



# The Proclaimer

The Magazine of Burnhead Parish Church

May 2019

## **God in the Mountains – Biblical, Physical & Spiritual Part 2**

In September 2018 I took three weeks Study Leave and include in this magazine the second part of my journal. It was for me the first time I had taken any Study Leave and it gave me a chance to spend some quality time with the Lord.

**Objective** - To examine why the mountains were so significant Biblically, to explore the benefits we can receive from meeting with God in the mountains today, and to discern where God wants me to take my ministry in the future.

### **Day Five – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September – The Cobbler**

Though feeling a wee bit weak, as I was sick during the night, I was up early and drove to Arrochar to tackle ‘The Cobbler’ or to give it its Sunday name ‘Ben Arthur’. This mountain presents a real test in my preparation for the big three. At 884m (2,900ft), it is only 100 feet shy of being a Munro and commands much respect from climbers and hill walkers alike.

I set off from Arrochar car park at 9.00am, still feeling a little tender but wanted to take the weather opportunity to climb this formidable mountain. The start was good going as I ascended a zig-zagging well trodden path and cleared the tree line and headed up the valley towards the summit. I was walking with the aid of sticks and was thankful for them as they took the strain off my knees.

I set off from Arrochar car park at 9.00am, still feeling a little tender but wanted to take the weather opportunity to climb this formidable mountain. The start was good going as I ascended a zig-zagging well trodden path and cleared the tree line and headed up the valley towards the summit. I was walking with the aid of sticks and was thankful for them as they took the strain off my knees.

Two hours into the climb I came to the decision point – a fork in the road that gave two choices to reach the summit – go left and climb straight up – go right and walk round the mountain and ascend from the rear on a gentler path. I chose to go left – let's face it head on – the climb was hard, very steep at times and a number of other walkers passed me as they ascended much quicker than I. Two of them were Americans, and because of their youth the David Bowie song, 'Young Americans' sprang into my head and I began to sing it to myself – much to the relief of the other walkers around me.

*I thought for a while about the music we listen too – in particular the songs of faith that we sing in our deepest times that seem to give us strength and courage to go on – e.g. the black Africans portrayed in many American slave films – and I wondered what songs, if any, the early Christians sang in the Coliseum, and then there is the mystery of all the Biblical characters who went up mountains at different times throughout history – what songs did they sing to give them strength – I continue up the mountain, now singing 'O praise the name of the Lord our God', as I go.*



It's noon by the time I reach the summit – three hours of mostly moderate climbing has left me extremely tired, so I eat some lunch. The summit is very exposed and it reminds me that I need to get a good pair of gloves before the big

three – I also need to pack a small first aid box as I have skint one knuckle on the way up but have managed to stem the flow of blood.

I chat to a group of young climbers who ask me to take their group photo – they all held up three fingers and when I asked the significance they said this was their third summit today – and they planned to climb another two before darkness fell – to say I was reminded of my age would be an understatement.

After a rest of about twenty minutes I start my descent to find that my left knee begins to hurt as soon as I try to go down. I descend by the less steeper route but the going is very slow as I lean heavily on my sticks to take the pressure



off my knee. At one point the lower section of my right stick shatters and flies off down a ravine – I go even slower and start to wonder what it would be like to just stop and get the next person that passed to bring help – this thought quickly passes as I work out a method of descent that can only be described as sideways in nature.

I was reminded of the tales we used to tell foreign visitors of the lesser spotted Haggis that could run round the mountains very quickly because it had shorter legs on one side than the other. I felt like that haggis as I descended the steep steps, then found that if I walked backwards down the steps it took the pressure of my sore knee. It may have looked weird but it worked and I was able to keep going. I realised I would need new sticks and some kind of knee support before my next climb.

As I continued to descend I felt some sense of achievement in reaching the summit but knew there was another obstacle to be defeated – the traffic wardens at Arrochar – my car park ticket would run out at 15.02 precisely and the horror stories I had heard of the enthusiasm of the traffic wardens to issue fines spurred me on to descend as quickly as I could.

Yesterday I had wondered over the return of the sound of humanity as I descended from the Steeple, today it was without doubt a welcome noise as I pressed on. Walking along the many straight paths was ok, it was only in steep descents and in stepped sections that I had a problem.

At 14.31pm I walked into the Arrochar car park and drank the rest of my water before heading back to base for some food and rest. Legs tired but not sore.

### **Day Six – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Rest / recovery day – shopping for new poles and gloves.

### **Day Seven – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Legs not sore so went for walk round Strathclyde Park.

## Mount Snowdon – 1,085m (3,560ft)

### Day Eight – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September

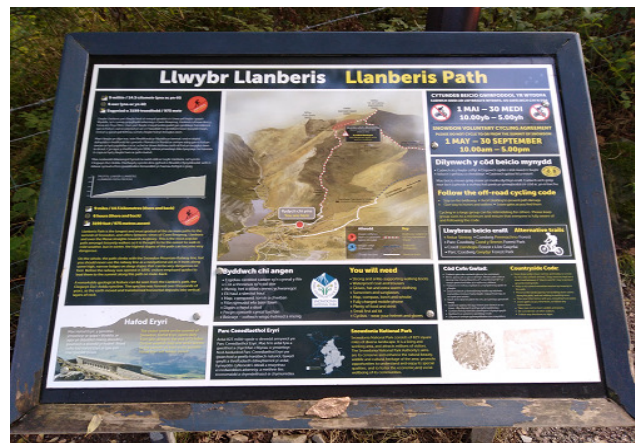
Drove to Llanberis, in North Wales, at the foot of Mount Snowdon and checked into a B&B. Felt like an alien as the locals were all conversing in their native Welsh language. *The thought came to me that this may be how those not used to religious language feel when they come to Church. How alien do words we take for granted sound to those new to our language.*

### Day Nine – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Woke to misty rain and decided to postpone my start time for climbing Snowdon as weather forecast said the drizzle would lift later in the morning.

Set off at 10.30am with what felt like a wandering tour round the village before I found the marked start point for Llanberis Path.

*(How well do we signpost the start point for those who are seeking God. A fresh look at the entry point to Church services and buildings might be a useful exercise for all churches).*

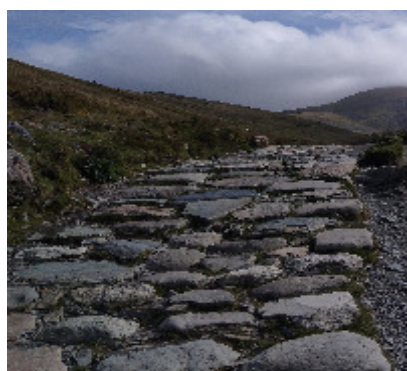


Cloud level was low but it had stopped raining and I hoped that the cloud level would lift as I climbed.

*As Snowdon has a railway that runs to the summit, I thought there might be a chance to descend on the train to save my knee.*

As I climb up a well-trodden and maintained path the cloud level lifts and my hopes of a view from the summit increase.

The higher I ascend the more I appreciate the wonder and beauty of God's creation



I encounter a number of sections that are more like steps than pathway and as I ponder how painful they will be when I am on my way down, the thought that comes into my head is, "Why is this not getting any easier?"

The last section before the summit is particularly steep and stepped.

On reaching the summit I was less than thrilled to find myself in the clouds and to see a notice saying that all single standby tickets down the mountain on the trains had been sold for the rest of the day, therefore if I wanted to get down I would have to walk.



*Thoughts that came to my mind –*

- 1. This was no quiet place to be alone with God. There were lots of people on the summit who had come up on trains – some looked a wee bit sheepish about going up to the cairn, especially if someone arrived who had obviously reached this point the hard way.*
- 2. How do I feel about the people going up on the train, are they cheating? Reminded of the parable of the vineyard workers from Matthew 20*
- 3. Wrong to judge the paths of others – all paths ultimately lead to God because we will all stand before his Judgement Seat. Not all paths will however, lead to Heaven*

The beginning of my descent was inspirational – decided to follow the train tracks, thus avoiding the steep stepped section near the summit. *Sometimes God calls us to travel the path less well trodden and we often assume that it will be harder – but that is not always the case – when we walk with the Lord we may well find the alternate path easier.*

While I was off the normal pathway, I gained some solitude from the many walkers and found some quiet time to pray and thank God for his wondrous creation

After I re-joined the normal pathway, the rest of the descent was uneventful and easier going than I had expected. I think partly because of the knee support I was wearing and the new sticks I had bought

Thought on the way down, “things are getting easier.”

Safely back down at 3.30pm, tired but not in pain – well earned ice cream to celebrate!

*Rev Les Brunger (Minister)*

## **Session Clerk – Stewart Grady**

Hi Folks

I was sitting not really knowing what to write for this edition of the Church Magazine - then I thought of the wonderful time we had when we attended the Spiritual Retreat at Inchinnan Bible centre. The whole weekend was wonderful, from the minute we arrived till home time on the Sunday.

We had fun, tears and time to relax, simply getting to know God, each other (and ourselves) that little bit better. Rev Brunger organised the weekend and I would like to record a huge thanks to Les for the hard work undertaken to ensure a great weekend was had by all. I know that everyone there had a lovely time. This was evident as a we did not want to go home when the time came. We had time to be with God without the worries of everyday life.

We shared our life journeys, reflecting on where we felt we had gone wrong and how we could do better. We had art and craft sessions where we could relax and have some quiet time with God Those sessions were wonderful as we reflected on the objects we made or decorated. The weekend came to a close at around 4:00pm on the Sunday afternoon after a lovely Communion service, lunch and a few more group sessions.

There is something really special about this weekend, and if you have not been before, please try and attend at least one in the future. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

I will finish with a few words from Hebrews 10:23

*"Let us hold on to the hope we say we have and not be changed. We can trust God that he will do what he promised"*

God Bless, Stewart.



## **Property Report – Douglas Pearson**

The Property Committee recently produced the Manse Schedule and Property Church & Hall Register for attestation, which were passed by presbytery.

Recent works carried out within the church include...

- A new heater fitted in the extension.
- The carpet on the chancel was steam cleaned, however needs some more work.
- The Manse maintenance program has been drawn up for next 7 years with the assistance of Carol.
- One of the boilers broke down and two temperature sensors had to be replaced.

Other than that the property is in a good condition and we will continue to work to keep it that way.

I would be very pleased if faults could be entered in property book on side of cupboard outside kitchen, that way we can deal with issues as they arise. This also applies to toiletries when required.

Property would like to thank all who tend to the upkeep of gardens and all the surrounding areas of the church.

In addition, the cleaners who keep the interior off the Church and halls clean to a very high standard.

Douglas Pearson,

Property Convenor

## The SonHouse

In our last magazine article we told how we were looking at God's creation through to the story of Noah. The children had great fun decorating one of the SonHouse boards with the seven days of creation - as you can see from the photo quite a masterpiece!

The other picture is of Noah's Ark showing photos of the children which gets updated each year.



Our annual trip is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June and, once again, we're going to Heads of Ayr Farm Park. This fun park has so much to offer from the animal zone, indoor & outdoor play areas, jumping pillows, trampolines & much more. This is a great opportunity for families to get to know one another & is enjoyed by both old & young. All children connected to the church go free with the adults paying the park entrance fee which is discounted because of our block booking.

The following week, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> is our 'presentation of books' when we hope as many of you will come along to this family service. This will also be our last day before we finish for the holidays.

We wish you all a lovely summer break & look forward to seeing the children when we start back on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

God Bless, Anne Morton

## Young People & Youth

The Young Team is here to help the youth of the church and the community. We're just starting up and hoping to encourage more young people to come to church and to help run the summer club and the other young people groups if we can. We are having an open day on Saturday 18th May for people of S1 to S5 age group. We are all looking forward to it and hope all goes well!

*Hi from the Bible Class. We are all doing well and working well together. We recently had our Nomadic Night - it was a great success, we all had a great time and are so looking forward to doing it again. If you are interested in taking part let us know. It's really good and it helps everyone to mix and get to know each other better - and most of all it's great fun!*

The YFC are doing well. Recently, we have been raising funds for our weekend away in September and towards a defibrillator for the church. We would like to thank everyone for their support and donations. The ladies who did the knitting for the Easter hats, wee chickens and the baskets. Also, the lovely Easter basket and large egg donated for the raffle. We really appreciate all your support. We will be holding a mock auction on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June to raise funds for the defibrillator and the advancement of the Youth work in the church - we hope to see you there!

God Bless, Liz McLaughlin

## Pre-5 Praise

This was a group initially created to reach out to the children in our community, the ones who don't attend church and were not getting an opportunity to learn of Jesus' love for them.

In fact it does, but I could also say it is a group of adults who use the children in our care and our community as an excuse to join with them in song, play, listening to bible stories and to do a wee bit of art.

So far this year we have explored Creation, The Feeding of the 5,000 and The Good Samaritan (to name but a few.)

We meet on a Tuesday morning between the hours of 10 and 11.30am, (term time) and we even get a wee cuppa tea!

If you have a child you would like to share the good news with, please come along and join us. Alternatively, if you don't have a child of the correct age and want to join the fun we adults are having, why don't you join our team of helpers. It's a good excuse.

God Bless You

Carol B



## Pre-5 Praise - A Parent's Perspective

I have been going along to the Pre-5 Praise play group with my little boy Lewis (17 months) for about a year now.

The format for each session is designed to allow the kids to have some free play time while mums, dads, grandparents, and carers have a much needed catch up but also structured bible story time, sing-a-long, arts & crafts and audience participation role play.

Each week the kids have so much fun whilst also learning. Lewis particularly enjoys Carol's story time, where she adapts valuable lessons from the bible into child friendly easy listening stories. He also loves snack time!

All the friendly helpers ensure that each week goes smoothly and knows each child by name, which is rare at play groups. Lewis' social interactions and ability to pay attention has greatly improved since attending Pre-5 Praise every week. Of course it helps for the adults to have a little fun along the way too - here's the big kids in a lego competition!



Kirstie Jameson, Lewis' Mum.

## Palm Sunday 2019 – Jack Bartholomew

This year's Palm Sunday procession was the 14th featuring Seonaid the donkey. We started with a short service at Market Square before walking down Burnhead Street to the Church, Seonaid leading, celebrating the entrance of Jesus, riding on a donkey, into Jerusalem. The donkey was symbol of peace, those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The mention of a donkey in Zechariah 9:9-10 fits the description of a king who would be "*righteous and having salvation, gentle.*" Rather than riding to conquer, Jesus would enter in peace.



It was in 2006 that Edith Ferguson, our Musical Director for many years, asked Elma Cunningham if she could provide us with a donkey to take part in our Palm Sunday service. Elma brought Seonaid and has returned with her very year since then.

We thank Elma and her family who have gone to a lot of effort to bring Seonaid to Burnhead and she has already said she would continue to do this as long as is possible.



***My Dear Friends at Burnhead Parish Church,***

***Once again it was a great pleasure to lead you to Worship on Palm Sunday. It is now a permanent date in my diary. I really look forward to meeting you all and be part of an important day.***

***Thank you for the carrots, flowers and hearty donation. I have shared the carrots with my stable mates. The flowers are in the window and I can see them when I pass each morning and afternoon going to and from my paddock with my donkey friends. I will put the donation towards our food & think of you all when we eat it.***

***Once again my heart felt thanks, and God willing we'll meet again next year.***

***May God Bless You All***

***Seonaid, Burnhead's Palm Sunday Donkey***

## **PRAYER TEAM**

During the family service on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, the prayer team introduced themselves to you and asked if you would like to join our newly created prayer circle. We are now were overjoyed to welcome eleven new members to the circle. If you missed this opportunity and would like to join us, please don't hesitate to speak to myself or any other member of the team.

We also spoke about the prayer lists, which are situated on the table next to the piano at the back of the church sanctuary. These are updated monthly and are available from the first Sunday of each month for you to take home and add the people named to your personal prayers. If you have someone in your own life, who you would like the congregation to pray for, please fill in a blank card (which are to be found on the same table) and leave it in the wooden box provided.

During the service, our minister spoke to us about 'Try Praying.' I hope you all found the booklets helpful and have now passed them on to someone else. If you want to learn more about this initiative it can be found at, [www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk)

If you would like to know more about the prayer team or think you would like to join us in thinking of more opportunities to enhance prayer in and around our church please don't hesitate in coming forward, you would be welcomed with open arms.

God Bless You,

Carol Brunger



## **RECYCLED TEENAGERS**

Recycled Teenagers is a group for the older generation who are still young at heart. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month between the hours of 1:30pm and 3:00pm in the Jubilee Hall. We start with tea, cakes and biscuits before proceeding with gentle chair exercises which is good fun. We then play board games, bingo, reminisce or have a Speaker. Everyone has a good time and we share much laughter. All are welcome and we would be delighted to welcome you.

Elizabeth Green

## **THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

The Girls' Brigade numbers continue to remain healthy. We have enjoyed our annual camp to The Bible Centre in April and look forward to our display and presentation of awards on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone is welcome to attend should you wish to come and support the girls.

We are also holding a ladies night on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Burnhead Bowling Club. If you could support us in any way, it would be much appreciated. We are looking for raffle prizes but more importantly would love all the ladies to come along. Tickets cost £4 and will be available from any Girls' Brigade officer.

Michelle Miller

Captain

**the girls' brigade**  
girls' lives transformed  
god's world enriched



## **ANNUAL STATED MEETING 2019**

The Annual Stated Meeting was held on 19 March 2019 in the Jubilee Hall. The meeting was well attended by members of the church.

The Chairperson, Les Brunger opened the meeting with a bible reading and a prayer.

The first item on the agenda was the minutes of the last Annual Stated Meeting held on 13 March 2018 and Stewart Grady, our Session Clerk presented them. The minutes were approved and seconded with no amendments.

The next item on the agenda was the Financial Report which was presented by the Treasurer Margaret Muir who also provided a Statement of Accounts to attendees. Margaret advised as part of her report that the Annual Accounts had been completed, audited and sent as required to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

It was noted that in relation to WFO envelopes, responsibility for this had passed from Sandra Roy to Allison Brownlee and that in regard to Gift Aid responsibility had passed from Helen McKellar to David Green. Margaret took the opportunity to thank Sandra and Helen for all the work they had done over many years in regard to WFO and Gift Aid and thanked Allison and David for taking over these roles.

She also expressed her sincere thanks to the members who provide assistance to her, particularly with the counting of the offerings on a Sunday.

The Chairperson thanked Margaret on behalf of the Congregation for her diligence in managing the church's accounts and for presenting her reports over the years.

The next item was the Kirk Session Report which was presented by Stewart Grady.

Stewart reported that in 2018 the church roll had shown a very slight increase from 262 to 263. There were 45 on the Supplementary Roll. Stewart also advised that 5 people joined the church as new members and 1 by profession of faith. Sadly 5 members had passed away.

Stewart went on to report on the church activities that took place in 2018. It had in his opinion been a very busy but successful year and

expressed his thanks to all who gave of their time and effort throughout the year.

In particular, Stewart advised that in 2018 there were two major events Firstly the opening of the Jubilee Hall and secondly the change in the church constitution to Unitary Authority.

Stewart thanked all involved in the building of the Jubilee Hall and in particular Douglas Pearson for his time, all his efforts and determination to ensure that the building of hall was completed successfully. The Jubilee Hall will he felt be a great addition to the facilities here at Burnhead and is certain to be well used.

Stewart also thanked all members of the congregation for their cooperation during the change in the constitution and he particularly thanked the members of the Congregational Board for all their tremendous work over the years.

Finally Stewart thanked Les Brunger for all he continues to do for Burnhead Parish Church and his continuing commitment to delivering God's Word.

The next item on the agenda was the Chairman's Report –

Les first of all stated that 2018 had been a year of change for all at Burnhead.

He referred to his period of study leave which he regarded as three weeks of spiritual time with the Lord and he looked forward to continuing sharing his experiences in the church magazine.

He stated that the change in our constitution was an opportunity to empower and for the members to take ownership of the church.

Les went on to refer to some of the many activities carried out this year and to those happening this year. He spoke of our commitment to the Viewpark Christmas Hamper Appeal. He looked forward to this year's Kids Club, where the theme is Rocky's Place and to the Youth Fellowship weekend in September.

He finished by restating our commitment to making Burnhead Parish Church a friendly welcoming church.

He confirmed that the date of next ASM will be 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

After thanking again the members for attending, he closed the meeting with a prayer.

## **The Guild**

In the Guild we have just finished the first year of our theme – One Journey, Many Roads.

The first year concentrated on 'Seeking the Way'. This included journeys from the Bible based on faith and hope. They show how God takes people to new places and guides and supports them with visions and signs and very deep trust. It is about the experience of travelling, the excitement of discovery, the companionship, challenges and solutions with God.

At the beginning of 2019 we had a little difficulty with speakers but with the ladies' patience and good humour this was overcome. Personally I thank all the ladies for being willing to join in the last minute activities like quizzes – You're a grand bunch!

We enjoyed listening to a few new speakers, especially Rev. De Beer and Councillor Colin Cameron. Rev. De Beer, minister at Bellshill Central Church spoke about the beginnings of his journey of faith and his life in South Africa. It was fascinating. He said that he'd enjoyed himself and would like to come back for Part 2. He would be most welcome. Councillor Cameron spoke about the work of a local councillor as well as telling us about himself. He answered questions in a very open and honest way. He pointed to the right places or people to find answers if he didn't know.

Once again we enjoyed a talk by Mr McLaughlin. This time he spoke about the big house that existed in Bairds Avenue near where the Gardens are today. His well presented talk kept us attentive.

Rev. Caryl Kyle spoke on our theme Seeking the Way. She did a little Places of Scotland quiz before she started. I'm sad to say that I got some of the answers wrong!! But it was in good fun.

Rhetta McLean kindly came and spoke to us about part of her

life journey. She spoke about the latest changes in her life – new home, an operation, changes in her church. It was a timely reminder to us that *“there is a time for everything under the sun”*. We thank Rhetta for so graciously visiting us over the past five years.

Our last speaker was our Guild Elder Lesley Mills. We wish to thank Lesley for all her practical support and advice over the past year. Despite her personal and family needs, she has given time to help our small Guild. We thank her very much for being a friend; for her commitment as our elder; for her interest and advice. May the Lord continue to bless her and make her such a blessing to others.

Looking back over the year, the one big disappointment was the utter lack of support for the World Day of Prayer service in Burnhead on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. It was the most poorly attended of all the World Day of Prayer services that have been held here in Burnhead. I thank the handful of people who came very much. Grateful thanks to our minister and the ladies who served the tea. This however raises the questions - Should this service continue? Why did so few come? We have plenty to think about!

The formal Guild session is now over. My sincere thanks to all eight of our Guild members for their faithfulness, commitment and help each Monday night. Thank you especially for the fun and laughter and patience. Special thanks to Ann Russell, our treasurer for looking after the money, keeping accounts and organising our treats. Many thanks to the tea ladies for the welcome cups of tea.

We continue to meet informally on Monday nights till the end of June.

We aim to ‘Seek, Serve and Follow Christ’! May each of you enjoy your summer holiday. May the God of Peace go with you as you travel on your way.

**S Roy**

## **Financial Report for Year to Date for our Church.**

Accounts for 2018 completed and sent to Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Presbytery also receive a copy to audit and check.

We ended 2018 with a surplus of receipts over payments of £2982.

We had ministry and mission which is our contribution to the worship and mission of Church of Scotland. 2018 it was £32,340. For 2019 it is £34,235 this is paid monthly.

Every month we have normal expenses of insurance, council tax, ministry and mission, organist fees, stationery and Sundry expenses.

I will not list in expenses unless something out of the norm.

In January we had income of £3,991.01 this was made up off WFO envelopes, open plate offerings, standing order directly to Bank as offerings, tea on a Sunday after service donations, AA and AI Anon donations for use of premises, and a hall let. This includes our monthly retrieval offering. This is the norm for monthly givings every month.

We spent £5,140.06 in January.

This was made up of ministry and mission £3,476.70, organist fees council tax Church insurance. We also pay an annual fee to presbytery of £951.

We had a deficit of £1,148.05 for January.

### **February**

Income £3,223.67

Expenditure £4,696.38

We had no council tax or Presbytery dues in February.

Deficit of £1,472.71 for February.

### **March**

Income £4218.87

Expenditures £6,381.12

We had Gas £985.56 and Electricity £275.13 bills this month. Quarterly

expenses for ministers travel expenses of £496.50. Photo copier expenses £174.99.

Deficit of £2,162.25 for March.

### **April**

Income £3,487.34

Expenditure £4,289.56

Only extra expense this month was the Easter breakfast expenses of £100 and a £30 donation to the donkey for Palm Sunday.

Deficit £802.56 for April

Our standard expenses monthly are ministry and mission £3,410 council tax £210.47 insurance £189.32 organist fees £180 phone and internet £100. Total of £4,089.99.

Over and above we have sundries for stationary and books for Sonhouse and other expenses. Quarterly bills for heating and lighting.

### **Retrial offerings**

January £56 to Crossreach

February £65 to Heart Chest and Stroke

March £81 to the Deaf Club and we had an extra offering of £123 to Christian Aid towards flood relief

April £85 to Children in Need

We have a building fund account which is purely for repairs and maintenance. At the end of April we have £1,149.26 in this account. We average about £450 a month into this account through Building fund envelopes.

Accounts are presented to the Session and agreed and passed in a timely manner.

We receive tax rebate from HMRC on offerings through the gift aid scheme. We are waiting to receive these and it is an immense help to cover our deficit.

***Margaret Muir,  
Church Treasurer***

# BURNHEAD PARISH CHURCH - A BRIEF HISTORY

## PART ONE

Following the end of World War 2 in 1945 the government started a major housing re-building programme. A great deal of the countries housing had been destroyed by bombing and a great number neglected during the war.

Re-building started in Scotland and with the creation of new communities the Church of Scotland, being the national church, undertook to build new churches. A committee, the Church Extension Committee, had the responsibility to locate new areas for the church.

In this particular area, Burnhead, Orbiston in Bellshill and Trinity in Hamilton were founded. Rev. A Macdonell, B.D. a graduate of Cambridge University and assistant minister at St. Giles cathedral was appointed minister of the new church, was ordained and inducted by Hamilton Presbytery.

The new Kirk Session was made up of two elders from each of the local churches, Bellshill West, Viewpark Parish, Uddingston Trinity (now The Old Parish), Park Church (no longer a member of the Church of Scotland) and Chalmers Church (no longer in existence).

Mr Willie Robertson, a lawyer by profession and an elder in Chalmers Church was appointed the first Session Clerk. The church was assisted by Viewpark Church who loaned Bothwellpark Hall for use by Burnhead.

The first service was held on Sunday 9th October, 1955. Seats for the congregation were provided by Chalmers Church.



*Attending the first service*



*Rev. Macdonell leading the first service*



Mr Macdonell and his new wife Meg moved in to their house at 160 Laburnum Road, in October 1955. Burnhead Primary School was opened and the church moved from Bothwellpark Hall to the school in 1957. By this time church organisations had been started including Women's Guild, Men's Fellowship,, Youth Fellowship, Young Married Couple's Club, Sunday School, Girls Guildry (now Girls' Brigade), Boys' Brigade and the Choir. The church was active and expanding.



*Church Service in Burnhead Parish Church*

A major decision by the extension committee had a huge effect on Burnhead. The original plan was to build a hall/church. This was changed to a hall and church. The architects, Davidson's of Airdrie, claim that Burnhead Church was one of their best designs.



*Cutting of the first sod of today's church buildings*

The construction of the manse, hall and church were proceeding well but very sadly, there was a tragic accident. Whilst building the church there was a problem with the builders and the church collapsed onto Laburnum Road. Unfortunately one of the workmen was killed. Mr Macdonell attended the funeral. Construction was re-started in a very safe way.

Significant dates in the progress are:-

- 1: Saturday 2nd November 1957 - Laying of the foundation stone
- 2: Saturday 6th December 1958 - Hall: Opening and dedication
- 3: Wednesday 10th June 1959 - Church: Opening and dedication

The service was conducted by Rev. John Fraser MBE, minister of Hamilton Old Church and ex moderator of the Church of Scotland – an inspirational and memorable service.

Whilst the Church of Scotland built the new buildings the congregation were required to pay a percentage of the cost. The congregation were also expected to furnish the church. There was no organ. Mr Macdonell, himself a skilled fiddle player, undertook to find a new organ.

A Glasgow church, Cheapside St. Mark's, had been closed with a pipe organ inside the building. This organ was removed from St. Mark's, redesigned, rebuilt and installed in Burnhead. This is a unique organ with a single keyboard. Mr Macdonell arranged the funding of the organ with a well known local business man generously supporting the project.

Edith Ferguson had been appointed organist in October 1956 and with a new organ established a very fine musical tradition in Burnhead which continues today.

With the progress of the church the assessor elders returned to their own church with one exception, Mr Sim Telfer an elder in Park Church, who transferred to Burnhead.

Fraser Dowie was appointed Session Clerk in place of Willie Robertson who returned to Chalmers Church. The Kirk Session now comprised of members from within the congregation including, Gavin Whitfield, Andy Gallagher, Jim Armstrong, John McKellar, Dave McEwan, Jim Wallace, Alec Brown, Angus Young, George Ramage, Fraser Dowie, Drew Harvey, Jackie Blower, Eric Riddle & Bill Wood.

Following an outstanding ministry, in which he established the strong foundation which the church enjoys today, Mr Macdonell and his young family left Burnhead for Tarvel and Barthol Church in Aberdeenshire.

A simple statement sums up Alisdair's almost 8 year ministry.

'Well done, thou good and faithfully servant'

To be continued in the next issue of 'The Proclaimer'

Bill Wood – Former Session Clerk



*The Kirk Session of Burnhead Parish Church*

**Week to Week at Burnhead**

Sunday:	11:00	Service of Worship
	18:30	Communion Service (First Sunday of the month)
	11:00	SonHouse, Bible Class & Crèche
	19:15	Youth Fellowship
	13:00	AA
	19:00	AA
Monday:	19:30	Women's Guild
	19:30	Choir
Tuesday:	10:00	Pre 5 Praise
Wednesday:	09:30	Crochet Club
	10:00	Vestry Hour (till 11:00)
	10:00	Citizens Advice Bureau (till 13:00)
	13:00	AA
	18:30	Girls' Brigade
Thursday:	09:30	Mid Week Reflections
	11:00	Rock Café (till 14:00)
	19:00	Girl Guides
	19:00	Al Anon
	19:15	Bible Study
Saturday:	19:00	AA

*Hall lets are available for birthday parties, etc. Please contact Rev Les Brunger (01698 813716) or Douglas Pearson (07480 928597) for more information.*

# The Grady Memorial Garden

**Opening Times:  
Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
10:00 - 16:00**



The garden as it is now, was worked on during 2012 by the restorative justice team. It was due to open in March 2013, however, was not officially opened till Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 by local councillor James McCabe.

The garden name was transferred over from the small garden behind the manse which existed prior to the new one being built.

It has developed in stages & finally reached this point where it has become such a lovely place. Several people have donated benches, ornaments & plants in memory of loved ones & it is now funded mainly by donations from people in the congregation. A big thank you to everybody who has made the garden what it is today.

Why not take a walk around & perhaps sit for a while & enjoy the peace & tranquillity it offers.

Help is needed to maintain our garden so if you have some spare time, enjoy being outdoors & don't mind getting your hands dirty then please speak to Ann Russell.

---

The Proclaimer is the magazine of

Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church, 92-94 Laburnum Road, Viewpark, Uddingston, Glasgow, G71 5DB.

Scottish Charity No. SC010039

Church Website: [www.burnheadchurch.com](http://www.burnheadchurch.com)

