Jess Park 332 3863

Christmas Hampers

With the generosity of the congregation each year making the Hamper Stall so successful I dare to ask you again for your support with donations of goodies to fill the baskets and hampers.

These can be delivered to the Church Office or telephone Katy Millar (332 0947) who will collect.

Envelopes for the Hamper draw will be available at coffee after morning service or from the Church Office.

Thank you

Your help will be greatly appreciated in raising money for Beach Wheelchairs Portobello and Kindred.



Please note that the Church will not be available for storage this year. Donations should be handed directly to the stalls on Friday and Saturday, see page 18



History of Christian Music

Our musical heritage can be traced back to Pre-Christian Hebrew music which in the 6th century A.D. found its way to simple Plainsong with its single line of melody and no harmony. It may be hard to believe that it was not until the 10th century that it was recognised two people could sing in unison one octave apart and produce a pleasing sound. It was another 5 centuries before contemporaries of Palestrina considered it acceptable to have several parts running concurrently in what we now call harmony. This was initially decried as caterwauling and it was questioned how the Holy Spirit could be the author of such musical confusion! Of course, this musical form was sung entirely in Latin as part of the Catholic Mass and as such was sung only by trained choirs and understood only by the scholars of the day. The Anthems of today are the Anglicised versions of the Latin Motets of the pre-reformation.

Real change in musical hymnody and psalmody came with the 16th century European reformation. Geneva became a refuge from persecution for the Protestants of the mid 1500's and there a Catholic Priest, Martin Luther wrote melodies (unharmonised) and words for a new style of hymns altogether. His best known hymn still in current use is "*A Safe Stronghold*" to tune **Ein' feste Burg** although the English translation really needs translated into the vernacular for most of us to have any comprehension of its spiritual meaning. He felt free to use German Chorale or other popular tunes and he produced a number of hymnbooks for the new faith. John Calvin, however, felt constrained by the history of error in the Roman Church and required that the text of all new Protestant songs must use the words of Scripture, they should be in the vernacular of the people and the tune should not be a secular melody.

John Knox and others from the UK had fled persecution by Henry VIII and his successors with the result that there was a great confluence of educated Scottish, Irish and English Protestants mingling with the Greek Orthodox, Coptic and learned of all of Europe who had similarly fled westwards following the fall of Constantinople. There was much trading of Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Equally, providentially, with great wisdom and philosophy coming from the East there was an unrivalled opportunity and desire for a sharing of knowledge.

Knox and Calvin shared similar beliefs and because Calvin's requirement that Scripture should be the source for all hymns, when Knox and others returned to UK and Scotland in particular they favoured metrical Psalms as the hymns of choice. The tunes were still of the Plainsong style simply because nothing else was known here at that time. Once again because of the constraint on the use of tunes hymnbooks had as few as 7 tunes and all songs were sung to one of the seven. /continued

History of Christian Music continued

However, over the years congregations began to insert pauses, slurs and twiddly-bit grace notes to brighten up and personalise the limited range of tunes to the point where a visitor could not sing any of the hymns of a neighbouring congregation.

In 1562 Sternhold & Hopkins produced the first metrical Psalter to gain widespread use. Soon fully harmonised versions became available whereby the tunes were given formal tempo and structure to enable the ordinary worshipper to understand the musical form and participate in the singing. For over 130 years this remained the Church of England's preferred book.

In 1737 the English Hymn Book was compiled by John Wesley and this was the first book to contain a wide range of hymns that did not limit itself to Scripture or paraphrases of Biblical passages. It unashamedly used popular modern secular tunes, often sourced from the Bordellos of the day but sung with all the more vigour by the Methodists who felt these melodies had been sanctified by inclusion in their book. Handel contributed three melodies to the original book, the most famous being **Gopsal** "*Rejoice the Lord is King*". It is the universal comment of historians that the lively singing and clear enjoyment that Christians expressed in their worship contributed in no small measure to the success of the Wesley brothers and the revival in the land at that time.

In Scotland, it was only at the start of the 20th century that the concept of using non-Biblical texts became more acceptable. Some Scottish tunes live on in the wider church with Sir John Stainer, the musical editor of the Church Hymnary of 1898, retaining tunes of Scottish origin such as **Crimond** "*The Lord's my Shepherd*" and **Martyrdom** "*O for a closer walk with God*".

Over the last 150 years the influence of Mendelssohn's flowing melody and rich harmony is seen in J. S. Dykes **St. Drostan** "*Ride on, Ride on in Majesty*" and Monk's "*All things bright and Beautiful*", which evoke a contemplative response in the worshipper. German chorale tunes such as **Nun Danket** "*Now thank we all our God*" were popular as were tunes inspired by the simplicity and austerity of the metrical psalms such as S.S. Wesley's (a later relative of the Wesley brothers) **Aurelia** "*The Church's One Foundation*".

Among Evangelical and Non-conformists, the purpose of the hymn was more to reflect and reinforce the teaching of the sermon and message of Salvation by using complimentary words and tunes to form personalised, subjective hymns. Robust, rousing tunes such as the American **Morning Light** "*Stand up, stand up for Jesus*" and Josiah Booth's [of the Salvation Army] **True-Hearted** were popular, as with their predictable rhythm and straightforward melody, they could be sung by a wholly untrained congregation. /continued

History of Christian Music continued

Moody and Sankey first came to London in 1873 with the express concern to reach the masses of uneducated poor who didn't attend church. Revival hymns such as *"Tell Me the Old Old Story"* and Philip Bliss's *"Hold the Fort"* along with some of Sankey's own hymns were used although some of the new American tunes were criticised as being "insipid and vulgar". However, Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos remain popular, and are not dissimilar to the hymns written by Charles Wesley a century earlier.

Church historians can demonstrate that many revivals and spiritual awakenings have been accompanied and blossomed under God through the use of modern songs that enable meaningful worship and Praise of their Saviour.

In more recent times there has been a plethora of new books, two of the most popular have been *Songs of Fellowship and Mission Praise*, which originated with Billy Graham's Crusades in the UK in 1984. That book is now in its 5th iteration in a two volume format but, increasingly, songs are written and published on-line supported with concerts by well-known singers/songwriters. Graham Kendrick from the 1980's and more recently Keith Getty and Stuart Townend collaborate on a vast collection of well-constructed songs. All composers develop a "house style" which becomes their trademark sound so using too many of one writer's material can start to confuse the very similar melodic and harmonic structures. I don't always have music for common modern songs and it would not be the first time I started into the chorus of a well known song suddenly wondering which tune this was again! Trying to find material that gives expression to our shared Christian experience while not being so focused on ourselves that we forget the purpose of songs of worship can be a challenge and perhaps some new writers could start to produce songs that will describe some issue of the Christian walk but offer the Scriptural response to that difficulty.

We carry a rich legacy in our churches today and we must trust that The Lord will see fit to bless us again, reviving not just the singing but also the spiritual life which finds its expression so effectively through song.

Donald Cameron OBE LLCM

CrossReach Christmas Card Competition Winner

As was reported in the September issue of the Blackhall Bulletin, Myra Ball, a member of the Blackhall Art Group, was overall winner for Scotland in the 2019 CrossReach Christmas Card Competition with her card ‘Sending love at Christmas’.

Myra was presented with her award by Mr Pete Cuthbertson of CrossReach.



CrossReach Christmas Cards Reminder

A selection of CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars will be available after our church services each Sunday in November. These are also available online from the CrossReach website shop.

DEADLINES

Kirk News - Tuesday, 3 December
Please send all items to the Editor:
Christine Denham c/o Church Office
Home tel: 336 5943 or email
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

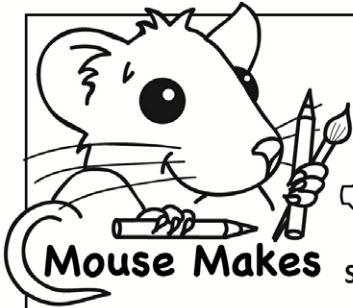
Please note early deadline

Blackhall Bulletin - December issue deadline was 27 October.

All items should be sent to the Editor:
Barbara Wilson c/o Church Office
Home tel: 312 6035 or email
bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Enquiries about advertisements should be sent to Kay Rich:

8 Queen's Ave South Tel: 332 8502



BIBLE JOURNEYS

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after it's journey?

Genesis 8:4

Where did God tell Samuel to travel to find a new king?

1 Samuel 16:1-4

To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2

Which town did Joseph take Mary to before Jesus was born?

Luke 2:4

Where did Mary and Joseph flee to to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

Where was Saul (Paul) going to when Jesus spoke to him?

Acts 9:1-18



"Lord,
If I go east where the sun rises or go to live west beyond the sea, even there you will take my hand and **lead** me. Your strong right hand will **protect** me."

Psalms 139:9:10

What kind of transport goes with each bible character?



- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| NOAH | DONKEY |
| BAALAM | CHARIOT |
| MOSES | SHIP |
| JONAH | ARK |
| ELIJAH | BIG FISH |
| PHILIP | BASKET |
| PAUL | WHIRLWIND |



"God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end."
from Psalm 48:14

"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps."
Proverbs 16:9



Find the travel words in the word search



JOURNEY

- FLEE • LEAVE • TRAVEL
 • GOD WITH US •
 DONKEY • CAMEL
 HORSE • CHARIOT
 BOAT • RIDE • WALK
 PATH • ROAD
 • DIRECTION •
 GUIDE • MAP • SIGN
 VILLAGE • TOWN • CITY



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