

balerno



**FREE
BUT**

Blether

the magazine and newsletter of Balerno Parish Church; for the Church and for the Community



Issue number 35
July/August
2024

Malleny in June

Our new Interim Moderator introduces himself

Regular readers will have noted from last month's edition of the *Blether* that Rev Douglas Nicol has been appointed as the Interim Moderator for Balerno Parish Church as a consequence of the vacancy which has been created by Rev Dr André Groenewald's demission of office. Our Interim Moderator is responsible for the supervision of the work and worship of the congregation and had his first opportunity to meet with members at communion at the beginning of June. We look forward to his contribution to the life of the congregation and community as we move into the uncharted territory of the vacancy and the development of a closer relationship with the congregation of Currie Kirk. His first contribution to the *Blether* has been to provide us with a pen-portrait of introduction which you can read below.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Welcome to this Summer edition of 'Balerno Blether' – one in which I'm pleased to share my story as well as wishing all readers a happy Summer 2024!

As a retired, but still active, Minister, I was pleased to accept the invitation of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian to be Interim Moderator at Balerno Parish Church in the present vacancy and look forward over coming months to learning more about the village and meeting many villagers. One of the highlights of my first few weeks was attending an excellent 'Wider Achievement Evening' at Balerno High School on 6th June, and I was encouraged by the wide-ranging achievements of local young people at local, national and international level.

My own school days were spent in Fife where Burntisland was my hometown and secondary schooling was at Kirkcaldy High School. Then after studies at both Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities I embarked on my life's calling as a Minister of the Church of Scotland. The last fifty years has brought service in a variety of settings –

- Ø Four years as Youth Officer at the former St. Ninian's Centre in Crieff where I was responsible for running weekend courses for young people as well as organising Church of Scotland Summer Missions
- Ø Six years as Minister of a new congregation of the Kirk serving the growing Lochside area in Dumfries
- Ø Nine years as parish minister in the commuter village of Kilmacolm nestled in the Renfrewshire hills
- Ø Eighteen years in the Church of Scotland Offices in Edinburgh's George Street – fourteen as Secretary of the Board of National Mission and then, after re-organisation, four as Secretary of the Mission and Discipleship Council
- Ø Nine years as parish minister in Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw, a delightful rural charge in the Scottish Borders



with the Manse overlooking the village Green in Denholm.

I retired six years ago and moved back to the Fettes area of Edinburgh where I'm an active member of the St. Giles' Cathedral congregation. Apart from Sunday worship, I particularly enjoy taking some Daily Services. Every weekday we hold a short service in the Cathedral at Noon, and many of the tourists visiting Edinburgh from around the world pause during their sight-seeing to share in the service. It's a sign of Edinburgh's place on the global tourist map that 1.4 million visitors now call in on St. Giles' annually.

Among a range of other interests, I greatly enjoy volunteering at Edinburgh Zoo, helping visitors to have the best possible experience and supporting some of the activities for children and families.

In family life, my late wife, Anne – who died suddenly eight years ago – and I had three of a family,

all happily married and living in Edinburgh, Linlithgow, and Winchester – and my six grandchildren - 5 boys aged 14 to 10 and a 7-year-old girl - keep me fully occupied! A holiday highlight will be staying in a caravan near Venice in Italy for a week in July with 7-year-old Josie and her parents.

Thoughts of my holiday plans gives me the opportunity of wishing you well for the summer of 2024. It is always refreshing to take time out of our normal routines and enjoy a change – whether that be spending more time in our gardens or having a 'staycation' somewhere in the UK or travelling many miles around the world.

I trust that whatever your plans might be, that you safely enjoy a time of recreation and return to the 'daily task, the common round' refreshed.

May God's blessings be yours,

Douglas.

The Cost of Care

Over recent months there have been various contributions to this journal which have, in some way or another, related to the idea of service to others as being a key part of Christian mission.

There was no plan to do that, but the contributions seemed to write themselves as the months went by. However, the focus of these articles was all on the past while this one is about more recent

developments and the challenges which are faced by those who endeavour to bring Christian care to those who are in need.

The Church of Scotland delivers and supports a range of social care programmes in Scotland through its Social Care Council, which operates under the name CrossReach.

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support which started back in 1869. CrossReach employs more than 1,800 staff and supports some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. Assisted by volunteers, it gives support to over 11,000 people each year and is one of the country's largest providers of social services providing care for older people, help with alcoholism, drug and mental health problems and assistance for homeless people and those with special learning needs.

This social services provider has an annual expenditure of around £46 million – but it is only just over one per cent of its funding which comes directly from the Church of Scotland. Donations and legacies are essential to help continue this vital care work but most of the balance comes from local authorities.

Although CrossReach is part of the Church of Scotland, its range of services are available to people of all faiths or none at all. The Social Care Council's remit is to offer services in Christ's name and specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church to people in need, such as the elderly, children, families and those with learning difficulties. The Council also helps to identify areas of need and to

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

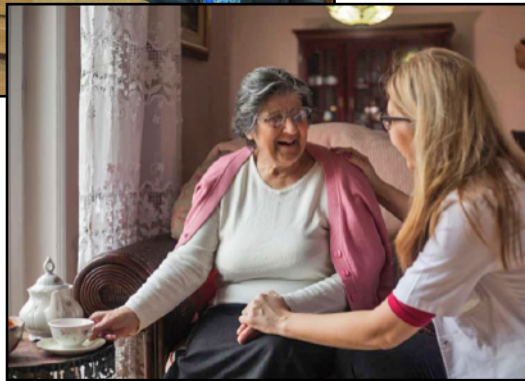
guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems in society and to make responses on issues arising in the Social Care Council's areas of concern.

Much of the publicity which is received by CrossReach is in the context of drug dependency and its associated problems, but it works away quietly to meet the needs of the elderly with 9 care homes spread across the country. It also works with young people with learning difficulties to try to aid their transition from school and childhood to the adult world. However, the Social Care Council is currently deeply concerned about the future of the care sector whose work is threatened by difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff.

At the General Assembly on 21st May, Kirk members were called on to lobby MSPs to tackle Scotland's care sector crisis, with the warning that the system is in danger of collapse. The plea came from Rev Thom Riddell, convener of CrossReach, after he had presented the Social Care Council report and revealed that low pay rates were the biggest challenge to recruitment and retention of staff across the care sector. Failure to address inadequate pay across the care sector has led to a national recruitment crisis. A new

campaign, which has been launched by the Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland working with Scottish Care and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland, is calling on the Scottish Government to take action to ensure fair pay for all social care workers.

There are those who are happy to criticise the church when it becomes in political issues and insist that the church should not get involved, but the message of the parable of the Good Samaritan was clear even if it didn't include a detailed summary of the final costs which were met by the Samaritan in looking after the traveller. It is perhaps an inconvenient truth that modern society expects some of its people to help the vulnerable out of the goodness of their hearts rather than recognising the value of their work with more realistic remuneration.



Fairtrade in Balerno

Can you believe that Balerno Fairtrade Village Group is celebrating two decades of great local support?

Worldwide, accelerating climate change makes Fair Trade even more urgent twenty years on. So locally FT has to go on trying harder, using new and well-tested ideas.

Here the Fairtrade themed planter in Balerno Main Street gets the final touches from Joyce and Lawrence reminding us all summer to please keep supporting Fairtrade whenever we shop.

There'll be a FT stall at September's Farmers' Market. Thank you for all your support!



Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine are solely the author's and do not necessarily reflect the opinions and beliefs of Balerno Parish Church.



farewell 63; hello 32 (hopefully)

By the time you are reading this the 63 bus will be within two weeks of being withdrawn as Edinburgh Council in effect transfers its subsidy to a new service 32. The 63 which was run by McGills under the Eastern Scottish brand will be replaced by Lothian Buses in what is in part a new service between Balerno and Cramond. The new service will run on an hourly basis along the same route as the 63 used, to the Gyle. There will be a connecting service from Gyle to Queensferry. It will also still be possible to access the service 40 to Livingston St John's Hospital by changing at Hermiston Park and Ride.

Many will remember the service 24 which ran direct from Balerno to St John's but which was withdrawn in March 2016 following withdrawal of West Lothian's subsidy. There is sadly no indication that that service will be renewed at any time. This means that there is no direct public transport access between Balerno and the hospitals to which residents would ordinarily be referred for medical services. Nor will the new service run on Sundays.



Do you have a minute, Lord?

I'm not sure what has just happened, Lord. I don't belong there any more. I have been looking forward to leaving school for at least the last three years and now that it has finally happened, I'm feeling a bit lost. Well, maybe not quite lost, but the routine of school was comfortable and I knew what was expected of me – most of the time – and I

had friends who I saw regularly. I didn't have to make the time for that – it just happened and I knew what to expect.

But I'm not sure what to expect now. Maybe I could have done more for my exams, but it's too late to change that now and I just have to wait for the results. I don't know what I will do if I don't get my place in college. I hadn't expected it to be quite like this and so full of uncertainties. It's just that a lot of things that seemed to be a nice idea for the future are not quite the same when they are in the present. I'm not feeling quite as confident as I thought I would.

Lord, I have been brought up with the idea that you can help. There are lots of people who don't buy that idea and think that believing in you is a combination of superstition and habit. I don't know what I really believe, but at this moment in my life, I will be happy to accept any help you can give me – even if it is just the confidence to know that I am not alone in this. Maybe that's just the thing – that I am not the only one feeling apprehensive about leaving school to face the world, but nobody wants to share their true feelings. Is that you helping me already?



Social Care in Scotland

According to Public Health Scotland's 'Insights in Social Care; Statistics for Scotland 2021/22',

- an estimated 1 in 25 people in Scotland were reported as receiving social care support and services at some point during 2021/22,
- an estimated 65,500 people in Scotland received care at home for the quarter ending 31 March 2022 (a decrease of around 4% from the same time period in 2020/21). This is equivalent to 12 people per 1,000 population. Some 33,000 people received funding towards a long stay care home place in Scotland during 2021/22, this is a decrease of around 1% from 2020/21,
- In addition, a further 3,645 people were supported during a short stay in a care home, such as for respite or for reablement during this time. This is an increase of around 67% from 2020/21,
- In 2021/22, an estimated 129,000 people had an active community alarm and/or a telecare service. This is a 1% decrease in provision from the previous year.

These statistics relate only to people who are fully or partially funded by the Local Authority. Note people entirely self-funding their care are not included. According to the Scottish Government, the budget for 2022-23 includes record expenditure of £18 billion for health and social care, with £1.6 billion of that specifically for social care and integration.

Three men went to mow

We're pleased to announce that a battery chargeable mower has been gifted to the church by one of our members, Mrs Margaret Forsyth. We needed one which would not be difficult to push – especially as much of the garden is on a slope – and the lightweight model that we've been gifted exactly fits the bill. Our picture shows Jack Lyall taking advantage of some better weather to give the mower its trial outing.

The task of our 'mower team' of George Harrison, Jack Lyall and Malcolm Ogilvie has just been made much easier and we are most grateful for the gift. If you've never walked through our garden you should take the opportunity to do so, walking the path to the right-hand side of the church – perhaps also take a rest on the Louise Duncan memorial seat and listen to the birdsong as you admire the well-manicured lawn and gardens.



Jack Lyall test drives the new mower

A Fond Farewell to Andre.

On Friday the 31st of May 2024, in the St Joseph's centre, we said a 'Fond Farewell' to our Minister the Rev Dr Andre Groenewald. Around 80 folks from the congregation and community came to an evening tinged with sadness but full of joy, as we said 'Goodbye' or perhaps 'Au Revoir', to Andre and his family after over seven years of Ministry at Balerno Parish Church (BPC).

After welcoming everyone to the venue and paying tribute to Andre we presented him and his wife Nanda with flowers arranged and donated by our Church flower committee.

The monetary donations from the congregation and friends were such that we were able to give Andre two substantial gift vouchers, an Afternoon Tea voucher and a bottle of Lindisfarne mead.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, Andre was 'shocked' by your generosity.

Andre was called by God to the charge at Balerno Parish Church in October 2016.

The following years proved to be a time of change within the National Church as the Radical Action plan and Presbytery Planning were implemented, a challenge for any Minister.

Then we had the difficult days of the Pandemic when Church buildings were closed, pastoral visits were made in gardens, funerals had limited numbers and when worship and meetings were all online.

A time when connections with each other were so important.

Andre has a real heart for pastoral care and in recent months this has been one of the elements of his ministry that many within our Church and Community have talked about; the support, the care, the comfort, the love of God that Andre has brought to so many.

As members of the Church's Pastoral Care team, we have worked closely with Andre over many years, and we know that he has fulfilled this role quietly and with integrity. Confidentiality being his watch word.

There have also been moments of sadness for Andre in the past seven years, especially when it came to the death of a Church member and friend. We know that there were many with whom he had a close bond, and who are no longer with us. Three people stand out for us: Sandra Easton, Alice Cameron and Marion Milne. They will always have a special place in Andre's heart.

Many of you will know that Andre is also Chaplain to the Currie Rugby Club and this connection has enabled him to be there for them through times of sadness and times of joy.

Andre also appreciates our national bard, Robert Burns, a line



from Tam O Shanter comes to mind when we think of Andre:

'But pleasures are like poppies spread, you seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed'

This reminds us that Happiness is contagious, when you 'seize the flower' of happiness you shed the seeds into the ground, giving them the opportunity to bloom and grow. Andre's laugh and his positive outlook on life and the joy of his faith is also infectious and spreads to those around him.

Andre has forged links within the community, with the local schools as well as the other Churches within the area.

Many of us have been encouraged and strengthen in our faith by the preaching and teaching that Andre has delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit. The various courses he facilitated at Advent and Lent as well as the online Bible Studies, have all been a source of spiritual growth for many.

The response following the news of Andre's demission from his charge at BPC is a testament to the regard in which he was held. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many and were delighted to have so

many attend the 'Farewell Evening', to wish our brother in Christ every blessing as he steps out in faith trusting in our Lord for the next part of the journey.

As well as the presentation of gifts, a tribute to Andre from the Rev Dr Anne Logan was read out, and a few words from us. The evening was about celebrating Andre's time in Balerno with a buffet meal, some wine/ soft drinks and a quiz with good friends.

We concluded our tribute to Andre by reading a couple of well-known verses from the Old Testament.

In Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11 we read:

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

We have a God who loves and cares for us. Andre was called to Balerno for a reason.

In Esther chapter 4 verse 14 we read: **And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this.**

Andre, we wish you every blessing for the future, you will be missed.

Kay Coull and Elaine McCullough, Joint Session Clerks, Balerno Parish Church,

long ladders and floor polishers;

(There's fun to be had in Fabric Committee)

The photograph below was running a close second for selection as *picture of the month*, until your editors realised that very few people were likely to be identify it, including them. But a clue is to be found in the second picture, and in particular in the top right hand corner, just beside the light shade.



Yes, it's a hatch cover. Now to access that hatch will involve the use of a cherry picker, or since this is a church matter, a long ladder, and in addition someone (it could be you) brave enough to climb said ladder, and in addition someone in whom (since you are the ladder climber) you are prepared to place absolute trust and confidence.

Now we accept that getting up there can be a little daunting; it is after all about 25' up. But once there the view is stupendous, provided you've got a torch and provided you're not looking at a vast panorama of the Pentland Hills or the Forth Valley. If either of those is what you do see then unfortunately the roof has

gone. But if it is still there then suddenly you are transported back in time to 1828 for there are the original walls of St Joseph's along with a glimpse of the roof trusses. Ignore for the time being the blue machine in the middle



So why was our intrepid steeple-jack in the roof space? The answer can be found in the June Fabric Committee Report which drily records 'There is a question over the effectiveness of the humidifier in the roof space, and whether vents are required instead.' The things your Fabric Committee members do for you...

The blue thing is, you will have guessed, the dehumidifier.

And this takes us back to the second photo (on right) which shows the self-same steeplejack who by this time has made it back to *terra firma* once again - his trusted assistant is no doubt the photographer - where the floor polisher awaited his attention, after he had first applied the wax polish to the boards.

And when that was done no doubt other adventures awaited.

For this shift our nameless intrepid he received the princely fee of £0.00.



We're all going on a....

Summer holiday

The Mill Café will be closed for its annual summer break for the first two weeks of July. This includes Farmers' Market day.

We will reopen on Tuesday 16th July.

The staff and volunteers at the Mill will all be away for a well-earned rest after finishing up on Friday June 28th. But don't worry, it's only for two weeks. We will be back before you know it, serving all of your favourites again, whether that's scones, bacon rolls, soup, or any of the other tasty snacks that we offer, not to mention our delicious Fairtrade coffee.

Until then... happy holidays!

The Mill Café, St Joseph's Centre, 2 Main Street, Balerno EH14 7EH.



VOLUNTEERING AT THE MILL

Good for your health!

Society today is crying out for volunteers. Did you know that volunteering can be really good for you?

Research has shown that there are significant health benefits, both physically and mentally, that can be derived from freely giving of your time to a good cause. While these benefits are more pronounced in the older adult there can be gains for people of any age.

By spending time in service to others, volunteers report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both given and received, which can have a stress-reducing effect. Reduction of stress can decrease the risk of heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, and general illness.

In retirement social circles can shrink and a great way to make new friends and build new support systems is to come together in a shared activity. The same could apply to people new to the area or anyone feeling a bit isolated for whatever reason.

Volunteering can provide an opportunity for people of all ages to develop social skills, to integrate into the community and to learn new skills, which is great for self-esteem. For the younger folk this can sometimes count as community service towards such awards as the Duke of Edinburgh or the Saltire award.

What better place to reap such benefits than to join the team of volunteers at The Mill Cafe in Balerno. Situated in St Joseph's Centre "The Mill Cafe" is more than just a cafe. It provides a friendly welcoming atmosphere in which people can meet to eat, drink, connect with others and build stronger community bonds. Through these connections you can learn about other activities that are happening in our thriving community.

The Mill Cafe is part of Balerno Parish Church's outreach to Balerno and beyond, a real asset to the community, and it is loved equally by its many loyal customers and the dedicated band of volunteers and staff who make it what it is.

Susan Mcfarlane (Mill Volunteer)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our Café manager : Lynsey Inglis themillatstjosephs@gmail.com OR fill out the volunteer registration form attached, pop in to the café to hand it in and have a look around.

Mill Bridge

The Mill opened at Easter of 2012. Extensive local prior Market Research identified the option of creating a relatively informal socially orientated Bridge Club within The Mill premises which kicked off on 27th February the following year. Many of the initial recruits were graduates from Douglas Piper's classes at Balerno High School. We occupied 25% of the St Josephs' hall from 10 to lunch time on a Wednesday; our early outlays for tables and Bridge equipment were provided by David Booth, the then (and now) Church Treasurer, whose vision in supporting our early steps proved full of insight.

We quickly recruited members. Our trademark was of an informal combination of playing, teaching and getting to know each other, as early fifteen minute coffee breaks soon expanded to nearly twice that. Soon we had out grown the St Josephs' Hall, moving from an extension of our quarter of the St Josephs' Hall to include an overflow into the Shepherd Room, and then to our present eventual Home in the Ogston Hall. We can accommodate around nine tables there, and we now regularly have between 30 and 40 players each Wednesday morning. Our membership list has unfortunately had to be closed for the time being at around 50 members.

The Club is a true embodiment of the purpose of The Mill as a Community Café run by the Church for the benefit of not just those who live in Balerno but also those living in the wider Water of Leith and now beyond.

We have already booked the Ogston Hall for our restart on September 4th after being closed for our summer break during July and August. Pretty soon, we will no doubt be talking about arrangements for our annual Christmas Lunch at the end of December.....!

John Howie



The Mill Cafe

A WEE GEM!

customer comments

The Mill Cafe is one of Balerno Parish Church's greatest success stories, and a major feature in Balerno's visitor offering.

We're publishing here some customer comments from Trip Advisor and other social media platforms. If you haven't visited recently make sure to make a date as soon as you can.

'We happened across the coffee shop at The Mill at St Josephs in Balerno when walking the Water of Leith. Quite a find - lovely cakes and bakes and superb coffee all at rock bottom prices. Well worth calling in to fuel up before walking . They do soup and sandwiches too.'

Trip Advisor

'The Mill is a great addition to village life. Cafe operates in the recently restored and renovated St Joseph' s centre. It is bright, attractive, has excellent 'facilities' and the staff, mainly volunteers, are friendly and helpful. Great place for a coffee and scone or a light lunch. Highly recommended!'

Trip Advisor

'The attentive staff welcomes guests all year round. If you want to enjoy enjoyable service, you should visit The Mill At St Joseph's. A number of reviewers mark that the dishes have fair prices. Clients who come to this place note that the atmosphere is calm here. Google gives it 4.8 so you can choose this spot to spend a good time here.'

Restaurant Guru

'A wee gem. Love The Mill Cafe,The volunteers are so friendly and it has a real community spirit. Cakes are also fantastic.....' '...Kid-friendliness: Nice kids play area.'



In the last few months the Mill Operating Unit (the committee that oversees and supports The Mill) has lost 3 of its members and while we've been delighted to welcome a returning member we have vacancies for 2 more members. In particular we are looking for help with banking and help with publicity. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact Martin Petty at mpetty712@gmail.com .

Copy for the September issue of the Blether must be submitted by 18th August at the absolute latest!



**THE BLETER TEAM
WISH EVERYONE A
VERY HAPPY SUMMER
BREAK!**



We're going to Perth on Saturday, my nephew's getting married.

That's nice. Getting all dressed up, then?

Yes, all the youngsters are wearing kilts apparently.

Not the girls though...?

[Sigh...] No. Pretty dresses and hats.

Do you remember when all women everywhere wore hats to church?

That's right. My mother wouldn't have set foot in a church without a hat on.

I believe St Paul wrote about women covering their heads – it was all to do with the prevailing culture in the ancient Mediterranean world.

So did the ladies of Corinth wear hats back then?

I wouldn't have thought so! But then Paul doesn't actually specify what their head-coverings should be. Could be a cloak? A shawl? A veil? Maybe even just piling up their long hair!

Could be! I suppose they all had long hair...

Oh yes, and it would always have been tied up. No flowing locks back then – loose hair signified a Loose Woman, you know! And Corinth was a pretty racy scene, in those days.

So a cultural symbol then?

Yes, but St Paul also refers to women removing their head covering when they were praying or prophesising – which suggests that they were taking an active part in the service. Which didn't happen until the 1960s in the Church of Scotland, and some denominations are still struggling with the idea!

But men don't wear hats in church, ever – in fact they make a point of removing them!

That's right, not covering their heads set them apart from the women.

Well, I'm sure there will be plenty of pretty hats at the wedding. And men wearing kilts.

You can show me some photos next week at the Mill!

The Treasurer's Thumb polling day blues

'Never mind Thumb, it'll soon be the holidays!'

Now as happens increasingly, I had dropped off, as one does when one gets to my great age. Not literally parted company of course. I hope that even the Great Man might have noticed the loss of a digit; but no, I mean it figuratively in that I had simply dozed off.

So my comatose reply, 'What's a holiday?' should be seen simply as a soporous response, rather than in any way tetchy. Maybe not too much hope that Himself would see it that way.

Well, to resume, I might have been asleep but he certainly wasn't. 'C'mon now Thumb; you know; it's seaside and sandcastles and ice cream and fun and Blackpool Rock and all that.'

By now I am wrenching myself reluctantly from dreamland. 'But you forget,' I mumble, 'But having to hold the ice cream cone and getting sticky as it all melts and runs down..... And when there's sand around, where does that get to I ask you?' Yes I was a bit tetchy. 'And no, I've never had a real taste for vanilla flavoured sand. And besides which sand ruins my thumb print, which as you know is, *faute de mieux* my identity,' I know, I was losing the place now. The trouble is I do remember, sandy ice-cream, donkey ears flapping round me as I grip the reins as well as the disintegrating cone, shortly before the rain comes down in torrents washing the melted ice cream onto me where it congeals. Picture it; a thumb covered completely in congealed sticky ice cream. Not nice.

'I mean how would I get on if I had to present a thumb print in order to cast my ballot. There I am sans Photo ID, sans polling card! But then I don't get a vote do I? You'll take along a mug shot on 4th of July and Bob's your uncle, cross in the chosen place and off for a Guinness, while I languish here or wherever you hsaoppen to be, completely without a voice; disenfranchised.'

'What's that Thumb? Voting? When? What for? Thank you thank you for reminding me! I must be off and hie myself hence to the polling station. What's that? In St Joseph's? Right then I'm on my way. How can I ever thank you enough for reminding about my duty to vote!'

Well I could have suggested several things he might have done, but by the time I woke up he'd gone, disappeared. Woke up? Oh not again. Dropping off midway through a

Woof, woof...

My dear friends, Believe me, I am absolutely exhausted. There was me thinking that holidays were supposed to be relaxing! We journeyed on many different roads to get to this Kent place – it took eleven hours (including comfort stops for me to exercise my back leg) and there was no opportunity to explore the territory when we did stop – just a couple of biscuits and a dish of (by then) stale warm water. This place had better be good after all this trouble.

When we did eventually arrive I was expecting to relax somewhere warm and snuggle up on my bed, but no, we seemed to spend ages just parked in a line of other vehicles – to what purpose I knew not, but this was getting beyond a joke. Suddenly we were moving again but this time driving up a large ramp and into the body of a big ship. I gave a few well timed howls, but sadly, to no effect. We left the car in this garage on the ship and went up a lot of steps into a large room. At least here was a large array of food from which people (not dogs) could choose. My lot bought theirs and we found a table at which to sit. Fortunately I was well provided with tit-bits which eased the pain a little. Not long after there was a deafening sound of a hooter and we were moving.

I was taken up to the main deck to stretch my legs and get some welcome fresh air. Apparently we are going to somewhere called Calley? (no, not Thistle) but whoever painted the sign 'Calais', clearly needs to learn to spell! We passed several very small inflatable boats crammed with people – and I grumbled about our ship!! Soon we were docking (please tell me this is the end of the journey) and we were back in the car and leaving the boat. What puzzled me was that we came off facing the same way we embarked. Don't know who turned all the vehicles round on the way but he was some driver.

The hotel we spent the night in was most comfortable – everyone was nice but the big problem was that they were all foreign!. My fellow canines were quite snooty – nothing like the pals I have at home. Crossing the road was tricky – everybody was driving the wrong way – how one is supposed to keep safe I don't know.

Well, that was some holiday – coming back, the ship was almost bouncing about in the water – I have no idea who was driving but if ever there was a case for an 'L' plate that was it. We had a short stroll along the promenade, for which we felt much better and set off for home.

Mercy Bocoop everyone,





Picture of the month - June 2024

Well, once again no-one has stepped forward to claim the free coffee for the May pic of the month.

It was of course the memorial gate at Malleny House, lying to the north of Lymphoy road opposite the white cottage.

This month's may be a little more challenging so we don't expect any correct answers.

Put it this way this oughtn't to be a dead end, and with a bit of a scramble going the other way it isn't; but please



July/August 2024 Calendar

Unless otherwise notified Sunday worship is at 10.00am every Sunday, at Balerno Parish Church

July / August events

4 July - GENERAL ELECTION

St Joseph's in use as Polling Station
dont forget your ID!

22 July- Fairtrade Group Meeting

Every Tuesday 7th May to end August - 10.30am to 12 noon

Pop-up cafe at Gibson Craig Hall

Every Friday - 9.15am - Fitness class - Ogston Hall -

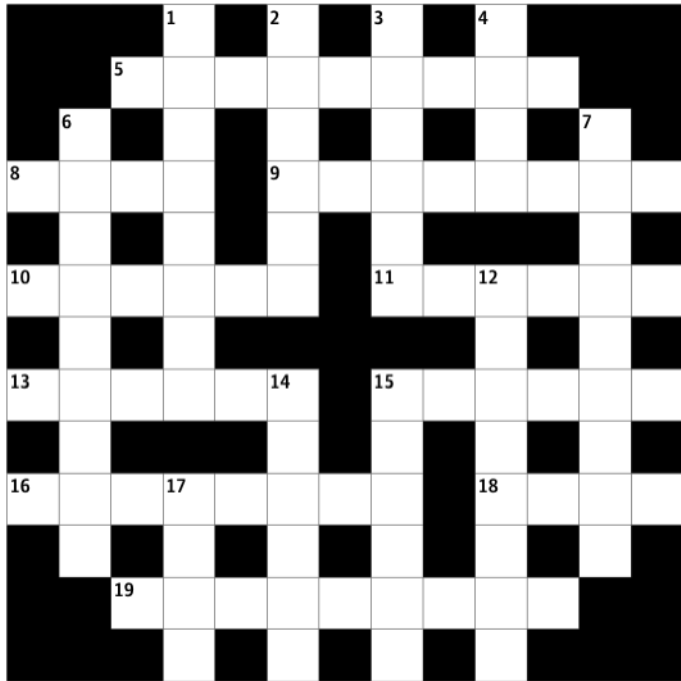
£7 per class; 1st class FREE; drop in or pre book

BARREFUSION

Every Saturday 7 May to 28 September - 2pm to 4pm

Coffee Stop at Currie Kirk

July/August 2024 Crossword



Useful Numbers

Interim Moderator. Rev Douglas Nicol
Church Administrator (Church Office)

Pam McKeon 449 7245
bpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk

Session Clerks -

Kay Coull 449 6151 or 07415 506947
Elaine McCulloch 449 5876
balerno.sessionclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Booth 449 3516
bpc-treasurer@balernochurch.org.uk

Roll Keeper;

Pam McKeon 449 2541
pammckeon@bt.com

Fabric Ctte:

Dilys Conway 449 7245
dilysconway@blueyonder.co.uk

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:

Kay Coull 449 6151
coullkay@hotmail.com

Mill Café:

Lynsey Inglis
themillatstjosephs@gmail.com

Balerno Blether:

Lesley Burt 449 4314
lesley.burt70@gmail.com

July/August 2024 solution



For the time being please refer all pastoral issues for which you might wish to speak to a Minister to either of the Session Clerks, Kay Coull or Elaine McCulloch. For all other issues on which you might have wished to speak to the Minister please contact the Church Administrator.

Across

- 5 Policeman's club (9)
- 8 Suspended (4)
- 9 Ta-ta (6-2)
- 10 Spoken communication (6)
- 11 Settle comfortably (6)
- 13 Constantly (6)
- 15 Sea trip (6)
- 16 Sinister controller (8)
- 18 Reserve (4)
- 19 Fourfold (9)

Down

- 1 God heard (anag) – Irish port (8)
- 2 Informer (6)
- 3 Certain winner (4-2)
- 4 Deep feeling – music genre (4)
- 6 Adolescent infatuation (5,4)
- 7 Secret and illegal co-operation (9)
- 12 Bicker (8)
- 14 Fragments of metal, glass or rock (6)
- 15 In-crowd (6)
- 17 The sense you were born with! (4)