

BALERNO PARISH CHURCH BULLETIN SUMMER (JULY/AUGUST) 2017



Letter from the Manse

All the
signs in
creation
are telling
us that
summer is
on its way.

It is wonderful to see people smiling and talking to one another. It is as if everyone is in a good mood. I often wonder if that was not exactly what the first believers experienced when they heard the news that Jesus was risen from the dead. I can just imagine them all talking about what they saw and heard.

When we consider the lives of individuals in the early Christian church you can almost *feel* their enthusiasm and the hope of Jesus' resurrection that they all felt.

One such a witness was Lydia. In our reading Paul and his companions went to Philippi in Macedonia, where they stayed for several days. On the Sabbath day Paul and his companions went to the river to pray. There they talked to several women who were gathering at the river. One of them was Lydia, whose heart was opened by the Lord to respond in faith. She was a dealer in purple cloth. Dealers in purple cloth were usually quite well off because purple clothes were regarded as luxury items. Her faith is almost tangible and after she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited Paul and his companions to stay at her home. This linking of belief, baptism and table fellowship was established at the first

Pentecost, and is an integral part of the Christian faith. It seems likely that Lydia functioned as the first leader of the church in Philippi that met in her house. The people of the early church were filled with God's Holy Spirit and reacted with faith and fellowship. They shared everything. Class and all forms of discrimination disappeared. Owner and slave became equal.

We can learn so much from these witnesses in the early church. They lived their faith in the risen Lord Jesus in practical ways of love and fellowship, caring for one another and walking the extra mile.

Fellowship is also an integral part of our congregation. It is wonderful to see the fellowship that exists between members of our congregation and the amount of care that is given by members. These are all signs of God's Spirit working in the hearts of people. But we can never become complacent.

And above all, we must preach the Good news of Jesus' salvation and resurrection in all that we do, think and say. Maybe this summer, we can change the lives of others through our witness, our fellowship and our examples of faith, hope and love! Enjoy the summer!

All my best wishes,

André

André, Nanda and the boys will be on holiday from 2nd July for 4 weeks. Please pray that they have a safe travel and a happy time visiting family in South Africa!

KIRK SESSION NEWS: The 'Church's Policy Statement on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups' is displayed prominently in different places around our church premises.

Balerno Village Screen (BVS) has been formally acknowledged by Session as a Church Organisation.

'Meet the Minister' brunches will be held for the congregation on Sundays 10th, 17th and 24th of September. Full details later.

Pulpit cover and pastoral cover: Rev Dr Anne Logan will be leading services on Sundays 9th, 16th and 23rd July and also providing pastoral care over this time (excluding Thursdays and Fridays) – if Anne is not available, please contact your elder. Deaconess Margaret Gordon will lead the service on 30th July, pastoral care can be arranged through Anne Charman (449 5858)

There will be no afternoon services in July /August, the next one will be on 3rd September at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments.

BAPTISM: André conducted the baptism of Eabha Robin Bruce in St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle, on 28th May.

FUNERALS: *Thinking of the families of ...* **Jessie Michie**, who died on May 3rd, her funeral was on 15th May.

Eva (Issy) Weller, who died 6th May and her funeral was on 25th May.

Irene Robinson, who died on 11th May. Her funeral was on 25th May.

Jenny Elliot, who died on the 23rd of June. Her funeral will be on 3rd July.

Ada Rowland, who died 22 June aged 103. A service of thanksgiving for her long and active life will be held on 4th July. A memorial service for **Donna Bancroft**, who died 4/6/16, was held on 5th June.

OFFICE HOURS: Jennifer will be on holiday 3rd-15th July, and Wendy will be standing in for her apart from 12th-14th, when someone else will hopefully be answering the phone.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Have you got some time to offer to the church? We are looking for a Free Will Offering Treasurer and also a Gift Aid Treasurer. Each requires only a few hours a month. To volunteer, contact George Burt on 449 4314 Or email, george.burt67@gmail.com

THE MILL Café will only be open on Friday mornings in July, teas/coffees and homebaking only. Full service resumes on Wednesday 2nd August. And if you are considering some volunteer work after the holidays ... the Mill is always looking for volunteers, many hands make light work, etc...! Pop in and speak to Linsey, you'll be made very welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Guild are holding their annual Strawberry Tea on Wednesday 5th July, 7.15pm in St Joseph's Hall. Tickets, £3 each from Guild members.

The annual **Church Golf Outing** is planned for Thursday 3rd August at Harburn Golf Club. For information/booking, Brian Conway, 449 5582

Fair Trade: Balerno Fairtrade Village Group are holding a meeting on Tuesday 12th September to plan Fairtrade and Fair Trade activities for the next few months. All welcome, Shepherd Room at 7.15pm.

Palm Café resumes on Tuesday August 29th, at 2.30-4pm in the St Joseph's Hall.

Sunday Club starts again Sunday 20th August.

The **Bridge Club** starts again on the first Wednesday in September in the Ogston Hall at 10am.

Bible Study resumes in September, 2nd & 4th Thursdays. New members welcome.

Kay Coull, 449 6151 or

coullkay@hotmail.com

Please don't forget about the **Food Bank** over the summer holidays. Families will have children at home during the next few weeks, which will mean extra meals.

BALERNO PHOTO is back for 2017. Entries close on 20th October so there is plenty of time over the summer months to take the camera out and capture some magical shots. This is a free-entry Photographic competition promoted by Balerno Parish Church and Balerno Village Trust, and there will be an exhibition of entries during November in both St Joseph's Hall and Balerno Parish Church. Photos may be from Balerno and the local area, including the Pentlands – landscapes, flora & fauna, pets, people, etc. There are cash prizes for 2 sections – adult & student (U18)- 1st, £50, 2nd, £25) and 3rd £15)Each entrant can submit up to 3 photos (min A4 and preferably mounted, please). Further details and entry forms at www.balernochurch.org.uk or from the church office, any queries to iangidney@blueyonder.co.uk

THE BRIDGE ... update ...

We will need regular help if the Bulletin is develop into a monthly magazine to replace the old Bridge, particularly with printing and collating. This would involve a few hours, one afternoon or evening a month. Please give it some thought and email us at

balerno_church_bridge@hotmail.co.uk

What would you like to see in your magazine? Church/congregational news, obviously – the Bridge is an important means of communication for the whole church family, whether electronically or in hard copy. Would you like to see a

crossword? Sudoku? Quizzes? Recipes? Tell us and we will put them in.

And we want contributions! If you are the organizer/convener of a group and want some publicity, write and tell us. If you held a successful event, tell us about it! If you want more people to join your group/organization, write and tell us. If you have been reading an interesting book on some aspect of faith, share it with us. Did you visit a church when you were on holiday? Others might like to hear about it. Did anyone have a 'Special' birthday or anniversary? Share it! With pictures of the party! Have you got strong views on something? Suggestion? Solutions? Write and tell us!

Subject to available space and editorial discretion, we will print as much as possible.

To mark the end of this session, **SUNDAY CLUB** and **CHILL am** led the morning service on 25th June. We were joined by Tara Granados who is starting her probationary placement with the Church of Scotland at Joppa Parish Church. A few quotes from her brief but illuminating All Age Talk: 'Children are God's ultimate blessing...', 'The holy work of raising children...', 'church is a place of grace and acceptance...' Wise words, well worth considering.

The Senior Sunday Club showed a film they had made, and displayed a banner which they have been working on. Sunday Club and Chill AM showed another film. They led us in prayers and Niamh read the lesson. The choir joined Jubilate in singing 'With a Little Help From My Friends, with soloist Craig Macbeth channeling his inner Jarvis Cocker. We sang, laughed, did the actions, clapped... and then they treated us to scones with strawberries and cream afterwards! Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful morning of praising God in a special way!



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