

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

NOVEMBER 2021

No. 830



We will remember them

Thursday 11 November 2021

10.50 am at the War Memorial

Sunday 14 November 2021

10.30 am in the Church and on Live Stream

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

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

Robert Laurence Binyon



Minister

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

Session Clerk

Mr Eddie Thorn
Tel. 332 5702

Church Secretary

Mrs Joy McGonigal-Paget
Mon - Home Working
(Office closed)
Tues - Frid, 9 am - Noon
secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Meet the Minister

By the time you are reading this there will have been four events in the Meet the Minister programme. More than half of the congregation will have an opportunity to meet Rev Fergus Cook and Shona Cook in an informal friendly way within our lovely sanctuary setting.

If you have not received an invitation yet do not panic as we are holding another three more events this month. Members are largely invited on the basis of Elders' Districts but if you cannot come on the invitation date no need to worry as we can be flexible and offer you another date. It is our aim that all members will have the opportunity to meet the minister before the Christmas season is upon us.

Michael Cockburn
Outreach Team Leader

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL



Flat pack boxes, stickers and a helpful list of filler ideas are available on Sundays from the table at the back of the church and from the church halls any morning.



Filled boxes must be returned to the church **by Sunday, 14 November** and can be brought to the church or halls any time before then.



If you can, please put £5 in an envelope and place it in the box to cover the cost of sending the box.

Thank you.

From the Minister

'Remembrance'



Dear Friends,

This month, the month of November, is traditionally regarded as a month of remembrance. There are a number of reasons for this. The month begins on the 1 November with All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, on which the Roman Catholic Church, as well as many Protestant churches, remember and celebrate all the saints including those who are no longer celebrated or are not celebrated individually. Of course, there are different understandings of what a 'saint' is. Whilst there are many named individuals such as our namesake St. Columba who have been recognised as saints by the early Church, we, as part of the reformed church, have a much broader understanding nowadays of what constitutes a 'saint'. This reformed way of thinking, I believe, is born of an understanding that, to become a saint, a person does not require to be canonised through a formal papal decree declaring that the candidate is holy and in heaven with God. I think we can see that scripture supports this view when we read some of Paul's introductions to his letters. He wrote to the Philippians; "[To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons](#)" indicating clearly that these particular saints were still very much alive. Even if we confine our thoughts of sainthood to those who have passed, the Book of Hebrews refers, in chapter 12, to '[the great cloud of witnesses](#)' who have gone before.

After All Saints' Day, we have particular events such as Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday in November. Remembrance Day is, of course, marked specifically at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month to mark the time that the armistice came into effect ending the First World War. This is when we will often hear the words of Jesus, told in the Gospel According to John, telling us that '[No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.](#)' (John 15:13)

In addition to these specific dates, the month of November sees the end of the Liturgical Year with a new Liturgical year starting on the First Sunday of Advent – the four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The Church has traditionally used this end of the year period as a time to think of the end of life and the end of all things and the great hope that our earthly end is a transition into a new life in God's heavenly reality. / continued

From the Minister continued

This year I believe 'remembrance' will take on a new dimension. Every single person in the country has been affected by COVID 19 and the various measures and restrictions that have been taken to lessen the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. At the time I write this reflection, we, in the United Kingdom, have recorded more than 138,000 deaths attributed to coronavirus. This is a staggering number but can also be put into context when we realise that the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-19 took an estimated 228,000 lives in the UK. Many people will take time this November to remember and specifically reflect on the coronavirus pandemic.

For many people remembrance is hard. It reminds us of what we have lost. However, for those of us with faith, it need not only be about what is lost. Remembrance should also be about giving thanks for those who have gone before us and allowing us to look with prayer and hope to their new life in heaven and our desire to join them there one day. Again, I would refer to the words of Jesus as told to us in the Gospel According to John; **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”** (John 14:1-3)

For those of us with faith, death is not the end. It is a new beginning and, whilst it is important to remember those who have gone before us, it is also important to remember the hope that we have in the life to come, the hope that is articulated in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians; **“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

God bless all,

Fergus

We will remember them



Building for the Future

Edinburgh Architectural Association Awards

We are delighted to be able to let you know that the project to refurbish the Sanctuary was shortlisted for an award.

The Edinburgh Architectural Association shortlisted us in the Regeneration/Conservation Award Category for the 2021 EAA Awards.

The Architect, Alan Thomson of Lee Boyd, and I, as project manager, were interviewed for the awards panel in September, although the information about being on the short list was embargoed until 1 October.

The winners were due to be announced at an event on 28 October and we were keeping our fingers crossed.

Sadly, we didn't win, but we did miss out to a very worthy winner and the recognition of the wonderful transformation of our Sanctuary is very welcome.

Fay Stirling
Project Manager



Family News

New member admitted by Certificate of Transference:

Mrs Joan Stevens

Deaths

10 October Mr Ian B Mitchell

12 October Miss Mary (Merle) Mclvor



St Columba 521 - 597

I begin by paraphrasing Paul's greeting in his letter to the Romans when I say to all God's beloved in Scotland, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Although we, in the Church of Scotland, do not place a great emphasis on 'saints', we, at Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church, are obviously connected to St Columba if for no other reason than we have adopted his name. Although we have taken his name, we do not, as far as I am aware, have any history of marking his achievements. For example, 9 June is listed as the feast day of Columba but I certainly wasn't asked to pay any particular attention to it.



However, there is a particular reason for marking St Columba's life and legacy this year as it is believed to be the 1500th anniversary of his birth. Although we can be more precise about the date and place of his death – 9 June 597, on the island of Iona, scholars think it is probable that he was born in 521, possibly in early December, in the Loch Garten region of Donegal in north-west Ireland.

Professor Ian Bradley, who is Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at the University of St Andrews, says that **Columba is; “arguably Scotland's most popular saint and certainly its most adaptable, ecumenical and all-purpose one, equally beloved of Roman Catholics and Wee Free Presbyterians.”**

Although it is with Iona that Columba is most frequently associated, Columba actually lived less than half his life on Iona. His first four decades were spent in Ireland where he followed a monastic vocation and founded several monasteries. Columba left Ireland in 563, at the age of 42, for reasons about which scholars disagree. Three of the most common hypotheses are that he left voluntarily as a pilgrim, was banished for some crime or mis-demeanour or was simply sent on the request of the ruler of Dal Riata (modern Argyll) to found a church there.

We are fortunate to know as much as we do about Columba. He is unusual among Celtic saints in that he was written about soon after his death. Much of what we know comes from a hagiography *Vita Sancti Columbae* (Life of Saint Columba) written by Adomnan St Columba who succeeded to the abbey of Iona in 679 A.D. / continued

St Columba continued

{A hagiography is a type of biography that treats its subject with undue reverence.} There are a number of more modern books about Columba which often paint him as a complex and even sometimes contradictory character. Some suggest this can even be inferred from his two Gaelic nicknames, Crimthann (the fox) and Colmcille (the dove of the church), the Latin version of which provides his commonly used name, Columba.

Again, turning to the words of Ian Bradley; *“He had a hasty temper and an autocratic manner and was known in Irish tradition as the bad-tempered saint, but he was also a man of prayer and had remarkable pastoral gifts which he exercised with the many people who came to visit him on Iona seeking spiritual counselling. Portrayed as priest, poet, mystic and miracle worker, he clearly had a charisma and played a key role in championing and legitimizing the claims of the Gaels of Dal Riata.”*

Although largely based in Iona, Columba is known to have travelled throughout Scotland spreading the word and seeking to convert the Picts in different areas. Whatever one thinks of the various miracles attributed to him, there is no question that he was influential in the spread of the Gospel in Scotland at that time. Numerous churches, schools and other institutions bear his name including, of course, ourselves and St Columba's Hospice here in Edinburgh.

Rev Fergus Cook

St Columba Visit to Inchcolm

As most of you will know, we marked the occasion with a congregational pilgrimage to Inchcolm Abbey on Inchcolm Island last Thursday, 28 October. Inchcolm Island is the island in the Firth of Forth whose name literally means Island of Columba. Those of us that braved the elements during our trip last week enjoyed a short service of communion in the former refectory of the Abbey and we were delighted to be joined in our worship by someone from Historic Scotland's staff and also some visitors to the island who just happened by. In addition to it being a memorable way to mark Columba's birth, I personally also get to say that I have conducted worship in an Abbey. I can even say that a couple of Bishops were present... thank you to Jim and Mary Bishop for coming along.

F.C.

Celebration
of the
Sacrament
of
Communion
at
Inchcolm
Abbey



The Scouts
lend
a much
appreciated
hand
to clear
the
Church
garden

The Apse
set for a
different
celebration
of the
Sacrament
of
Communion



Church members encouraged to take part in COP26

With a week to go until COP26 began on Sunday 31 October, Church of Scotland congregations across the country were encouraged to take part at local events, online or in person.



Speaking about our need to engage with the issues at the heart of the event, Lord Wallace, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "Caring for creation is a fundamental aspect of being a practising Christian.

"So interdependent is God's creation that damaging creation damages us.

"This is an issue of justice, and so our concern for the integrity of creation is matched by a concern for fairness for fellow human beings around the world."

"With COP26 starting soon, we hope and pray for urgent action.

"The world can't afford anything less."

COP26 is taking place in Glasgow from Sunday 31 October until Friday 12 November

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/church-members-encouraged-to-take-part-cop26>

Kirk Session Report

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 5 October 2021. This was the first 'in person meeting' since March 2020.

Congregational Roll

Mrs Joan Stevens, Queens Road, was admitted by Certificate of Transference.

Elders Conference

It was noted that the Conference will be held on Sunday 7 November following morning worship. The main thrust of the meeting will be to hear and discuss the Minister's plans going forward. Working Team Leaders will each be invited to give a short update on their activities and Elders will reflect on the Committee / Team remits. The Presbytery Plan is still at the draft stage so there will be no discussion on that front.

Recording Equipment

A proposal was put forward to acquire two cameras to enhance the capability of our recording equipment and provide better coverage when recording Services and other occasions in the Sanctuary. Kirk Session agreed to a spend of circa £4,500 to purchase the equipment with the cost being met from the Building for the Future funds (such equipment was originally included in the Phase 1 plan).

Remembrance Service

The Minister advised that it is proposed to hold a Public Act of Worship Remembrance Service, outside, at the War Memorial on Thursday 11 November at 10.50am. On 14 November, our normal Remembrance Service will take place at 10.30am.

Roles

The Clerk reported that Ruth Laidlaw had graciously agreed to undertake the role of Hall Convener. Consequently Ruth was stepping back from being our Health and Safety Officer (subsequently Donald Stirling has agreed to take on this role). It has been recognised that there needs to be a clear indication of what each role entails. Accordingly it was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with all Conveners and Working Team Leaders and request that they prepare a job description.

Sanctuary Floor

Given earlier concerns with the winter approaching and the need to protect the Sanctuary floor a report was submitted with proposals. It was agreed that three water trap mats be purchased. Water trap mats are one of the most effective types of matting in the industry at removing tough dirt and grit from shoes. /continued

Kirk Session Report continued

With its unique water trap containment border, this absorbent door mat can easily hold up to 4.5 litres of water per square metre, boasting enormous high water retention capacity.

In addition, approval was given to fit coat hooks in the main vestibule.

Tributes

The Clerk paid tribute to the late Muriel Morton who had been a long standing and faithful Elder. Muriel had been ordained in Blackhall St Columba's in 1983 and gave 35 years service as an active Elder. He also paid tribute to our former Church Office Secretary, Jean Mulholland, who had recently passed away, noting that while not a member of our Congregation had supported our events held, especially the Christmas Fair.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

New Presbytery Plan

The new Plan is at the advanced draft stage and once agreed by the Strategy Planning team this will go before Church of Scotland committees for their approval prior to presentation to a special Presbytery meeting. At this juncture there is no indication when this special meeting of Presbytery will take place suffice to say, given the importance of the matter in hand, it will be convened as soon as is practically possible.

As mentioned earlier the Plan will basically propose how the number of ministerial posts across the Presbytery of Edinburgh will drop from 78 to 48 within 5 years.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

Thank You

My father-in-law, George Marshall, sadly passed away on 13 September. Helen has asked me to use this medium to thank everyone most sincerely for the notes of condolence and flowers she received from members of the Congregation. These were all greatly appreciated.

Eddie Thorn, Session Clerk

Decorating your home for Christmas

Looking for some fresh Christmas decoration ideas?



Why not come along to our
Christmas Wreath making workshop
on Saturday 4th December?

Make a beautiful wreath for your front door using fresh greenery and other decorative items.

You'll also make a table centre arrangement.

10.00 - 12 noon - Wreath making

12.00 - 12.45 - Lunch (provided)

12.45 - 2.00 - Table centre making

All materials will be provided, and you'll have two beautiful pieces to take home. Cost £30

Contact: Fay.stirling@btinternet.com to book (Places limited)



CrossReach



For many years Margaret Brown, our CrossReach 'Link', has sold Christmas cards and calendars in our hall after church services during November to help raise funds for CrossReach.

Again this year Covid has prevented this from happening but please remember that CrossReach cards and calendars are available now to order online.

<https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/acatalog/Advent-Calendars.html>

A date for your diaries

Christmas Tree Festival

Around 40 trees will grace the church, all decorated by local businesses or church groups, and you are invited to come and view them!



Thursday 9 December	4pm - 7pm
Friday 10 December	11am - 4pm & 6pm - 8.30pm
Saturday 11 December	11am - 4pm

Entry is £5.00 for adults and £1.00 for children (includes refreshments) with proceeds going to Church funds.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

This year we are going to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday 18 December from 10:00 am. Do come along and help to decorate our beautiful church. We don't do complicated stuff and we have all sorts of decorations hiding in our Flower cupboard to choose from. The Team would be delighted to welcome you to fun and coffee/tea and maybe a mince pie or two.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Alison

rajahewat1@btinternet.com

or through the Church Office



Muriel Morton

6 July 1929 - 14 September 2021



Muriel was born third child of Charles and Mary Miller, sister to Maisie and Sandy. Sadly their mother died when Muriel was only 4 years old. Muriel was educated at Mary Erskine School in Queen Street. Although she was 'not a scholar' (her own words) she did enjoy school, particularly activities such as hockey. She was in the 1st eleven and was Captain of the hockey team. Childhood stories shared with her grandchildren record the mischief she got up to, including how she accidentally gave a teacher a black eye during a hockey match!

On leaving school she went to 'Atholl Crescent', the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, where she undertook a two year course which qualified her to run industrial kitchens. As part of her course she went to work in the kitchens at Rosyth dockyard, a bit of a culture shock for her, and also, in the kitchens of the City Hospital, Greenbank. Spending the summer on Iona she discovered they were looking for someone to run the kitchens at Iona Community House in Glasgow. They had a canteen there that raised money for the Iona Community and Muriel agreed to run it for them temporarily.....for 6 years. It was here that Muriel got to know the Morton family. Ralph Morton served the Iona Community as Warden of Community House, and as Deputy Leader of the Iona Community. To save Muriel the commute from Edinburgh each day the Mortons offered to put her up in their house in Glasgow. There she was to meet Hugh Morton, her future husband, who was studying Law at Glasgow University.

In 1956 Muriel and Hugh married here in Blackhall St Columba's Church. After a very wet honeymoon on Skye they returned to live in Glasgow until 1964 then they moved to Edinburgh with their three young sons, Alastair, Kenneth and Douglas, so that Hugh could train as an Advocate. Here they moved into No 25 Royal Circus in the New Town where Muriel stayed for 57 years until February this year. Royal Circus is very much regarded as the family home and in February, when Muriel moved out, she was not only the oldest but also the longest staying resident in the Circus. Her 90th birthday party was held in Royal Circus Gardens with over 100 people there.

Muriel didn't like fuss, a fact borne out by her refusal to use the title 'Lady Morton' which she acquired when Hugh Morton was made a life peer. Perhaps she would have considered this tribute 'fuss' but she did much to deserve it. Throughout her life she had many and varied interests. She was a woman of faith who devoted a lot of her time to the Church and to helping charities. Over the years here at Blackhall St Columba's she held many roles and carried out many duties. Ordained to the Eldership / continued

Muriel Morton Tribute continued

Ordained to the Eldership in 1983 she was presented with a long service certificate in 2018 to mark 35 years as an elder. She served as Chairperson of the Congregational Board; she organised some 24 members of the Sunday morning car rota which brought less able members to church; worked with the Youth Fellowship and was involved in a Saturday evening Youth Club. Charitable interests included Amnesty International and Christian Aid. As Deputy Chair of our Church Centenary Committee she helped raise large sums for Ekwendeni Hospital and Edinburgh's homeless. The provision of 'Starter Packs' for the homeless became known as FreshStart and arose from the Edinburgh Churches Millennium Project. When in February 1998 it was agreed that Blackhall St Columba's should be one of a second group of seven churches to support this initiative Muriel took on the role of organising BStC's Friday morning collection of household goods for the starter packs.

Muriel was very family oriented. She liked nothing better than occasions that involved the whole family. Holidays were important to her. As a child she went to Longniddry and they went on big family holidays in a tiny Austin 7 motor car. Later with her own family she enjoyed holidays to Arran, Iona and Wester Ross and, venturing further afield, to Italy and France. Muriel went walking in Switzerland on more than one occasion and at another time joined a Tom Cuthell trip to Assisi.

It is impossible to sum up Muriel's life of 92 years in a short tribute. There are so many anecdotes, stories and memories from so many people. Her interests included badminton, a love of concerts and classical music and her enjoyment of dancing was evidenced by the fact she danced everyone else to a standstill at granddaughter Fiona's wedding.

In general Muriel kept good health, at least until last year. Despite the support of carers, in February this year, Muriel took the decision to move to Strachan House. Although well looked after she wasn't happy to be there. Muriel became unwell over the weekend of 10 and 11 September and she died on the morning of Tuesday 14 September with one of the boys at her side.

Muriel had many friends and was known to bump into them everywhere, even in Canada. Condolence cards and messages paint a picture of how she was regarded as a woman of faith, kind, generous, funny, hard working and as someone who knew her own mind. Words such as respect, humour, amazing, welcoming, affectionate and sympathetic are peppered through people's reflections and memories of her.

The family will remember her as being quite traditional, a happy person who was full of life and always wanting to know what was happening. Her five grandchildren have their own special memories of a kindly matriarch who acted with humour, kindness, compassion and a strong will. Muriel led a full and abundant life and she will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family.

Harvest

Thank you to all who donated produce for the FreshStart and Edinburgh NE Foodbanks on Harvest Sunday and the days leading up to it.

A large bag and a box of apples were also delivered to the FreshStart Pantry.

Thank you, too, to those who made the deliveries.

A Harvest 'Thank You' from FreshStart

Another fantastic harvest collection, this time from Blackhall Church.

Thank you so much for all the wonderful goods donated from the congregation, these will go out across Edinburgh to those who have experienced homelessness, via our essential starter packs.





‘Give thanks for all the food we eat’

The Junior Singers led by Amy Donaldson, brought a truly international ‘flavour’ to the Harvest Service as they listed in their song many much-loved dishes from all around the world.



However, coffee, tea and biscuits were what was on offer after the service to accompany the friendly chat in the new refreshment area of our refurbished Sanctuary.



Music @ St Columba's

The series of evening concerts which began before the first lockdown was brought to a wonderful climax by the bravura display from pianist, Jia Ning Ng on 9 October.

Ning is a second year Masters student at the Glasgow Conservatoire and she gave us a concert which will be remembered by the 80 who attended. She started with a bit of personal background and the history of Schubert's 4 Impromptus D899. Schubert's music has a melodic line and intrinsic beauty which is easy for the non-musical ear and the specialist to appreciate and they were played with great sensitivity and passion.



Rachmaninoff was famed for the great size of his hands and his music often requires great dexterity which, for some, proves too great a stumbling block to performing his compositions. Somehow this petite pianist managed to perform the Sonata No1 which would have been a remarkable feat for a seasoned concert pianist but quite remarkable for a student just completing her studies this year. The complexity, speed and dynamic variation conspire to confound all but the most competent player but Ning gave us an exemplary performance which will remain with those of us fortunate enough to hear her.

She concluded the evening with a duet with a fellow student. As a committed Christian she chose to play an arrangement of her favourite hymn "When Peace Like a River". It made a fitting end to the first classical piano recital in our new church sanctuary.

We hope she will come back next year with a string quartet so watch this space for further details.

Donald Cameron OBE LLCM
Director of Music Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland

Music@St Columba's

Sunday 5 December 19.00 pm

Christmas music with the St David's Brass Band

Church Christmas Diary

November

28 10.30 am 1st Sunday in Advent Morning Worship

December

5 10.30 am 2nd Sunday in Advent Morning Worship

12 10.30 am 3rd Sunday in Advent Family Gift Service

12 16.00 pm 3rd Sunday in Advent Blue Christmas Service
Annual Bereavement Service

19 10.30 am 4th Sunday in Advent Morning Worship

24 18.00 pm Christmas Eve Family Christingle Service
(Carols/mince pies etc from 22.00 pm)

24 23.30 pm Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

25 10.30 am Christmas Day Family Service

26 10.30 am Boxing Day Carol Service

January 2022

2 10.30 am Morning Worship

Edinburgh's Christmas 2021 Nativity Carol Concert

On Sunday 28 November at 3.00pm City of Edinburgh Council will set up a stage in St Andrew's Square for a Christmas themed service around the nativity tableau sponsored by Sir Tom Farmer. I have been invited to play and bring singers to lead some carols perform a couple of pieces.

We hope to have some of the Junior Singers and some members of our own choir as well as from other churches joining in. Let me encourage you to bring friends and family to show there is support for Christian public events at this time of year.

Donald Cameron OBE LLCM
Director of Music

Spaces to remember those we loved and miss

Blessed are those who mourn... for they shall be comforted

During the pandemic many people were unable to hold funerals in the usual ways. The churches below extend a warm welcome for those in the area who would like **time and space to remember and honour all those who have died.**

You are welcome to come to whichever date, time and place works for you.

CHURCH	TIME, DATE AND INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES PLANNED
<p>The OLD KIRK and MUIRHOUSE PARISH CHURCH</p> <p>Old Kirk and Muirhouse Facebook page Church Office - 0131 467 2922</p>	<p>Sunday 31 October, 2pm A time for peace and reflection for those who have had a bereavement. Join us, All welcome</p> <p>Wednesday 27 October, 10 - 12 noon Making Memories Time</p>
<p>DRYLAW PARISH CHURCH</p> <p>https://e-voice.org.uk/drylawparishchurch/ Church Office - 0131 332 6863</p>	<p>Sunday 7 November, 1 to 3pm Thursday 11 November, 5 to 7pm</p> <p>Space to Remember A 20 minute service on each hour and in between space for reflection and memories with music. A chance to light candles, remembering, memory tree, and a chance to talk. Stay for as long or as short as you want.</p>

/continued

<p>CRAMOND KIRK https://cramondkirk.org.uk Church Office - 0131 336 2036</p>	<p>Sunday 14 November, after 10.00 am service Special reception for those bereaved. See also our Community Covid Commemoration project, offering the chance to plant bulbs or trees in remembrance of loved ones.</p>
<p>DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARISH CHURCH https://www.dmpc.org.uk Church Office 0131 312 6282 Oasis Wellbeing Centre (counselling & prayer ministry) 0131 312 6238</p>	<p>Sunday 21 November, 2.30pm Bereavement service. A reflective service of thanksgiving and remembrance with an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.</p>
<p>BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S Church of Scotland https://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk Church Office - 0131 332 4431</p>	<p>Sunday 12 December, 4pm Blue Christmas Service A time to offer solace to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one and are grieving or have mixed emotions about the festive season.</p>
<p>GRANTON Church of Scotland https://www.grantonchurch.org.uk Church Office - 0131 552 2159</p>	<p>Sunday 9 January Time tbc Bereavement Service For more information please call the Church Office or check their website.</p>

Church of Scotland Food Hygiene Regulations

The Church of Scotland Trustees are offering a free online course in food hygiene. This is not the full course but an introduction to the regulations for which a certificate will be issued. No test or exam this time. If you do the full course at any time it is all day with a test at the end.

The new course is online so you have to have access to a computer or tablet. It lasts only 2 hours. Registration is by using forms:

<https://forms.office.com/r/SQncvKdWus>

Everyone who uses the Church kitchen or tea prep area should consider doing this – even if you are only making coffee for a meeting. It also affects home baking which is now allowed after lifting of Covid restrictions. They do say baking should be done in the Church kitchen but as that is mostly impractical we have never done that.

I should be grateful if you would let me know if you do the course so we can have a note of who will be qualified. A very small number of us have the full certificate which we did many years ago.

Elspeth Williamson 332 2600

elspethwilliamson@gmail.com

Catering Convener

Tuesday Topics

We are still hoping to resume our meetings on 11 January 2022. The committee are presently planning our syllabus and contacting prospective speakers.

We will contact all members nearer the time.

Eleanor Lowrie, President

Jacky Cowie, Secretary

Walking on Inchcolm



Walking round Blackhall

The word “murder” does not often appear in this publication and we are all grateful for that. However during the summer you could see adults, sometimes with children leading the quest, in 2 or 3 to a group with either a paper copy or on their phone working themselves round Blackhall following the clues. The delight on the faces of the children and adults when they solved a clue thereby moving closer to revealing the “murder”.



Although only a small number submitted their answer to the church office, all the names with the correct answer were put in the hat and an independent judge picked the winner-the Waller family of Blackhall.

Well done to the Waller family and enjoy the £25 Amazon voucher. To all those that started the quest but did not finish it and looking for something to do on a crisp autumn day, our website still has all the details available. It still will be fun but sorry no more prizes however you still can solve the quest-surely that is a prize in itself?



BLACKHALL
ST. COLUMBA'S
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Keep up with news of
the Blackhall St Columba's Church community,
In-Church services
our Live Stream Services
the various Zoom meetings
and 'live' events
by regularly checking
our website
www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

our Facebook page -
search for 'Blackhall St Columba's Church'

Follow us on



@BStCC_EH

DEADLINES

Kirk News - Thursday 9 December

Please send all items to the Editor:
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Home tel: 336 5943 or email
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

Blackhall Bulletin - deadline for December issue was 24 October

All items, including advertising
enquiries, should be sent to the
Editor, Barbara Wilson
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