



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

April 2018

Dear friends

A few months back I reported on a cutting edge project in '121' for the creation of a new generation of ministers. Using the very latest methods of gathering DNA and cloning; a studio was built in which vacant congregations could key in their requirements of a minister. Then, whether it involved creating a carbon copy of the minister who had just left or replicating the qualities of a wonderful minister in a neighbouring charge. The machinery would whirr into action and a wonderful minister, pre-programmed and ready for induction came off the production line! The method was not cheap but much more cost effective and efficient than taking people in their twenties, and training them over the number of years for the demands of parish life!

Sadly this month, I have to report that the whole project has had to be shut down, the laboratory has been mothballed and there are no plans to revive it again.

The problems began when a hair of John Knox's beard was found in his diary. Great efforts were made to ensure that the diary was authentic and that the hair had come from his beard. The clinching argument was the length of the hair - about two feet long; long enough to be from Knox and to give a sample of DNA to the boffins in 121. Great excitement swept the corridors of ecclesiastical power; Scotland's greatest minister was to live again! Was a new Reformation to sweep the nation?

The new John Knox was made and taken to a small church in a forgotten corner of Edinburgh and the great man was asked to begin his new 21st Century ministry there. Within minutes the boffins from

121 realised the enormous mistake they had made. In his first sermon for 500 years John Knox began where he had left off roundly attacking the Roman Catholic Church and all forms of episcopacy! He then gave vent to his views on the role of women in church! The boffins saw their dreams of a new Reformation crumble before their eyes; the issues of 500 years ago are not the issues of today and we now approach such issues in a very different way. It was not easy for Knox either; he could not understand why people were not prepared to listen to two hour long sermons and, in ignorance of all that had happened in the last 500 years, he could not see how his views could be considered offensive!

to the problems of today and tomorrow. When I was in the Highlands, too many folk thought if we just went back to the King James Version of the Bible and preached on hell, as some great preachers did in the past, then the church would flourish again. There is no simple answer to the issues facing the church.

The studio for creating ministers in '121' has had to be mothballed. The advice we must now follow comes from our Lord, who encouraged us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers - new men and women who understand the challenges of today, lean upon God in prayer and understand the unchanging, timeless truths of the Gospel. Our primary need is for men and women of prayer; then a new dawn will beckon.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

Death

Mrs Rena Ross (District 12)

*Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper*

Compassion

I've received word from Compassion that the new child we will be supporting is an eleven year old girl called Dinar Muliani Telaumbanua who lives in Indonesia with her mum, dad and five siblings. Dinar's favourite school subject is language and her hobbies are singing and swimming.

An estimated 2.7 million Indonesian children are involved in some form of child labour – roughly half of these are under the age of 13. While most working children do manage to participate in some form of schooling, time spent engaged in education is limited and impacts their ability to reach their full potential.

Our support ensures that Dinar will now be able to attend school consistently, receive clothing, medical support and nutritious meals and be involved in worship at a local church. It will be lovely getting to know her in the years ahead.

The sum raised for Compassion following the Communion service was £245. Thank you once again for your generous support, it really is very much appreciated.

Please pray for Dinar, Jean-Berson, Luis, Ssemialo and their families.

Joan Canavan

Christian Aid News

The **Spring Fayre** was held in **Jordanhill Parish Church** on **Saturday 17 March**. Thanks to all who braved the severe weather to enjoy this event, which raised the sum of **£1260.70**.

The **Erskine Bridge Bridge Cross Sponsored** Walk will start at 2pm on **Saturday 5 May** when you and your friends will hear a short talk, enjoy some entertainment and raise money to help Christian Aid to fight injustice and poverty. To learn more please contact Lucy Kirkland at 0141 221 7475 or LKirkland@christian-aid.org.

Cumrae Challenge Sat 2 June 10am; **Loch Leven Heritage Trail** Sat 9 June 10am ; **Powerwalk** Sat 8 September 11am UK's largest onshore windfarm 7 miles; **Kelpies Canter** 5k or 9k for families

Christian Aid is an organisation whose members work closely with SCAFOD, Traidcraft and other religious and secular organisations in nearly fifty countries to help relieve the aftermath of disease, drought, earthquake, famine, flood and war with new challenges cropping up in different countries.

Please continue to place your **Inkjet Cartridges, Postage Stamps, Mobile Telephones** and **Spectacles** (though not Bifocals nor Varilux) in the receptacle in the vestibule.

The latest editions of the **Christian Aid News** are packed with more information than I can hope to include here and I urge you to read them and return them to the vestibule for others. There is much, much more on the **website** www.christianaidscotland.org.

Our local Supporter is Diana Wright, Christian Aid, Sycamore House, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR, Telephone 0141 221 7475. dwright@christian-aid.org.

Angus Murchison

Rena Ross

Rena was one of the most quiet, shy, unassuming people I have ever met; and yet at church she loved it when Derek would pull her leg and make a joke at her expense - she would blush, wave her hand dismissively, smile and then laugh. We all loved Rena and no matter how foul the weather she was always there: at church, at choir practice, attending the Guild or a Session Meeting and though, latterly, her hearing was not so good she always seemed to be on top of things.

Rena Baillie was born on 24th August 1933 and grew up at 10 Victoria Park Dr South, the only child of John and Catherine Baillie. By all accounts her mother was Rena's polar opposite - a rather intimidating woman. Rena's father had a shop in Scotstoun but sadly he died when Rena was just twelve. Rena went to Balshagray Primary, then on to Hyndland Secondary and spent some time in Art School, but she found her vocation when she joined the library service. Derek used to tease her saying she spent her entire working life telling people to be quiet and then when she retired and became hard of hearing spent her time telling people to speak up!

It was whilst working in the library she met Peter Ross. They were engaged in February 1974 and married later that year, settling down to married life in Plean Street before moving to the flats in Broomhill.

Throughout these years Rena was a leading member of Victoria Park Church serving as an elder, in the Brownies and in the Sunday School first as a teacher and latterly as Superintendent. Rena nursed her mother till she passed away in 1981 and nursed Peter as his health declined; but she loved her role as Nana to Peter's grandchildren John and Jane.

Rena was a good neighbour to those who lived in the high flats; she was secretary of the CUBE management Housing Committee and organised tea parties for the residents. Rena loved a night out with friends and enjoyed every kind of concert from Daniel O'Donnell to the music of Strauss.

At the centre of Rena's life was a deep faith in and love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and it must have been hard for her when Victoria Park Church had to close and the congregation unite with Balshagray. As the Victoria Park closed in the final church magazine members were asked to share their cherished memories of the church. As her

precious memory Rena chose the words of the minister of the first Victoria Park Church, Mr Allan, as that church had to be demolished and the congregation move to the new building on Broomhill Drive. Rena's cherished words from Mr Allan were: '*We go forth from the courts of the Lord we have loved long. We go forth to unfamiliar surroundings. Don't think this uprooting is the end, for already apparent are the foundations of a new beginning.*'

I can think of no better words with which to say farewell to Rena: she has been uprooted from a family, a church, a community she has loved all her life but this uprooting is not the end; in her loving character, her clear faith and sure hope are the apparent foundations of her eternal life in Christ.

And so we say farewell to Rena Ross someone who was more precious to us all than she, in her unassuming way, ever realised.

Campbell Mackinnon

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* will be at **Pizza Express, Byers Road** on **Thursday 19th April at 7pm**

To help assess numbers for reservations, please put your name on the list (posted in the small hall) for the current 'Dining with Friends' before the booking deadline.

Future dates for your diary

Friday 11th May at 7pm - Bibi's, Dumbarton Road

Saturday 23rd June at 7pm - Elena's, Yorkhill

There will be no *Dining with Friends* in July.

Sarah Hay

Prayer Points

When Jesus prayed

'He...prayed..."Not my will, but yours be done.'"

Luke 22:41-42

Jesus prayed before He faced the greatest crisis in His life. The Bible says: 'Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place... He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared...and strengthened him' (vv. 39-43 NIV 2011 Edition). Jesus didn't wait until the hour of His greatest crisis before He prayed. For three and a half years during His earthly ministry, He had built a life of prayer. Before He raised Lazarus from the dead, we read, 'Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me...that you always hear me"' (John 11:41-42 NIV 2011 Edition). Jesus had such an intimate relationship with His Father that in times of pressure and pain He could go to God, confident He would receive His sustaining grace. Can you do that? Until you do, you'll be vulnerable to people and situations beyond your control. Consider this question: do you think Jesus prayed so much because He wanted to, or because He thought He should? The answer is – He wanted to! And if you want to follow in His footsteps and enjoy God's richest blessings, you need to move from 'should' to 'want to'. Here's a truth that people who pray know: the less you pray, the less you want to pray. And the more you pray, the more you want to pray. The power behind Christ's amazing success in life was the power of prayer. Starting now, commit to praying each day.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Rota for Readings and Prayers

April - June 2018

This is a reminder of who will be taking part in the services by readings or prayers from April to June – but, as always, it may be subject to change! There will be a break during the holiday months of July and August, but a new rota will start in September 2018.

If anyone who is not already on the list would like to volunteer to do a reading or lead a prayer, please speak to me by the end of April, as the new rota will be made up shortly after that. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

Fiona Hay

Date	Name	Prayer / Reading
1st April	Jane Belmore	Prayer of Adoration
8th April	Jessie Herd	Reading
15th April	Alan McKendry	Prayer of Intercession
22nd April	Susan Gibson	Reading
29th April	Andrew Watkins	Prayer of Adoration
6th May	George Ross	Reading
13th May	Lindsay Fergus	Prayer of Intercession
20th May	Christine Hill	Reading
27th May	Neil Francis	Prayer of Adoration
3rd June	Pamela Joss	Reading
10th June	Angus Thorburn	Prayer of Intercession
17th June	Chris McGowan	Reading
24th June	Iain Fergus	Prayer of Adoration

The Guild

This session's syllabus has had to be re-arranged more than any in history!

Our proposed speaker on "The Titan Crane" is now not available at all. The last meeting in February had to be cancelled because of the snow, and the "Care for the Family" speaker, who was to come then, can't be there on 11th April. Instead she's sending a 25 minute DVD of her presentation which we can watch and listen to together. A resume of what the charity does was given in last month's "Herald". This is the last of the Projects we have been supporting over the previous 3 years.

Although the 6 Projects continue for another few months, the national total raised by the Guild to the end of February for them all is a staggering £606,919.52!

Our closing meeting for this session, starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 25th April, is our A.G.M. and Bring and Buy.

*Christine Hay
Guild Secretary*

Tea Rota

Date		
April 1	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden
8	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
15	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
22	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
29	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley

Many thanks to everyone on the Tea Rota. If you are unable to do your Sunday please arrange a replacement.

If anyone could help by joining the Tea Rota please let me know.
Thank you all

Janice Mackinnon

Service Duty Rota

April – May 2018

Please report for duties in the church vestibule by 10.30 a.m. If you cannot manage a duty it is your responsibility to ensure that a substitute is found. Please advise your Team Leader (*) of any such arrangement.

An (#) after the date denotes an Evening Service. Vestibule duties begin at 6.15 p.m. *Com* after the date indicates a Communion Service.

25 th March 1 st April #	Mrs J. Sinclair* J. Massey	Mrs C. McGowan Miss L. Fergus
8 th April 15 th April #	A. Thorburn* W. Methven	I. McLellan Miss A. Richardson
22 nd April 29 th April #	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
6 th May # 13 th May	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A. McKendry
20 th May # 27 th May	A. Coghill* Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson

Standby List: D. Robertson

N.B. Changes may be made to these arrangements – please see noticeboard for current details

Safeguarding



Please find below the training dates as supplied by the Presbytery of Glasgow, for session 2017 – 18. If you wish to attend a course then please contact me, using the details below and I will contact Presbytery on your behalf.

As ever, if anyone is considering volunteering for a regulated position, then please seek PVG clearance at you earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.



Colin Murray
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding Training Dates 2017/2018

Volunteer Courses

Wed 25 April 7 – 9.30pm, Croftfoot, 318 Croftpark Ave, G44 5NS

Tues 15 May 7 – 9.30pm, Cardonald. 2155 Paisley Rd West, G52 3PF

Mon 4 June 7 – 9.30pm, Sandyford Henderson Memorial, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street, G3 8PE

Thanks to all who provided material for this April issue.

Please send items for the May issue by

Sunday 22nd April

to

edbvpheald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in April

As the congregation at Hillington Park wish to maintain Evening Services during their vacancy, we will continue to have joint Evening Services with Hillington Park, alternating between the two churches. For transport please speak to Campbell Mackinnon or Derek Robertson

Sunday 1st April

Easter Day

11.00 am Easter Day Family Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon
(There is no evening service)

Sunday 8th April

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Mr Derek Robertson
(There is no evening service)

Sunday 15th April

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon
6.30 pm Evening Service at BVP
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 22nd April

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon
(There is no evening service)

Sunday 29th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon
(There is no evening service)

The J team and Bible Class join in the morning worship before they leave for their own classes