

Burnside Blairbeth Church



Contact

No 170

September 2024

Dear friends,

Where do you spend most of your time during the week? As well as your family, who are the people you see the most? What occupies most of your thinking time? Do you think of yourself as a missionary?



A missionary is sent – sent by the church, but more fundamentally sent by God. It is right that we pay particular attention to those who have been commissioned by the church and the Lord to a specific situation to make disciples. That is the traditional definition of a missionary – but in looser terms we are all called to be missionaries and so it is helpful to think about what that means.

In our church we have tried to think about our “frontlines”. Often, we have thought about these as being our places of work. That makes sense because that is where many people spend most of their time. We have tried to help one another think about how we can be salt and light for Jesus in our places of work.

However, what about those who are not in paid employment? Does this mean that they don’t have a frontline? Obviously, that can’t be case because we all have places where we spend a lot of time – whether we’re in paid employment or not. In our services and in teaching at church we have widened out the definition of our frontline and seek to equip and encourage all of us to be missionaries by being salt and light in all sorts of places.

This has some practical implications for us. The first is when we think about whether and how our church is involved in mission. Too often we

narrow this term. When we ask about the mission of Burnside Blairbeth Church we think solely in terms of Messy Church, Christmas services and the various other ways in which we corporately engage in outreach. We are right to think about these events as outreach, but we're wrong to stop there. When followers of Jesus, who are part of Burnside Blairbeth, are intentionally seeking to be ambassadors for Jesus at their "frontlines", that is just as much part of the mission of Burnside Blairbeth Church as events organised by the church. It is therefore important that we remember this when we think about our church's mission.

At our Kirk Session meetings we often discuss how we can effectively engage with our community. There are times when this ends up as a discussion about what new activities we need to undertake as a congregation. The discussion sometimes ends with the realisation that our resources are limited in terms of people, times and money. This can become dispiriting. But with more careful thinking we can maybe alter our outlook.

Wherever there are members of our church involved in our community, we are already engaging with the community. There is also the question of what we mean by our community. Traditionally this would have meant our parish, but many people live outside our parish boundaries or spend much of their time outside those boundaries. We can hardly say that they aren't engaged with a community – so perhaps it's more accurate to think about engaging with our communities.

Over the next few months, we will try to consider our frontlines. How can we better equip one another to serve? What does it mean to be a member of the bowling club or serve in the food bank (to pick two random frontlines) in the name of Jesus? Do our church services reflect our frontlines?

We will also take seriously our congregation's territorial responsibilities to the parish by praying for those community organisations which seek to make life better for people who live in our area. If you are involved in such an organisation or are helped by one, let me know so that we can pray for them.

We believe that God is involved in every aspect of our lives and that we are called to be disciples seven days a week. Ensuring that our life as Burnside Blairbeth Church reflects that whole life discipleship is a challenge to which we must constantly return.

Your friend and minister,

William

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Our Sunday pattern

Although we no longer have a regular Sunday evening service, we have a pattern of other activities on Sundays, as well as our morning service for much of the year. Although it varies due to holidays it is normally as follows.

1st Sunday of the month

Prayer, praise and testimony (6pm) – a service of contemporary singing, prayer and a chance to hear someone's story of how God has been at work in their lives

2nd Sunday of the month

Afternoon songs of praise (3pm) – traditional hymns accompanied by the organ, followed by a cup of tea and fellowship.

3rd Sunday of the month

Hot button topic (6pm) – a seminar to help us think Biblically about current issues.

4th Sunday of the month

In person prayer (6pm) – an opportunity to pray together, supplementing our prayer triplets and pastoral prayer meetings.

Every Sunday evening

Switch (7pm) – a group where young people in P7-S6 play games, learn together about God, go on trips and enjoy one another's company.

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Finance Report

7 months to 31st July 2024

Please see below the summary and key points for the first 7 months to 31st July. Come the end of August, I'll be looking closely ahead to the end of the year and our financial position which as anticipated is a challenge.

Income:

Offerings

- Offerings totalled £154,324 – 1.6% more than last year but 12.7% less than plan.
- Offerings to the General Fund are up very slightly vs last year but aren't keeping track with plan and with the increased costs – particularly heating.
- Local Mission Fund offerings 7.4% ahead of last year – we have seen a definite movement of giving across to this fund.
- Decrease in giving to the Missionary Partner Fund which I'd like to acknowledge and we need to address this. Please continue to pray for our Missionary Partners and it is important to recognise the impact our financial support has on their work.

Expenditure:

- Overall it is 3.6% up on last year. Key points to note:
 - We have now spent £9,000 of the Fabric Fund – which is the largest amount at this stage in the year for a number of years. It is important we continue to maintain our properties so they are fit for purpose for daily use.
 - Impact of heat and light costs really coming through due to increased usage charges. This is being offset by having one less employee meaning overall increase isn't as much as it would be otherwise. However, the cost challenge of heating and maintaining our buildings is going to increase not decrease.

Fund Position:

- General Fund has a deficit of £24,596 – vs £14,159 this time last year – impact of heating costs and income remaining level. The fact that we are more than likely to spend our fabric fund means that the deficit at this stage is more of a crystallised state than previous years.
- Local Mission Fund – small deficit of £1,615 vs £3,336 this time last year which continues to be encouraging.
- Missionary Partner Fund – deficit of £1,728 vs surplus of £1,095 this time last year which we need to address.

Overall –

- There is a short term and longer-term financial challenge and it is one that as a Kirk Session we will be considering further in coming meetings.

Andrew Telfer
Treasurer



The Guild

The weather has been extremely disappointing this summer and as autumn and winter approach, many of us are looking forward to Monday 7th October and a new session of the Guild. During the summer months, we experienced many sporting events e.g. golf, football, tennis and of course we agonised, rejoiced and were inspired by team GB as they gave of their best at Olympic 24 in Paris. What commitment and dedication, a fine example to us all.

Our committee has been working hard to prepare a varied and interesting syllabus that we hope will suit all tastes. We meet on alternate Mondays at 2pm in the sanctuary so do come and join us ladies and gentlemen, you can be assured of a warm, friendly welcome and, of course, a cuppa and a chat with friends old and new.

The new theme for the Guild is "*Let Us Build a House*" with this year's focus being "A Sure Foundation".

We open on Monday 7th October with an afternoon of music presented by Alistair McDonald, Scottish singer and entertainer.

Dates for your Diary

- Saturday 7th September
"The Annual Gathering" will be live streamed to the church.
- Sunday 15th September Guild Sunday
- Monday 7th October Opening meeting.
Alistair McDonald
- Monday 21 September.

Jonathan Lyall speaking on the theme “Sure Foundations”.

- Saturday 23rd November. Christmas Fayre
- Monday 16 th December Christmas lunch Burnside Hotel.

On 30 July a wonderful afternoon was had by all as we took a trip down memory lane. Trendy sixties outfits were the order of the day and some delicious sixties snacks had been prepared. Everyone joined in to perform the Twist and sang along to a sixties selection performed by the very talented Patterson family. Thanks to everyone who dressed up, set up, decorated, catered and helped in any way.

The magnificent sum of £516 was raised and donated to Past Times, a group in Stonelaw Church for people living with dementia and their carers. We received a lovely letter from the organisers thanking us for our very generous donation.

Jean Goldie

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Tuesday Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning continues to be a great success and the decision to keep going during the school holidays was a wise one.



We have had a great response. Many thanks to all our regular attendees and to our faithful band of ladies who give freely of their time and talents to bake goodies and serve tea and coffee. So far this past year we have managed to donate:

- £500 to the Salvation Army
- £300 to the Shoe Box Appeal
- £200 to Victim Support

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us in any way.

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Reachout Trust

We really appreciate all the support you give us and wanted to give an update on some new staff / helpers:

We have appointed **Laura Hutchinson** as our second youth and school worker.

Jamie Gurling, a second-year theology student is joining us 1 day a week on placement to gain schools work experience.

Ewan Cairns will be joining us this year on placement as part of his SU Gap Year.



Left to Right, Laura, Ewan and Jamie

Dates for the Diary

We would like to invite you for tea, coffee and cakes, with an opportunity to support Reachout in preparations for Boomerang and Christmas unwrapped. This is happening in Cambuslang Parish Church on Wednesday the 25th of September 2-4pm. We would love to see you there.

Reachout Turns 30 this year and we are having a big birthday celebration on Saturday 26th October, starting with our AGM at 11am followed by lunch at 12.30, then a celebration of the last 30 years followed by the commissioning for Laura and Shona and prayer for the team as we set out to serve God in Cambuslang and Rutherglen. We would love as many people as possible to join us for this.

If anyone has any memories or photos from Reachout work over the last 30 years, please email or send these to me at

shona.crرت@outlook.com or mail to:

Reachout Office 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang, Glasgow, G72 7JQ.

Shona Baird, Reachout Administrator

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Summer – Events

Over the summer there are a lot of activities happening for young people and adults – here are some updates on some of these events:

➤ Magnitude

Over 1200 young people set up camp with their youth leaders at Lendrick Muir near Kinross for Scotland's Christian Youth Festival in July.

Magnitude is all about worshipping Jesus and getting to know him better through Bible teaching, seminars and other activities. Every morning and evening everyone gathers in the Big Top for worship. It is an incredible experience to worship with this number of young people and to learn more from the Bible with them.



I was there with the Scottish Bible Society, and we had a Lectio Divina Tent (Lectio means sacred reading and is an ancient spiritual practice that helps us hear from God through the Bible). Lots of young people and leaders came to our Lectio Sessions and it was so encouraging to hear from young people what God was saying to them through Matthew's Gospel. SBS also produced a magazine version of Matthew with helpful annotations all the way through. This was given to every young person at Magnitude and was positively received. God is at work in Scotland and young people are listening to him and following him.

Here is what some of the young people from Burnside Blairbeth who were at Magnitude said...

"I don't know where I would be if I didn't go to Magnitude. The amount of people I've met and conversations I've had as a result is so encouraging in my faith. Seeing so many people come together to worship and learn about God makes me so happy and reminds me that God is so good!"

“I enjoyed everything about it from the big top to the seminars and it was a great experience, and I felt a lot closer to God than before.”

“Magnitude was a blessing, I felt really close to God and with lots of people.”

Jen Robertson

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➤ **Keswick Convention**

Several of us from Burnside Blairbeth participated in this summer's Keswick Convention.

Apart from a 2-day visit in 2011, this was my first experience, but some of us have been regularly for many years.

The convention is organised by Keswick Ministries based in the original "Cumberland" Pencil Factory. For the 3 weeks of the Convention there is also an enormous tent which can hold over 3,000 for the main meetings, which are uplifting, refreshing times of praise and bible teaching. The theme for this year was 'Resurrection', and at times the worship felt like a foretaste of heaven.

It's not all on a large scale - I also very much enjoyed the seminars, crepes, book stalls, hot chocolate, chatting to Christians from many countries and backgrounds, and time to relax with friends old and new over some nice coffee.

You don't need to book - you can turn up for one evening or stay for all 3 weeks. (Booking accommodation is quite another matter - Keswick is very busy in July!)

The town itself is a wonderful place to holiday, with the cafes, restaurants, parks, hills and lakes. I particularly enjoyed climbing Cat Bells hill and also visiting the walled garden which was the original setting for the "Tale of Peter Rabbit".

Something for everyone! I was glad I went. Perhaps we'll meet at Keswick some time?

John MacLean

➤ SU Holiday – Scoughall



For the last 20 years I have spent a week of my summer at Scoughall - a Scripture Union Holiday site near North Berwick on the east coast of Scotland.

It has its own private beach and provides a fantastic location for young people to have a fun-filled holiday. This year was a packed-out event with nearly 100 people on site.

We had fantastic activities, great food, and we had lots of opportunities to draw nearer to Jesus. We explored 5 stories from Genesis and lots of people responded to God's call to follow him.

Here is what some of the young people from Burnside Blairbeth and Stonelaw Churches said about the holiday...

"The community is welcoming; the activities are fun and high energy. The teaching is interesting and always makes you feel closer to God. Your

group is like your family for the whole week and the food is spectacular. All in all, a blast and a highlight of your summer."

"It was an amazing experience with fun activities and good bite sized teaching."

"When I first started going to camps, I went for only the fun and activities. Now I go for God too. The worship sessions are now some of my favourite parts and it is great to share this with all my friends. Everyone is so kind and welcoming, they are always there for you."

"It was surprisingly warm!"

"It was amazing!"

Jen Robertson



Small groups.

Small groups meeting as part of our church family continue to be a source of support caring and growth. Some of the existing groups continue, and some are starting up again and we would love to welcome more people to the whole experience of small groups. Groups provide the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and concerns as well as personal and Bible based growth.

The small groups provide meeting arrangements to suit most people. The group meeting in the church meets on “neutral” ground and can expand to accommodate whoever turns up, but other groups meet in people’s homes so there may be a limitation on numbers. There is the opportunity to meet for group meetings on Zoom, and, if it suits group members, there may be reason to vary between meeting on Zoom and in person. (help and instruction on how to join a meeting on Zoom can easily be arranged). Some small groups share a meal or have a cuppa together at meetings.

Over the next months we will be using the material prepared by William which follows the teaching series on Sunday mornings. That means we will be spending some time in the parables from Luke’s gospel and then on onto “meeting God in the Old Testament”. Small groups are a helpful forum for going further with the passages that have already been introduced.

Occasionally we run short term groups such as the Healing Hearts courses and Discipleship Explored, or The Bible Course. Any suggestions welcome!

You will be surprised how joining a small group can help both you and others in the group. Thank you for thinking about joining in.

Current small groups

Format	Day and time	Hosts	Frequency
Alternating in person and zoom	Monday @ 7.30 (currently full)	John & Anne Hunter	Fortnightly
On zoom	Tuesday @ 7.30 (plenty of space)	John & Anne Hunter	Fortnightly
In person – MacLean’s house.	Monday @ 7.30 (currently full)	John and Marjory MacLean	Fortnightly
In person, in the gathering area at church	Tuesday @ 7.30 for 8.00pm, ended by 9.00pm (plenty of space)	Chris and Lesley Mackintosh	Fortnightly
In person for S3+ young people	Wednesday @ 7.30 @ Jen’s house	Andy McArthur and Jen Robertson	Fortnightly

If you would like to know more, are thinking about coming along to a small group or would like to be involved in a small group on a different day, please get in touch with anyone in the list above or email the office-theoffice@burnsideblairbeth.church

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Missionary Partners

Update from Craig and Amanda Cunningham

We have experienced our fair share of culture-shock since we arrived in Canada from Bolivia on June 10th.

We are based in the city of London, Ontario and are currently living in the basement of Amanda's sister's home. It is a spacious property and very comfortable for the time being.

We are now settling down in the country where we will spend our foreseeable future. There have been lots of logistics and paperwork to deal with. We are discovering just how expensive things are here -within a few weeks we faced the music and bought a second-hand car. While expensive to run, it has been a huge help as we get ourselves established here.

We attended a five-day residential conference called Re-View. This was a gathering of 18 missionaries and 15 children and was mainly focused on returning missionaries, with sessions addressing different elements of transition, and individual de-briefing with trained counsellor. We came away having made some new friends and hopefully some key connections for the future. We are also attending monthly Zoom sessions which Latin Link are running for ourselves and other missionaries in transition.



We embarked on a ten-day American trip which included catching up friends from Bolivia who are now in Ohio. It has also been a pleasure to catch up with some of our supporting churches in Canada.

Amanda will continue to serve in member care with our mission and I am very glad to report that I have been appointed as the lead pastor of First Lobo Baptist Church! In mid-July, we attended a Saturday morning meet-and-greet breakfast, and the following morning I preached from John 15, on the vine and the branches, drawing greatly from our own past experience in Bolivia to emphasise that in Christ's strength alone will his church be built up. Immediately following that service, the congregation approved me as their new pastor. I will start on September 3rd. We're humbled and delighted that Lobo have placed their confidence in us. The church is so close to our current location that I run past it every morning.

As you can imagine, we are especially prayerful for Sam as the school year begins on the 4th September. We have met with staff at his school and feel he will be well taken-care but naturally he is nervous about a new start.

Please keep Sam in your prayers, as well as my permanent residency application.

Thank you so much for your continued interest in us as we begin this intriguing new chapter!

If Prison Walls Could Speak

Hebrews 13:3 says

"Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them"



The Artless production of 'If Prison Walls Could Speak' is a one man play described as "bold, innovative and shocking to the core".

The drama is inspiring and movingly recounts the experience of Release International's associate ministry worker Petr Jasek, who was imprisoned in Sudan in 2015 because of his Christian work.

Artless write "Through Petr's story we want to shine a light on the suffering faced by millions, but rather than wishing away their struggles we want you to take a moment to reflect on their perspective. Through devising this programme we have stopped considering these persecuted Christians as merely powerless victims, but rather of beacons of resilience and of passionate, selfless and costly love."

We are hosting the performance at Burnside Blairbeth Church on Sunday 6th October, starting 6.30pm. It is recommended for age 12 and above. There will be a short interval during the show.

Several of us saw this last year and would highly recommend it as an exceptionally well produced play which at times is harrowing but tells a story of faith, grace and the power of prayer leading to the release of Petr Jasek. Watching this play gave us a very small insight into what being imprisoned for faith can be like and the effect on family and friends.

<https://www.artless.org.uk/program>

Tickets are £8 (free for under 18) and can be booked via <https://burnsideblairbethchurch.churchsuite.com/events/h46cd7tb>, the QR code on the posters or ChurchSuite.

Please speak to Marjory MacLean or Lesley Mackintosh if you wish to attend but cannot book online.

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Save the date – the Rutherglen Christian Aid committee will be holding a **coffee morning** on

Saturday 26th October in Rutherglen Old Parish Church.

We look forward to welcoming you there.

Marjory Maclean

Announcements

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' " **John 11:25-26.**

Olive Wallace

Olive Wallace died on 14th August aged 90, having spent the last years of her life in Oakview Manor nursing home. Her husband, John, died in 1997 while she lost a son, also called John, in 1975. She was mother to Craig and Jim and was a much-loved gran to Cheryl, Michelle, Rachel and James. Olive was part of the congregation who worshipped at Rodger Memorial, but in more recent years faithfully attended worship at the Burnside building along with her friend Cathy Whiston. We commit her family to your prayers.



Niall Hopper

Niall Hopper grew up in Eastfield and it was at Rutherglen Academy that he met Moira. They were married in 1959 after Niall had completed his national service.

Niall worked in the steel industry, qualifying first as a metallurgist but then moving into sales. He worked for a variety of companies before setting up his own business where he worked until he retired aged 70.

Football was part of Niall's life from an early age. After playing for Cambuslang Rangers, he signed for Queens Park in 1955 and played for



them until 1969, by which time he had played more than 350 first team matches and scored over 70 goals. He played for the Scottish Amateur team and the British Olympic team. He resisted invitations to turn professional. On retiring from football, he pursued his love of sport through his golf.

Niall was a father to Alan and Susan and took great pride in his eight grandchildren. Despite dementia, Niall still lit up with the joy of great grandchildren.

Niall was a much-loved Sunday school leader in Burnside Church, and throughout his life he encouraged the generations who came behind him. He was also a supporter and help to the church football team. He served as an elder for many years and was a stalwart of the congregation in so many ways. He had a ready smile and always had a friendly and positive word to share. He loved his Lord, and we can give thanks to God for Niall's life well lived.

Margaret Robertson

Margaret Robertson died on 3 August 2024, aged 97 years.

Margaret was born in County Avenue, Eastfield on 23 September 1926. She was the youngest of two children born to Bill and Isa Cothill. During her childhood the family moved to Clevedon Drive, Burnside. Following school at Burnside Primary School and Rutherglen Academy, Margaret began a secretarial course at Pitman's College. Her studies there were cut short due to her father developing Rheumatic Fever. Her mother took over the running of the family business and Margaret attended to the running of their home.



Margaret's next door neighbour in Cleveden Drive was Andy Robertson and during his conscription he and Margaret wrote to each other regularly. They went on to marry in September 1948 at Burnside Church. Over the years Margaret and Andy lived in Ibrox where their daughters, Linda and Jean, were born before moving to Balmoral Drive in Cambuslang. Latterly they lived in Cleveden Drive again and after Andy died Margaret moved into Stonelaw Court where she was very content.

Margaret's church life started at Trinity, Cambuslang but latterly she was a member at Burnside Blairbeth. She delivered meals on wheels on behalf of the WRVS and was a committee member of Cambuslang Cancer Care. By nature, she was a sociable and chatty person, a good listener and a great support to many. She always had a twinkle in her eye and a warm endearing smile.

As we give thanks for a long life well lived, we remember Linda and Jean and their families including Margaret's grandchildren and great grandchildren in prayer.

The family are most grateful for the many cards and other expressions of sympathy during this time of loss.

Les Queen

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The next Issue of Contact

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Articles can e-mailed to the editor - **contact@burnsideblairbeth.church**

Services are on YouTube – search for:

Burnside Blairbeth Church live stream

- CDs will be available as soon as possible after the Sunday morning services and will be delivered to homes. If you, or someone you know, would like to have a copy delivered, please contact:

Kate Airlie Mob: 07787 558 790 // kate.airlie@burnsideblairbeth.church

- **Contact** magazine is available to view on our website, www.burnsideblairbeth.church, under *What's On/News* tab.

If you would like to view Contact this way rather than have a paper copy delivered please send a message the office:

theoffice@burnsideblairbeth.church

Data Protection Act, 1998

It is normal practice to include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our office-bearers and other individuals in our church publications. If any person does not wish to have their personal details included they should inform the Communications Team Leader, Lesley Mackintosh.

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