



The Proclaimer

The Magazine of Burnhead Parish Church

Spring 2021

Message From The Manse

Sitting in the Manse, writing this article for 'The Proclaimer' I never thought, by this time of the year, we would still be living in the grim clutches of the Coronavirus. Looking back to the good old days 12 months ago, when we could sing in Church, go to a football match, dine out with all our friends, enjoy the hustle and bustle of shopping in the Sales, go on holiday without any stress and worries. Ah, those were the days my friends, we thought they'd never end.

In the last edition of the Proclaimer I asked if you ever find the time to be still and know God. Well we have all had plenty of time, whether we liked it or not, forced upon us to be still, and I have heard wonderful stories and seen how our members have reached out to neighbours, not just those in need, but to all in a show of community fellowship.

Sadly I have also seen suffering as too many of our members, our families and friends bear the challenges of social distancing and shielding and I am not alone in the heart breaking pain of the loss of loved one.

We never thought this journey through 2020 would last into 2021. We never thought it would be easy, but why Lord, we ask, why does life have to be so hard?

I was reminded of the first time that God spoke to the Prophet Jeremiah, he said to him,

*“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb.
Before you were born I set you apart.” (Jeremiah 1:5)*

If God did this for Jeremiah, did he not do it for us all – are we not all made in his image – set apart – but for what?

Was it easy for Jeremiah (or any other prophet or disciple) who like many named servants of the Lord in the Bible retreated from God’s calling, claiming he was not worthy? But God did not give up on Jeremiah and assured him that he would be with him

Why do we think that life should be easy for us?

The leader of the disciples, Peter, was just like us, he had lots of faults – but Peter walked on water when the Lord commanded him to step out of the boat. But as he walked out onto the surface of the sea he began to doubt his faith and he sank into the waves.

God knows we will all fail at times, make mistakes, go down the wrong paths, and face challenges that seem insurmountable. But through all our times of trial, our faith gives us the knowledge that God is with us and through his strength we can overcome, or learn to live with life’s challenges because God is outside of time as we know it, and God saw our challenges before we were born and set us apart for them.

God allows us to walk on water, even if we sink later.

Yours in Christ

Les Brunger (Minister)

Thank You Lord

While watching the online service one Sunday morning, a chorus we used to sing when I was younger came to mind. It was usually sung at a meeting when people would go to the Mercy Seat to ask The Lord's forgiveness and to save them. It made me wonder just how many of us ask Him for Salvation today. Do we think that by going to Church, doing good deeds, it is automatically granted to us? Have you asked Him and you have felt His salvation? Do you thank Him often enough?

We say thanks to God for all the physical things in our life, our family, our home, food, friends & neighbours, good health but maybe thanking The Lord Jesus for our Salvation is the most important thing we should do.

As we near Easter, thank him for his sacrifice on the cross. The Risen Christ has shown us the way to Salvation, thank him for it by adding these words to your daily prayers:-

“Thank you Lord for saving my soul,
Thank you Lord for making me whole,
Thank you Lord for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich & free”

AMEN

Liz Lacey.

Prayer Team

Although we have not been able to meet during this past year, the prayer team, alongside other members of our congregation, continue to pray for others through our WhatsApp group and prayer circle. These prayers consist of names or situations, which are forwarded to us by members of our congregation. If you have someone or something you would like us to pray for, please forward your request to any member of the prayer team or directly to me on 07426 170261. All information shared by the group is kept confidential.

At present, this group of about 25 people are also participating in 'Catching the Wave'. This is a booklet, which is designed to bring different denominations together to pray for revival during lent. Alongside this, we are each encouraged to pray daily for 3 friends to become Christians and a big issue in which we ask for God's intervention. If you are interested in finding out more about this initiative, please go to www.40-days.com.

Since the first lockdown, a prayer and Bible verse has been uploaded daily onto the church Facebook page, it is hoped that these would be shared with family and friends.

If you would like more information about the prayer team or would like to participate in the prayer circle / WhatsApp group, please give me a call.

Yours in Christ
Carol

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests". Ephesians 6:18



Pre-5 Praise

Hi everyone, it's so sad our wee group has not been able to meet for over a year! Some of our children will now have moved on to nursery and others school and we didn't even get to say a proper goodbye!

And the littlest ones, the ones who were not even able to walk when we saw them last, they will be running rings round their Mums and Dads by now!

Never mind, all us oldies are getting our jags now and soon we will be able to meet again, to sing, to dance, to learn about Jesus, while we have lots of fun - that's the children I'm talking to, not the helpers!)

So until then, keep safe and know that Jesus loves YOU!

Food Parcels

As a congregation, we support some families within Viewpark with the delivery of weekly food parcels made up from contributions from the 'fair share' charity and donations from members of our own congregation. These families are very grateful for our help and would like to say thank you to all involved.

We also have a food box at the entrance to the church car park under the church notice board, from which anyone from Viewpark who is struggling to feed themselves or their family is invited to take what they need.

Thanks to all who donate to this cause.

If you would like to join this initiative, please contact the minister for more details.

The Jim Grady Memorial Garden

2020 - What a Year That Was!

January, signs of new growth started to appear in different parts of the garden. During February we had lots of rain and all the early seasonal bulbs were starting to bloom. Crocus, snowdrops, daffodils and primula. What a wonderful sight. Most unusual to see them all out at once. Some lasted longer than others. By the end of the month the garden was an array of colour.

March and the hard work began. I planted nine new evergreen shrubs in some of the uncultivated parts of the garden. The usual clean up of weeds and trimming down plants/shrubs that had not been attended to before the winter had set in, as well as clearing all the leaves that had been shed during late autumn. It's amazing how many there is. Each time you think "well that's it" you go back the next day and low and behold, there they are. Each year the paving slabs have to be cleaned to make sure the algae doesn't build up and causes someone to have a fall because they are slippery. I used to jet wash them but now I use Patio Magic, which is much quicker and easier. The down side is you need the slabs to be dry and not expect any rain in the following eight hours - that could be a wait. The next job was the garden furniture. As the weather was unusually good it was great to be able to get everything done. Everything was coming together and coming into the garden, with it's peace and tranquillity it was hard to believe that we were in the middle of a Global Pandemic. It was round about that time it was decided to leave the garden gate open 24/7 so if anyone wanted to visit for any reason at all they would have access when ever it suited them.

April and the weather continued to be good and everything in the garden was looking well and it was a great source of comfort to those who visited for one reason or another. Changes were taking place in the evergreen shrubs.

The early spring flowers were almost gone by May and different plants were showing their colours. The foxes were making themselves known by the amount of holes they were digging. Not a lot you can do about that. There were five young squirrels running up and down the trees and chasing each other around the garden. It can be quite entertaining if they are not aware that you are there. At the end of May there was an eight-foot wooden cross erected in the section of the garden nearest the manse. Plain simple but very effective - it just added to the atmosphere of the garden. New screening was put up on the fence backing on to the glen. This enhanced the plants growing there and gave a more enclosed feeling.

In June we had a new resident in the garden. His name is Tommy. He is a three-foot cast-iron World War One soldier. He is situated in the small memorial area just opposite the new cross.

The remainder of the year was strange because everything was kind of out of kilter. We had a lot of rain, all the usual cosmetic chores needed done no matter what the weather was like. Unlike last year the trees seem to shed their leaves at different times. This made it easy to keep on top of them. At the end of September, I had help in planting some more daffodils. The squirrels had great fun digging them up again and again and again. I ended up covering over where they were planted. The rest of the year in the garden was uneventful apart from keeping the paths clear of leaves.

Ann Russell



The SonHouse

On 1st November we welcomed the SonHouse children back after 7 long months of absence... and what a joy it was to see them again and to listen to all their news.

We've had to change the way we do things to keep everyone as safe as possible while still having the freedom to enjoy our time together. So far, the feedback has been very positive & the attendance great which is really encouraging.

We have been looking at Joseph & his brothers using a video to tell the story. There are now some amazing colourful coats pinned up on our display board & the 'Dream Catchers' craft was to say the least challenging – feathers everywhere!!

One Sunday we did games using the colours in the parachute to tell the story – great fun in a safe way.

We're not allowed to sing but can still praise God with action songs. It's brilliant to see so much energy as they dance about waving arms & stamping feet.

Christmas wouldn't be the same without a Nativity. Because we weren't able to do this in the church we filmed the children in our hall. We also learnt how to sign 'Merry Christmas Everyone' thanks to Poppy Russell leading us. The recording was then shown in the church on 20th December. For those you who watched this service I'm sure you would agree the children were great.

When we 'broke up' for our 3 week Christmas break we certainly didn't expect to go back into another lockdown.

Yes, it's a very different SonHouse at the moment but the purpose is still the same – to tell the children the wonderful message of God's love. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can meet again to share the Good News of Jesus.

Many thanks to all who support and trust us to take care of their children and keep them safe during these difficult times.

God Bless

Anne Morton



The children learning to sign 'Merry Christmas Everyone' for their Nativity in December

Bible Class

Hi everyone hope you are all keeping safe. The Bible Class wish you all well. We are now meeting up once a month online, and we are all getting on okay.

What would we do without technology now its letting us all keep in contact? We can't wait for all of us to get back together as one big happy family. We pray that everyone keeps safe and we look forward to the day we can all meet up in the church once again. What a day that will be!

Love to all the Bible Class

God Bless,

Liz McLaughlin

Girls' Brigade Report

As with all other activities Girls' Brigade have been unable to meet since March 2020.

We last met on Wednesday 18th March and were due to attend the family service at church on Sunday 22nd March. Unfortunately on Saturday 21st March around 8pm we received an email from headquarters stating that Girls' Brigade had to stop with immediate effect.

Things were a bit up in the air as you can imagine, we had planned our display in May and our annual camp in June which were both cancelled. I'm sure you will agree that no-one expected this to go on for as long as this, therefore we planned to re-start our session in September and have a small presentation of awards night to give the girls the awards they had earned - unfortunately this never happened either.

The girls received their trophies in June as we felt it was unfair to hold these until September meaning the girls were missing out on a few months of having them. The trophies given out were:-

Sandra Roy Cup – Macey Wilson

Best Junior – Sophie Green

Best Brigader – Skye Miller

Well done to all of you, they were all very well deserved.

We had purchased Easter Eggs to give to the girls last year which were donated to the church to distribute where they could within the community. We have also donated our tuck shop to be distributed in the same way.

As lockdown continues, we currently send out weekly tasks via our Facebook page and text message for the girls to do when they should attend Girls' Brigade. We are unsure how many girls are taking part in these, but the option is there for them to do this. We have been informed by headquarters that there will be no face-to-face meetings until September at the earliest.

We are missing the girls and really looking forward to getting back. We can't wait to get all the girls back again when it is safe to do so.

I missed the deadline for the last church magazine, therefore I have included a wee part of what we did in 2019, as I intended to add this in the next magazine.

From December 2019

Since the last issue of the magazine our numbers have remained steady.

We supported the church Christmas Fayre with our bottle stall which as always went well.

We put on our own version of the Nativity the beginning of December which was fantastic. The girls did brilliantly and those who came to see it said they had a great night. This was written by Andrea so as you can imagine had a few quirks within it including an Eastenders "DOF DOF" moment and a "LIDL" donkey. All scenery was made by the officers and girls which helped make it extra special. Huge thanks to the Sonhouse who allowed us to borrow some of their costumes which really helped the girls to get into character. This is the first time we have done a nativity but the girls enjoyed it so much that we would love to do another at some point.

We also had our Christmas parties, a visit to the pantomime with the Juniors and Brigaders, and a visit to the cinema with the Explorers.

Since we have returned in January we have attended our Divisional Competitions. The girls had a great time taking part in these. We are continuing to attend the monthly family services, albeit we only have a small number who attend. We continued with our badge work until mid-March when we were told we were unable to continue meeting.

Please keep the girls and officers in your prayers – this is a very strange time for everyone, and we know the girls will be missing their friends and officers (I hope) – we are missing you too.

Stay safe and we will see you when it is safe to do so.

Michelle Miller
Captain

Financial Report

At the end of 2020 we had a deficit in our annual accounts of £121 in the congregational accounts and for our restricted accounts, that being the Building Fund and Jubilee Fund account we had a deficit of £811. We have been closed for a lot of the year due to lockdown so we have had a reduction in our income in offerings namely £4,015 in givings from the congregation plus from other hall lets etc. On the other hand we have had less expenses for other things we would have bought or used during the year.

January accounts are showing a deficit of £1,869.09 for the month we had an income of £1,939.40 and an expenditure of £3,808.49.

February income was £2,355.50 while expenditure was £3,154.49 with ministry and mission plus other sundries totalling £347.19. Our deficit for year so far is £2,668.08.

We have an annual payment of ministry and mission which is paid to the Church of Scotland. This year it is £28,073 which we pay over 10 months at £2807.30 Every month we have insurance costs of £181.80, council tax of £215 and other bills that come in e.g. heating, lighting, internet and other odds and ends. We are eating into our reserves all the time at the moment.

Can I ask anyone who has not opted into the Gift Aid scheme to have a think about this as if it was not for the money we get back from HMRC the deficit in our accounts would have been much much more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has continued to fill envelopes and hand them in on a regular basis - thank you so much.

Several of the congregation have set up a standing order and this is very much appreciated too. With a standing order you have complete control; you can put the amount up or down, you can cancel it and set it up again as you wish. You can set it up on a weekly, 4-weekly or monthly basis. Just use your name as a reference. If I can help anyone they can get in touch with me on 07879 886448.

The Sorting Code is 80 09 93 and Account Number 00216286. A standing order can be set up using online banking or going into branch and asking the counter staff to assist.

Please can I also mention that our Building fund needs topping up on a regular basis as we have to keep the Church attached buildings and the Manse in good repair. The Building fund is currently at £0 and we need help to build up funds for ongoing repairs to Church, manse and halls. We started the year with approximately £2,000 which has now been used up to repair the church and hall slates on roof repairs, manse chimney, water leaks in extension, boiler repairs and inspections. The Building Fund details for Standing Order are... Sort Code 80 09 93 and Account Number 00216315.

Thank you all for continuing to support our Church

Margaret Muir, Treasurer.



Famous Quotes adapted for Modern Times

“To vaccine or to not vaccine, that is the question”

William Shakespeare

“Vaccine or vaccine not, if question why you, you must unlearn what you have learned, fear is the path to the dark side, vaccine you must”

Yoda

“The future belongs to those who vaccine today”

Malcolm X



“Keep calm and vaccine”

Winston Churchill

“I think, therefore I vaccine”

Rene Descartes

“That’s one small jab for man, one giant leap for mankind”

Neil Armstrong

My Story on Covid-19

This has been a very hard long scary time throughout Covid-19 for us all.

I had went into isolation before the first lockdown as I had severe allergies which was hard as I couldn't work or go to church. I had just managed to get back to work for 3 days then we were closed for 5 weeks soon after.

I've now been back at work since last April. I'm lucky in a way as a lot of people have never been able to return to their work -some have lost their jobs.

The hardest thing for me during the pandemic is I've lost loved ones and not been able to comfort my family and friends. My brother took covid and my sister and family have got it - it's a worrying time.

I pray that they are alright. I take great comfort in prayer and the prayer team. I can't wait to be able to cuddle my sisters, brothers and their families.

Yes I can see them on Zoom but it's not the same.

I'm also missing my church family who are so important to me.

I would like to thank Les, David and Jack for the online church services which means so much to everyone and I'm so looking forward to the day we're all back in the church singing our hearts out to the Lord and giving thanks. And when all the groups can get back together – that will be a good day! In the meantime take care, stay safe and God Bless.

Liz McLaughlin

A Smile

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive it without making poorer those who gave.

It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.



Make The Most of Today

To realise the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who has failed an exam.

To realise the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother of a premature baby

To realise the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realise the value of ONE HOUR, ask waiting to meet.

To realise the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who has missed a train.

To realise the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who's avoided an accident.

To realise the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask a person who has won a silver medal.

TREASURE EVERY MOMENT YOU HAVE!



The Coat I Got From Jesus

I have a new coat – it was designed by God and given to me by Jesus Christ. All I had to do to receive this coat was to put my faith and trust in God’s only Son. I find that the coat fits me perfectly until I allow myself to be puffed up with foolish pride – then it is too tight.

If I walk around with my head high, trying to hold myself above those around me – then it fits me just right.

How is this coat made?

The shoulders are wide and roomy so that I can help my fellow man carry his burdens.

The collar is made of God’s mercy – yes, the mercy of God’s promises. First that I may become His child, and second, that I will one day dwell with Him in that home prepared for His saints.

The cuffs are narrow so that there is no room to tuck away grievances and hard feelings towards anyone else.

The pockets are over-sized. One is for the love of God; the other is to hold my love for fellow man and all humanity.

There are three buttons on my coat. These buttons stand for faith, hope and love. I have to check them every day so they don’t become loose or lost.

The lining is made of God’s forgiveness, which I need so often that I want it to be next to me at all times.

The belt is made of God’s love that encircles me every day.

The material is thick enough to protect me when the storms of life come my way, but not so thick that I won’t be able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit who guides me.

There are many threads in my new coat, but not one thread of doubt that God’s promises are true.

Do you wonder about the colour of my coat? Well, it is the colour of Jesus’ eyes that must sparkle when a lost soul turns to Him.

I will need this coat every day of my life.

When I travel through the valley of death and when I view the future I will always wear my new coat.

Jesus the Carpenter

Jesus the carpenter who cared, the carpenter who transformed wood and nails into beautiful objects, useful articles.

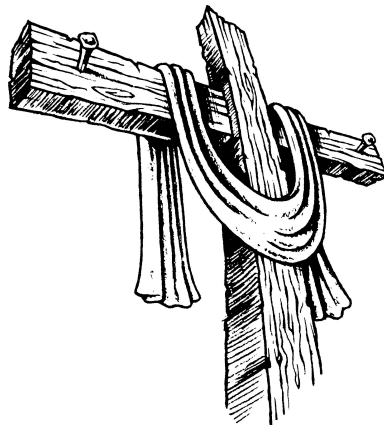
Jesus the carpenter killed by the very same wood and nails, yet still transformed the ugly brutality of the cross into beauty and value by His love and care.

What about me, my life? Do I care? Do I love? Do I transform?
What are my tools? Can I lend a hand, or am I too blind to see the need?

Can I share the little I have, or am I too selfish?

Jesus, I pray that your transforming love and care may continue
... through me.

Amen



Christian Aid Week 2021

The Social Team of Burnhead Church have decided that, as we are still unable to do door to door collections for Christian Aid again this year, some of our team are going to attempt a 10,000 step challenge to raise money for this great charity. If any other member of the congregation is up for this challenge or knows someone who would be willing to help, please speak with Liz Lacey, the Social Team Convenor.

There is a Just Giving page on the church website should you wish to make a donation.

This passage was written by Nick Batzig for He Reads Truth, an online community of men who commit to reading God's Word together everyday.

A friend of mine was in Ireland during the World Cup in 2002. As she listened to the crowds cheering in the town where she was staying, she said, "I sometimes wonder what it would sound like if Christians praised Jesus for His redeeming glory like that." That statement has stuck with me over the years for the simple reason that in Scripture, we are given an example of how believers ought to praise Jesus –namely, in the record of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Zechariah had prophesied of the promised Redeemer, when he said:

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem!
Look, your King is coming to you;
he is righteous and victorious,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey"
(Zechariah 9:9).

When this prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, He was surrounded with shouts of praise and rejoicing. The people who went before Him and those who followed recognized that He was the long-awaited Son of David. And so, they cried out accordingly,

"Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom
of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
(Mark 11:9-10).

The contrast between the visible circumstances and the shouts of praise are striking. There was no outward pomp to encourage such a joyful reception. As Zechariah had foretold, Jesus was “humble and riding on a donkey.” The throngs crowding around Him were fisherman and tradespeople. Yet, they saw something that their religious leaders could not see. They saw the incarnate Son of God coming “righteous and victorious,” and they praised God for sending the long-expected Messiah.

Though I grew up in churches that faithfully preached God’s Word, I only remember one sermon preached when I was a very young boy. A minister in a Presbyterian church was preaching on the triumphal entry, and he said emphatically, “This is God sitting on the donkey!” The people singing out, “Hosanna!” recognized something in the One who sat on the donkey.

Sadly, in a matter of days, the shouts of praise would be drowned out by cries for the blood of the Son of God. Instead of “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Mark 11:10), the crowds would cry, ‘Crucify him!’” (Mark 15:13). Instead of “Blessed is the coming kingdom,” the people would cry, “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15). But in the rejection of this King, God worked to forever fill the hearts of His people with joy. He rode into Jerusalem in order to hang on the cross for our sins. There is nothing that ought to stir our hearts more than to know that the King who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, shed His blood for our eternal redemption and reconciliation to God. This means we have every reason to constantly shout, “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Sunday Morning Service of Worship

At the time of writing, the current coronavirus restrictions in place allow a congregation size of up to 50 persons for Sunday worship.

Entry to the Church on Sunday mornings is currently by reservation of seating through a booking system. Anyone wishing to attend on a Sunday will need to register their desire on a dedicated phone line by 5pm Wednesday of that week – the number for which is 07955 595974.

You will be asked to leave your name, contact phone number and number of seats required for your household (only one name per household is required). Your name and contact details will be used to compile the necessary Test and Protect list for each Sunday.

This information will be stored for the regulated time period and then destroyed. To reduce the amount of phone calls involved on a weekly basis, only those allocated a seat will be contacted with the confirmation by midday on Saturday.

More information about attending the church can be found on the church website.

The services will continue to be livestreamed on YouTube for those who are unable to attend the church buildings in person.

The Proclaimer is the magazine of Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church,
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