

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

March 2017

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

No. 147

Blackhall Nursery Fundraisers Take The Plunge At The Loony Dook !

On New Year's Day, an intrepid team of eight women plunged into the Firth of Forth, taking part in South Queensferry's Loony Dook to raise funds for Blackhall Nursery. Dressed as Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, the magnificent eight were a mixture of Blackhall Nursery mums, a former pupil and the chair of the Nursery Board. The bright, cold day saw South Queensferry, the Bridges and the Forth looking their best in the wintery sunshine. The Loony Dook was very lively, with participants in fancy dress costumes blowing their whistles as they paraded through South Queensferry in front of cheering crowds.

The big moment came suddenly: a short procession and then a quick plunge. In the middle of the town, the Loony Dookers went down the slipway and onto the beach, where stewards ensured participants spread out across the water's edge. Buoyed along by the good will of the crowd and the high spirits of the Loony Dookers, the Blackhall Nursery team held hands and ran into the water, swam around and then waded back out. A photographer wanted action shots, so the Nursery team went back in, dunked under and came back out, cheering loudly.

The festive fun more than made up for the achingly cold water. "There was such a brilliant atmosphere, with people from all over the world taking part. We chatted to people from Australia, South Africa and Mexico – some of whom wore only their swimming costumes for the entire procession! With air temperatures of 3°C, perhaps the water felt relatively warm in comparison!" said Tina Woolnough, Chair of the Nursery Board.

To date, the team has raised over £1400 for the Nursery. Tina commented: "This has been a brilliant effort towards our annual fundraising targets. We are fortunate to have great parent volunteers every year, fundraising for the Nursery to support the high quality Nursery experiences that our children enjoy in the care of our excellent staff team".

If you would like to donate to Blackhall Nursery, you can do so by post to Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park Pavilion, Craigcrook Road EH4 3RU (cheques made payable to Blackhall Nursery) or via our page on BT's MyDonate website www.mydonate.bt.com/events/bnloonydook/386231



Louise McFadyen, Katy Watt, Heidi Wishart, Anne Macdonald-Rahim, Deborah Bruce, Katie Sloan, Tina Woolnough and Astrid Allan



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

During the service on Sunday 29th January, the Convener of the WATCH Committee, George Millar, presented a cheque for £10,000 to Carol Jones, Scottish Organiser, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

The WATCH Committee would like to thank all who supported and contributed to their fundraising events during 2016. The Summer Coin collection raised £713, followed by a Craft Coffee Morning in October, which contributed £1,073. The Christmas Fair at the end of November raised £7,138 and with donations from groups and individuals totalling £1,076, we were able to donate £10,000 to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. The Charity will use the donation to fund training of puppies here in Scotland. For full details of companies who helped please see page 4.

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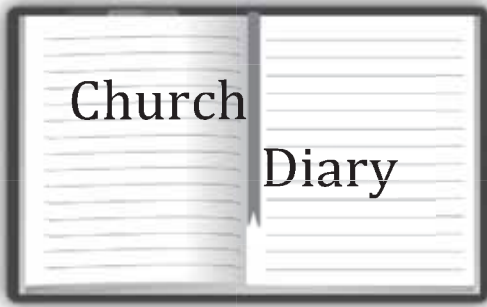
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MARCH

- 5th 9.30 am Early Family Service
- 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 8th 12 noon Mid-week Service followed by light lunch
- 12th 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 19th 11.00 am Morning Worship followed by Annual Meeting
- 22nd 12 noon Mid-week Service followed by light lunch
- 26th 11.00 am Morning Worship followed by short service of Holy Communion
- 28th 4.00 pm Service at Strachan House

APRIL

- 2nd 9.30 am Early Family Service
- 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 5th 12 noon Mid-week Service followed by light lunch
- 9th 11.00 am Palm Sunday Service
- 13th 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Service followed by Holy Communion
- 14th 7.00 pm Good Friday Service
- 16th 8.00 am Early Rise Easter service beside the Tower on Corstorphine Hill followed by bacon rolls in the Church hall
- 11.00 am Easter Day Service with Sacrament of Baptism followed by short service of Holy Communion
- 19th 12 noon Mid-week Service followed by light lunch
- 23rd 11.00 am Morning Worship
- 25th 4.00 pm Service at Strachan House
- 30th 11.00 am Morning Worship



*Easter Morning
Early Rise Service
Sunday 16th April*

Come and join us
at
the Tower on Corstorphine Hill
at 8 a.m.
for an Easter Day service
followed by bacon rolls
at
Blackhall St Columba's Church

Car access to the Tower is by the gate on Clermiston Road North. The gate will be open from 7.30 a.m.



**TAKE IT TO
THE LORD
IN PRAYER**

The words of the old hymn are just as relevant to-day as when they were first written. If you, or some one you care about, is having difficulty in coping with illness, bereavement or a worrying situation, why not contact the Prayer Chain? Twelve people willing to pray daily for anyone who is in need of help. All requests are completely confidential. If the request is for someone else, please ensure that you have their permission.

Please send your request to the Prayer Chain secretary Margaret McArthur at mmca39@talktalk.net or tel 629 7385.



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The WA⁺CH Committee would especially like to thank the following companies who helped to raise money for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People during 2016.

a room in the west end,	Dynamic Earth	Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Abinger's	Edinburgh Bus Tours	Porteous Funeral Directors
Aitken & Niven	Edinburgh Sports Club	Porto & Fi Bistro
Angus Gordon	Empire Hair Design - Blackhall	Press-tige Dry Cleaners
Baillie Signs	Farmer Autocare	Preston Hair - Craigmack Road
Ballina Construction Ltd	Filmhouse	Rangers
Barnton Fine Foods	First Coast Restaurant	Ravelston Golf Club
BDW Vets - Blackhall	Fleur Florist	Ronaq Indian Restaurant
Beautique - Blackhall	Frankie & Benny's - Craigmack	Row 66 Beauty Salon
bia bistrot	Gail Stewart Styling	Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
Blackhall Alterations + Dry	Garden Fairies - Gabi Brown	Sainsbury's
Cleaning	George @ Mace	Scotch Whisky Experience
Blackhall Bowling Club	Henrick's Bistro	Scottish Grocers' Federation
Blackhall Chiropody	Heritage Portfolio-Café Portrait	Scottish Rugby Union
Blackhall Cycles	Holiday Inn City West	Seabird Centre
Blackhall Framing Gallery	Hopetoun House	Shaws Fine Meats
Bob's Gents Hairdresser	Ice Rink - Murrayfield	Silverknowes Stores
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Bruce Collie	James Borthwick Newsagent	Specialized Signs
Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society	Joy Beauty Therapy	The Corner Shop
Buro Art	KD Wallace Optometry	The Raj Restaurant
Butterfly & Insect World	Lauriston Farm Restaurant	Thistle Vets
Café Citron	Lindsay & Gilmour Chemist	Three Birds Restaurant
Camera Obscura	Linlithgow Union Canal	Urban Creatures Architects
Campbell Young Hair Design	maddie & mark's	Urban Vanity - Blackhall
Charlie Miller	Mains Plumbing	Valvona & Crolla
Cloudberry	Martin Wishart	Vets4Pets D'Mains
Cockburn Business Consultancy	Mel Mackey hairdresser	Village Garage
Conifox Adventure Park	Mercat Tours	W T Dunbar & Sons
Comely Bank Chiropody	Michael Neave Restaurant	Westwoods Health Club
Craigie Farm Shop	Murrayfield Golf Club	Witchery Tours
Davidson's Mains Roofing	Mussel Inn	Zumba with Gabi Brown
Delta Indian Take-away	National Trust for Scotland	
Dominion Cinema	Nuffield Health Fitness	



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Let Go...and...Let God

Dear Friend,

Like most people, especially men, I have an area in my house where I store mementos, seasonal decorations, some of my children's items, military kit from my service in the army, miscellaneous items I think I may someday use and boxes of mixed stuff. This place is my garage.

Although we don't all have physical garages, no doubt we each have an intangible garage, or something similar, where our past is kept. It's called our memories, and within its recesses are storage boxes that represent a virtual timeline of our past. There are boxes we like to revisit—memories of joy and fulfillment but there are also boxes of failures, disappointments, rejection and hurts. These can come back to haunt us to the point that we feel not wanted and broken.



Everyone has things in their past that they wish they had never happened. It may be abuse, secret sin, drugs, divorce, rejection, some too painful to mention—the list could continue. Think of the garage as the timeline of your life. It's all there and there is no changing it—it's already history.

But have you ever known someone who was controlled by their storage? They hang tightly to everything that comes into their lives and refuse to part with it. Soon their treasures overflow their storage room and slowly piece by piece pile into their home, restricting everyday living.

This is what some of us allow the memories of the past to do in our lives—we let them control us. While it is true we cannot change what has happened in the past, we can lessen the influence and control it has on our lives now.

If anyone in the Bible could have felt self-rejection because of his past, it was the Apostle Paul. Paul murdered Christians. He tore apart families, dragging men and women off to prison and torture. (Acts 8:3; 22:4–5).

That guilt alone would be overwhelming for anyone to deal with, but Paul had an added burden in that his past was public. He had to deal with other people's rejection of him as well as his own. His past was so openly known that when he came to faith in Jesus, other Christians had great difficulty trusting him (Acts 9:26).

Yet, Paul was greatly used by God. He was the human author of much of the New Testament, as well as being an incredibly effective church planting missionary throughout the Roman Empire.

How could someone with such a past as Paul's become one so used by God? Paul, in the book of Philippians 3:13–14, shared the secret to freeing himself from the grasp of the past as he wrote, ***“This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”***

Did you notice Paul's secret? It was to forget the past—that is, purposefully to make a decision of the will to turn his attention from it.

My dear friend, when Paul said ***“forgetting those things which are behind,”*** he didn't mean that he completely erased them from his memory. That would have been impossible. In fact, much of Paul's past is recorded in the Bible for everyone to see. None of us can (or should) forget our past in the sense that we pretend it didn't happen. It's part of our lives, and it is unchangeable.

Forgetting in this context isn't a memory lapse; but rather, it is a memory release. It is a deliberate choice to let go of the past's grip and power on our present. This, I believe, is what God wants us to do with the hurts and pain of our past. We can't erase them, but we can refuse to allow them to have control over our lives today.

Let me encourage you to consider, even for a moment, that God is willing and able to help you to let go of your painful past and give you, a new beginning and the inner strength to move on to a meaningful and peaceful future.

Wishing you and yours every blessing and peace,

Rev Benjamin J A Abeledo
Minister



Prayer Corner

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matt 7v 7

At times it would seem that we are locked into ourselves and almost afraid to pray as it is not natural to us. Give God a chance. Take the problem or what ever it happens to be to Him and tell Him about it just as if He didn't know a thing about you. In the telling be honest and sincere. Don't hold back anything. Tell Him the longings of your soul and the achings of your heart. He is ready and able to take our frailties, contradictions, complexities and all the things that seem to pull us in so many directions. Asking, knocking and seeking through the outpouring of prayer, believing the He hears and receives them, all this is faith!

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. Psalm 28 v 8

Let us come close to our Father God who saves us from our failings. Give thanks that the Holy Spirit can teach us to understand the principles in your word. Awaken us anew and let us allow you revive our spirit. Let it be Jesus who moves us to pray. He Knocks. The reply makes known His desire to come to us. Let our praying be the result of Jesus knocking at the doors of our hearts.

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Matt 7v 8

Dear Father thank you so much for giving us Jesus, always there and willing to help. You are truly full of compassion and mercy. May we never stop seeking you. Amen
DM

Flowers in Church March 2017

This month the flowers will be donated as follows:

- 5th Mrs M. Morton
- 12th Mrs Alison Hewat
- 19th Mrs Phyllis King
- 26th Allanson Family

Miss Mandy Cran and Mrs Alison Hewat will be delivering the flowers.

Violet Troup
(Flower Convener)



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CAMEO CLUB

Come and Meet Each Other

The volunteers of Cameo decided to try having an 'in house' Christmas lunch in the Church Hall (rather than go to a hotel). So, on Friday 16th December 38 members and volunteers sat down to a delicious three course lunch, coffee and mini mince pies, prepared by Jill Pinkerton (of Pinkerton's Cooks and Caterers), assisted by two young helpers. The meal was a great success and our sincere thank to Jill for all her hard work. The kitchen was left in such a pristine condition that Dorothea was full of praise for all involved !



The afternoon was rounded off by a few songs and carols from members of Sing Aloud. A big thank you to Marge Whiteside, her choir and instrumentalists for bringing the party to a happy and successful conclusion.

Thank are due to Dunbars for providing the soft drinks, napkins and goodies for the members. Well done, Jackie ! Very much appreciated.



Cameo meets fortnightly on a Friday from 10.15/10.30 till 12 noon in the large hall of St Columba's. Coffee/tea, pancakes etc are served and entertainment provided. If you would like to join us, why not phone either Margaret or Fiona and we will make the necessary arrangements. The first meeting after the March Blackhall Bulletin is out is **Friday 17th March** when we will be entertained by 'Limelight'.

Cameo always requires volunteers to help in the kitchen, serving or washing-up, and with driving to and from the hall. If you would like to join our happy and enthusiastic team, then do please get in touch. You will be made very welcome !

Margaret Brown 332 5957

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762

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Blackhall Art Club



May might seem a long way off, but the members of the Art Club are busy working on their pictures for the **Annual Art Exhibition** to be held in the Church Hall from **2nd - 7th May** - so please make a note of these dates in your diaries. We look forward to welcoming you to browse, to have a cup of coffee or tea, to chat and maybe even to purchase an original work of art!

Many of you might have visited Blackhall Library over Christmas and New Year where some members of the Art Club exhibited work - a record of four paintings were sold.

If you are interested in joining us next session (or even coming for a trial week or two) please get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Anne McLennan on 336 4327.

North West Heritage

We meet in March on **Wednesday 15th** at 7.30 in St. Columba's Church Hall when the speaker will be Harry Knox and the subject "Scotland's First Oil Boom - Shale Mining in West Lothian"

Our April meeting on **Thursday 20th** at 7.30 in St Columba's Church Hall will start with the AGM and then there will be a talk on "Old Leith" by Jim Tweedie, Chairman of Leith Family History Society.

Marjorie Easton

Tuesday Topics

We are now entering the final section of our 2016 - 2017 Syllabus. The previous few meetings have been both interesting and very entertaining. February meetings entailed our talk from John Stirling and our Theatre visit to 'Titanic'.

On **March 7th**, Kevin Grant is giving his presentation titled *St. Kilda-New Perspectives*. St. Kilda is home to a colony of sea birds and the special Soay sheep and is the westernmost island of the Outer Hebrides. However we will know a lot more after our talk from Kevin.

Then on **March 21st** we welcome back old friends, Fred and Rita Daniels, who have entertained and stimulated us with their amazing trips to far off places. We enjoyed our first visit to China and this meeting is *China Part 2 - Gansu Province*.

We are still travelling on **April 4th**. This time it is *The Carribean-Scotland Connections* presented by Sir Geoff Palmer, who is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences at Herriot Watt University. Sir Geoff was knighted in 2014.

April 18th is our penultimate meeting with our AGM and a beetle drive.

Our last meeting is an outing on **May 2nd**. The venue is still being discussed and Committee are open to suggestions.

We have had a very enjoyable year with really good speakers and very good attendances and wish our members a happy and restful summer. We love welcoming new members and visitors to our meetings, which start at 7.30 in the evening. Membership is £15.00 or £2.00 per visit. If you would like to know more about Tuesday Topics you can contact:

Diana Taylor. 0131 336 3616. President
Sheena Wilson 0131 332 4078. Secretary.

Edinburgh Floral Art Club

Edinburgh Floral Art Club meets monthly in Blackhall St Columba's Church from 2-4pm for floral art demonstrations with intriguing titles. Why not come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon?

Annual Subscription £40, visitors £5.



On **10th March**, we have "Don't Stop Me Now" by Karine Murray from East Kilbride

On **21st April**, Moyra Turnbull from Crieff will invite us to "Remember When?"

And on **12th May**, Hetty Redwood from Linlithgow will be showing us "The Wonder of Flowers"

FRESH START

Between August and December **ten** carloads of starter pack donations were taken to Fresh Start where they were sorted and distributed to homeless people moving into a new tenancy. From toothpaste to frying pans, light bulbs to plates, everything is put to good use. You can bring items for starter packs to the church halls on a Friday morning between 10am and noon. Thank you for your continued support.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all our Starter Pack Volunteers and to everyone who has donated any items towards the Starter Packs. These make such a difference for people who are settling into their new home. Here are some of our volunteers preparing our packs and feedback from a happy client. —

As well as starter packs, Fresh Start also provides hit squads, cookery and gardening classes. Often there are volunteering opportunities in these areas. If you would like to consider volunteering look at Fresh Start's website to see if there is a role which suits you.

<http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/volunteer>



Question 5: Please give us any comments or suggestions regarding the service.

I can't describe how much I appreciate the help that was given by your service. We left our situation with nothing and this service has helped turn a house into a home.

FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON GROUP



We still have two meetings to look forward to before we take a break for the Summer. You are very welcome to join what is usually a group of fifteen to twenty people. We have been pleased to have had some men join us for various meetings.

Our next talk will be at 2.15 in the Small Hall on **Tuesday March 14th** when our speaker will be Jack Aitken who will be talking about **Edinburgh Statues**. Jack is an official tourist guide and has a wealth of knowledge about the history of Edinburgh. We look forward to welcoming him again.

April's meeting on **11th** has yet to be finalised.



We hope a new team will be planning a syllabus over the Summer but as with all organisations we need your support. Please come along and enjoy this community group. Refreshments are provided after the talk, and a chat over a cup of tea is always good.

F.D.



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The 185th celebrations went well. Possibly some of you, like ourselves wondered why Pirie Mission has been celebrating 185 years of Mission (it seemed an unusual number to celebrate), their minister gave the very good reasoning behind it.

When I got to Pirie, the Spirit was down, the people were not excited about anything. They had just come out of a bruising three year fight with the Minister. When Presbytery severed the pastoral ties the group that supported the Minister broke away. The Congregation was badly bruised.

I asked the Spirit to guide us towards celebrating life and not focus on the division. I was guided to the fact that in spite of the baby divisions Pirie Mission has gone through, ministry has been continuing there for more than 100 years.... 185 years to be exact. We wanted to give thanks to God for the bravery and the faith of the first Missionaries to Pirie, celebrate their contribution to the life of the people in the area and celebrate the gifts from God to the Mission over the generations. I suggested it to some people and they were excited. They took it to Session and it was agreed to. It really did take their attention away from the hurt, the anger, the bitterness towards healing. The Congregation is very focussed, determined to explore the future further.

Regards

Sibusiso

Our other correspondent, Thobeka Kashe, fills us in on family life and just how dedicated and focussed they are:

Oh, we have had the worst drought they say in 30 years, but recently we have some rain on and off and at least now things are improving. My family was greatly affected as we had acquired a small holding not far from Blair Helen, it was my husband's idea to start farming as we approach retirement age, so lately we have been very busy with that project. My eldest son left for Vietnam in November to work as an English teacher there, we were sceptical though, but you know the younger generation, he left despite the objections, but we are constantly communicating, he doing just fine for now.

About the Dimbaza project, the security has been beefed up, and the food garden and the Mission will be ready in March, but the partnership committee is suggesting that we request funds from the Deacons Board, which will meet next Saturday just to kickstart, since we have no funds of our own. We made a submission to the Session with a funding proposal first, as it was suggested by the Minister. We are doing just fine with him, but it will take time for us to finish renovating the Mission as it was in the worst state, but he is determined, despite the challenges that the congregation is faced with.

A woman Elder by the name of Mrs Nosanele Dubula, from Mure congregation, who is also a member of our committee has volunteered to oversee the food garden project. In fact she started by donating seedlings and ploughing them herself. She has proposed that we should start growing chicken, starting on a small scale at first, but we will take photos and send them to you. At work we have been promised to be released in April, I can't wait because I'm not getting any younger and travelling to and from Tkei is hard.

Regards

Thobs.

Calling All Quiz Fans

On Thursday 11th May we will once again be running our ever-popular **Quiz Night!**

So now's the time to start getting your team together and brushing up on your general knowledge! Teams can be up to a maximum of 6 members. If you are unable to form a team don't worry. Just come along on the evening and you can join some of the smaller teams.

Please send your team name and number of players to **egthorn@btinternet.com** prior to the event as this will aid us in the catering. Tickets are £5 per person and can be paid to Eddie or at the door.

Please do come along and help Pirie to carry out their plans for the future.





Quiz Night

at
Blackhall St Columba's
Church Hall

On
Thursday 11th May
at 7.30 pm
in aid of Pirie Projects

Tickets price £5 per team member
Available from Committee Members or pay at the door





Blackhall Nursery News

Spring Term



Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we put the children at the heart of everything we do. We provide a safe, healthy and happy environment where children grow and develop through play and active learning.

As part of our continued Eco work, this term began with the children learning about different weather conditions at home and around the world. This grew from our Alternative Christmas Card project when the children chose to give the gift of a toilet to a community in Muramba Parish, Uganda and we have since gone on to watch short films and talk about how some children in other countries do not have access to clean water or a toilet. We have carried out some water/ice experiments and observed how we can filter dirty water and turn it into cleaner water. The children also enjoyed an interactive 'Timmy Turbine' storytelling session and making their own mini turbines. One of the highlights of this topic was playing the 'Slide the Ice' singing game, rolling a ball of ice from one to another and getting very cold fingers!

The Spring term has also seen the children visiting Ravelston Woods looking and listening for different birds and keeping a tally of how many and which type of birds we spotted. As well as keeping fit and healthy during our visits to Ravelston Woods, the children have enjoyed football sessions in the Park and seeing how many laps they can run during our Tuesday Trot. The children have been taking care of their daffodil bulbs at home and brought them back to Nursery to show everyone the marvellous results and they also enjoyed creating still life daffodil paintings. Nursery families and staff will get together this term for our Family Gardening Day to tidy up the garden and take care of all the little jobs that need attending to at this time of year.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer places in morning and afternoon classes, providing sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes for 3-5 year olds during term time. We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. 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.

CHALLENGERS

We were pleased to welcome two new members to Challengers in January. This term we have looked at the early life of Jesus. We saw how different life was in Jesus' time, which led to much discussion. No taps so we would have to collect water, no electricity so we would use oil lamps, only boys went to school while girls helped their mothers at home. Our favourite activity



was tasting food. Grapes, dates, figs, flatbread and honey were enjoyed while olives seem to be more of an acquired taste.

We then learned about Jesus going to Jerusalem with his parents at Passover. How crowded the city was and then Joseph and Mary discovering on the homeward journey, having travelled a day, that Jesus wasn't with them.

Retracing their steps they found Him in the temple talking and listening to the teachers of the law. Jesus told them that He was in His Father's house.

In March we will be looking at the events leading up to the first Easter.

Everyone at Challengers would be delighted to see you on a Sunday morning from 10.45.

For more information go to <http://challengers.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk>



BLACKHALL BABY & TODDLERS GROUP at St Columba's Church, Blackhall

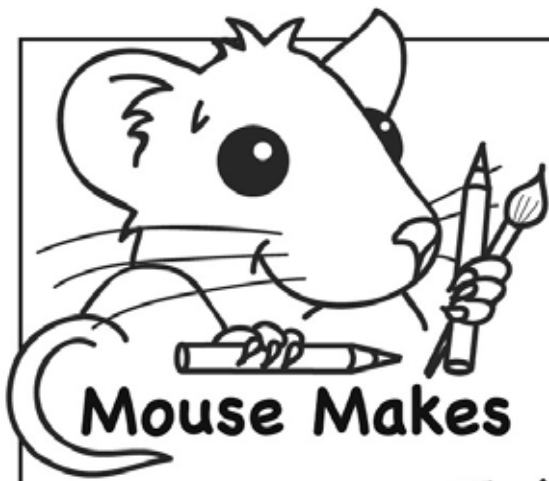
Looking for somewhere to have fun with your Baby or Toddler or both that doesn't cost a fortune?

Why not try Blackhall Baby & Toddler group, St Columba's Church, Mondays or Tuesdays 9.30am-11.00am.

A small fee per term includes tea/coffee and biscuits for adults and a snack for the children.

If you are interested please contact blackhalltoddlers@yahoo.co.uk

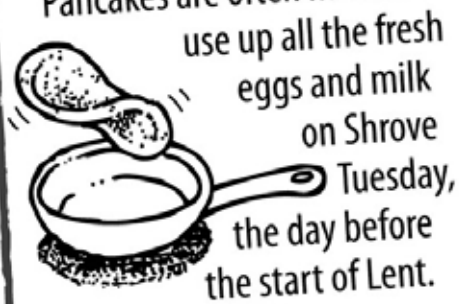




Mouse Makes

SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to



use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God,

preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.



This time is called **LENT**

While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.

1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for

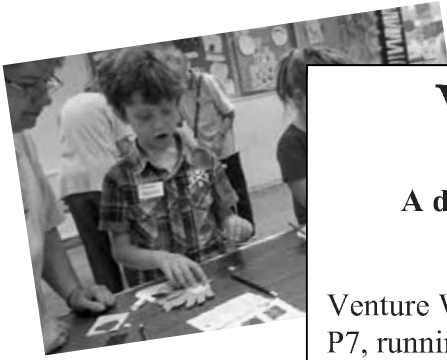
.....
Amen

Venture Week 2017

A date for your diaries: this year's Venture Week will be running from 7th-11th August 2017!

Venture Week is a Christian Holiday Camp for children in P1-P7, running each morning from 9.30-12.00. During Venture Week the children will play games, complete crafts, enjoy singing, quizzes and take part in a drama and other activities, all culminating in a service on the Sunday morning, which the children help to lead. Please keep a look out for more information about Venture Week 2017 in the coming weeks and months.

The running of Venture Week is only possible through the help of a fantastic team of volunteers who graciously give up their free time. It's never too early to start recruiting some new volunteers so if you think you could help (even just for a morning or two), or would like some more information, please contact Fiona Morton (f.m.morton@hotmail.co.uk).



PRIMARY 3 BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

by
N: NA
+ Jagoda
yum We have been learning about symmetry
and made symmetrical pizzas.

yum We used real food like mushrooms, sweetcorn and
tomatoes with some extra cheese.

yum It was fun and we ate them after we
yum baked it.

yum Most people liked everything

yum They were Yummy and nice

yum
yum
yum
Pizza is yum!



BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

In this issue we have a piece from Primary 3 who have been learning about symmetry and created symmetrical pizza toppings ! We also have some poems from Primary 5 which were on the theme of Poppies and remembrance but were sadly too late for the December issue of the Bulletin.

The Pilot

I see the poppies red as blood,
Pouring over the brown mud,
Dead bodies on the floor,
Every second more and more.

I hear the bombs blasting,
This war is so long lasting,
The heavy sky is roaring,
Through the sky I'm soaring.

Making choices as I go,
As I'm seeing poppies row on row,
Thinking about my family at home,
Through the sky I roam and roam.

Suddenly, I'm falling,
The birds are calling,
I'm twisting and turning,
My stomach's churning,
My heart's burning,
For my loved ones yearning,
The ground is calling,
I'm falling, falling

Hannah Thomas

The Day I Died

Just a few short days ago,
We had silence, peace and joy.
Now we are in Flanders Fields
Fighting for peace.

Bombs blasting everywhere,
No-one to be seen.
Under the trench, all warm and cosy,
Have to come up but we want to stay down.

The minute I got up,
I was shot down to the ground.
I lay there in agony,
Waiting for a cross to appear.

The poppy grew in my place
To show my bravery.

Sophie Kernaghan and Maryam Khan

What I See

Bombs dropping from the big blue sky,
Down below where I watch shooting guns,
Bang, bang.

Brave soldiers falling to the ground
In the field where poppies grow.
Down below, I can see soldiers fight
To win in enemy lines,
To serve their country –
Even children.

Other planes dropping down,
Like majestic birds.
Soldiers marching to the battlefield.

I'm just metal,
What are they ?
They're skin and bone,
But with a soul.

Suddenly I feel oil seeping from my body,
As they wait for men in the trenches.

Ben McDonald

Beneath the Battlefield

Oh we who lie in Flanders Fields,
Hear the sky booming,
Like a big beastly bear.
Bombs blasting above the surface.

Perfect, pretty poppies grow above us,
Each representing a burning body.

A poppy in this field represents
Me, a dead English soldier.

I left at 15 and died at 16,
Never to see my family again.

Though I am dead,
The fire inside of me is still burning red.

Penelope Rankin

There are still 867,309 left to commemorate of the 1.1 million service men and women who lost their lives during the First World War on the Royal British Legion's *Everyman Remembered* website.

Visit www.everymanremembered.org for more information

Blackhall Guiding

Blackhall Guiding have been very busy over the last few months - including setting up a 4th Rainbow unit! 202A Blackhall Rainbows meet on a Monday and had their first meeting near the end of January. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures! We celebrated Thinking Day on 22 February, with the theme of "grow". As part of a Raeburn Division event, we partied at a Roller Disco at Meadowbank. In the middle of March we will be joining with Girlguiding units across the UK for a special screening of the new Beauty and the Beast film at Odeon cinemas.

Rainbows have had fantastic visits from both the Police and the Guide dogs, learning all about how to keep the community safe and how Guide dogs help those with certain disabilities. They have also been on many exciting trips, including going swimming, learning all about animals at Pets at Home. They will be discovering Ireland for St. Patrick's Day soon!



-Claire, 157 Rainbow Leader



This term 202 and 202B Brownies are celebrating different countries every week by making crafts, singing songs and having visitors to talk about their time abroad. Also, some Brownies look forward to a sleep over at the Glasgow Science Centre and others to an adventure weekend at Dalguise.



-Nicole, 202 Brownie Leader



Some of the Blackhall Senior Section recently challenged themselves to compete in a Second World War themed escape room, called The Bunker.

They were trapped in an underground room and allowed one hour to solve various logic games and puzzles in order to get out! They worked very well together to find clues and crack codes - and succeeded in escaping with time to spare!

-Seona, Leader



Guides competed in a Ready, Steady, Cook competition to make a main course and dessert using camp cooking stoves. The patrols had to choose their dishes, plan their time and present their meals for judging. Criteria included taste, presentation and how much cleaning up the patrol had done!

The Space Marshmallows won with their fantastic rustic chips, banana choco fondue and clean dishes!

-Beth, 157 Guide Leader



Blackhall Guiding is collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to get equipment for all the girls to use and enjoy. When you're shopping at Sainsbury's please remember to collect these at the checkout. We would greatly appreciate any you can spare. Please hand to any Blackhall Girlguiding leader, helper or parent or get in touch with Alison (details below) to arrange collection. Thank you.

Volunteers are needed to help at Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units at Blackhall St. Columba's

Contact Alison Will on 332 8425 or blackhallguiding@gmail.com for more information





23rd EDINBURGH (CRAIGALMOND) SCOUT TROOP



Scouts started back after the Christmas holidays with the traditional Going Up Ceremony and we were delighted to welcome 5 new boys joining from the 23rd Cub packs.

Programmes for this term include the annual Table Tennis night, Magic Skills, Record Breakers, #YouShape, Swimming, Trivia Night and another joint programme with the Blackhall Guides.

Over the weekend 17th to 19th February, the PLs and APLs went away for a training weekend at the Innerwick Residential Centre, near Dunbar. This offered the chance for the boys to brush up on their leadership and scouting skills, ahead of the camping season.

May Camp 2017 will be at the Scouts Scotland National Activity Centre at Lochgoilhead, Argyll over the weekend 19th to 22nd May. We will sleep indoors and undertake a number of adventurous activities including sailing, canoeing, gorge walking, abseiling and archery.

Summer Camp 2017 will take place from 15th to 29th July. We are hopeful that the location will be a new site for the 23rd but at the time of writing we still have a few things to sort out with the landowner and farmer. Watch this space....

The annual Parents' Evening took place on Friday 27th January and everyone enjoyed the "premiere" the DVD of the 2016 Camps. We were also delighted to present Chief Scout's Gold Awards and Chief Scout's Platinum Awards to a number of boys. Everyone receiving their award has undertaken scouting over at least 4 years with the 23rd and developed significantly as a person as well as in their scouting skills since first joining. The leaders are proud of their achievements.



CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD WINNERS:

Andrew Bryce, Stuart Crichton, Jamie Thompson, Alex Ireland, Andrew Jack, Aiden Dennis, Alex Shanks, Robert O'Donnell, Gregor Rolland, Thomas Palmer, Ross Cubey, Thomas Ross, Rory Young, Daniel Hoyle, Ewan Henderson, Eoin Irving, Hamish Munn.

CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD AND CHIEF SCOUT'S PLATINUM AWARD WINNERS:

Tom Le Seuer, Zak Beck, Finlay MacNeill, Andrew Rolland, Cameron Walker, Daniel Strathdee, Max Caldwell, Cameron Hunter, Stewart McCutcheon.

James McKenna
Scout Leader



Congratulations

BLACKHALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The signs of spring are clearly with us with *Iris reticulata* flowering amid the crocus and snowdrops and the 'horti' members have their eyes firmly fixed on what the spring may bring. On **Monday 13th March** we have a 'Gardeners Question Time' - the ideal time to bring those problems along to fox our experts, Simon Crutchley and Bill Tait. Between them they have well over one hundred years of professional gardening experience and so they should be able to solve any problem that may grow, or stop growth, in your garden. Simon has been a regular speaker at Blackhall since he joined the supervisory team at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh where his expertise can be seen in the herbaceous department which of course includes the Queen Mother's Memorial Garden while Bill spent most of his working career at the Garden as well.



The Queen Mother's Memorial

'Dwarf Bulbs for the Garden and Greenhouse' is a theme to tempt many and on **Monday 10th April** we look forward to Stan da Prato giving us his hidden secrets on how he grows such excellent specimens. Stan, who is the editor of RCHS Journal, The Caledonian Gardener, is active with North Berwick in Bloom as well as the Scottish Rock Garden Club and has also a wide knowledge of all matters ornithological. Come along and be enthralled.

The winter talks which run from September to April start at 7.45pm with the talk lasting just about an hour, after which there is ample opportunity to chat and ask questions.

One of the highlights of the Blackhall year is the **Plant Sale** which in 2017 will be held on **Saturday 6th May** with the doors opening at 10am. Be early to get the widest selection of the colourful plants for containers, baskets and garden. It finishes by noon.



Chessels Court

A summer outing to the Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile has been arranged for **Sunday 21st May** starting at 2.30pm when we will discover a little-known side of Edinburgh's Old Town. Behind the historic buildings there are surprising number of gardens and green nooks and crannies, all with a story to tell. We will also hear about grand gardens of the past, enjoy productive community gardens created by today's residents and take a breather in a beautiful space laid out as a 17th century Scots town garden.

John MacLennan : Hon President

johnmaclennanuk@googlemail.com

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BLACKHALL CHILDREN'S SPORTS

Blackhall Children's Sports Committee (BCSC)



The Blackhall Children's Sports Committee (BCSC) was formed in 1909 as a voluntary, non-profit, organisation with the aims of promoting, organising and raising funds for children's sports and activities in our own community.

The Sports committee has 3 roles:

1. We make annual donations to individuals, projects, clubs or organisations
2. We organise and run the annual Blackhall Children's Sports Day in Ravelston Park
3. We organise various events throughout the year to fund the sports awards and sports day.

Last year the money raised directly benefitted several individuals who were competing in National championship events and groups in the community including Blackhall Primary School, Guides, Scouts, Blackhall Football and Tennis clubs and Nursery. Applications for awards each year are held from January to April.

Application forms will be available to download from links on our website <http://www.activeblackhall.com/bcsc/> and facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BlackhallChildrensSC?fref=ts> during this time.

The dates of our events this year are:

- Quiz Night at The Grange 4th March 2017
- Sports Day in Ravelston Park 3rd June 2017

The committee members this year are: Mark Follows, Craig Burnside, Alison Daly, Emma McKenzie, Aidan Ruthven, Irene Stockton, Chris Thomas, Keavy Williamson, Iain Waterland, Grant Ross, Russel Bain, Ian Crawford, Sinead Feltoe, Debbie Silver, Dianne McLachlan, Clare Evans



We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. *Please remember to put Blackhall Sports*

Day in your diary for Saturday 3rd June - more information to follow on our website, facebook page and in the Blackhall Bulletin.



BLACKHALL ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



At the Club AGM in December 2016 I stepped down as Chairman and now have no official connection to the Club. This was a planned move. When I took the chair I stated that once the Club was established in our Community, with access to playing fields, a sound business structure, robust financial control, backed by a strong adult members' training schedule of PVG, first aid, Disclosure Scotland and SFA coaching programmes I would stand down. Achieving all this would lay down firm foundation for the Club and offer all our young people the opportunity to participate in organized sport. As the Club has now reached this position I was able to stand down.

It gives me quiet satisfaction that the club now run 4 boys teams and 4 girls teams and have started soccer schools for both girls and boys of younger age groups. We now have 167 children in the Club with an adult membership of 30 who I am confident will go forward to new heights under the leadership of the new chairman, Leigh Hedges.

I would like to finish this report by thanking all those who have helped me in establishing the Club. Their support made my task easier.

John Adams (retired chairman BAFC)

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CRAIGLEITH PROBUS CLUB



Like our fellow Probus neighbours we have had a very stimulating session of winter talks, which have ranged from hearing about Clandestine Activities of SOE to the Workings of the Scottish Parliament with the presence of Glenn Millar and his Music to add to the mix.

As our winter session draws to a close we are looking forward to a visit on **March 15th** from Rev. Benjamin Abeledo, the minister at St. Columba's Church, who will tell us about 'Being an Army Chaplain'. Over time Benjamin has spent in Afghanistan in 2008 with 16 Air Assault Brigade, and in 2010 six months working as Task Force Helmand senior chaplain. He was called to St. Columba's just about a year ago, and, if you want to know more about him, note he is also an avid 'tweeter'!

Our final talk of the year is on **5th April** when Andrew Grant will explain to us about 'Leith's War', a subject which this retired geography teacher has researched fully and so is able to outline the role of each of 2206 Leithers who died in action and their regiment, rank and family history. The sad fact is that over 1100 of these have no known grave.

However as a Club we do focus on more than military history and at time of publication we will have enjoyed our spring outing to **Myreton Motor Museum** as well as our annual lunch at **Bonhams Hotel**.

There is always an open door at our meetings, which are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month from October to early April at 10am, to any semi retired (we never fully retire!) gentlemen. Just pop your head in the door at Blackhall Bowling Club and ask for me, or Bertie Allen, our President. And, as a PS, our session for 2017 – 2018 is fully arranged thus make your choice between Wotjek the Polish Bear, The Assassination of Marilyn Monroe not forgetting HG Wells!



John MacLennan
Speakers Secretary: 0131 5396543

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BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



Our talk on the 3rd of November was by Dr Karen Pearson, our Treasurer's daughter. We were bowled over by Karen's enthusiasm and knowledge delivered under the title "From Mendel to Synthetic Biology" where she related Mendel's 1865 "Experiments in Plant Hybridisation" which led to the understanding of inheritance and the beginning of the scientific history of genetics and molecular biology. Karen showed illustrations of tiny stringy root tubers and explained how years of selective breeding had resulted in the bumper cropping potatoes and carrots that we take for granted today.

On November 17th, we had a fascinating talk on "The Legendary Leith Smacks" by Dr Eric Graham revealing the less well-known elements of Leith's vital maritime past. We had not appreciated that from 1791 to 1859, prior to the arrival of the railway, the Port of Leith was Scotland's international arrivals and departure lounge. Anyone who entered or exited, and who didn't fancy the hair raising trip by overland coach, used the far more luxurious Leith Smack, a beautiful little vessel designed to carry her passengers to London in comfort and as much safety as a seagoing vessels would allow! The ships docked along The Shore to pick up passengers and valuable cargos, returning with Leith Claret.



On the 1st December we enjoyed a very energetic and informative talk by Tony Bray entitled "From Airships to Airshows" illustrating the history of flight with colourful slides. Tony is an experienced flier and Museum of Flight guide.

On the 15th of December we heard "The Story of The Nazareth Trust" by Shaun Newton who gave us an effective and informative presentation about this unusual charitable organisation - a hospital established in Nazareth in 1861. When Doctor Kaloost Vartan arrived in Nazareth from Edinburgh, average life expectancy was 22 years for males, and 24 years for females. The dispensary he set up was the only 'hospital' between Jerusalem, Damascus and Beirut. In 1866 Dr. Vartan's work in Nazareth was officially supported by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS), a Scottish organisation that trained medical personnel to serve in needy areas, established medical facilities, and provided funds for their work. Today the Nazareth Hospital has 146 beds and employs over 500 local people, who are joined by a small number of foreign staff and volunteers to help with the work.

The talk was followed by our Christmas Lunch with our partners at The Bruntfield Links Golf Society.

In January we had an illustrated talk guiding us through Hamish Coghill's "My Edinburgh". Hamish worked all his life for The Scotsman, and since retiring decades ago, gives fascinating talks and guided tours in Edinburgh Old Town and Edinburgh New Town relating the history, characters and stories of the times.

Jim Ruxton told us the story of "Hospital Radio in Edinburgh" and how he has supported this charity as a radio show presenter for over 30 years. He related many stories about the patients, their record requests, famous personalities who visited the studio, the vast catalogue of vinyl and CDs, the station jingles, the studio equipment and how shows were produced. Jim was an amateur ballroom dancer in his youth and his love and knowledge of music was illustrated in his fun quiz, which ended his talk. Jim gave us all a health tonic through his jokes and observational humour.

We will have heard February's talks on "Face Equality in Scotland" and "Rain Forests and the Global Carbon Budget before this issue of The Blackhall Bulletin is published.

The talk on March 2nd is "Scottish Football: A Man's Game?" by Alan Ness, author of the contemporary crime novel "A Man's Game" which brilliantly explores issues of violence, addiction, and misogyny, both in "the beautiful game" and in wider Scottish society.

Our talk on March 16th is "War and Peace: Military Army Chaplaincy" by The Rev (Lt Col) Benjamin Abeledo. His first tour was to Helmand in 2006, when he was Reverend to 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. He was in Afghanistan in 2008 with 16 Air Assault Brigade as a chaplain for The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, then returned to Helmand in 2010 as Task Force Helmand senior chaplain. Rev Abeledo became the Minister of Blackhall St Columba's Church in 2016.

On April 13th we will visit The Museum of Flight in East Fortune when we will be invited to climb on board Concorde and tour their newly restored hangars, hear the stories of military and civil aviation over the past 100 years, showcasing the museum's world-class collection of aircraft alongside uniforms, documents and photographs, in immersive, interactive and thought-provoking displays.

We welcome retired PROfessional and BUSiness men who would like to join us to come along for social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits and listen to the talks. We meet at The Blackhall Bowling Club, Keith Row at 10am on the first and third Thursdays of the month from October through to April. Meetings normally conclude around 12 noon.

Alternatively, please contact the Secretary for more details and to receive a copy of our interesting and varied 2016 – 2017 syllabus, or request the 2017 – 2018 syllabus.

Neil McIntosh, Secretary, Blackhall PROBUS Club. Phone: 0131 312 6164 Email: neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk
27 Hillpark Way, Edinburgh, EH4 7ST.



Croquet at Lauriston Castle



The people of Blackhall are very lucky to have the beautiful croquet lawns of Lauriston Castle on our doorstep, with their spectacular views of the Firth of Forth. Each year Edinburgh Croquet Club introduces new players to this fascinating sport through a short course of six lessons at Lauriston Castle.

These courses have proved very popular in previous years and several members have gone on to join the Club. For example one member said "The whole experience has been excellent. It was well organised, inclusive, informative, thoroughly enjoyable and wonderful value for money."



So if you would like to learn a new skill that all ages can enjoy, with friendly, informal teaching in a glorious setting, why not sign up to this year's course of six lessons starting on Saturday, 6th May at 10.30 am at Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South. The remaining sessions will mainly be held on the following 5 Saturday mornings but we do our best to accommodate those who cannot make Saturdays. The course is open to all, with equipment provided, and costs £25.

Anyone interested should visit the "Learn to Play Croquet With Us" section of the club's website at www.edinburghcroquetclub.com to get further details and to apply for the course.



Puzzle Corner: The word that appeared twice was tulip

St Columba's Drama Society

The **CHERRY ORCHARD**

Chekov's comedy is our planned production for this August.

Can you help to make The Cherry Orchard blossom?

There are characters in the play that we cannot cast from the current membership. Ideally we would like to cast the play locally. Can you help us?

We will be holding open auditions on **Mondays 20th and 27th March at 7.30pm** on the stage of St Columba's

If you are unable to attend but would like to get involved please get in touch either by using the form on the web site or secretary@scds.co.uk

www.scds.co.uk



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- Great snacks and light meals available daily.
- Evening dining events throughout the year and a busy social calendar.
- Affordable membership.



Why not come along to our Open Day on Sunday 14th May? call or email us for further details


24 Ravelston Dykes Road, Edinburgh EH4 3NZ
0131 315 2486 ravelstongc@hotmail.com

Puzzle Corner

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

This edition we have a Spring Wordsearch with one word which appears twice. Can you find it? (If you get stuck, look on page 22)

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Aconite | Daffodil | Rain |
| Bed | Flower | Snowdrop |
| Bloom | Hyacinth | Spring clean |
| Blossom | Jasmine | Sun |
| Bud | Lamb | Tulip |
| Celandine | Lilac | Viola |
| Chicken | Lily | Violet |
| Cloudy | Mimosa | Warm |
| Cool | Primrose | |
| Crocus | Primula | |

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

Minister
 Rev Benjamin J.A. Abeledo
 5 Blinkbonny Crescent
 Edinburgh EH4 3NB
 Telephone 315 2019

Session Clerk
 Eddie Thorn
 158 Craigleith Road
 Edinburgh EH4 2EQ
 Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary
 Mrs Catriona Johnston
 in Church Office from
 Tues-Fri 10.00-12.30p.m.
 Tel/fax 332 4431

DEADLINES

Kirk News – Sunday 19th March

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 30th April

Please send all items to the Editor,
 Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office
 (Home tel: 312 6035) or e-mail
bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Advertising Enquiries

Enquiries regarding advertising
 should be sent to Kay Rich,
 8 Queen's Ave Sth.
 Home tel: 332 8502

From perfect Mother's Day gifts to the best Easter decorations, Cloudberry has it all.

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 5 Seaforth Terrace, Blackhall, EH4 2BS
 0131 467 2878

READING THE BULLETIN FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Blackhall St. Columba's Church also produces a
 pack with useful information about the area -
 doctors, schools, churches, youth organisations,
 sporting facilities etc.

If you would like a pack please contact the church
 office either by telephoning 0131 332 4431 or
 e-mail secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

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