

THE BRIDGE



THE MAGAZINE OF BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019

WHAT'S ON in JANUARY 2019

Sunday, 6 th	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments
Monday, 7 th	2pm Monday Club 'Tai Chi' with Marion Wallace 7.30pm Finance Committee meeting in the Shepherd Room 7.30pm Music Festival Meeting in the Ogston Hall
Tuesday, 8 th	7.30pm Fairtrade Meeting in the Shepherd Room
Wed, 9 th	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting in St Joseph's
Sun, 13 th	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments
Wed, 16 th	7.30pm The Guild 'Mary's Meals on a trip to Malawi' with Ishbel Smith. Also, Bring and Buy Sale
Sunday, 20 th	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments
Monday, 21 st	2.30pm Monday Club 'Move it or Lose it' with Janet Corbett
Wed, 23 rd	7.30pm Burn's Supper in St Joseph's
Friday, 25 th	7.30pm BVS screening Blackkkklansman (15)
Saturday, 26 th	Kirk Session Retreat at Polbeth Church 2.30pm BVS screening COCO (PG) 7.30pm BVS screening Mama Mia! Here We Go Again (PG)
Sun, 27 th	10.30am Joint Valley Service at Juniper Green Church
Tues, 29 th	2.30pm PALM Café in St Joseph's 6.30pm Youth Group in the Ogston Hall

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY 2019:

Sunday, 3 rd	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments 2.30pm Afternoon Service followed by refreshments
Monday, 4 th	2.30pm Monday Club 'Safety First' with the Fire Brigade
Tuesday, 5 th	7.30pm Fabric Committee Meeting in the Shepherd Room
Wed, 6 th	7.30pm Guild 'Holiday in the Holy Land' with David Booth
Saturday, 9 th	10am Farmers Market Coffee Morning in St Joseph's
Sunday, 10 th	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments
Monday, 11 th	7.30pm Finance Committee Meeting in the Shepherd Room

Dear Congregation,

I enjoyed the busy time of Christmas and the calm of New Year. I was very happy with the attendance of all the services. I was once again inspired by the enthusiasm of the children and how much joy they still find in the season of Christmas. I would like to see the Spirit of LOVE as embodied in the birth of our Saviour Jesus to continue all through 2019. I would like to make it my mission to begin and end all conversations *with, and in, LOVE*.

When I think of love I cannot help to think that it is so true that there is no greater love than the love God has for us. His love who saved us through Jesus Christ from sin, death and hell. He did something that no human can ever do namely to lay down His life for the sake of our redemption.

The Gospel of John in chapter 10 describes God's love through the metaphor of a shepherd's relationship with his sheep. In Jesus' time shepherds were not regarded as trustworthy. But now Jesus says that He is the Good shepherd and He can be trusted. They can follow Him because they know His voice. They know Him just as He knows them. They can follow Him because they have experienced His love. He never deserted them.

In the same way we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for OUR salvation on Calvary. We can have the hope that God WILL BE WITH US IN OUR last moments, taking US to the everlasting pen where there is no more suffering, pain or death.

We know in part and but God knows us fully. He knows everything about us. There is nothing hidden from His sight. He knows our thoughts, our secrets and our hidden agendas. But equally He knows our joys, our challenges, our circumstances, our prayers, grief, and despair. We can find consolation in the fact that the Good Shepherd will take care of us on all our journeys of joy, grief, suffering, and pain. We can always feel safe in the arms of God. HIS love for us is always a present reality.

In the words of 1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love".

All my best wishes, André.

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year! Is 2019 going to be as busy as 2018 was? Are you ready for it? What is your Church group / organisation planning? Write and tell us about it - before the event to publicise it, afterwards to tell us what a wonderful success it was! Encourage other people to join in. We all have gifts to share, and there is room for everyone – whether joining a committee, supporting the Fair Trade group, joining one of our choirs (yes, we have *three* choirs!) volunteering at the Mill, writing something for The Bridge ... no-one needs to feel lonely or left out in Balerno Parish Church. Actually, the Editorial Committee could always do with some help ... we look forward to hearing from you!

Lesley.

VESTRY HOURS

Starting on Tuesday, 15th January 2019, André will be available in the Vestry between 10am-1 pm. This will be happening every Tuesday except 5th and 26th February and 5th March.

PARISH NEWS

Our families may grow up, move away and have families of their own, but they still retain ties with their church family of Balerno Parish Church; so at our Christmas service on December 23rd we were delighted to welcome little **Archie James Garrett Macbeth** and his baby sister **Emily Rose Margaret Macbeth** with a blessing. Duncan and Kristin Macbeth were home for Christmas from Australia.

Also, at the same service, **Leandros James Garland Alexandratos**, the baby son of David Garland and Murto Alexandratou was baptised. This was a wonderful family occasion and it was lovely to welcome a large group of visitors to our Church.

Kate Mackenzie would like to thank everyone for the support and kind messages which she received during Robert's illness and after his death.

Bill and Margaret Black would like to let you all know that the final outcome for the **Shoebox Appeal for Blythswood Care** in October was an amazing total of 202 shoeboxes. We have been given a certificate for this under the heading of 'Balerno Community' which includes the church, neighbours, friends, relations, Harmeny School and other people who support Blythswood Care throughout the year.

We were also very thankful for all the tremendous support we received from the Helpers and Providers and all who came along to our annual Christmas sale in November for **The British Heart Foundation**. The final total raised was £6,582!



The Mill Café would like to wish you all a 'Happy, Fun and Healthy New Year'!

We enjoyed celebrating the festive season with you all and look forward to hearing all your stories from home. The Mill Café will continue to offer welcome and warmth over what may be some very cold months to come! We hope to see you all in shaking off the cold enjoying our tasty home - made soups and fresh scones.

Perhaps this year will see you with a little more time on your hands? Maybe you would like to try something new but don't know where to start? We would be delighted to have you join our team of volunteers and offer you our support, encouragement and confidence to either stay with us or move on to that mountain you would like to climb!. We are here to help you make 2019 a year of 'Yes, I can!' If you are interested in volunteering, just pop in for a chat.

The Mill Café intends to be here for everyone, whilst offering a tasty menu and warm place to meet and chat. **You** are what is important to us and we will continue to listen, support and have a jolly good chat with all our customers whenever we are needed.

We will be open over the February break and are looking forward to Easter when the café will close for Good Friday.

The Mill Café. contact: Lynsey Inglis themillatstjosephs@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE 2018



It all started quite simply, really ... someone said ‘Let’s do something to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice!’ And someone said ‘Let’s knit 1000 poppies...’ and someone else said ‘We could sing some songs...’ and then someone said ‘I’ve got some old photos...’, which turned into ‘We could have an exhibition!’. And it all turned into a huge, remarkable event covering a week of commemoration, not 1000 but 6000 poppies cascading from a window and covering the grass; a moving and thought-provoking concert and a stunning exhibition of original artifacts lent from far and wide, and even visiting Army personnel. Too much to describe in full detail, but summed up here by Richard Henderson:

‘This is a huge if belated thank you to everyone who has been involved in putting together this year’s series of events commemorating the centenary of the Armistice of 11th November 1918; and I know we are not finished yet. To my mind Remembrance 2018 may well have been the most complicated and labour-intensive short term project ever embarked on by Balerno Parish Church, and I

want to say thank you while it is still fresh in our minds and before we are overtaken by the next enterprise.

It was been a truly memorable week, and the Field of Remembrance and associated Poppy Fall and display of poppies were in place until the 16th of December.

I cannot hope to thank everyone individually by name; the list is long and many people have contributed quietly without making or seeking any fuss, and it is to my shame I do not know the names of everyone who has been involved.

It has however been an honour to help Balerno Parish Church to mark this seminal event. It has probably changed us all in the way we think about the past, the present and the future, about those around us and those who have come to be part of it with us. In preparing for the commemorations I was privileged to talk with many people and hear stories and memories which they may never have shared before. Their candour and the confidence they placed in me in telling me those stories is humbling and I will be forever grateful to each one.

But the week was about much more than that, and it could never have been achieved without the hard work and commitment of all those who have been involved whether in knitting over 6000 poppies; carpentering frames and Crosses, and hanging the Poppy Fall and Cascades; designing, laying out and caring for the Field of Remembrance; lending, collecting, co-ordinating and curating the exhibition of over 150 individual precious items; literally bringing in the troops; writing scripts and scores, and performing music; managing The Poppy Café and keeping it going behind the counter and behind the scenes; making sure halls were open and closed up with alarms set, and doing the other mystical things which only Church Officers really know about; printing and preparing papers, schedules and orders of service in the Office – the hub of the whole operation; and all those who came along to be there, to steward and to meet and chat with others, sparking interest as well as memories and bridging the generational boundaries with such ease - I never thought it was true but I saw eyes sparkling as stories were told. The list of things people have done is truly extraordinary and humbling.

So let us all reflect that while this was a solemn commemoration, and we did our absolute best to honour those who we remember at this time of year we also reached out and managed to bring our community closer together; and that is real outreach.'

Celebrations during Guild Week at Balerno Parish Church

On Sunday the 18th of November 2018, Balerno Parish Church celebrated the work of the Guild at their morning worship. The oldest Balerno Guild member, Janet Smart, who celebrated her 100th birthday on the 21st of November, read



the lesson.

To mark the occasion of her special birthday, Janet was presented with a long service badge by our General Secretary, Iain Whyte as well as receiving flowers and cards from the Guild and congregation.

‘HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY’ to Janet.

Balerno Village Christmas Tree Festival

It's hard to believe that the 2018 calendar has been taken down and replaced by the 2019 version. Such is the relentless march of time.

Not so very long ago the Balerno Christmas Tree Festival was pronounced dead! However much to everyone's delight it was resurrected, thanks to the sterling efforts of Harmeny School and in particular their fund raising administrator Lauren Quinn. Our thanks must go to Harmeny School Chief Executive, Neil Squires and Laurence Waring their Communications Manager, who managed to get a pertinent article into The C & B News.

Well briefed by our event organiser par excellence, Richard Henderson, Lauren's enthusiasm was tangible as was that of all who helped organise and exhibit. A total of 32 trees were displayed over the weekend of 8th and 9th of December adding to the overall Christmas atmosphere that percolated through our village.

On behalf of Harmeny School can I thank everyone who helped Lauren organise the Festival, especially those who helped on the Friday to get it up and running, the Balerno Scouts for the use of their hall, the Lord Provost for visiting the part in The Ogston Hall, the Church Officers for their input, our Church Administrator, Jennifer, for helping and having her office turned into a forest. Most of all I must thank all of the exhibitors, old and new, for their ingenious decorations.

I will be able to announce the total proceeds in either the church intimation sheet or the next edition of The Bridge.

The judges' winner was the very poignant display of the Remembrance Committee's tree and the popular vote went to the tree decorated by Nether Currie Primary School. Congratulations to both, and a huge thank you to the fantastic efforts of all those organisations who entered a tree.

Harmeny School very much appreciates being involved in our community.

I think I have convinced Harmeny to take the lead in organising the festival for the next two years. In 2019 to organise it by themselves and then in 2020 to organise it in conjunction with another group with a view to the next group running it for 2021/2.

Malcolm Ogilvie

Harmeny School, Fundraising Development Group.

Harmeny Education Trust Ltd

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Fairtrade Morning 10 am - 12 noon Saturday 2 March 2019

Who's afraid of the Beast from the East? 2018's snow wiped our FT Morning until April - but Fairtrade Fortnight is back again for 2019! Millions worldwide often aren't paid enough to feed their own families despite producing food for

us. This year's national themes highlight the crisis in cocoa production, and the struggle especially for female producers/workers to make a living income. Please support the Fairtrade/Fair Trade stalls in St Joseph's Hall. Producers this year include Palestinian, Thai and Rwandan craftspeople among many others, and despite recent difficulties, still Traidcraft's food producers. Fairtrade guarantees them all fair prices, as well as paying community premiums which are applied by local people for vital education and infrastructure to enhance production and self-sufficiency. They're not 'charitable hand-outs'. Do watch this year's School Fair Trade Competition prizewinners receiving their awards around 11 a.m., admire their winning entries, and see our local children showing us what really matters.

Enjoy the coffee and famous homebaking in the Ogston Hall. Donations of baking are as always most welcome, please; someone will be there from just before 9 am, delighted to accept your baking, ideally with an ingredients list if you've time.

Look out for children's activities in the Shepherd Room, and the wonderful Smoothie Bike too, for all ages.

And finally: huge thanks to all from BPC who welcomed the Lord Provost so warmly when he came in December to present Balerno's Fairtrade Village certificate, and for all your continuing support.

Lesley Henderson, Balerno Fairtrade Village Group (a BPC Group)

BRIDGE COMMUNITY CAFÉ, Wester Hailes

I'm writing to ask for some help and to make you aware of a volunteering opportunity at the Bridge Community Café in Wester Hailes – at the start of 2019.

The Bridge Community Café has been in business since 2006. We provide a place in the community of Wester Hailes for people to come either just for the good food on offer, or to meet with others in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. In Wester Hailes, 46% of households are made up of a single person, so reducing isolation is something that's important to us. We've also got

an unusually young population – the number of pre-school and primary school children is 38% higher than the national average. That means we want to do all we can to support and help young mums bringing up their families by providing wholesome and nutritious meals at affordable prices.

The Bridge Community Café is one of a number of projects run by Holy Trinity Church in support of our local community. We've got openings for volunteer cooks on three days each week – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Volunteer cooks can sign up to one of these days each week or become part of a monthly rota. We would provide oversight by our Café Manager who has an excellent track record in devising interesting and attractive menu options. Volunteering at the Bridge Community Café is a great way to give something to a local community and also to develop skills that are much in demand. Normal hours for the cook are 9.00am – 1.00pm on Weds, Thurs and Fridays although with some notice, we can be flexible on hours.

Here's a link to see a little of what was happening at the Café earlier this year – we've done a lot to improve our menu options since then.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xEK92h6joE&t=3s>

From time to time, we have other volunteer roles available. If you know of anyone who may be interested in finding out about volunteering as a cook at the Bridge Community Café, could you please ask them to e-mail me at athomson2012@hotmail.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Angie Thomson, *Community Pastor* Holy Trinity Church Wester Hailes Edinburgh

THE GUILD

The first session of the Guild this year finished with a Christmas party organised by Anne Smith and her group. Once the festive season is over we will be ready to start the spring session with an exciting programme, the outing and finally the Strawberry Tea at the end of June.

On Wednesday January 16 Ishbel Smith will give a talk on 'Mary's Meals' followed by the annual Bring and Buy Sale. David Booth will tell us about his

holiday in the Holy Land on Wednesday 6 February which is sure to be entertaining.

There will be a special fundraising event on Wednesday 20 February. This is a concert called MUSIC FOR YOU. The concert is performed by two amazing musicians, Tricia Whyatt and Jeremy Devlin-Thorp. Both are music graduates and they entertain by singing and playing a variety of musical instruments - harp, piano and guitar. Jeremy is a jazz pianist and also a qualified music therapist. Tricia teaches piano and is pastoral assistant at Duddingston Kirk. It was in this role that she became aware of the number of lonely people who are housebound. So she started taking her harp on visits and was overwhelmed by the joy and healing benefits the music provided. As a result she and Jeremy had the idea of taking music into the homes of the elderly or housebound to brighten their day. Our concert is to raise money for one of our Guild projects - Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia - and to help fund the work of *MUSIC FOR YOU*. Entrance is free but we would welcome donations at the end of what I am sure will be an outstanding evening. Refreshments will be served in the hall. We look forward to seeing you and all your friends on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm in the Church.

Morag Lyall



The Guild Christmas Party

WHO WROTE THAT HYMN?

'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' is one of the most familiar hymns sung in our church, sung as a blessing at baptisms and weddings. Known also as the Priestly Blessing, and originally a Hebrew prayer, it has its origins in the Old Testament, in the Book of Numbers and is still used today in Jewish communities as well as our own. The Book of Numbers is a blueprint for Godly living, full of instructions. (It actually makes quite fascinating reading!) In chapter 6 v24, the Lord tells Moses to instruct Aaron and his sons on how to bless the Israelites, and gives them the words that we know so well...

'The Lord bless you and keep you...

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you ..

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace'.

The music we sing it to was written by Lowell Mason (1792-1872), who was a leading figure in American church music and the composer of over 1600 hymn tunes, including his arrangement of *'Joy to the World'*. The British composer John Rutter wrote a very beautiful arrangement of the music in 1981, and it is regularly performed in public most recently at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in 2018.

Contributed

The 'Flower Ladies'

Among the unsung Heroines

Who grace this world of ours

Are those who give and who arrange

Their Church's lovely flowers.

I wonder if they realise

The pleasure that they bring

To people who are gathered there

To worship and to sing,

Or the warm friendship that they send

When given to those who can't attend?

With thanks to Wendy and her team for all their hard work.

ROTAS:

FLOWERS

Date	Given by	Recorder
13 January	Mrs M Moyes /Mrs M Maxwell	Miss R H Stewart
20 January	Mrs I Laing	
27 January	Mrs S Robertson	
03 February	Mrs M Todd	Mrs P Tait
10 February	The Guild	
17 February	Mrs A Johnstone	
24 February	Mrs D Pride	
03 March	Mrs F McAdam / Mrs W Williams	Mrs R Murray

CARS

Date	Name	Tel	Name	Tel
13 Jan				
20 Jan				
27 Jan				
03 Feb				
10 Feb				
17 Feb				
24 Feb				
03 Mar				

Food Bank Week beginning:

	Name	Tel 449	Email
07 Jan	Mary Goodbrand	4517	jamesgoodbrand@blueyonder.com
21 Jan	Sandra Lyall	4375	sandrallyall@hotmail.com
04Feb	Moir Todd	6422	toddclan@blueyonder.com
18Feb	R Henderson	4484	richardhenderson710@btinternet.com

WHAT'S ON IN February, *continued*...

Wed, 13 th	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting in St Joseph's
Friday, 15 th	Flower Ladies Social Evening
Sunday, 17 th	10am Sunday Service followed by refreshments
Monday, 18 th	2pm Monday Club 'Friends of the Pentlands' with John Stirling
Tuesday, 19 th	7.30pm Fabric Committee in the Shepherd Room
Wed, 20 th	7.30pm Guild Fundraising Event 'Music for You'
Sunday, 24 th	10am Sunday Worship followed by refreshments 4.30pm Afrikaner Service followed by refreshments
Tuesday, 26 th	2.30pm PALM Café in St Joseph's 6.30pm Youth Group in the Ogston Hall
Wed, 27 th	7.30pm Dinner Discussion Meeting in St Joseph's

Lord God,
You live in the small and everyday things of life.
Remind us to notice and be present
At these simple yet extraordinary moments
That surround us all the time.



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Church Administrator:

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Malcolm Ogilvie: malcolm.ogilvie@hotmail.co.uk

Scott Simpson: drscottsimpson@gmx.co.uk

Treasurer: Jim Todd: bpc-treasurer@balernochurch.org.uk

Organist: Iain Whyte: iwhyte@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rollkeeper: Craig Dunlop, 449 4317 stephdunlop73@talktalk.net

Steering Group Convenor: John Burnside johnburnside@virginmedia.com

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

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Kay Coull, 449 6151 coullkay@hotmail.com

Sunday Club Secretary: Pam McKeon, 449 2541 pammckeon@bt.com

Mill Operating Unit: Ishbel Smith, ishbel.iain@blueyonder.co.uk

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

The Bridge Magazine: Lesley Burt, bpc-thebridge@balernochurch.org.uk

*All items to be included in the next Bridge, to cover March / April, should be submitted by **Sunday February 17th** please.*