

BLACKHALL BULLETIN

June 2022

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

No. 168



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'Jubilee'



Greetings Blackhall Community,

I have given my article in this edition of the Bulletin the simple title of 'Jubilee'. What does this word conjure up for you? What do you think of when you hear that word mentioned?

Many will associate this word simply with the impending celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II is being celebrated this year throughout the Commonwealth to mark the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne on 6 February 1952. Whilst many will focus on this specific Jubilee, others, who are older (like myself), might remember back to previous royal celebrations such as the relatively, recent Golden Jubilee or even the Silver Jubilee of 1977. (I still have a commemorative coin from that one.)

If you look at the Royal UK website it states; '*Royal Jubilees are an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a Monarch, and are significant events which are celebrated around the world. Though the concept of the jubilee began in biblical times, today the term is most closely associated with the Royal Family, and the ceremony and spectacle which the term symbolises.*'

I think that many today will not realise that, as it says in the above extract, '*the concept of the jubilee began in biblical times*'. One of the many things Queen Elizabeth II has been praised for throughout her reign is her obvious and public faith and the commitment she has shown to it. The reigning monarch of the United Kingdom holds a very unusual position in relation to their role in the different churches throughout their Kingdom.

This position goes back to the Union of the Crowns which was the point in our history when James VI of Scotland was, on 24 March 1603, proclaimed "James the first, King of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith". This union made the newly crowned king 'Supreme Governor of the Church of England'- a title that originated with Henry VIII. King James I was much impressed by the organisation of the Church of England and was a fan of the 'episcopate', the system of bishops and archbishops. As head of the Church, he got to appoint these individuals. In fact, for a while, he tried to introduce an episcopacy to the Church of Scotland but was prevented from doing so.

The difference between the king's positions with regard to the Church of England and with regard to the Church of Scotland had been highlighted to the King previously by Andrew Melville, a Scottish scholar, theologian, poet, religious reformer and also, at one time, Moderator of the Church of Scotland. In 1594, at a fractious meeting with Scottish nobles, Melville famously took King James VI by the sleeve and, calling him "*God's silly vassal*", said, "*This is not a time to flatter, but to speak plainly, for our commission is from the living God, to whom the king is subject. We will always humbly reverence your majesty in public, but having opportunity of being with your majesty in private, we must discharge our duty, or else be enemies to Christ: And now, Sire, I must tell you that there are two kingdoms—the kingdom of Christ, which is the church, whose subject King James VI is, and of whose kingdom he is not a head, nor a lord, but a member; and they whom Christ hath called, and commanded to watch over his church, and govern his spiritual kingdom, have sufficient power and authority from him so to do, which no Christian king nor prince should control or discharge, but assist and support, otherwise they are not faithful subjects to Christ.*"

This tale serves to outline the difference in the monarch's roles between the Churches of England and Scotland. Whilst they are Head of the Church of England, the British monarch, at their coronation, vows only to uphold the constitution of the Church of Scotland, which is a Presbyterian national church. The monarch does not hold a leadership position in the Church of Scotland. Despite this, the monarch does appoint a Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland each year as their personal representative. This person has a purely ceremonial role. The Queen, on occasion, has filled the role personally as when she opened the General Assembly in 1977 and again in 2002 when she celebrated her Silver and Golden Jubilees respectively.

Returning to the word 'Jubilee', I mentioned that its origins were biblical. In Leviticus chapter 25, we find the first reference to Jubilee as part of the law given by God to the Israelites. These verses describe God's intent that the Israelites should remain free from slavery for all time by instituting a Sabbath year every seven years. The Jubilee year was to occur after every seventh Sabbath year, in other words every 50 years. The Jubilee was to be an economic, cultural, environmental and communal reset when the land and people were to rest and all those who were in slavery were to be set free to return to their communities. The Jubilee laws were essentially concerned with social relationship, economic security, stability and the well-being of the/

community. They sought to ensure that people lived in ways that reflected good relationships with God, with each other, and with creation. This strikes me as something we could well do with in our current society nowadays.

C.B. Samuel is a former head of the charity EFICOR, Tearfund's Indian partner. He is a current Associate Fieldworker in India and spends his time teaching and mentoring Christian leaders in India and around the world. C.B.Samuel writes, *"Jubilee was a recovery of identity, especially for the poor. It is not about simply correcting economic problems, which is very important; not even just caring for the poor because they're poor; but it is restoring identity, which is a part of their history and very important for them. Jubilee operated as a corrective because people were tight-fisted and hard-hearted. When we talk about Jubilee now, people are reluctant – it's a problem of the heart, not a problem of economics."*

Most scholars question whether the laws relating to Jubilee ever were implemented but Samuel continues, "*The assumption is that it was not practised. But that does not mean it is not an important law... The law was given to the people of Israel so that they would know the intention of God, the heart of God.*"

The intention of God, the heart of God is that people should not be doomed to slavery, poverty and injustice. It is God's will that everyone is entitled to live fully. In the New Testament, Jesus presents himself as the One who brings the old Jubilee to completion because he has come to "preach the year of the Lord's favour" (Isaiah 61: 1-2). In the Roman Catholic Church, jubilees began to be celebrated formally in 1300 AD and are years of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation. They are celebrated every 25 years. The most recent year of jubilee for their Church was 2000.

Ultimately, as people of faith, we are reminded by the word Jubilee that we worship and follow a God who brings freedom. What we see in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is God taking on human form in order to provide Jubilee's objective of release from sin, restoration with God and a resetting for all of creation. We are liberated by Jesus' life, death and resurrection, each being events which become the foundation of our hope for the future: the new creation that we are promised.

God bless all,
Fergus

N.B. Blackhall St Columba's Church is planning a number of events to mark and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You don't need to be a member of the church or even know anyone at the church in order to take part - all are welcome. Why not look at our website or follow our Facebook page to find out more details? See p5 invitation too.

WA+CH COMMITTEE

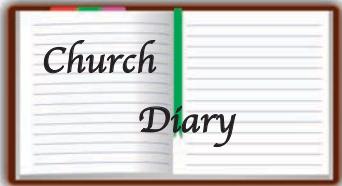
After two years of enforced inaction the WA+CH Committee, on behalf of Blackhall St. Columba's Church, plan to restart fundraising in line with our remit of supporting and raising awareness of local charities.

This year we will raise funds for the local charity Pilton Equalities Project (P.E.P.). They support older people and vulnerable groups and are now restarting their lunch clubs and other activities. Currently they are using their minibuses to transport displaced families from Ukraine.

We intend to follow the traditional program of a Summer Coin Collection, an October Craft Coffee Morning and the Christmas Fair on 26th November. More details will be published in future editions of Kirk News and the Blackhall Bulletin and through intimations at church services.

The WA+CH Committee has had great support from the congregation and the local community since it was formed in 1991, raising more than £275,000 for good causes in that time. We hope this year to get back to normality!

George Millar
WA+CH Committee Convener



JUNE

3 rd	2.00pm	Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea
5 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
9 th		St Columba's Feast Day
12 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
19 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
26 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

JULY

3 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
10 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
17 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
24 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
31 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship

AUGUST

7 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
14 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
21 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
18 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

The Prayer Circle



Do you know someone in need of prayer? A friend or relative perhaps who is unwell, grieving or find themselves in a position where they don't know where to turn?

Blackhall St Columba's Prayer Circle is a small team of people who will pray frequently for anyone in need of help in complete confidence. Please contact Prayer Circle secretary Betty Watt at lzbthwatt@yahoo.co.uk or Fergus Cook at Fcook@churchofscotland.org.uk or 0131 466 7503.

Alternatively, please put your request slip into the locked box on the table in the church vestibule.

The Prayer
Circle



You are invited to come and join us in Blackhall St Columba's
For
Afternoon Tea
On
Friday 3rd June 2022 at 2pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in the celebration of the 70 years of outstanding service by HM The Queen to our nation and the Commonwealth. We look forward to seeing you there.

To ensure we have enough spaces and goodies, please phone 07536 019 488 or the Church Office on 332 4431

SERVICE OF REDEDICATION AND CELEBRATION OF ORDINATION AND INDUCTION

Many of our readers will be aware of the extensive refurbishment undertaken during 2019/21 in the Church.

You will also be aware that in March 2020, the day before the Covid 19 lockdown, Rev Fergus Cook was Ordained and Inducted as the Minister for Blackhall St Columba's.

The restrictions relating to control of spread of the coronavirus meant that, until recently, we had not been in a position to celebrate either Fergus's arrival, or our new Sanctuary.

On Sunday 20th March 2022, we remedied that with a joint celebration in the church followed by an afternoon tea in the halls.

On this very special occasion and the church looked magnificent with wonderful floral displays of lilies adding colour and fragrance.



A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Rev Julia Wiley, Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.

It was a busy service with much to dedicate and celebrate. After the Choir sang “Christ our Cornerstone”, The Rev Gordon Farquharson who had been our Locum Minister before Fergus arrived, led the congregation in prayer.

We sang that great hymn “Ye Gates Lift Up Your Heads on High”, then Fay Stirling, who was the project manager for the refurbishment of the Sanctuary spoke about the work that had been done, thanked all of those involved and played a short timelapse video which showed the transformation from old to new. You can watch that on this link: <https://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/refurbishment/timelapse-video-of-works/>



Following another hymn, a prayer and an appropriate Scripture reading, our Session Clerk, Eddie Thorn dedicated a new Lectern for the Church. This was gifted by the Rev Cook, his wife Shona and their family, and is made from wood salvaged from the pews taken out during the refurbishment. The choir sang the anthem “Be Thou my Vision”, then Eddie Thorn led the celebration of Fergus’s Ordination and Induction.

He reflected on the challenging start Fergus had to his ministry in Blackhall, with the church closed for renovation, the Covid restrictions meaning the congregation could not meet, and not knowing, or being able to really get to know anyone in the congregation or the parish. Eddie noted, however, that Fergus had used all of the resources at his disposal and quickly established online services every week, and with the support of the Elders, ensured everyone in the congregation had the opportunity to join in.

Eddie addressed Fergus directly and assured him of the full and complete support of the Congregation, then presented him with a travelling Communion set which can be used in people's homes, hospital, or other settings to administer Communion.

Rev Richard Frazer who officiated at the actual Ordination and Induction was unable to join us, however, he had sent a message which Eddie read out.

It was lovely to welcome so many friends of the congregation past and present and, in particular, friends of the Cooks from the West of Scotland joining with the family at this special service. Feedback tells me they felt very welcome and were mightily impressed with our beautiful church.

Elspeth Williamson and her small battalion of helpers, together with what must have been a full army of bakers, put on a fantastic afternoon which was appreciated by everyone.

All in all, it was a day of joy, at a time when on several fronts things are quite bleak, and we gave thanks that we were able to come together for this very special afternoon.

Fay Stirling

COULD YOU DO WITH A BIT OF COMPANY?

– WE HAVE JUST THE PLACE

Loneliness can affect all of us, and sometimes just a few minutes chat with someone makes all the difference. Even busy people can be lonely, and often find it difficult to take time to really have a good talk.

Loneliness isn't something particular to any type, age or group of people, it can affect anyone at any time, and The Marmalade Trust is holding UK National Loneliness Week from 13th – 17th June.

The ITV programme Good Morning Britain's One Million Minutes campaign to tackle loneliness resulted in six "listening benches" being installed in UK towns – with one of these on the Royal Mile here in Edinburgh. Kelly Williams, from Yorkshire, is encouraging people to set up "happy benches" to encourage people to sit down and chat with strangers. She has received interest from people all over the globe.

This year Blackhall St Columba's Church decided to install a "Happy to Chat" bench to provide a space for people to chat and ease loneliness. The Happy to Chat bench seeks to break down barriers and allow us to all say 'hello'.



Located in the garden area between the Church and Queensferry Road, if you fancy a chat, please take a seat and hopefully someone will join you. By sitting on the bench, people will know that you're open to a friendly talk. If you see someone sitting there, why not consider approaching them and have a chat. You might learn something new, make a new friend, or simply brighten someone's day!

As in the Chinese proverb "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step", the journey from loneliness can start with the first hello. Let's all take a few moments to brighten someone's day.

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

FreshStart have been very busy over the last few months and stocks of items for the “starter packs” that are given to people who were formally homeless and are now moving into new homes. Items most needed are Crockery, cutlery, bedding (NOT DUVETS OR PILLOWS), towels and kitchen utensils (NOT KNIVES OR SCISSORS). Little used pots and pans also most welcomed. In addition, personal toiletries and non-perishable food items for emergency packs are particularly in short supply at the moment.

We have restarted the Friday morning manned collection point in the church halls so if you have items to donate our volunteers will be happy to accept them between 10 and 11.30am on most Fridays. They will also be able to advise you on the full list of items that FreshStart require.

Items can be brought in at other times and on these occasions the church officer will direct you to the FreshStart Cupboard area.

We now have a Pantry food collection box in the entrance to the halls for the new “Pantry Shop” project. It is hoped that the whole community can donate non perishable items to this. A list of suitable items is detailed on the box. It should be noted that the pantry shop is not a food bank but as FreshStart say for low-income families this is affordable food with dignity. Low-income families become members of the pantry shop and pay a weekly subscription of £4.50 which allows them to purchase quality food approx up to £20 worth. FreshStart via partnerships offers a basic range of goods but does rely on donations of tinned or packaged items to help low-income families eat better. This is another way for the church and community to further support for the good work carried out by FreshStart.

Lilian & Michael Cockburn
FreshStart Co-ordinators

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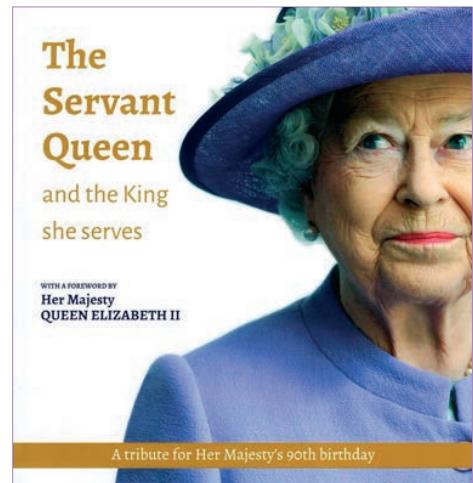
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"THE SERVANT QUEEN"

Monarch and mother, grandmother and great grandmother; a senior citizen who continues to work many hours each week, who employs around 1200 people but feeds her own dogs; the most famous and most photographed woman in the world - the Queen is by any measure a remarkable woman.

In fact, the three word title of a beautifully illustrated book published to celebrate her 90th birthday aptly describes her role as she sees it, not as ruler over the people but as servant of the people. Focusing on her own words, spoken throughout the longest reign in British history, the book gives a rare insight into the Queen's personal thoughts and the source of her inner strength. It reveals a life of total commitment to service and gives clear evidence of her constant encouragement to others to do the same.



Now, seven years later, as we commemorate her Platinum Jubilee and enjoy an extra holiday to celebrate however we choose, we can only marvel at the resilience and enthusiasm of this amazing woman, who continues to fulfil the promise she made at her coronation and which she reiterated in her radio broadcast to the nation on her 21st birthday -

"...THAT MY WHOLE LIFE, WHETHER IT BE LONG OR SHORT, SHALL BE DEVOTED TO YOUR SERVICE."



Paradoxical though it may seem, leading by serving is a key theme of strong and successful leadership, as exemplified by Her Majesty throughout her reign. It is the basic training principle of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where "Serve to Lead" is not only the motto on the young officers' cap badge, but the title of the official text studied by all in their preparation for a career in the British Army. In the words of one of the contributors, each an outstanding military or political leader,

"IF SERVING IS BENEATH YOU, THEN LEADERSHIP IS BEYOND YOU."

and that resonates so clearly with the life of service to others as practised by the Head of the Armed Forces herself.

Year after year, in her Christmas message, the Queen has referred to her personal faith in God and to the teachings of Jesus concerning love for one's neighbour. In 2012 she spoke about how "God sent his only Son to serve, not to be served" and referred to how "love and service should be at the centre of our lives", before going on to share her hope that "his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others".

Whatever our political or religious views, surely we have much to gain as a community in Blackhall by putting these principles into action.

"Love All - Serve All" may be the mission statement of the Hard Rock Cafe, as I spotted on a recent walk down George Street, but it's even more important for us in Strachan Road and Columba Avenue..... and whichever street we call our home.

Let's celebrate - not just the Platinum Jubilee weekend, but the whole year - by making the most of every opportunity to -



"GIVE THE BEST OF OURSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS"

KNIT AND NATTER

This session we have had no special projects, so we have been able to concentrate on knitting for under fives and blankets for Fresh Start. Pregnancy Counselling and Care were delighted to receive our last delivery and hoped we could keep knitting for them as they were getting a lot of requests for help. The nursery at The Fort were also delighted to get a selection of hats, mitts and scarves for cosy outdoor play. One of the children made us a thank you card which was lovely to get.

We are enjoying meeting in the Sanctuary and if you would like to come and join us you will be made most welcome. Our knitting covers all abilities so please don't worry about not being good enough.

We meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm.



For further information please contact Lilian Cockburn at stcknitnatter@gmail.com

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SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

The Scottish Country Dance Class at Blackhall St Columba's finished on Thursday 31st March 2022 with a Platinum Jubilee Party. This was greatly enjoyed by members and guests, which included a delicious supper provided by our members. Hopefully, the class will resume in September....so watch out for the date in the September issue of the Blackhall Bulletin.

Meantime, we wish all our members a happy, safe and enjoyable summer and will look forward to meeting up again in the Autumn. Why not consider joining us on a Thursday evening in the large hall from 7.30 - 9.00 pm (ladies and gentlemen). You will receive a warm welcome.

Margaret Brown 332 5957



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WHETHER TO GARDEN IN BLACKHALL?

I am always a great believer in looking for inspiration from other gardens, either nearby or further afield. Over

numerous years Blackhall has been blessed with lots of gardening gems and one well worth a visit in 2022 is Rae Renwick's garden at 19 Gardiner Road which will be open to the public through Scotland's Garden Scheme on the afternoon of Saturday 25th June. Rae describes her garden as a newly designed (and surprisingly large) south-facing garden where much of the original design and structure has been retained.



With the effective use of hard landscaping a feeling of space and openness has been created which effectively joins the living quarters of the house to the garden itself. Using the established framework of woody perennials, the displays of herbaceous plants are enhanced and give colour throughout the growing seasons.



Within our local neighbourhood are several good examples of where groups of volunteers have taken a lead in maintaining garden spaces, and where better than at St. Ninian's Episcopal Church, a great peaceful space for their local community. Of course, in greater Blackhall we have been blessed with the attractive planting around St. Columba's which fits the ethos of Eco Congregation Scotland and gives a splash of colour on Columba Road, while at Drylaw the passers-by can see the meticulous work of yet another Eco-friendly group. Perhaps a final mention should be made of the group at Lauriston Castle who regularly tidy up and replant the beds around the Castle, propagating many of these new plants at home !



Have you thought of helping out at a local community gardening project? Although gardening at home is enjoyable, by joining up with a group, be it at a church, or community centre like Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, or a Friends group such as Friends of Lauriston Castle Estate, there is an opportunity to chat with others, enjoy a drink coffee or tea together and gain a feeling of gardening companionship. And perhaps it is that companionship that continues to make gardening such a popular hobby throughout the world.

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

John MacLennan



I am writing this update in time to catch the deadline for the June bulletin, so unfortunately can't let you know the outcome of the Blackhall St Columba's Art Groups first exhibition in the church for over two years, held in May. However, we have had a couple of years in which to hone our painting skills so we are hopeful that we may have surpassed ourselves with the number and quality of paintings on offer, while raising money for our chosen charity *Scran*.

We certainly have enjoyed being able to meet up again in St Columba's on Mondays and Tuesdays, working and experimenting with various mediums including water colour, acrylic and oils. I'm pleased to say that we have also welcomed several new members this Spring, as we overcome the hurdles caused by the pandemic and move forward.

However, we are sorry to say goodbye to Valerie Gordon who stepped down as the groups' chairperson in May. Valerie has done a tremendous job organising and running the club over a few years and was brilliant at keeping things going, even during lockdown, with regular newsletters and monthly painting challenges to members. I know we are all immensely grateful to Valerie for all that she has done for the club, and she will be sorely missed.

The art group will be taking its usual summer break and will resume in September.

Joyce Whytock

EDINBURGH FLORAL ART CLUB



Edinburgh Floral Art Club has only a June meeting which is our AGM and then we close for the summer.

We hope to open again the second Friday in September at 2pm in the Church Hall for our first flower demonstration of our new season. New members and visitors are welcome to join us then.

CAMEO CLUB

We are always keen to see new members joining this Community Club to socialise over coffee and enjoy some entertainment. On Friday 3rd June accordionist Alex Ross will be our guest with the meeting starting as usual at 10.30 to 12.00. The following meeting after that will feature the Currie Kirk Singers on Friday 17th June.

By the time you read this we will hopefully have been able to travel to Fife for our Summer Outing at Pettycur Bay which was shown in a series of programmes on BBC recently called "Life on The Bay". Future events will be a Doris Day singalong on 12th August with a coffee outing to Northcare Suites on Telford Road on 26th August (there will be no meeting in the church hall that Friday).

If you would like to meet other people or become a volunteer, then either join us at one of our meetings at Blackhall St Columba's church hall or phone for more details.

Margaret Brown 332 5957

Fiona Drinnan 343 6762

TUESDAY TOPICS

Tuesday Topics has been meeting since 25th January in the refurbished Sanctuary of Blackhall St Columba's Church on approximately alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Our group is mainly ladies, for all ages. Visitors including men are always very welcome.

We have enjoyed excellent speakers, with good attendances and several visitors. Recently our Minister, Rev. Fergus Cook, gave a very interesting talk about his previous career with the police in Glasgow, and we were also entertained with an audio-visual presentation by Fred and Rita Daniels showing more of their adventures in America. In May we ended the session with an afternoon lunch outing to Howie's in Waterloo Place.

Several members of the committee are now standing down after many years in office, and our grateful thanks from all the members are due to each of them.

Unfortunately, at our AGM on 12th April, and in previous weeks, we did not find enough volunteers for the Committee, which meant that this popular group may not be able to continue. This would be very sad as it was established nearly 35 years ago.

Once decisions are reached, information about Tuesday Topics will be made available on the Church website www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk at Community Activities, and also in the September issue of the Blackhall Bulletin.

With thanks and best wishes to all our members and friends.

Eleanor Lowrie,

Jacky Cowie

RESOL STRING QUARTET with PIANIST JIA NING NG

“I’m so glad I came”

“Wonderful to have classical music on our doorstep”

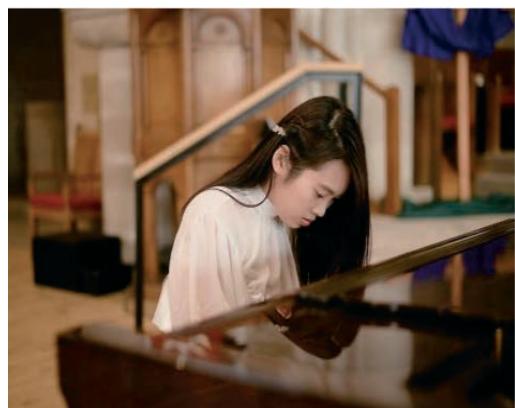
“What a marvellous evening”

“A really talented pianist”

These are just a few of the comments following the evening of music at Blackhall St. Columba’s Church in April.



Having performed for us last year, Jia Ning Ng returned with the Resol String Quartet (www.resolstringquartet.com) to perform Mozart’s Piano Concerto No20 in D minor and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto Op. 58. It was an added bonus that her parents, who had travelled from Singapore were able to be part of the audience.



Jia Ning introduced the pieces, talking about them in the context of the time. Composed in 1785, Mozart’s Piano Concerto 20 was an immediate success, though unusual being written in a minor key. Mozart, led the orchestra from the keyboard performing the solo part himself.

Likewise, Beethoven was soloist at both the private premier in 1807 and the public premier in 1808.

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear and see talented young musicians and appreciate the acoustics of the refurbished sanctuary.

The evening ended with Jia Ning playing the well-known hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” and inviting the audience to sing.

The next Music@St. Columba’s will be on 18th June when students from Fettes will be performing for us. Time has not been finalised, so please check our website or phone the office nearer the time for the exact details.

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BLACKHALL COMMUNITY TRUST NEWS



The Board of Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) is very much hoping that community events will be on the cards again shortly and we look forward to seeing everyone again in person, and to resuming activities and fundraising events.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting to hear the outcome of a re-run of the Community Asset Transfer consultation process but hope that this will finally allow Ravelston Park Pavilion and adjacent land to transfer from the City of Edinburgh Council to Blackhall Community Trust, on behalf of residents. There is an urgent need for a new fit-for-purpose building to accommodate Blackhall Nursery so that local families can access their government-funded 1140 hours early learning and childcare entitlement, and for more community space. The Board is very pleased that ongoing work with architect Malcolm Fraser of Fraser Livingstone towards final designs has allowed us to reduce considerably the area of land being requested under the CAT process.

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

Please consider becoming a Trust member, or better still, share your skills by becoming a volunteer member of the Board! Blackhall is defined by the Blackhall Primary School boundary.

Email blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com for more information about membership/becoming a director or to sign up for the enewsletter.

More information about BCT is available on the website www.blackhallcommunitytrust.org.uk and you can follow us on Facebook @blackhalla or Twitter @BlackhallCT.

Blackhall Community Trust is a company limited by guarantee (SC551774) and a Scottish charity (SC047250)

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ON ONE OCCASION JESUS TOLD THE STORY ABOUT SOME PARTY INVITATIONS

HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEAL

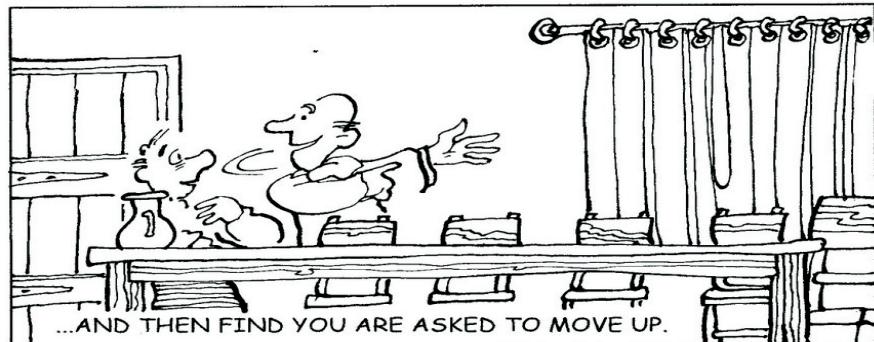


DON'T RUSH TO SIT IN THE BEST SEAT....

...IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE DOWN THE TABLE.



IT'S MUCH BETTER TO TAKE THE LOWER SEAT



...AND THEN FIND YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE UP.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE FRONT.



AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST. Read Luke 11.7-11

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SUNDAY CLUB AT BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, we are able to offer an activity session for children during the morning service. Why not come along any week and join us ?
For further information contact Amy Donaldson, via the Church Office.



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Blackhall Nursery

News Summer 2022



As we start the final term of this academic year the children are settled, busy and active. Today we returned from the Easter holidays to discover that the frog spawn has turned into tadpoles! When the frog spawn arrived, we talked about how we can look after them and make sure that they achieve the same ‘wellbeing indicators’ that we work towards for the children; safe, healthy, achieving, respected, responsible, nurtured and included. Doing this helps to develop the children’s understanding of what these words mean.

We have a very busy term planned with safety week, sports day, a class photo and transition to school activities planned, in addition to our usual full timetable!

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer full day (6 hours) places for 3–5 year olds during term time.

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

You can place your child’s name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2nd birthday by downloading an application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.

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P5B

P5B enjoying outdoor learning with Earth Calling on the first day back after the Easter holidays. We really are so lucky to have such a great resource on our doorstep and are very thankful to the excellent staff from Earth Calling who make all the learning so much fun.



P5 Victorian Day

P5 Victorian Day. All the pupils had to follow the strict rules, including standing when an adult entered the room and sitting quietly in straight rows during their day dressed in traditional Victorian clothing.



Sunflowers for peace

Some of the stunning Art for Peace Sunflower displays that were placed throughout the school. Sunflower meanings include happiness, optimism, honesty, longevity, peace, admiration, and devotion.



Blackhall Guiding

20A Rainbows will be starting their Disability Awareness challenge badge after the Easter Holiday-exploring all kinds of disability-seen and unseen. We are also looking forward to a visit from Cool Creatures mid May. Some of the girls have 'met' some of the animals online but we'll get to see them in the flesh this time. **Barbara Bon - 20A Rainbow Leader**



Blackhall Rainbows joined the 202 unit celebrating the life of Dr Elsie Inglis in the Meadows and practices first aid challenges to earn the Challenge badge. This badge contributed towards £50k fundraising target build a statue for her on the Royal Mile. - **Morag Higham - 202 Rainbow Leader**

157 Rainbows have been getting creative making coasters for Mother's Day, a beautiful garden that shows how special we all are and lots of Easter chicks and bunnies. This term we're planning a celebration for the platinum jubilee. **Caroline Murray- 157 Rainbow Leader**

Our unit is really going to miss our oldest girls who are heading up to Guides. These are lockdown brownies who barely knew each other at the start of the pandemic, who have become the best of friends and all completed their Gold awards. Congratulations and well done to you all. **Helen Abbott - 202C Brownie Leader**

Blackhall Guides attended the Elsie Inglis event and had great fun learning new skills. We have also been paddle boarding on the Union Canal and have been working hard this term to finish off Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. **Lorna Kelly - 202 guide leader**

202 and 202B Brownies have had a busy term learning about animals with visits from animal man and cool creatures and making animal themed crafts. 42 girls enjoyed a weekend away to Dalgaise in May where they conquered their fears, challenged themselves and developed a new found independence and the older girls were a great support to younger girls. The girls enjoyed a trip to the meadows to take part in the Girlguiding Edinburgh Elsie Inglis event and took a tour around Edinburgh on an open top tour bus. 15 girls are looking forward to auditioning for this years Edinburgh Gang Show and 15 girls have gained their gold award this term. **Nicole Harland 202 and 202B Brownie Leader**



Volunteer with Girlguiding Edinburgh?

Could you spare some time to volunteer with us? It's an exciting time to be part of Girlguiding as we get to grips with our most exciting (and biggest) programme overhaul in 100 years!

At the moment some of our units are looking for more enthusiastic leaders/unit helpers to join their packs. If you would be interested, please email the address below or apply using the link below. Full training and support provided. See our website or register online for more information:

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

blackhall.districtcomm@gmail.com



With the easing of lockdown restrictions, Scouting in Blackhall has come alive again. The Leaders are very conscious of the opportunities that our young people missed out on during the Pandemic and are undertaking an intensive catch-up programme, particularly with regards to camping. Indeed, our Scouts were amongst the first in the country to get back to camping. We are indebted to the dedication and commitment of our Leader team who kept Scouting going during lockdown and are now delivering an exciting programme to an expanding Group. Congratulations are due to our Scout Leader, Dave Duffy, who recently completed the training and assessment leading to the award of his Scottish Mountain Leadership Certificate.

BEAVERS

Beaver numbers recovered quickly after lockdown and following several postponements due to Covid, 36 Beavers finally attended a very successful camp at Dalgaise where they experienced a wide range of activities. We also held a Highland Games in Ravelston Park. The focus on badgework has included adventurous activities, communications and remembrance.

In the summer term we are visiting Fordell Firs for orienteering, tree climbing and completion of the Adventure badge. We will also be joining with the Cubs for a Circus skills day – hopefully we will manage a display at the parents' evening!

cubs

Our winter/spring terms have been a busy time for both our packs. Our cubs have been completing a range of badgework including their 1st Aid stage 2 badge and Digital Maker badge. Our summer term sees us taking part in a circus skills night and more evening outdoor activities.

The Monday pack had their first camp of the year taking a trip to Lochgoilhead Scout Centre for the weekend where they took part in raft building, abseiling, power boating, high ropes, hill walking, campfire activities and some problem solving. They are planning a trip to Longraig to take part in some sailing and kayaking.

The Friday pack had a camp at the Bonaly Scout Centre where they experienced a range of activities including cooking and a camp fire. They have also been to indoor roller skating and are going to Cramond Island to cook on the beach and play games.

Scouts

The lifting of lockdown restrictions enabled the Scouts to complete their expedition challenge with an overnight expedition through the Pentland hills. As we came into spring some of the older scouts took on a survival skills weekend in Glen Lyon and braved freezing conditions to build and sleep out on their own shelters. We were lucky enough to be basking in sun for our Adventure weekend at Lochgoilhead where nearly 45 cubs and scouts took on a variety of climbing and water-based challenges.

There are more canvas camps planned for May and June as post lock down we dust off traditional Scouting skills .

EXPLORERS

Pink Panthers Explorers is growing every term, currently with 90 teenagers meeting every week.

The past term our Explorers completed their first aid courses, Duke of Edinburgh training and their expedition in the Lammermoor Hills. We have had a few camps this term - these were at Innoflate, Bonaly for a Finland Training Camp, and Aberdeen to attend a Scottish Camp with 400 other Explorers from across Scotland.

In the next few months we will be working more towards our trip to Finland this summer by having some fundraisers and calls with our hosts. We have a unit camp planned in June.



We require more Leaders for all sections, and could provide Scouting to more of the young people in the community if we had more Leaders. We have vacancies for Leaders, helpers and members of the Executive. If you think you could help, please contact:

23rdgsl@gmail.com



PROBUS NEWS



BLACKHALL LADIES PROBUS CLUB

The Club has enjoyed a varied series of Zoom presentations since October 2021, commencing with a talk by Julie Gibb on the Highlights of the Science Collection of the National Museum of Scotland.

This was followed in November by a talk by John Helliwell on Mary's Meals, our chosen charity for the year. In December Alex Wood gave a fascinating talk on Tracing Family Histories.

In January Betsy Dorfman entertained us with her African Wildlife Conservation stories.

Unfortunately, our February talk had to be cancelled at short notice. In March, Jackie Sangster of SCRAN gave an inspiring talk on Scots Women who Chose to Challenge.

For these Zoom presentations, which were well attended, we entered into an arrangement with Blackhall Men's Probus Club to share, and in turn our members were able to share the presentations arranged by their Club.

We were very pleased to be able to hold our AGM in person in April this year, with a good turnout of members, followed by tea and cakes.

We have a very interesting programme of talks arranged for next session, commencing in October, which we hope will take place in-person again in Blackhall Bowling Club.

There are now some membership vacancies, so if you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary for more details. Membership is open to ladies aged 55 and over, who are retired, and we meet on the second Thursday of the month from October to April, from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Christine Proudfoot, Secretary.

Phone: 0131 343 1761

Email: proudfootchristine2@gmail.com



CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Meeting every first and third Wednesdays of the month until mid-April in Blackhall Bowling Club has been a great boon to us and we covered a wide range of themes all of which triggered those grey brain cells to work! Among the highlights was our Charity Day talk when we welcomed Sistema Scotland, alternatively known as Big Noise. Big Noise are making great strides in establishing a base in Wester Hailes, which adds to their bases in Douglas, Dundee; Govanhill, Glasgow, and Raploch, Stirling. If you want further information on Big Noise operates or have any informal comments, please either contact them or myself. <https://www.makeabignoise.org.uk/big-noise>.

Our outing to Greyfriars Kirkyard and Magdalen Chapel was also very informative and in the case of the latter the presentation given by Alan McCulloch, Secretary of the Scottish Reformation Society gave us an excellent history of this hidden gem of Edinburgh <https://www.scottishreformationsociety.org/the-magdalen-chapel>.

On a sad note, in the past few months two of our former Presidents have died, John Cormack (2005-2006) and Jim Hall (2011-2012); on a personal note, it was Jim, in numerous ways, who encouraged me in my time as President and I will miss his humour and advice. The Club will miss them both and our condolences are passed on to their family and those close to them.

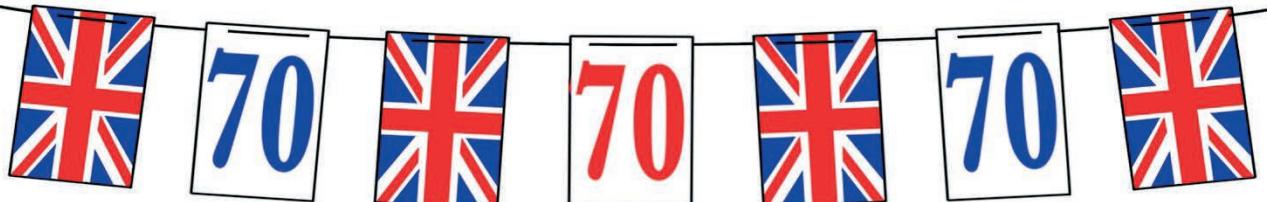
Summer months are the time of Probarians to garden, play golf and visit far flung places before settling down for our autumn series of talks. Jim Martin is busy finalising our programme with themes including the Work of a Silversmith, Edwardian Scottish Literature, and 'What the Doctor Ordered'. More details will be given in the next edition of the Bulletin.

Craigeleith Probus does not just serve the Craigeleith area as its name may suggest. With reliable buses passing close by in Blackhall village plus adequate parking near the bowling club our door is open to all retired gentlemen - from Merchiston to Muirhouse, Dalmeny to Duddingston, and Balerno to Blackhall.

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

John MacLennan : Former President 2013-15
<https://craigeleithprobus.myfreesites.net>.





This year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Celebrations will include **The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour)** on 2nd June when more than 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together. Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will also continue. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

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British
Monarch

Platinum
Jubilee
Seventy
Years
Service

United
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Celebrations

Birthday
Parade
Trooping
Colour
Soldiers

Horses
Buckingham
Palace
Balcony
beacons





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Session Clerk
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Telephone 332 5702

Church Secretary
Mrs Joy McGonigal-Paget
in Church Office from
Tues-Fri 9.30-12 noon
Tel: 332 4431 or email
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

DEADLINES

Kirk News – Sunday 17th July

Please send all items to the Editor;
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Mob: 07518 293976 or e-mail:
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Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 31st July

Please send all items, including Advertising Enquiries
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READING THE BULLETIN FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Welcome to the area. We do hope you enjoy living here. To help you find your feet, Blackhall St Columba's Church website gives you all you need to know about activities happening there for young and old. From leisure activities like painting and dancing to our youth groups and junior singers. You can find it all at www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or contact the office by phone (see above) or e mail secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk or

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