



Order of Gift Service



Third Sunday of Advent

11 December 2022

10 am



Worship led by:
Rev Dr AJ Groenewald
Musicians:
Martin Petty and choir

Gathering of God's People

Time when we greet one another and prepare for worship.
Those who are able please stand for the entry of the Bible.
Words of welcome and announcements.

Good morning and welcome to our service of worship

A big thank you to everyone who organized and helped with the Christmas tree festival yesterday especially all our Mill staff and volunteers. It was a remarkable day.

Thank you for everyone who brought gifts to be distributed. I would like to explain that due to unforeseen circumstances we had to ask for monetary gifts to be distributed although we are mindful of the fact that this service was intentionally a Children's gift service. Hopefully in 2023 we would be able to restore the service to its original purpose and bring tangible gifts again!

Allow me a few announcements please:

I would like to announce the passing of one of our adherent members Grace Norma Barclay - her service of thanksgiving will take place tomorrow morning at 10 am. Please pray for the family.

Next week will be the Lessons and Carol service.

I am going for my surgical operation on Wednesday which will mean I will be out of action for a few days.

Can I please ask to promote and advertise to all young families in the village the family service on the 24th of December at 18:00?
Let us worship God (please note the congregation says the first line)

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship (2 Corinthians 9:2-3)

ALL: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Minister: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

CH4 279 Make way, make way for Christ the King

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

CH4 641 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

The Gift of giving, a reflection

Later in our service Margaret Alexander is going to read the story of the widow who gave everything she had to God. In this story Jesus teaches his disciples about GIVING. It is now how much we GIVE to God but HOW we give...

The widow gave because she was touched by God and gave HIM back everything she had. Most probably Jesus chose the widow as an example because she had no voice in their society. She would not tell anyone or boast how much she gave which is the whole point of Jesus' message. This is in line with the Old Testament view that the left hand should not know what the right hand is doing.

When we give, we should give with a grateful heart. And we should do it in such a way that we do not expect any returns – not even gratitude because God gave us so much.

BUT indeed when people GIVE so much of their TIME, MONEY and Talents to God and HIS service, it is indeed a blessing to all in the fellowship.

Sometimes we miss what others do in God's church because they are humble and expect no human gratification. BUT we should acknowledge how much their GIVING is a blessing to all of us because God blessed them with TIME talents and MONEY.

In the end of the day, when we do acknowledge how much others GIVE that we can THANK God for calling his children to serve...

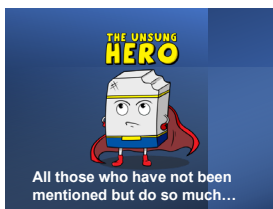
In Balerno Parish church, there is a LOT going ON and a lot of people known and unknown who do so much to the advancement of Gods mission in our village

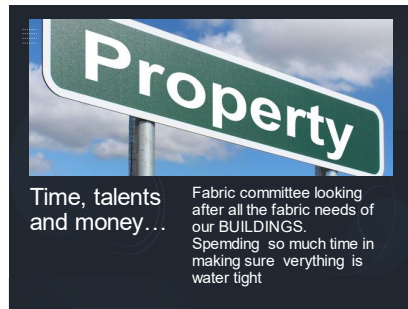
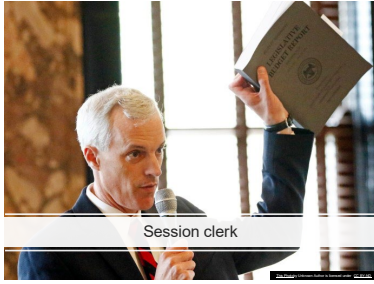
As you all know that I am a Pastoral counsellor as well which means that I often work with vulnerable individuals who often feels stuck... ONE psychological method which can be quite helpful is to help them to understand their situation by asking them to pick an "object" in the room - so that they

can physically relate to it by holding it. Sometimes it helps them better to reflect and understand the complexity of their emotions...

In the same way have I modelled in all these gifts the scale of the volunteers in our CHURCH...each gift represents the office beARERS / committees/working groups/volunteers, PAID STAFF and individuals that do so much...

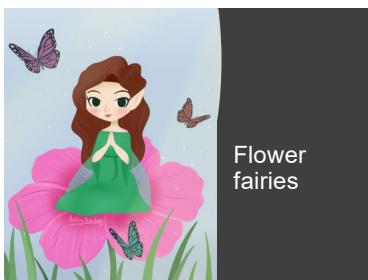
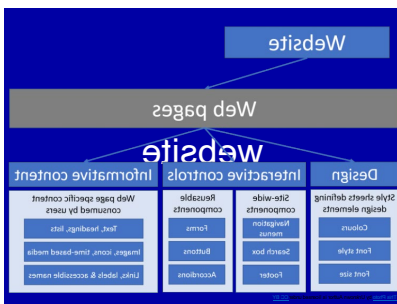
SO with grateful hearts let us acknowledge the time, gifts and talents of all our brothers and sisters whilst giving thanks to GOD...







MOU



Ladies that is responsible for the banners in the church...



The Singers ...

Choir
One bar rest
Jubilate
Quintingle
Pentland singers



Musicians



Roll keeper



Misson and outreach



Music festival







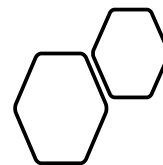


**All the
volunteers
who
assemble
and deliver
to Fresh start
the
Foodbank,
Christian Aid**



**All the
volunteers
who manage
AV for us
every Sunday**

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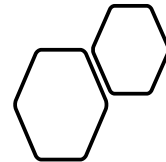


Balerno
Village
screen

Church officers

VOLUNTEER







Community involvement



Safe guarding



**Everyone
serving tea
and coffee**





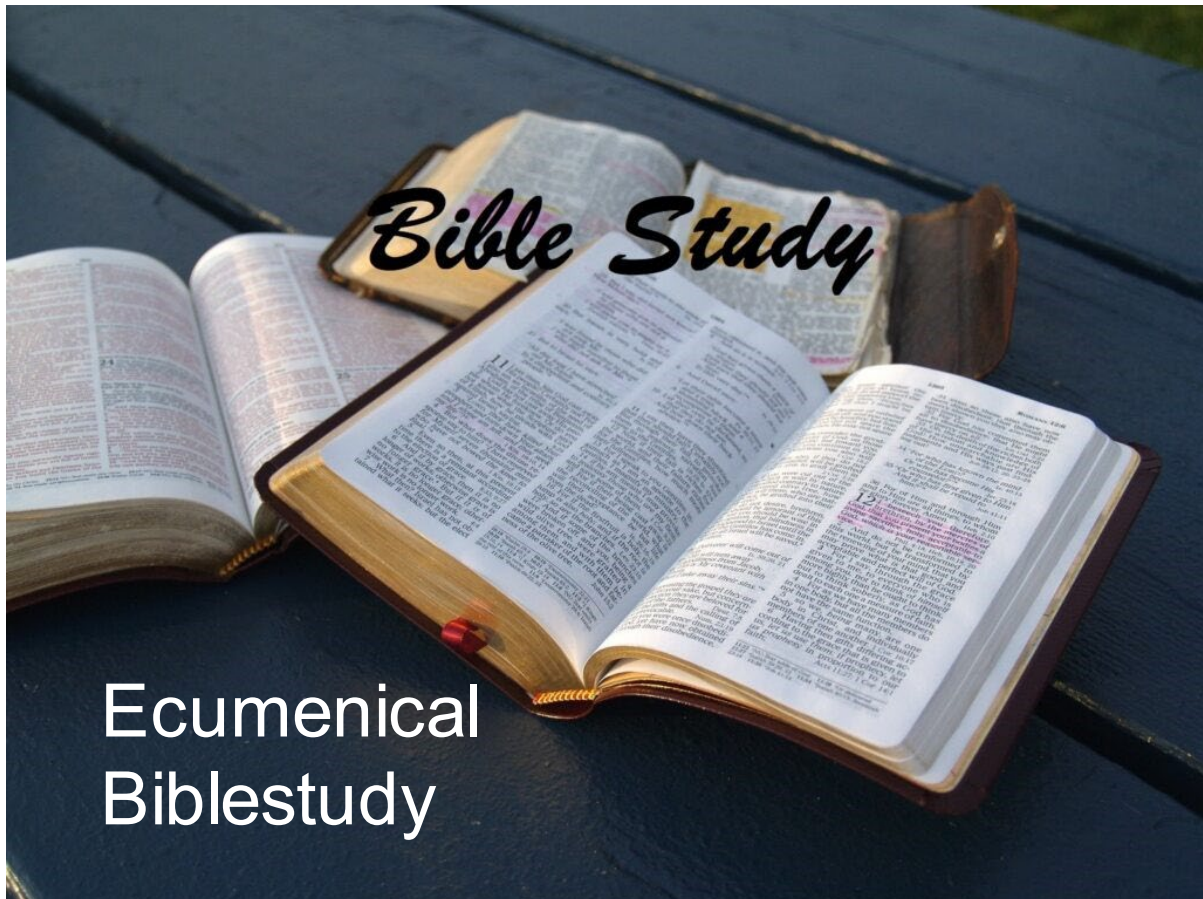
Monday club



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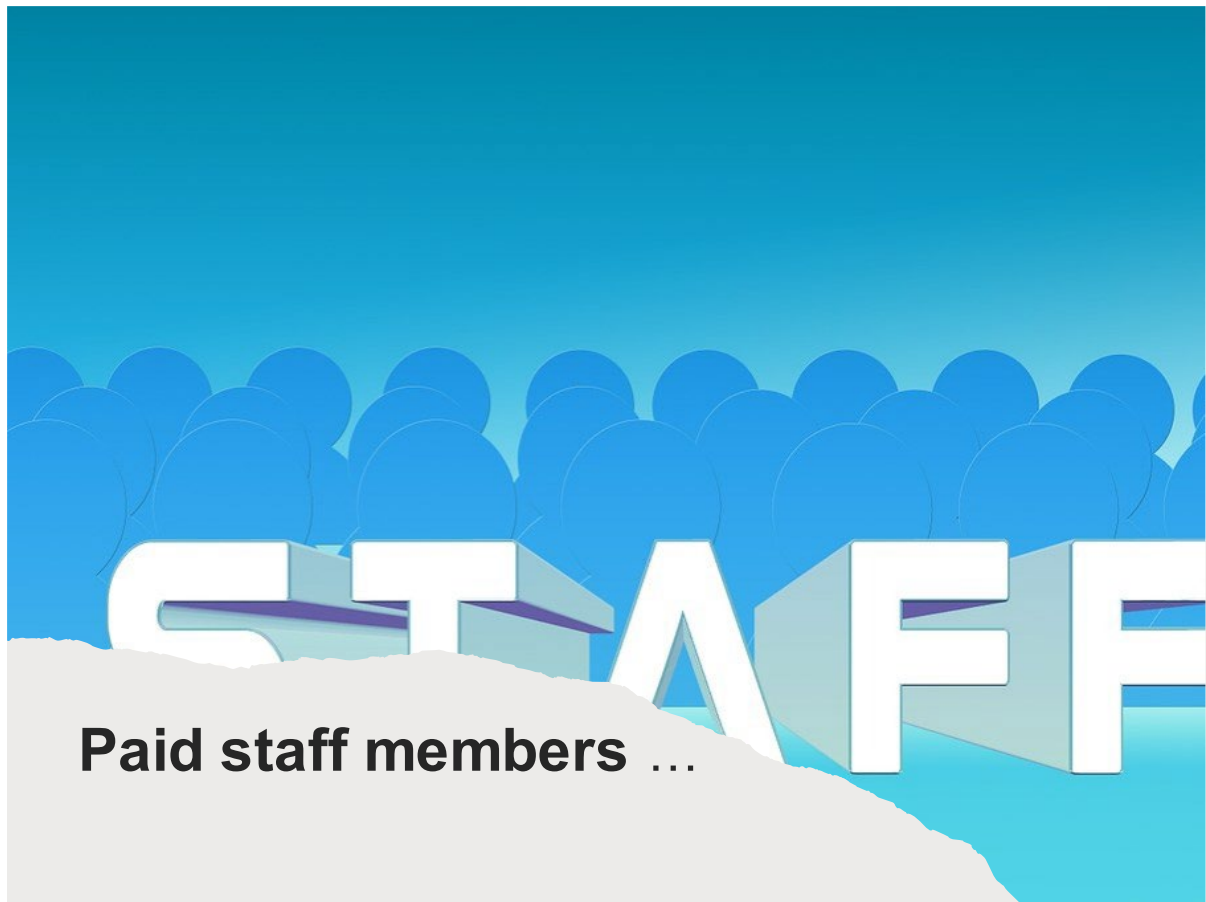


Cluster working group





**Church
lettings**





While we acknowledge all these gifts we also acknowledge all the gifts that was brought today to make this Christmas a special one for all those who need it...

Let us not forget that:

In this season of giving gifts, and the hustle and bustle the holidays often bring, it can be all too easy to overlook the greatest gift of all. The very One who brought Christmas to us. The One who lights our world and brings hope to our days.

Sometimes we just need to stop everything, and remember again, how thankful we are for our Saviour.

For He is everything to us.

When we're troubled and hurting, when we feel lonely or afraid, He is our Wonderful Counselor.

When we need to see a miracle in life, when we need someone to fight for us, He is our Mighty God.

When we forget who we belong to, when we need to be reminded that we're greatly loved and cared for, He is our Everlasting Father who loves to give good gifts to His children.

When we feel anxious and worried, when we need a reminder that our future is secure no matter what swirls around us, He is our Prince of Peace.

His very presence in our lives gives us such great reason to celebrate.

If you have big needs today, be assured, He is a big God. Nothing is too difficult for Him to handle. And He cares about all that concerns you. Maybe you've experienced deep loss this year, or you feel all alone this season, and fear or despair have gripped your heart...you can bring it to Jesus. All of it, the brokenness, the questions, and the pain.

Amidst the chaos and busyness of the season, we can find true rest in Him alone.

Immanuel...God with us.

So much reason to celebrate.

Thank you Jesus! Amen

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: Mark 12:41-44

Reader: Margaret Alexander

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Choir sings "At this time of giving"

Responding to God's word

Prayer of thanksgiving: Annabelle McCunn

CH4 286

Tell out my soul

Benediction

Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

Dear Father God

Thank you for your great love and blessing over our lives.

Thank you that your favour has no end, but it lasts for our entire lifetime.

Forgive us for sometimes forgetting that you are intimately acquainted with all of our ways, that you know what concerns us, and you cover us as with a shield.

And the blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy Spirit will be with you now and forevermore

Sung Amen, Amen, Amen

PRAYER

We thank you for the gift of Scripture
that celebrates your saving love
and witnesses to the hope of new life and resurrection.

May our lives be empowered by its message
and our hearts be emptied of all that would hold us back
from proclaiming the joy of the Christmas story,
that we and all creation
may find new boldness and new meaning
in our relationships, and in our daily living.
Amen.

You are invited to stay for tea and coffee which are served in the hall.



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH
Intimations
Sunday, 11 December 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

Fourth Advent 18 December @ 10 am Lessons and Carols

24 December @ 18:00 Christingle service

24 December @ 23:30 Watchnight service

25 December @ 10 am Christmas day service



THE MILL CAFÉ

Open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 2pm

Serving teas/coffees, home baking, snack lunches.

We are a friendly group and are *always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our team*. Pop in and see what we are all about.

THANKS TO YOU...

Thank you for all your generous contributions towards the ministry and mission of the Church. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the wallets at the end of each row.

Sort code 83 - 19 - 15
Account 00119731
Balerno Church of Scotland