



Balshagray Victoria Park
Church of Scotland

The Herald

February 2018

Dear Friends,

Was Paul converted on the road to Damascus?

Since we talk about any sudden moment of insight as a 'Damascus Road experience' the popular and obvious answer would be yes. But, was Paul converted on the road to Damascus?

Some would say no, he was not. They would say that Paul had always been a man of faith; it was simply after his Damascus road experience his faith now fastened upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither did Paul change his religion, he simply came to see that Jesus was the Messiah his people had been waiting for. He did not abandon his old faith but saw the faith he had been nurtured in fulfilled in the coming, death and resurrection of the Carpenter from Nazareth. They would say too that the zeal with which he had pursued his former faith he now poured into following Christ.

Those who argue that Paul was converted on the Road to Damascus would say that coming to faith in Christ meant that he made a dramatic break with his former understanding of God to the extent that he set about tearing down the faith he once lived by. They would point to the complete change in Paul from being a man full of violence towards the infant church of Christ to being the great apostle who not only explained to the world what Christ achieved through His death and resurrection but became the man who penned the greatest chapter on love that ever written.

I'm unconvinced that either answer helps us understand Paul better. Luke in describing what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus writes very vividly. After the exalted Christ confronted Paul he fell blinded to the ground. As Paul and those with him began to recover Luke writes, 'Saul (Paul) rose from the ground.' The word in Greek for

rose from the ground is *resurrection*. Is this the clue to how Paul himself understood what happened to him that day? Often Paul writes of the Christian life as one of dying and rising with Christ. He writes of putting off the old and putting on the new. I certainly find it is what happened to Paul that day as I try understand his teaching on the Christian life.

As Paul set out for Damascus he was a cold hearted, egotistical man with no love for Christ and His people; he writes in Romans that covetousness was the driving force in his life. On the Damascus road Christ, in His resurrection glory, confronts him and Paul is thrown to the ground. It is as though in that awesome moment the Paul who set out from Jerusalem dies: his ego dies, his hatred of Christ and His people dies and a new Paul is born. The old Paul is like a corpse lying in the ditch at the side of the road and a new Paul is resurrected. This new Paul is in many ways the same as before, the same temperament, the same gifts, the same character. But he has a new heart beating inside him, he has a great deal to learn, but humility before Christ and delight in worshipping and serving Christ change Paul from a religious fanatic into a man of grace. As I read and think about Paul's letters I find thinking about the old Paul as a corpse in the ditch beside the road to Damascus and the picture of a new Paul rising up from the ground most helpful and something I can relate to.

Occasionally other ministers ask me how many souls have been converted under my ministry; and I never know what to say. But I give thanks to God for all those who have left an old, egotistical life behind and now delight in the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Your friend and minister

Campbell Mackinnon

Church Roll

Death

Miss Mary Naismith (District 11)

Andy Coghill
Rollkeeper

Compassion

Compassion have written to thank us for our £900 donation which will be used to provide support for Jean-Berson, Ssemialo and Luis this year.

Ssemialo in Uganda is happy to tell us that both he and his grandmother are well. He is working hard and learning a lot on his motorcycle course and would like to set up his own workshop when he completes the training. Ssemialo writes, 'thank you very much for all the support and everything you sacrifice for my sake. God bless you.'

Thank you once again for all your support. Ssemialo's words demonstrate how important this is and the huge difference it makes to the lives of the children and their families.

Joan Canavan

Thank You

As some of you may know, due to a change on my personal life I have resigned as Flower Convenor. It has been an honour to have been Flower Convenor over these last years and can I thank all who have helped me over that time.

I hope whoever takes on this role enjoys it as much as I did.

Anne Richardson

It is we who should be thanking you, Anne, for your sterling service. Your work has been much appreciated by those on the flower rota, the congregation who can appreciate the flowers which decorate the church and those who receive the flowers each Sunday.

Balshagray Victoria Park Church 2018 Budget

Income 2017	Budget	Actual
FWO	22000	21899
Ordinary Collection	5500	5837
Gift Aid Direct	32500	32555
Tax Recovered	16777	15240
Christmas Fayre	1500	1678
Gift Appeal	10000	14982
Other Offerings	1500	1500
Hall Rental	2000	2155
Donations/Legacies	1500	1340
Income from General Trustees	<u>2000</u>	<u>2213</u>
TOTAL	95277	99399
Expenditure		
Ministry & Mission	57865	60037
Prersbytery Dues	3327	3349
Minister's Travel	960	960
Cleaning	2700	2684
Fabric/Repairs	12000	15935
Heat/Light	7000	9329
Insurance	6300	6306
Council Tax	3120	3121
Telephone	600	621
Stationary	1000	966
Miscellaneous	<u>2500</u>	<u>2695</u>
TOTAL	97372	106003

*Campbell Joss
Treasurer*

Budget Report 2018

The budget figures show in brief how the church finances performed in 2017 and a projection of what might be expected this year. So far as the income in 2017 is concerned this held up well compared with 2016. However a deficit was incurred partly due to some major fabric expenditure towards the end of the year.

The estimated income is based on what happened in 2017 apart from the Gift Appeal. Last year a substantial amount collected in 2016 was not credited until 2017 and therefore the 2017 figure is an enhanced one. It is quite a bold assumption to budget for a such a generous gift appeal figure but it will be apparent to most of the congregation that we would not survive long without this.

On the expenditure side the good news is that our allocation for Ministries and Mission has decreased by over £2000. The other item which should decrease considerably is Heat and Light. This is due to the fact that we have built up a substantial credit caused by the absence of a meter reading by the supplier until recently. As always the main challenge relates to fabric. The building is causing problems in various areas and there is a likelihood of further major expenditure.

A full explanation of our financial position and the annual accounts will be given at the Annual Stated Meeting.

*Campbell Joss
Treasurer*

Offerings for the Period to 31st December 2017

	2017	2016	
Open Plate	5417	4202	+1215
FWO	<u>22329</u>	<u>22291</u>	+ 38
	27746	26493	+1253
Gift Aid	<u>32555</u>	<u>33877</u>	-1322
Total	60301	60370	-69
Average per week	1160	1161	-1

*Campbell Joss
Treasurer*

Prayer Points

Find the 'key log'

'I thought about my ways.'

Psalms 119:59

One of the great keys to success in life is having the right approach. But to improve your approach you need to assess where you're starting from. This may take some time. And depending on how self-aware you are, it may even be difficult. The key is to look at yourself objectively, to separate yourself from your attitude. Your goal isn't to condemn yourself; it's to see yourself clearly so you can make positive changes in the way you think. When professional loggers discover a logjam, they climb a large tree near the river so they can look over the problem and find the cause. What they're looking for is the 'key log' creating the jam. Once they remove that, the river takes care of the rest. An inexperienced person could spend hours, days, even weeks moving logs around without results. The point is you don't necessarily need to change all your thinking – just the few items that keep you from having the right approach to life. Once you do, your life will begin to flow in the right direction. Here are some questions that may help you discover the 'key log' that's holding you back. How do you feel about yourself? When do you feel the most negative about yourself? What causes you the greatest problems when dealing with others? Insecurity? Resentment? Inferiority? What negative thoughts constantly control your mind? These are important questions, for 'as he thinketh in his heart, so is he' (Proverbs 23:7 KJV). If you want to change your life for the better, ask God to make you aware of what's impacting it for the worse.

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*Christine Hay
Prayer Secretary*

Christian Aid News

The **Western District Committee** thanks everyone who supported our **Christmas Fayre** in realising the total of £945.29. A further £16 has been added from the completion of the Quiz Sheets.

The **Christmas Concert** was held in **All saints Episcopal Church** at **6.30 pm on Sunday 17th December**. The service was enhanced by musicians, the church choir and Hutcheson Grammar School Junior Choir. The collection of £506.00 was raised with much of that Gift Aided.

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 17th March** under the usual conditions.

Angus C Murchison

Life and Work.

There are very few people left in the congregation who still subscribe to the monthly edition. For those who are still in this category the annual payment of £25 is now due. If you wish to become a new subscriber please let me know. The magazine contains a variety of articles about the Church of Scotland and wider issues, so there is usually something of interest for everyone. It has been the policy to have a number of spare issues each month for anyone to sample but sadly most of these are unread. It may be that this service will need to be reviewed with the possibility of members having to subscribe directly if they wish to continue.

Campbell Joss

The Guild

The Guild Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 10th February from 10 a.m. – noon in the large hall. Tickets priced £2 (accompanied children free) will be available after the morning service again on the 4th. We do hope you will be able to come! Any donations for the baking stall will be most gratefully received.

On 14th February we look forward to the postponed talk on “The Titan Crane and the ships it helped build”. This meeting is now on a Wednesday at 2 pm, and as usual all are welcome!

Then on the 28th we have a “Care for the Family” speaker, one of the projects our Guild is supporting.

Care for the Family is a national charity which aims to promote strong family relationships and to help those who face family difficulties. The work is motivated by Christian compassion, with resources and support available to everyone, of any faith or none. The cost of family breakdown is estimated at £42 billion per year, and mainly occurs during the early years of parent-hood, with over 50% of parents who separate doing so within three years of having a baby. “Let’s Stick Together” sessions, already successfully running in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, are specifically aimed at new mums and dads. The sessions introduce simple principles to highlight the skills which help facilitate a happy, healthy and lasting relationship, including bad habits to avoid, good habits to build, and the involvement of dads. The 40 minute presentation is delivered free by volunteers in a variety of settings, including church toddler groups and antenatal classes, with participants receiving a goody bag with the “Let’s Stick Together” book and additional resources, invites to local parenting classes, and details of couple counselling schemes. The support of local Church of Scotland Guilds gives Care for the Family volunteers an unprecedented opportunity to help thousands of families in communities across Scotland stay together for good.

*Christine Hay
Guild Secretary*

Monthly Baking Sunday

Just to let you know the total amount raised over the eight Baking Sundays in 2017 was £484. A tremendous amount. Thank you all who participated in baking, selling and, of course, buying.

After all expenses were deducted eg paper bags for baking, jam jars for making jam, other baking items and materials, sausages and rolls etc we were able to donate £220 towards the Christmas Fayre total.

Thank you again for all your support.

Baking Sundays begin again on February 4th. After that they will take place on the second Sunday of each month. Sundays up till summer are listed below.

4th February	11th March	8th April
13th May	10th June	

We hope you will continue to support this venture. Thank you.

The Baking Team

Christmas Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Fayre held at the end of November. The total realised so far is £1688.19. There are still a couple of small amounts to be added which should take the amount over £1700.

This is a great effort which serves to benefit the church in many ways. Again thank you to everyone who helped selling, kitchen duties, baking and making etc etc. A fantastic total. See you next time.

Christine Hill

Tea Rota

Date		
February 4	Carol May	Lindsay Fergus
11	Jane Belmore	Veronica Goddard
18	Sharon Fergus	Susan Gibson
25	Margaret Paisley	Andy Paisley
March 4	Christine McTaggart	Anne Marie Masson

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.

Janice Mackinnon

Dining with Friends

Here are dates up until the summer for Dining with Friends:

Saturday 17th February at 6.30pm - Toby Carvery, Hillington

Friday 16th March at 7pm - St Louis, Broomhill

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.

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.

Sarah Hay

Service Duty Rota

February - March 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.

28 th January 4 th February #	J. Goddard* Miss C. Hay	Miss F. Hay Mrs S. McGill
11 th February 18 th February #	Miss R. Yule* C. Murray	G. Ross A. McKendry
25 th February 4 th March #	A. Coghill* Mrs P. Joss	D. Hay Mrs M. Thomson
11 th March Com 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

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 February issue.

Please send items for the March issue by

Sunday 18th March

to

edbvpherald@gmail.com

Worship Services at BVP in February

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 February

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

6.30 pm Evening Service at Hillington Park

Sunday 11th February

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

(There is no evening service)

Sunday 18th February

11.00 am Morning Service
Preacher Rev. Campbell Mackinnon

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

Sunday 25th February

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