

THE BRIDGE

BALERNO PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



MARCH / APRIL 2018

What's on in March 2018

Saturday, 3 rd	10.00am Fairtrade Morning
Sunday 4 th –	9.00am Breakfast Communion in St Joseph's
	10.00am Traditional Communion in Church
	2.30pm Afternoon Communion followed with refreshments
Monday, 5 th	2.00pm Monday Club 'The Currie Kirk Singers'
Tues, 6 th	7.30pm Lent Study Group
Wed, 7 th	7.30pm Church Guild 'Sweet Dreams' with Lorna Muir
Saturday, 10 th	10.00am Farmers Market Coffee Morning
Sunday, 11 th	10.00am Sunday Worship
Tuesday, 13 th	7.30pm Lent Study Group
Wed, 14 th	7.30pm Dinner Discussion
Fri 16 th	7.30pm Village Screen: Florida Project (15)
Sat 17 th	2.30pm Village Screen: Paddington 2 (PG)
	7.30pm Village Screen: Murder on the Orient Express (12A)
Sunday, 18 th	10.00am Sunday Worship
Monday, 19 th	2.00pm Monday Club 'Film Show'
Tues 20 th	7.30pm Lent Study Group
Wed, 21 st	7.30pm Church Guild AGM and Social Evening
Sunday, 25 th	10.00am Palm Sunday Worship
	7.30pm EvenSpace
Tuesday, 27 th	2.30pm PALM in St Joseph's Hall
	6.30pm Youth Group
Thurs, 29 th	7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service at Currie Kirk
Fri, 30 th	7.00pm Good Friday Service at Balerno Church

Continued inside the back cover ...

Jesus Has Risen

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will ...

3 Johnsburn Road
Balerno EH14 7DN

25 February 2018

Dear Congregation,

I hope all of you are well. I am looking forward to Easter.

Easter is the most important celebration for all Christians. Easter is all about God's saving plan for humanity through Jesus Christ. Jesus took all our sins upon Himself and died on a cross on our behalf. He broke down all the barriers that existed between God and us. He made sure that if we believe in Him, we will be without sin, made perfect in the eyes of God.

But Jesus did not stay on that cross. Matthew 28:1-10 tells us that Jesus was God and overpowered death. He made sure that everyone who believes in Him will not die but be "resurrected" through the mercy of God and be welcomed in God's kingdom. God gave all who have faith new life and new hope for a better tomorrow.

Blooming flowers can help us to understand this better. After the long winter, the flowers appear and give us the hope of Spring and summer and everything positive and good that lies ahead. In the same way Jesus did not stay in the tomb, but overpowered death. He brought us the Spring of being saved from sin, death and hell. He offered us new life too.

So every time you look at a new Spring flower think of Easter and what Jesus did for us all a long time ago!

All my best wishes,
André

EDITORIAL: Welcome to our second edition of the new Bridge. Some things are slightly different from last time – we'll soon find what fits the congregation best! Thank you to everyone who took the time to get in touch to comment on the February edition. Please continue to comment, or send an article – even a short letter – by Sunday 22nd April please! It can be published anonymously if you prefer, but please include your address and contact details. Items may be edited according to space available.

Lesley

POPPY KNITTING BEE:



The stunning display (pictured) at St Andrew's High Church in Musselburgh, was created by members of its craft group who spent nine months knitting and crocheting wool flowers. They have been planted in two long stretches of grass that line the path to the fine building on the town's High Street, creating carpets of red. We are keen to do something similar to mark the Centenary of the Armistice on 11th November 2018. Janet McCracken has produced 'poppy making kits' for anyone who

would like to help create this. These are available in St Joseph's on Sundays after Church or can be picked up during the week from the Church Office. And if you would like to join Janet in The Mill on Tuesday mornings from 11.00 – 1.30, for advice, questions, to learn to knit or just join in for a chat and a bit of fellowship, you'll be more than welcome. You can get in touch with Janet at 449 3348 or 07740 473875.

A LETTER FROM A FRIEND: We have missed Morag from Church for many weeks over Christmas. She's back, fully recovered, and this is her story of what's been happening to her ...

'You may be blaming the mail system for not hearing from me at Christmas just like one of my friends. Then the Kilmarnock/Balerno grapevine was activated. My friend Isabel - we were in the Youth Fellowship in Kilmarnock together – spoke to her friend Sheila. She in turn spoke to her son Derek the widower of our much loved late Minister. Like a man he didn't know anything but saw me in church on the Sunday the first time I had been there for some time. So the report went back to Isabel that I had been in hospital. I had a card from her straight away so a phone call gave her the bare bones of the past five months.

Briefly, I had been feeling rough so I went to the doctor on 3 August. She diagnosed a heart murmur and sent me to the local hospital. I spent the night there but the heart problem is not serious. However, that triggered a bout of clinical depression which I had some 32 years ago. I was referred to the Rapid Response Team, a multidisciplinary team aimed at keeping folk like me out of hospital. Unfortunately the drugs and other motivational efforts did not work so I was hospitalised on 11 December for 4 weeks and became more like my 'old' self by the turn of the year. Unfortunately the drugs and other motivational efforts did not work so I was hospitalised on 11 December for 4 weeks and 6 treatments of ECT. The ward I was in at the Royal Edinburgh was for 'elderly' females – some 15 of us in a new building with ensuite individual rooms. I have nothing but praise for the care I received... The staff were kindness personified and the food was excellent! ... That then is the tale of my life for the past few months. I feel blessed that I have recovered and am getting back to normal life.

I shall bring this epistle to a close by wishing you health and happiness in 2018.

morag.m.marshall@btinternet.com

It's wonderful to hear such a positive outcome of Morag's treatment. And we also welcome back several others of our church family who have been ill or undergoing treatment. It's good to see you looking well again!

BILLY GRAHAM: The Evangelical American preacher **Billy Graham** died recently aged 99. In 1955, he came to Scotland for his historic All-Scotland Crusade. More than 2.5 million people attended the meetings at Kelvin Hall, Hampden, Ibrox and Tynecastle to hear him speak, with millions more tuning in on television and radio. He returned in 1991, and in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, a quarter-of-a-million people heard the Gospel over the course of two weeks. In Edinburgh, Billy Graham appeared alongside Sir Cliff Richard at an evangelical rally held at Murrayfield Stadium. Billy Graham's All-Scotland Crusade fitted in with the ongoing Tell Scotland Movement, a mid-century attempt at outreach by the Protestant churches in Scotland. More in our next issue about this ambitious movement which some of us can remember.

Were YOU at any of these rallies? Was your life, as many were, changed by hearing Billy Graham speak? We would like to hear from you. Please email bpc-thebridge@balernochurch.org.uk phone Lesley Burt on 449 4314. Also if you were involved in any way with Tell Scotland! Please get in touch.

LMB



Dementia Friendly Pentlands at the Scottish Parliament



On Wednesday 17 January 2018, Dementia Friendly Pentlands held a reception at the Scottish Parliament to highlight the work of DFP and raise awareness of issues faced by people living with dementia and their carers. Over 50 people joined the event, including MSPs, healthcare professionals, volunteers, people living with dementia and their carers. The event was opened by our host Gordon Lindhurst, MSP for Lothian; followed by Kay Latimer, DFP Chair, who emphasised the value of a community's response to the need to help

people sustain their social contacts and activities. Petra Lipnik, DFP Development Worker, followed the topic of social inclusion and called out for a shift in the dementia discourse from a disease model to a human-rights based and strengths-focused approach. Allister McKillop, DFP board member and Currie Community Council chair, spoke of various DFP projects and initiatives and how he was keen for these to go further. (Picture: Kay Latimer, Petra Lipnik and Gordon Lindhurst)

The event was also an opportunity to hear emotional stories of carers on the impact dementia had on their lives. Myrna Lindsay, a carer for her husband John, shared how isolating the diagnosis can be: *"After the diagnosis, it was as if we had vanished. No further contact with anyone"*. And Keith Gordon, a carer for his wife Doreen, reminded us *"I'm still a person!"* and highlighted the need for more carers support.

The evening was closed by Richard Henderson, Balerno Community Council chair. He summarised: *"We, as a society are challenged now to change the way we see, think and talk about dementia; we are invited to recognise a person rather than a condition. That is the keystone of change."* If you would like to get involved or learn more about the Dementia Friendly Pentlands initiative, please contact Petra on **07587034535** or dementiafriendlypentlands@gmail.com or visit our website <http://dementiafriendlypentlands.org.uk>. **Petra Lipnik**

FROM THE KIRK SESSION:

Kirk Session Retreat

The Kirk Session met on a Saturday morning in January to try to establish what the priorities and strategy of Balerno Parish Church should be over the coming years. Although it could be said that the discussions provided a summary of what we probably already knew or suspected, they did help to clarify the degree of consensus which exists around certain issues.

- Issues with communication are regarded as a serious issue.
- The fact that the aging demographic of the congregation is a common concern is not news.
- Neither is the overall concern that the size of the congregation is shrinking – although there is a lack of unanimity in perception about the reasons for this.
- While outreach is considered to be central part of our current identity there is an overall impression of a feeling is that we could do better.
- While there is an opinion that our 'method' of worship is not an immediate concern, there is a larger body of opinion that we should be more innovative / varied.

Further discussion of the outcomes at the Steering Group identified that:

- We are not alone in the challenges that we face.
- We are in a better position than many other churches because of our existing strengths.
- We are happy with the identity as a community based church with outreach activity.
- Abandonment of the varied programme of activities which the church contributes to in the community would have a detrimental effect on both church and community.
- We have more groups catering for the over 55's than we do for young people.
- We are a predominantly ageing congregation whose practical abilities are currently

not increasing.

- The appeal of BPC needs to be cross-generational.
- We need to be clear in focus about our aims – and our success criteria.
- We need to develop a twin track strategy which seeks to maintain existing programmes of action in the community as well as looking to extend our mission to all ages in our community.

The Steering Group have therefore proposed to Kirk Session that a committee should be appointed with a remit to draw up an application to the Go-for-It Fund - and any other appropriate sources of financial support - in order to secure support funding for the appointment of a full time Church Community Builder to join the ministry team in BPC. In the course of the compilation of this application it would be necessary for the committee to clearly identify specific aims and objectives for potential appointees as well as the personal qualities required in order to ensure that there are clear criteria for the evaluation of the effectiveness of subsequent programmes. The working group should have regard to what is strategically desirable with what is financially manageable and realistic for the congregation.

Members will be kept informed of the progress of discussions as this would represent a significant initiative for the congregation. The first realistic submission date for such an application to 121 George Street would be 21st September, by which time, financial implications would have to be reviewed and agreed. This may be a challenging deadline.

If you want to see details of the report from the Kirk Session Retreat, then it is available on the church website.

John Burnside

GENERAL ASSEMBLY STEWARDING 2018

There is still time to apply to help with stewarding at the General Assembly, 19th -25th May. If you haven't done it before, it can be really interesting – you get a chance to meet a variety of different people from churches all over the city and further afield, as well as a few wheel-kent faces among the dignitaries. Sign up for as many or as few 2 hour slots as you wish. Tea/coffee/snacks are available. New College is a lovely historic building – a little confusing at first, but you soon learn your way around!

YOUNG AT HEART ... (for 50+) meet in the Ogston Hall every Tuesday, 10am-12noon for talks, gentle exercise and relaxation, quizzes, discussions, reminiscing and laughter, tea and coffee (and often home-baking!) Just turn up, or contact Mary Laing for information on 449 3523 (Charity No SC00109)

***NEW!* A GENTLE EXERCISE GROUP** on Thursdays, 12.15-12.45 in the Ogston Hall. It's free! Led by Marion Wallace and Margaret Lennox, and followed by refreshments at the Mill which you order beforehand in the café.

WHO WROTE THAT HYMN? We sing an average of five hymns every week during our service, plus of course the Introit, but do you ever wonder about the people who wrote them? *Let's find out ...*

GRAHAM KENDRICK: Son of a Baptist pastor, born in 1950, Graham is a Christian singer and worship leader who has written or co-written many of our favourite modern hymns, including *'Shine Jesus Shine'*, *'Meekness and Majesty'*, and *'The Servant King'*.

SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY has written many lovely hymns but the one familiar to us here is 685, *'For Everyone born, a place at the table...'*. A New Zealander, she was a teacher before marrying a minister. Moving with their three children to Wellington in the 1970s, she started writing hymns which have been widely translated and are included in more than 140 hymn books worldwide. Many of her hymns are based on nature and domestic as well as contemporary issues. If you haven't come across hymn 716, I would urge you to read it!

FRANCES JANE (Fanny) CROSBY (1820-1915), was an American poet and composer, despite being blind from babyhood. She was educated at the New York Institution for the Blind and became one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, with more than 100 million copies printed. In 1843 Fanny married Alexander van Alstyne, although she continued to use her maiden name for publication. *'To God be the Glory...'* and *'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!'* are two everlasting favourites.

Louise Duncan Bursary Report *from Rachael Hastie:*

During summer 2017 I travelled to the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa for 6 weeks to conduct my dissertation research. As a final student in my BSc Geography degree at the university of St Andrews I am writing a dissertation focusing on conservation science as to the impact of Elephants on the critically endangered Black Rhino and how this impacts their conditions for optimal reproduction. The title of my dissertation is as follows: *Impact of the removal of Elephants from Pongola Game Reserve on Black Rhino spatial distribution*. This has the following research questions:

- i) What are the preferred vegetation type of the black rhino according to extent of damage on vegetation?
- ii) Where are the black rhino currently located?
- iii) Has the spatial distribution of black rhino differed from prior to post elephant removal?

While I was in the field we conducted game transects, vegetation surveys and spend a lot of time tracking and recording the location of the Black Rhino on the reserve. The region where we were studying is a conservation hot spot in South African and the reserve we were on was part of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Black Rhino expansion project which translocate Black Rhino to areas of good rhino habitat to facilitate reproduction in a protected environment. As a result, all data we collected was also transferred to KZN Ezemvelo wildlife in partnership with WWF as where the data we gathered was necessary for our research projects, it also had

implications and uses on a much wider scale and is intrinsic to the monitoring of the program by these organisations.

The Louise Duncan Bursary I received of the value of £200 was instrumental in my ability to complete my project work as it helped me buy the necessary equipment to perform in the field. Therefore by proxy the bursary has contributed in a first-hand context towards the Kwa-Zulu Natal Black Rhino translocation project which is the current, most successful, regime to save the species for extinction. This contribution is especially valuable now due to the rise in poaching and human impact on the species, which will lead to the extinction of Black Rhino in just 3 years without the aid of volunteers like myself.

My time in the field taught me a lot about geographic science, conservation and enhanced my academic abilities. It also furthered my knowledge of plant species, how to live in the African Bush and how to track and monitor many different species of animals. However, it also gave me a lot of time to reflect and learn about the human actions that cause the danger to the species. As poaching is such a major factor in the struggle to save the species it is something that I focused on. It was eye opening to learn about the kind of poaching that occurs and the frequency. This then correlates with the prices for poaching and the motivations behind it. This gave me a different insight into human guilt, motivations and desperation. This allowed me to also have an understanding that the solution to saving the extinction of the black rhino species is not purely a scientific problem. It is also a very human based problem where ideals such as poverty, racism and greed need to be addressed in order to see any change. This therefore lends itself to an anthropogenic study of the motivations behind poaching in order to not only help the black rhino species but also the people who poach these wonderful animals.

Rachael Hastie

We hope that Rachael will be coming to speak to us at a morning service soon.

LOUISE DUNCAN BURSARY 2018 APPLICATIONS:

Balerno Parish Church is seeking applications for the second award of the Louise Duncan Bursary. This scheme was launched in 2016 to commemorate the life and work of former minister Reverend Louise Duncan, and offers a bursary of £500 to a young person, living in or near Balerno, to help them to meet the cost of travel outwith Scotland to take part in voluntary work for the benefit of disadvantaged communities. Applications are now open for the 2018 Bursary, with a deadline of February 23rd. More details of the conditions of the award and the application procedure are available from the Church website (<http://www.balernochurch.org.uk/>), where an application form can be downloaded. Marion Milne, will be happy to answer any questions about the scheme – she can be contacted by email at marion724@talktalk.net



Hello from the **Mill Cafe**,

The Mill continues to provide a warm place of welcome to our community and surrounding area.

We are very fortunate to have this wonderful resource at the heart of our community and that our community continue to believe in the good (and tasty treats!) that the cafe brings to our village. It is only with the support and selfless acts by members of our community and the support of Balerno parish church that the cafe continues to run smoothly.

The cafe acknowledges the world and environment in which it thrives, taking care to consider both in its doings.

The next two weeks welcomes Fairtrade Fortnight 'come on in'. We would like to encourage you into your cafe to see all the Fairtrade products we support and bring awareness to Fairtrade. Based on the simple idea that the products we buy and sell are connected to the livelihoods of others, Fair Trade is a way to make a conscious choice for a better world. A choice for Fair Trade Certified™ goods is a choice to support responsible companies, empower farmers, workers, and fishermen, and protect the environment. Please take time to visit The Mill. Whilst sipping your Fairtrade tea, coffee or hot chocolate and snacking on your choice of scrumptious cake made with Fairtrade sugar enjoy the knowledge that by doing so you are supporting.....



PARISH NEWS: RETIRALS

Changes on the Finance front: **David Booth** has retired as Treasurer, and Jim Todd succeeds him. Ken Bissett becomes Freewill Offering Treasurer and Ian Gidney takes over as Gift Aid Treasurer, both posts previously held by **George Burt**.

Martin Petty has retired as our organist, a post he has held for 20 years. However he intends to stay on the supply list, which means that he will still play for us occasionally as well as visiting other churches for a change of scene.

Irene Rogerson has retired as choirmistress, but will continue to sing in the choir and we hope we will still hear her lovely piano playing sometimes.

BAPTISMS

11th February **Lachlan and Kelda Archibald** were baptised and then both made their Professions of Faith at the morning service. Following this, André baptised their baby daughter **Mischa Juniper Johnstone Archibald**. A lovely, moving family occasion!

18th February **Ben Brand** was baptised (*See the note from Ben's family, below*)

SAYING THANK YOU ...

Margaret McEwan, Play Services Co-ordinator at RHSC, wrote to thank us for the gifts we sent from the Christmas gift Service. These were given to children who had to spend some or all of their Christmas holiday in hospital, and she enclosed a calendar made by some of the children in the hospital.

And **Angela Thomson**, Foodbank Manager and Trinity Centre Manager at Holy Trinity Westerhailes, thanked us on behalf the needy families and individuals in our community who – because of a variety of factors – sometimes don't have enough everyday essentials. Our donations at Christmas helped a lot of people.

And a special message from the newest members of our church family, the **Brands** - Werner and Linki, their daughter Fia and son Ben - who are a long way from their own families in South Africa:

'We just wanted to convey our gratitude towards the congregation of Balerno Parish Church for joining us in the celebration of Ben's Christening. It was a beautiful ceremony and a very special day for us. And what started as an emotional day for us where we missed our own family's presence, we ended it with an overwhelming sense of peace and content as we realised that we do indeed have a new family! We could never have imagined that we would experience such a sense of belonging so far from home. And we know that our children are surrounded with the sincerest love and adoration in the church. We are truly thankful for being part of this congregation!'

Warmest regards,

Werner, Linki, Fia and Ben

THE VIEW FROM THE PEW: The captivating Book of Esther was the theme for André's sermon on 11th February, with the story of how Esther, a beautiful Jewish woman in a foreign land, facing a plot to kill Jews – including herself. Esther saved her nation in the end ... but did God intend this to happen? Was it all planned? (God's name, incidentally, is never actually mentioned in the Book but his presence is always there) We are all here because God intended it – nothing happens by chance, but we need to trust and obey God. So when we ask 'Where is God in all of this?' ... the answer is that God will go with us, wherever we go.

Christ's baptism by John was at the centre of the sermon on February 18th, the first Sunday in Lent. We don't know exactly where this took place – the River Jordan is 200 miles long, but as Jesus came from Nazareth it could have been somewhere towards the Syrian border. As He emerged from the water the Holy Spirit came down 'like a dove' and He heard the voice of the Holy Spirit, empowering Him for His mission – God's approval or confirmation. And God broke through reality to touch us in the faith of His existence, bringing us comfort ... we are Christ's own people and so never alone, even when drowning in deep waters. Life is hard and sometimes there seems to be no time for love or caring, but if we give God the opportunity, we will be safe in His arms.

The following week moved on to Jesus's teaching – telling the disciples that he must fulfil the prophecy that the Son of Man must be killed and then rise again, difficult for his followers to process. And the command to 'follow me' (which appears in all the gospels), declaring that bearing the cross leads to glory – following will never be easy, but the future outweighs the suffering of the present. We struggle at times to understand how a merciful God can allow suffering – we have all done that. Yes, the cross is hard to bear, and we need help to carry it, we can't cope otherwise – we need God's help. And we can all help each other, as living witnesses.

Contributed

APRIL

Sunday, 1st 10.00am Easter Day Service

Monday 2nd 2.00pm Monday Club 'Ian MacPhail & the Country Dancers'

Sun, 8th 10.00am Sunday Worship

Saturday, 14th 10.00am Farmers Market Coffee Morning

Sunday, 15th 10.00am Sunday worship

Monday, 16th 2.00pm Monday Club 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'

Wed, 18th 7.30pm Dinner Discussion Meeting

Sunday, 22nd 10.00am Sunday Worship

7.30pm EvenSpace

Tues, 24th 2.30pm PALM Café

6.30pm Youth Group

Friday 27th Village Screen: TBC

Saturday, 28th Village Screen: TBC

Sunday, 29th 10.00am Sunday Worship

CAR ROTA:

Mar 4	Judy Savage 5016	Graham Lorimer 5099	Sandra Lyall 4375
Mar 11	Joan Graham 2379	Kay Latimer 6186	Brian Buchanan 5378
Mar 18	Ian Gidney 6919	Malcolm Ogilvie 6985	Anne Shaw 3874
Mar 25	J Goodbrand 4517	S Macdonald 5756	Ken Bisset 5812
Apr 1	Alison Petty 4175	Joan Graham 4517	Sally Lindsay 4987
Apr 8	Hector Macdonald 07419 784262	Emma Crichton 5230	C Graham 4181
Apr 15	E McCulloch 5876	Judy Savage 5016	Anne Johnston 2930
Apr 22	R Henderson 4484	J Goodbrand 4517	Kay Latimer 6186
Apr 29	Judy Savage 5016	Ian Alexander 6739	Sally Lindsay 4987



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Steering group convenor: John Burnside johnburnside@virginmedia.com

Fabric Convenor: Dilys Conway, 449 7245 dilysconway@blueyonder.co.uk

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:

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Mill Café Co-ordinator: Lynsey Inglis, themillatstjosephs@gmail.com

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All items to be included in the next Bridge, to cover May-June, should be submitted by Sunday 22 April