



The Proclaimer

The Magazine of Burnhead Parish Church

November 2021

Message From The Manse

During the past week, Glasgow became the centre of the world as COP26 launched. All eyes were focused on our little dot on the world map. Most of those eyes were full of longing – looking for a sign that the people with the most influence in the world – the nations leaders, could agree on a policy that would reverse the harm we are doing to the world's eco system.

Science tells us that we have to change – or the future for life as we know it, is bleak perhaps unsustainable

As I stood beside my grandson, outside the front of the church on a cold and wet Saturday afternoon, holding a placard for 'Climate Justice,' I wondered what I would say to him in the future, if at this critical point, humanity did not choose to do the right thing.

If we all continue to pollute the world – what could I say to him when we get past the point of no return?

What will you say to the generation that follows you?

As an individual I will try harder to be aware of the environment and I would encourage you to do likewise.

As a Church we need eco warriors who can lead us in a pursuit to reduce our carbon footprint – if you have a passion to change us for the better, then Burnhead Church needs you to speak up, to stand up and challenge us.

Be a voice now – of action, rather than one of remorse later.

Some people may say that the environment is the biggest question facing the world – but there is a bigger issue. That issue affects us – not just in the here and now – but in the hereafter as well. That issue is spiritual.

What will I say to my grandson, if he stands before God on Judgement Day, convicted of his sin, and he turns to me and says, “You knew this day would come and you knew I would need to know Jesus to get through it?”

If I hadn’t told him about Jesus, what could I say? Nothing, it would be too late.

If there is someone in your life that you care about, show it, by telling him or her about Jesus.

God Bless,

Les.



Opportunities to Serve the Lord – David Combe

As Covid restrictions are eased and at long last we are able to return a semblance of normality and look forward to attending services, meeting friends and taking part in other church activities.

Thanks to our minister's leadership and the tremendous work he has put in during the pandemic, ably assisted by a number of volunteers, we were able to join in fellowship to worship the Lord either online or in person albeit subject to physical distancing etc.

Moving forward, we need to look at how our church works, how we can carry out the tasks or jobs which need to be done either in relation to the church building and grounds, our congregation and membership and how we serve the Lord in our community.

To do this we rely on people who give up their time and use their skills or talents to carry out duties and tasks to ensure our church functions. People who are willing to step forward and give their best.

Most of you will know that a few years back, the Kirk Session delegated the carrying out of tasks and certain duties to a number of teams made up from volunteers from our congregation.

I have listed the teams and a brief summary of some of their responsibilities below -

- Property – Develop a programme of maintenance and renewal of church fabric. Oversee special building and fabric projects as requested by the Kirk Session. Health and Safety of buildings and surrounding areas. Oversee all Church Gardens,
- Worship – Encourage participation in worship services by church members. Develop new initiatives in worship. Develop

participation of children and youth in worship. Plan services with the minister on a regular basis.

- Finance – Maintain and control Burnhead’s finances: overall income, expenditure, budget, forecasts to be reported to the Kirk Session as and when determined by the Kirk Session. Oversee the work of the Treasurer. Oversight and promotion of the Gift Aid and WFO schemes.
- Young People – Oversight of the summer Kid’s Club. Develop ways to interact with young people in their own language. Produce a Youth Strategy to include all young people up to age of 25.
- Pastoral Care – Oversee of the current Pastoral Care system and Visiting Team. Developing new approaches for pastoral care/visitation in the Congregation.
- Communication – Publicity, IT, Website, livestreaming of services and this magazine. Develop ways to communicate between Teams and church members so that everyone knows what is going on.
- Welcome – To look at ways we as a church can improve on how we welcome people who come here to worship. To look at ways we can make everyone who comes to worship in this church feel that they are among friends. To consider ways we can welcome those in our community who are marginalised, who feel they don’t belong, who are excluded for whatever reason into our church.

As I stated above, our church relies on people giving up their time to serve. Many are members of more than one team and increasingly fewer people are having to do more.

If the present situation continues there is a danger that we will struggle to carry out some tasks and jobs. This could impact on our

ability to carry out God's work in our church and our community.

We need more volunteers to join the teams. If you are fit and able, consider stepping up and helping your church. You don't need any special skills or talents, just be prepared to help to serve the Lord.

If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to speak to the minister or any of the elders.

Job Vacancies In and Around the Church

Following on from David's article, the list of jobs urgently requiring volunteers include:

- The Crèche
- Food shopping for the families we support in our community
- Misting of the church after services – Haz-Mat suit included!
- Cleaning the inside of the church buildings.
- Helping with the upkeep the grounds and garden.
- Serving the refreshments in the hall after Sunday Worship.

Most of the jobs are done on a 'Rota' basis with other volunteers. If you feel you could help with any of above please speak with me – Marion Bartholomew – either in person or on 07853 118659 any time and I will let the appropriate person know of your interest.

We all have hidden talents so let's use them for our Lord.

God Bless
Marion



The Jim Grady Memorial Garden

Well, it has been another strange year in the garden with the weather changing between one season and another. The good weather in February started plants growing when they shouldn't. It certainly made a welcome



show of colour. Then we had a cold snap and the daffodils all hit the ground. I was so saddened when I saw them but low and behold after a few days they were all standing up again. Nature is a wonderful thing. Didn't have much success with flowering plants this year but I put that down to the weather, the foxes and the fact that the foliage on the trees was so heavy. The foxes again seem to know where all the new plants were and had fun trampling all over them or pulling them out. There was more than usual this year, apparently there was two sets of four cubs.

One of the most time consuming jobs, believe it or not was watering the garden when we had the really warm weather. It would take me over an hour to water the ground at the back but the midges drove me mad. The heavy foliage on the trees prevented the rain getting through to some parts of the garden and this made it very dry and hard to work on.

We are now past the middle of October and so far, the leaves are hanging in to their branches. This year I won't be sweeping them up as I have had to give up my gardening responsibilities. Fortunately, there has been a few people volunteered to take over from me. I hope they get as much pleasure in keeping the garden looking good as I did.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the gift of the beautiful flowers and the gift card enclosed in a "Thank You" card given to me on behalf of Burnhead Church for the work I carried out in the Memorial Garden.

When I first decided that I would like to have a go at taking care of the garden I had no idea what I was going to do. The one thing I didn't envisage was changing the whole area. I did have some help, especially the grass cutting. I never consciously made plans to do anything in advance. I guess that was the beauty of working alone. I could please myself when I had time to go into the garden and do a wee bit here and there. I did have one set idea, I would like to plant shrubs that were evergreen and would give the garden some colour during the winter. I was very fortunate, anyone who gave me money were quite happy to go along with that idea. I had great pleasure on several occasion taking someone to a garden centre or a nursery to buy the plants themselves. Others would give me money to pay for all the wee improvements, too many to list. The foxes destroyed a lot of plants which had to be replaced. Again we were lucky that we were given plants for a few years, that really helped.

When I look around the garden now I realize that so much has changed. It was a way of escape for me I guess. I loved every minute of it.

I am so glad it gives pleasure to many people and to some it is a place of solitude and calm. It definitely has a special atmosphere.

God Bless all that have taken up the reigns, I hope you get as much satisfaction as I did in carrying out the commitment.

God Bless,
Ann Russell

OUR SONHOUSE 2021



In August it was so good to welcome the children back after the summer holidays.

We finished the last session with our presentation of books and what a wonderful service it was. It was great to see the children in the church.

Four of our members moved on to the Bible Class. We would like to wish William, James, Jessica and Macey many blessings as they continue to learn about God's love. They have each been a joy to teach, enthusiastic and always willing to take part and we will miss them very much.

We have 14 children on the register with weekly attendance varied. If you know anyone age 3 years or over why not invite them along to join us and learn about God in a fun way through stories, quizzes, crafts, songs & games.

Our programme is back to normal. It's so good the children now don't need to wear masks and that we can enjoy singing our songs again.

The first and third Sundays in the month are our 'all age' worship times. The children love doing crafts and playing games and a really big hit with them is using our puppets to tell the story. We've discovered some real talent in our story tellers!

The other weeks we go into groups for our story and activity sheets. This special time allows for discussions and is great for letting the children ask questions and express themselves.

Our Christmas party is on Saturday 18th December. We have booked Magic-Den as this year's entertainer. He does an interactive fun magic show, games and balloon modelling. The children so look forward to the games, food, drinks and of course the special guest who makes an appearance at the end.

Once again, many thanks to the parents, grandparents and guardians who bring along the children each week – without you we wouldn't have a SonHouse.

We would like to wish each one of you many blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

God Bless
Anne Morton

GIRLS' BRIGADE REPORT – MICHELLE MILLER

Girls' Brigade were finally allowed back to face to face meetings on Wednesday 6th October. We had a very strict risk assessment to complete prior to starting back which (partly my fault) delayed our start up for a few weeks. We hadn't met since Wednesday 18th March 2020, therefore a long time has passed.



On our enrolment night we enrolled 15 Juniors and 3 Brigaders. We have since added another 4 Juniors, therefore a total of 22 girls currently attending. At the point of writing this we have only met for 4 weeks in total (one being enrolment night). So far all is going well and the girls are glad to be back. We have some new girls, however a lot of them have come back from the previous year which is good. We currently have no Explorers - a few of them have returned but have now moved into the Juniors. It was amazing to see how much the girls had grown in the time that we hadn't met!

During lock-down we put weekly tasks onto our Facebook page and sent text messages to all the girls. We had Sophie Green take part in every single activity we applied, with some other girls taking part on various weeks. We are not sure if there were others taking part, but not letting us see their finished work, but it was good to see what some of the girls did.

We are currently meeting the girls for an hour per week with Juniors running 6pm – 7pm and Brigaders running 7:15pm – 8.15pm. We have done this due to Brigaders still having to socially distance and wear face masks. With the numbers we have we haven't done too much in the way of recruitment, we will continue with the girls we have for the time being, and re-asses as we go.

As you know things are changing all of the time, and we are slowly but surely getting back to some sort of normality. Although we aren't recruiting as such, if you do know of any girls who would like to attend we will be more than happy to have them join.

We are currently taking it week by week, and can hopefully review some of the things we are currently doing after Christmas.

It is great to be back!!!!

Pre 5 Praise

Most of the children who attended 'Pre 5 Praise' before the Covid shutdown are now at school or nursery. We were not able to say a proper goodbye! So, at present we are planning a little get together on Saturday 13th November when hopefully the children and their guardians will be able to come along and have some fun for one last time.

Because of the lightening of restrictions, we have restarted our Tuesday morning sessions. Our numbers are a lot smaller, but we continue to have fun through song, craft and stories, at the same time as learning of Jesus' love for us all.

If you know of friends, neighbours or relatives, who care for babies / children under the age of 5, please tell them about our group. We meet every Tuesday at 10:00am till 11:30am, September to May during school term-time. It's an open invitation to all. It's free and you even get a wee cup of tea or coffee.

If you would like any more information, please feel free to speak to me at anytime or contact me by phone at the manse.

God Bless

Carol

What's On – A Week in the Life of Burnhead

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

Sunday: 11:00 – 12:00 Service of Worship

11:00 – 12:00 Crèche

11:00 – 12:00 Sonhouse

Contact: Anne Morton – 07443 416017

11:00 – 12:00 Bible Class

Contact: Liz McLaughlin – 07471 933497

19:15 – 20:45 Youth Fellowship

Contact: Liz McLaughlin – 07471 933497

18:30 – 19:00 Evening Communion Service

**First Sunday of the month only*

19:00 – 21:00 A.A.

Tuesday: 10:00 – 11:30 Pre-5 Praise

Contact: Carol Brunger – 07426 170261

13:30 – 15:00 Recycled Teenagers

Contact: Rev Les Brunger – 07806 781489

**Starts on 11th January 2022 then first Tuesday of the month thereafter*

13:00 – 15:00 The Guild

Contact: Sandra Roy – 01698 810113

- Wed'day:** 10:00 – 11:30 Crochet Club
Contact: Sandra Roy – 01698 810113
- 10:00 – 11:00 Private Prayer
- 10:00 – 11:00 Vestry Hour
- 10:00 – 12:00 Chat Zone
**Starts 5th January 2022*
- 10:00 – 13:00 Citizens Advice
Contact: Margaret Sagar – 07902 565585
- 13:00 – 15:00 A.A.
- 14:00 – 15:00 Private Prayer
- 18:00 – 19:00 Girls' Brigade – P1 - P7
Contact: Michelle Miller – 07956 991406
- 19:15 – 20:15 Girls' Brigade – S1 and above
Contact: Michelle Miller – 07956 991406
- Thursday:** 09:30 – 10:30 Midweek Reflections
Contact: Sandra Roy – 01698 810113
- 19:00 – 21:00 Al Anon
- 19:15 – 20:45 Bible Study
- Saturday:** 10:30 – 12:00 Gamblers Anonymous
- 19:00 – 21:00 A.A.

BIBLE CLASS

Hi everyone from the Bible Class - we hope you are all doing well?

We have now restarted after what seems such a long time, but we're finally up and running again - yipeee!

We have more young ones joining and are all very keen on learning. We also welcome our new leader Mary Parry who is settling in very nicely.

We would like to thank everyone in the church for their support and encouragement. We were so glad that we could keep up our studies throughout lockdown thanks to technology - the internet can be useful after all!

If anyone aged between 12 to 16 years of age would like to join us you will be made more than welcome. We meet on Sunday mornings between 11am and noon in the Jubilee Hall.

The young ones are currently designing their logo which will be used for the 'What's On' board outside the Jubilee Hall. The entries will be anonymous and the winner chosen by someone independent of the Bible Class. We would all like to thank Carol Brunger for all the hard work she has done with the Bible Class, we couldn't have done it without you. Carol don't be a stranger come back and join us any time as you are always welcome. We would just like to finish by saying to everyone in the church, the community and everywhere that we wish you all the very best and keep safe. God Bless.

From the Bible Class

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Hi everybody its so good to be back - yes, we're back up and running again!

It's great being able to meet up again, chat, having fun games and just hanging out together. We are also designing a logo for the board and which will be picked by an independent judge. We have been meeting up from the beginning of October and had some great fun. If anyone from the age of 12 years up would like to join in please feel free to come along. We meet at 7:15pm till 8:45pm on Sunday nights.

We recently had our Halloween party and it was a blast. The costumes were fantastic . We had great fun messy but a great laugh. We had hanging doughnut game, creepy custard game, scooshy cream and jelly game spooky music, we had pizza and sausage rolls, crisps, juice and treats. We will put the photos on the church website for all to see. We would like to thank Les for starting this group up and guiding us. We couldn't have started this up without your help Les. Please don't be a stranger Les - come and join in any time.

Well keep safe everyone and God Bless From the Youth fellowship.



The Guild

How good it was to be able to meet again after a long break because of Covid-19. The Guild Ladies decided to meet in the afternoons. We had a trial run in September and it seemed to go well. Now we meet at 1:30pm till 3pm on Tuesdays in the Extension. Sadly our number attending has dropped as two of our members are no longer able to come for health and mobility reasons. We miss their chatter and presence, but we pray God will bless them in their new circumstances.



Our theme this year is Lights and Bushels. We started our session with a joint Communion with Bellshill Central Guild. Sadly it was poorly attended. But those present enjoyed an uplifting service and meaningful communion. We thank rev Les Brunger for his preparation and delivery of a fine service enjoyed by all who were there.

Surprisingly we have managed to contact speakers but not one every week. A copy of the proposed Guild Syllabus is printed opposite. We look forward to the treats that are in store.

We thank Mrs Liz Lacey for taking on the role as Elder to the Guild. We do hope she finds it not too onerous a duty. We thank her so much for coming to speak to us about herself and work in the Church.

We ask God's blessing on all our meetings so that we may truly serve Him in our lives. Some Guilds have not restarted as yet; others have given up; some meet over the internet. Small in number we may be but we strive to meet once a week. Come and join us if you're interested or want to find out more.

Sandra Roy.

Burnhead Guild 2021-22 Syllabus

Theme: Lights and Bushels

- October 5th: Joint Communion in Burnhead
- October 12th: Liz Lacey
- October 19th: Topic Discussion
- October 26th: Danny McLaughlin

- November 2nd: Sharanne
- November 9th: Quiz
- November 16th: Iain Hewitt
- November 23rd: Irene Dakers (Flowers)
- November 30th: St Andrews Tea
-
- December 7th: Christmas Lunch
- December 14th: Carols and Mice Pies

- January 11th: Catch Up
- January 18th: Rev De Beer
- January 25th: Burns Tea

- February 1st: Lorna Fyfe
- February 8th: Mary's Meals
- February 15th: Valentines Activity
- February 22nd: Eleanor Hall

- March 1st: Spring
- March 8th: Clive Tutty
- March 15th: Handcraft
- March 22nd: Rev Anderson
- March 29th: AGM – Bring and Buy

Prayer Team

By the time you read this article, the Prayer Team will have had its first meeting since Covid struck. Although we have not met in person, the WhatsApp prayer group have continued to pray, in confidence, for the individuals and situations we have received requests for.



The monthly prayer lists which were previously available for uplift from the prayer table, have not been able to be created due to Covid restrictions, but this has not stopped us trying to create different opportunities within our church and wider community for prayer.

A box was fitted to the fence at the front of the church, to enable anyone passing to uplift a copy of the 'Try Praying' booklet.

The sanctuary has been used throughout lockdown to offer a time for private prayer. This continues to be the case and at present it is open every Wednesday morning, 10am to 11am and afternoon, 2pm to 3pm.

Also, from the beginning of lockdown, a daily prayer and bible verse has been uploaded onto our church's Facebook page.

If you know of anyone in the need of prayer, please speak to any member of the prayer team; and if you have any suggestions on future initiatives that you would like the team to consider please don't hesitate to do so.

Yours in Christ

Carol

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ”. *Mark 11:24(NIV)*

Property

Since the last magazine, we have had to put new water heater in extension ladies toilet after the previous unit failed and was beyond repair.

We have purchased a water boiler for kitchen.

The Manse is suffering subsidence on rear of property at the garden side – our insurers have been informed and the matter is currently in within their remit.

In order to help alleviate our ongoing storage space issues, we have had a cupboard built in the link corridor which will be used to store the food we distribute within the community. This was being stored in the Session Room during lockdown but now the crèche has restarted there was a need to have it moved elsewhere.

We are now taking Hall Lets again with AA and Al Anon back on. Gamblers Anonymous and the Crochet Club are also regulars – aswell as bringing some welcome revenue into the church it is also good to see the church buildings providing a service to the community again.

We will be looking for someone to cut grass in memorial garden next year please speak to me if you can. In addition, we are also looking for cleaners – if you would like to volunteer please could you speak to me - it would be appreciated.

Property Convenor,

Douglas Pearson.

Finance Report

Thank you to everyone for handing in envelopes, donations and standing orders to our Church, without these we could not function.

In July we're still working on a deficit of year to date of £1502.22.

In August we had income of £4,847.80 and expenditure of £4,274.39, a surplus of £573.41 and a year to date figure of minus £928.81.

A gas bill of £331.48 and our monthly Ministry and Mission of £2,807.30 which we pay from January till October. We also got a plaque for the garden in memory of our dear friend Bill Wood. Stationery costs for Les for the last few months had amounted to £161.90. We had a couple of retiral offerings - £84.71 to the Girls Brigade and £61.40 to the fund for rescued dogs.

In September we had income of £4,651.97 and expenditure of £3,681.51 giving us a surplus of £970.51 and a year to date figure of plus £41.65. Just the usual expenditure - we have council tax of £217 every month and insurance of £184.80 monthly. Retiral offering of £95 went to Marys Meals.

From the Building Fund we had to pay out £110.87 for a new water heater for the ladies toilet in the extension. We also had to replace the old cupboard just outside the kitchen and built a new one at a cost of £214.99.

In October we had income of £9,529.35 and expenditure of £4,294.32 giving us a surplus of £5,235.03 or the month and a year to date surplus of £5,276.68. We received a rebate from HMRC of £6,431.65. This is through the Gift Aid scheme that members of the congregation have signed up to if they are tax payers. We are also allowed a certain amount to claim on 'non gift aided' offerings. This amount was for some of last year

and the first 6 months of this year. If anyone is interested in joining the Gift Aid scheme please speak to David Green. This rebate is the difference between us being in credit at the end of the year and being able to carry forward funds to next year.

We had to pay out this month for our music licence and our streaming licence £526.56. Our fire extinguishers were serviced at a cost of £216 and we had a £60 retiral offering to the Children's Cancer ward in Queen Elizabeth hospital.

If anyone wants to set up a standing order you can do this with your online banking or your bank branch will help you with this.

Our bank details are...

- Congregational Fund:
 - Sort Code 80-09-93
 - Account No. 00216286

- Building Fund:
 - Sort Code 80-09-93
 - Account No. 00216315

It has been lovely to see more faces back in the Church and great that we can now sing even though we have to wear our masks.

Margaret Muir

Church Treasurer

The Reflections Service

This restarted weeks ago. At first we met in the Church with all the Covid-19 regulations enforced. Now we're back in our usual place in the Jubilee Hall on Thursday at 9:30am. This is a short service open to all. Just drop in if you want to find out what it's like.

Thank you especially to all those who come faithfully every Thursday. It's good to have fellowship with you. I thank God for each of you in my prayers.

Sandra Roy

The Crochet Club

The Crochet Club has now restarted on Wednesday mornings, 9:30am till 11:30am. Most of our regulars have returned but a few haven't because of illness and death. Drop in if you're interested. They are a friendly group.

The Chat Zone

This is a new initiative that begins on the 5th of January from 10am to 12noon - and on every Wednesday thereafter.

The idea is to provide a safe zone, in the comfort of the Jubilee Hall, where anyone in the community can drop into the building for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and have a chat about absolutely anything.

If you or someone you know: needs a place to escape the boredom of the same four walls in your home, if you are feeling lonely and need to see a friendly face, if you need to find somewhere to get in out of the cold - then pop along to the Chat Zone, where there is no charge and you will be most welcome be it for 5 minutes or for the full two hours.

Christmas Services 2021

28th November - 1st Sunday in Advent

- 11:00 – Service of Worship

5th December - 2nd Sunday in Advent

- 11:00 – Communion Service of Worship
- 19:00 – Advent Memorial Reflections
(A chance to remember loved ones who are especially missed at Christmastime)

12th December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 11:00 – Nativity Family Service of Worship
(A family service that recalls the wondrous events in Bethlehem)
- 19:00 – Community Carol Party
(A chance to sing favourite Christmas carols in an informal service with special guest)

19th December - 4th Sunday in Advent

- 11:00 – Family Service of Worship
(All age service for the whole family)

24th December – Christmas Eve

- 18:30 – Family Service of Worship
(Informal service aimed at the young at heart who struggle to sleep on this night of wonder and mystery)
- 23:30 – Watchnight Service
(Atmospheric service to welcome the first moments on Christmas Day)

25th December – Christmas Day

- 11:00 – Family Service of Worship
(An informal service to celebrate the gift of Jesus and his Birthday)

26th December

- 11:00 – Service of Worship

Hamilton Presbytery

As you may be aware, Hamilton Presbytery will cease to exist on the 31st of December 2021 as we join with Lanark Presbytery in the formation of a new Presbytery. It seems likely that in the summer of 2022, this new Presbytery will itself join up with Falkirk Presbytery to create another new, even bigger, Presbytery.

This follows instructions from the General Assembly as it strives to reshape the church into a more fit for purpose model.

The changes from General Assembly also include changes to the number of ministerial posts and churches in each area and we are at this moment in the first steps of discussion with our neighbouring parishes to explore how those targets can be met and how the changes can be implemented.

Be assured that the Kirk Session of Burnhead Church will leave no stone unturned to secure the future of this church in this community

We would ask for your prayers as we journey through this process throughout 2022.

The Proclaimer is the magazine of Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church,
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Scottish Charity No. SC010039

Church Website: www.burnheadchurch.com

