



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

March 2018

Dear Friends

One of the most cherished descriptions of our Lord that we find in the Bible is that that He *'will not break the bruised reed or snuff out the smouldering flax'*. These beautiful words come from the first of the Servant Songs in Isaiah 42. In commenting on the bruised reed in his commentary on Isaiah Alec Motyer writes:

'To this servant (Jesus) nothing is useless, even the bruised reed (however it come to be crushed is not the point), which is useless as a support or anything else. Neither is anything (e.g. a smouldering wick) so far gone towards extinction.'

This is one of the great wonders of Jesus' ministry - no one is beyond His ability and willingness to save. To the people of Jericho Bartimaeus was a useless beggar, an embarrassment, a drain on the community; but Jesus was happy to be Bartimaeus' servant, heal him and make him a disciple. In the same town Zacchaeus was a leech who collected taxes for Caesar and lined his own pockets at the same time. To Jesus he was a man through whom the grace of God could flow.

Fascinatingly, Isaiah does not say how the Servant will restore the bruised reed or the smouldering wick, just that they are precious to Him. Wonderfully it is the very brokenness of the reed and the exhaustion of the smouldering wick that can bring the greatest inspiration and hope to us. Mary and Martha were angry that Jesus did not simply drop everything and rush to Bethany to heal their brother; they are bruised by the loss of Lazarus and their faith in Jesus has turned to anger. Jesus tells them simply to trust Him and they will see the glory of God; and then Lazarus is restored to them. He does make them into pillars of faith before ministering to them but cares for them in their bruised and dying state.

Beautiful as Isaiah 42 v3 is, v4 is more beautiful:

*A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
4 he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope."*

What is hidden in our English translation is the parallelism between the verses. Not only does Jesus not break the bruised reed nor snuff out the smouldering flax, during His lifetime but He will be reduced to a point where He too is bruised (falter) and broken (discouraged); that He will be taken to a place where His faith burns low, to virtual extinction.

No matter how bruised we have been by suffering, or at the hands of injustice, no one has suffered more than Christ. Equally no matter the desolation of soul we have known, no one has known the depths of darkness He experienced on the cross.

This is what makes Easter such a special time. Our God not only treasures us no matter how frail we are, or how low our faith might be; He has also shared our weaknesses, and we find Him beyond the boundaries of our suffering. He endured all this in love for the bruised reeds and smouldering wicks.

That God should be like this is a beautiful mystery that makes Easter a constant source of wonder and healing grace.

We pray that this sense of wonder, along with healing grace would be with you this Easter.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

Death

Mrs Anna Cuthbertson (District 18)

Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper

The Persecuted Church

Sadly, it was reported that during 2017, more than 3000 Christians were killed for their faith; up on previous years. For many thousands of Christians throughout the world, Christmas was marred by war, violence, intimidation and persecution, in all its many forms.

As we move forward into yet another New Year, let us continue to remember that for hundreds of thousands of Christians, the outlook for 2018 continues to look bleak and a 'new year' will not necessarily bring new beginnings or fresh hope, but rather increased trauma and despair. It is a well documented fact, that the persecution of Christians throughout the world is increasing and 2018 will doubtless bring new threats and fresh challenges, plus acts of violence and destruction, which will seriously impact on the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters.

Humanitarian relief continues to be undertaken by many Christian organisations in an effort to alleviate the suffering, whilst some such as 'Release International' focus on advocacy and challenging discriminatory legislation and laws. Governments and politicians throughout the world could and should do much more to bring an end to the persecution and discrimination of Christians, in all its many forms.

On a more positive note, 'Open Doors' launched their 2018 'World Watch List' in the Houses of Parliament on 17th January. This event was attended by 99 MPs or their representatives and was hosted by the Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers. The Rt. Hon Stephen Timms said "the voice of UK citizens can be influential and has the power to make a real difference when channelled through local MPs". So, if you feel strongly about the plight of Christians, please write to or speak with your local MP.

For the 17th consecutive year, North Korea remains the most dangerous country in which to be a Christian, but Afghanistan and Somalia are catching up in 2nd and 3rd place. The countries who occupy 4th to 10th place are; Sudan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Iran. Due to the rise in Hindu nationalism, India has moved up from 15th to 11th place, which is a real cause for concern. However, there is better news from China who has dropped from 39th to 43rd place on the list.

The forces of "darkness" are trying desperately to extinguish "the light of the glorious Gospel" of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, but they continue to fail. Even the so called 'Islamic State' has been defeated in Syria and Iraq and its influence and control is now considerably less than at the start of 2017. The 'exodus' by Christians from many countries in the Middle East and Africa has slowed down substantially. Agencies involved in reaching out to those in need of hope and salvation, are continuing to see positive results, proving once again that God is still at work in the lives of his people.

Bolivia – a new Penal Code has been introduced which could criminalise Evangelical Christians who are active in Gospel outreach work. The new law bans people who try to 'recruit' others to take part in 'armed conflicts or religious or worship organisations'. The penalty is five to twelve years in prison.

Pakistan– on 17th December the Methodist Church in Quetta was attacked by two Islamist terrorists. Sadly, nine Christians including children were killed and over 50 others injured. Police killed one terrorist and the other blew himself up.

Nigeria – Christians returning home from a New Year midnight church service in Omoku town, were shot at by gunmen killing 17 people. Many others were hospitalised.

Indonesia – on Sunday 11th February, a sword wielding Islamist who wanted to fight for ISIS, attacked a church Pastor and three church members in the town of Sleman, causing serious injury. The attacker was shot by police and captured. Our good friends Jeff and Novi live just 50 miles from this town.

Turkey – a leading Cleric with close ties to President Erdogan said that one day, Turkey will be a single Muslim State in which non-Muslims will be permitted to live if they pay a tax called 'jizya' as a sign of 'subjugation' to the Islamic government.

'May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67 v 1/2

'CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH'

Robert Belmore

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 your earliest opportunity. Attendance at a training course is compulsory.

At present we are looking for volunteers, both male and female, to be leaders for the Anchors, Junior Section and Girls' Association of our own 101st Glasgow Boys' Brigade. The boys and girls come on a Monday night between 6.30 and 8.00pm. If you can help then please contact me using the details below or the BB Captain, Andrew Watkins.

Thank you.



Colin Murray
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

bvpsafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding Training Dates 2017/2018

Volunteer Courses

Wed 14 Mar 7 – 9.30pm, St Paul's, 30 Langdale St, G33 1DP
 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

Kirk Session Courses 2017

Thurs 15 March 7 – 9pm, Partick Sth, 259 Dumbarton Rd, G11 6AB

Glasgow Night Shelter

In 2011 the 'Glasgow Destitution Network', which Becky McFarlane and myself were involved with, identified the need for a 'winter night drop-in' for male asylum seekers who were destitute and sleeping rough in and around the city of Glasgow.

Asylum seekers (non EU migrants) invariably end up homeless and destitute when their application for 'refugee status' is refused by the Home Office. They are then unable to access normal homeless services and have no recourse to public funds. With financial help from the Refugee Survival Trust and fund raising, the night shelter opened its doors during the winter of 2011/2012 using an annex which belonged to the Glasgow City Mission.

The original idea was to provide accommodation only during the winter, but due to the need for this type of facility, the shelter remained open 7 days a week operating during the hours of 8pm until 8am and provided a vital service to many asylum seekers. The Shelter relocated to the then vacant Lansdowne Church at Kelvinbridge and when that was sold to a developer, it moved to accommodation kindly provided by Anderson Kelvingrove Parish Church, where it is currently based.

However, the need for more space and better facilities plus a safe and secure shelter for destitute women asylum seekers prompted the board of management to look for alternative premises. A property located in Fairley Street, Ibrox has been found and would be ideal for the Night Shelter after making some internal changes and modifications. Planning permission was submitted to Glasgow City Council but unfortunately objections were lodged.

There is a desperate need for this type of facility in Glasgow, which is able to cater for both men and women and we are working hard to address and overcome the current difficulties.

More information about the work of the Night Shelter is available on the notice board in the small hall. If you would like to support the work of the Night Shelter, which is a registered Scottish charity, please speak with me in church.

Robert Belmore

Prayer Points

Which 'law' are you operating under?

'The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.'
Romans 8:2

You say, 'I fall so far short of God's standards. Will there ever come a time when my old carnal nature will stop acting up, and trying to drag me down?' There's bad news and there's good news. The bad news is, just as the law of gravity is always in operation, so is 'the law of sin' that your fleshly nature wants to respond to. The good news is, you can access a higher law and operate in it. It's called 'the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus', and it overrides 'the law of sin and death'. The law of gravity says that what goes up must come down. But when you're in an aeroplane another law is in operation – the law of aerodynamics. It works like this: the plane moves at a certain speed, and the proper thrust enables it to climb out of gravity's pull. That doesn't mean the law of gravity is no longer the law of gravity. Getting the idea? You ask, 'What is this law of the Spirit?' Good question. Here's the answer. When you're indwelt by the Holy Spirit and relying on His power rather than your own, which means being sensitive to His leading and obeying His commands, you're no longer controlled by 'the law of sin and death'. It's no longer about trying harder, but leaning harder on God's Spirit who lives within you and drawing from Him the strength to live victoriously.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

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The 101st BB set a new record at the district drill (marching) competition this year. This was the first time I know of that we have ever come away from a drill competition with a gold medal! Unfortunately the medal was for the go-karting competition the night before, but a win is still a win. The go-karting was certainly a success, as we picked up a gold medal and two bronzes, with the added bonus of nobody getting banned this year.

As for the drill, our team marched well, despite not being placed in the top three. While we didn't see the winning team's march, we did see them repeatedly fail to agree on which way was their left & right when marching out to collect their medals. That was amusing, as was the unexpected staff entry that six of us were strong-armed into!

The month ahead involves a number of competitions, including bowling, badminton and quizzes. Three of our boys are preparing the last bits of work to earn their Queen's badge, the highest award the Boys Brigade has to offer. They have been working on sports and skill development, volunteering in the community and helping with the kids in our own Junior Section. Barring some frantic last-minute paperwork, they only now need to attend a weekend completion course, after which they should be presented with their badges at our display in May.

The junior section have benefited significantly from the enthusiastic help of our Queen's badge boys, who seem to exercise more with the Juniors than they do on a Friday night at the Company Section. The Junior Section demographics have shifted in a somewhat unexpected direction, with girls now significantly outnumbering the boys in this age group. They are all very keen to demonstrate their gymnastic prowess, and launching themselves off of our trampette is probably their current favourite activity, with not-listening-to-me being a close second.

You might have noticed our staff recruitment poster overleaf. If not, I expect you will shortly. We would benefit significantly from having another leader to help with the Junior Section (primary school) age group. If you feel that this might be you, please do get in touch. No experience of the BB is necessary, and training can be provided. The Junior Section currently enjoy games, crafts, lessons and other activities, and an additional pair of hands would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Andrew Watkins
101glasgowbb@gmail.com

Compassion

I have received news that 20 year old Jean-Berson, who lives in Haiti, has now completed his studies so will be graduating from the programme at his Compassion project. While it is sad to say goodbye to Jean-Berson, it is good to know that through our support Jean-Berson has received discipleship, help with his education and practical training to allow him to develop into a fulfilled Christian adult. Compassion write, 'the progress that Jean-Berson has made is an amazing testimony to your love and support.' I have written a farewell letter to Jean-Berson to congratulate him on his wonderful achievement and to let him know that we send him our love and will continue to pray for him.

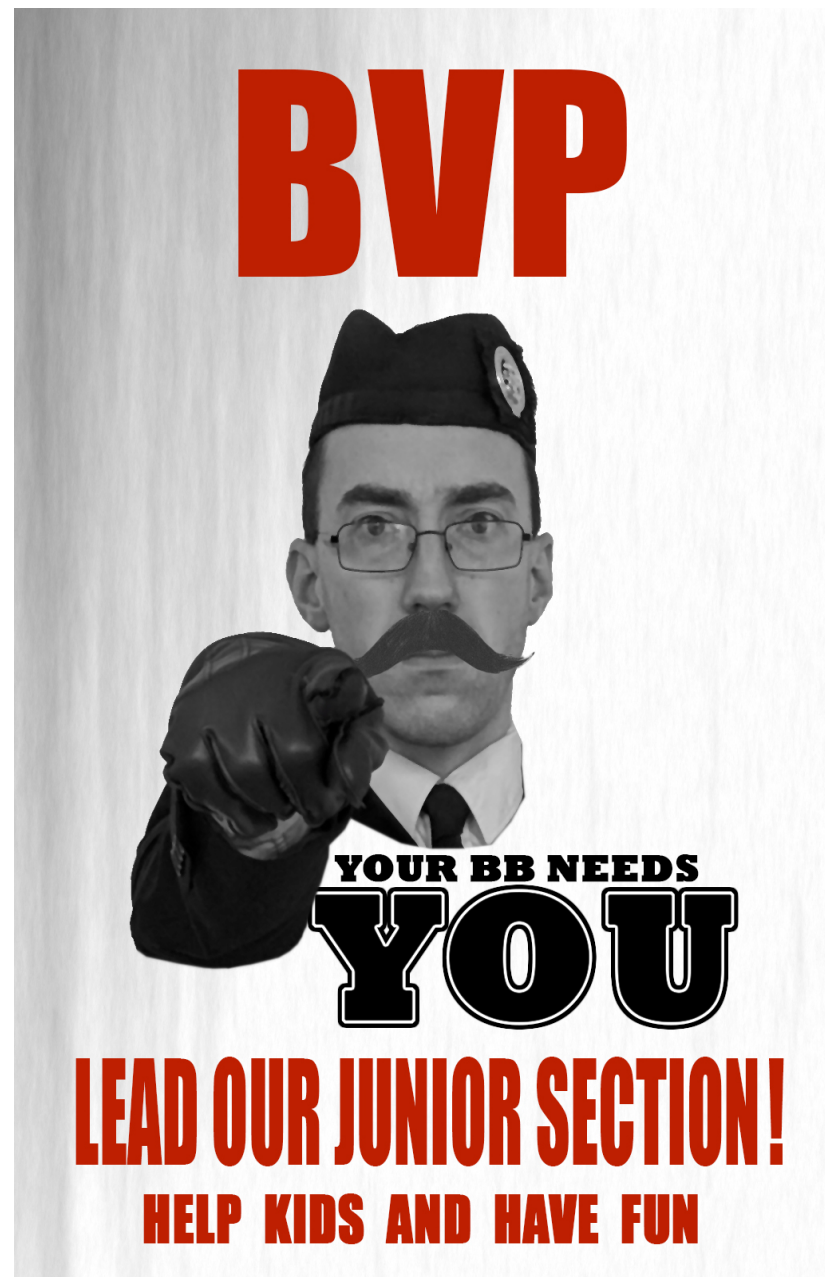
This news means that we are now in a position to offer our support to another child so I have contacted Compassion to let them know this. I will keep you informed as soon as I hear any information.

Ssemialo in Uganda has written to thank us for our support and the gift money we sent which he used to buy a piglet, trousers, a shirt, a cake and three sodas. He asks us to pray that he gets wisdom and patience.

One again thank you very much for your continued support. It really is greatly appreciated.

Joan Canavan

Note: The Retiring Offering after this month's Communion Service is in aid of Compassion



Christian Aid News

This **Lent, 14 February to 1 April**, walk with those who have no safe place to call home. Throughout 2018 we are remembering the 40 million people all over the world who are internally displaced. They have been forced to flee their homes but unlike refugees they remain in their own country, with no guarantee of protection. Though the internally displaced make up the majority of people leaving their homes to find safety they are often ignored by the international community. Please ask me for your **2018 Count Your Blessings Calendar** which is committed to helping these people.

The **Spring Fayre** will be held in **Jordanhill Parish Church** on **Saturday 17 March** under the usual conditions. Tickets at £2 are available from Angus Murchison. Articles for the sale should be placed in the drum in the foyer while volunteers on the day will be warmly welcomed.

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

Tea Rota

Date		
March 4	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson
11	Calum Mackinnon	Janice Mackinnon
18	Morgan Francis	Marion Francis
25	Sarah & David Hay	Fiona & Fergus Shaw
April 1	Janice Glass	Hazel McCalden

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

Holy Week Services

On Thursday 29th March at 7.00pm there will be a Joint Maundy Thursday Communion Service in Scotstoun Parish Church.

On Friday 30th at 7.00pm there will be a Good Friday Service in BVP led by Derek Robertson.

Rota for Readings and Prayers

March- June 2018

This is a reminder of who will be taking part in the services by readings or prayers from March to June – but, as always, it may be subject to change! Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in this way.

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

The Guild

Many thanks to all who helped to raise the sum of £278 at the Guild Coffee Morning in February. Your support was much appreciated! And a special "Thank you" for the gift of Guild aprons and napkins which can also be used in the future.

On **Tuesday 13th March (for a 2 p.m. start)** we visit our friends at Jordanhill Guild and then on Wednesday 28th, again at 2 p.m., we hear about the Jewish Passover.

The Congregational Board has agreed that from next session onwards we can have all our meetings on Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and therefore no occasional Tuesday evening ones. All are still welcome at any meeting!

Christine Hay
Guild Secretary

Dining with Friends

This month's *Dining with Friends* will be at **St Louis, Broomhill** on **Friday 16th March 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:

Thursday 19th April at 7pm - Pizza Express, Byers Road

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

Service Duty Rota

March - April 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 February 4 th March	A. Coghill* Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
11 th March <i>Com</i> 18 th March #	Mrs S. Gibson* I. Fergus	R. McTaggart Mrs F. Robertson
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

Standby List: D. Robertson

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

Thanks to all who provided material for this March issue.

Please send items for the April issue by

Sunday 18th March

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in March

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 4th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Mr Derek Robertson

6.30 pm Evening Service at Hillington Park

Sunday 11th March

11.00 am Service of Holy Communion
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon
Retiring offering for *Compassion*

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 18th March

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service (at BVP)
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

Sunday 25th 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