



The Proclaimer

The Magazine of Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church

February 2016

A Message from the Manse

A man whispered, "God, speak to me," and a nightingale sang, but the man did not hear. So the man raised his voice, "God, speak to me," and the thunder rolled across the sky, but the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said "God, let me see you," and a star shined brightly, but the man did not notice.

And the man shouted "God, show me a miracle," and a new baby was born, but the man did not recognise it.

So, the man cried out in despair "Touch me God, and let me know you are here," whereupon God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and he walked on.

There is a song that was popular back when I went to Sunday School; its chorus line has these words: 'Count your blessings, name them one by one – count your blessings, see what the Lord has done – count your blessings, name them one by one – and you will be amazed by what the Lord has done'

I am often amazed by what the Lord has done. I've lost count of the number of times that God has been at work in Burnhead. Sceptics would probably just call those times co-incidences but I prefer to think of them as God-incidences. Like the times when worship organisers working independently on Sunday and midweek services,

choose Bible readings and hymns that couldn't compliment each other more if it was just one person co-ordinating everything. The times when someone has spoken a word of support or encouragement to someone they don't normally speak to and they don't really know why they did it – and yet the person who received the word of encouragement often had a prayer answered in a miraculous way.

Other times have been more dramatic, like the funeral I conducted where I told the story of the little bugs in a pond that become beautiful dragonflies – symbolic of the difference between our bodies here on earth compared with the bodies God has prepared for us in Heaven. Little did I know that the daughter of the deceased studied dragonflies as a hobby and had a 'Damaskan' type of experience on hearing the story, releasing the Christian that was hidden within her.

I think if we took the time to reflect on our day, each day, and in the prayerful presence of our Lord ask him to reveal how he has worked in our lives that day. I think we would be amazed by how much and how often God does work in our lives.

So instead of being like the man who sought God in so many ways but failed to see him, let us open our hearts, our ears and our eyes, so that we do not miss out on appreciating God's many blessings in our lives because it wasn't packaged the way we expected it to be.

Rev Les Brunger
Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church
Church of Scotland

Hi Folks

Another year already. I hope that 2016 will be another good year for everyone at Burnhead. Time seems to pass so quickly or is it just me getting old? I hope and pray that we will continue to work together. I would encourage everyone to put any differences they have aside and really try to build a loving Church where we can all feel welcome when we gather for worship on a Sunday morning.

Life can be very difficult at times but can be so much easier if we just ask Jesus to help us and be with us during those times. We should always trust in our Lord and not get too involved in the hardships of daily life, something I have been very guilty of in the past. Remember these words found in 2 Timothy 3: 14-15

"But as for you, hold on to what you have learned and know to be true. Remember where you learned them. You have known the Holy Writings since you were a child. They are able to give you the wisdom that leads to being saved from the punishment of sin by putting your trust in Christ Jesus."

Lets make this a very happy year for everyone.

God bless

Stewart Grady

Roll Matters (since last edition of Proclaimer)

Baptisms

25 th December 2015	Braydon Hugh Fraser Kearney
17 th January 2016	Peyton May Meechan

Deaths

October 2015	Helen Millar, Highgate Care Home
December 2015	Ellen Bushe, Highgate Care Home
December 2015	Celia Sommerville, Limetree Avenue
January 2016	Mary Deacon, Summer Hill Way
January 2016	Agnes MacDonald, Previously Laburnum Road
January 2016	Elizabeth Lamb, Glenburn Crescent

New Members

20 th December 2015	Mrs Linda Wilson
20 th December 2015	Miss Rebecca Chappell
20 th December 2015	Mrs Moira MacLeod
20 th December 2015	Laura MacLeod

Property Committee Report for 2015

The property Committee wish all members of the congregation a happy and prosperous year in 2016.

Over the year 2015 the committee spent £30,478 on the maintenance of the Church and halls. Also £2,877 was spent on manse maintenance. At present we are in the process of building an extension to the building, the Jubilee Hall which will benefit the whole congregation.

At present we have planning permission and building warrants. Two cost quotations have been received for the building of extension.

We are starting to fund raise for the Jubilee Hall build and once we have 3 quotations we will put application to presbytery for permission to go for funding grants.

The committee are committed to the upkeep of the Church and halls and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contribute through the building repair fund envelopes and all others for their kind donations.

We could not do it without your support.

GOD BLESS

Hi Ladies

The men may start the day with their Mens' Breakfast club but us Ladies know how to end a night! If you are interested in a night out for a bite to eat, a bit of fun and catch up why don't you join us for a supper night out. If you are interested come and see Carol Brunger or Liz McLaughlin for more information. Dates are still to be arranged.

The Guild



Our small group meet at 7:30pm Monday evenings in the Extension. We started our session with a lovely joint communion service with Bellshill Central Guild in their Church. It is good to continue the fellowship with this group.

We have been delighted with our speakers. Elspeth Smith spoke about Memories and had us all contributing our own memories. Mr McLaughlin spoke to us about the history of the Shotts – Douglas Estate. We found this a very interesting and informative evening. We enjoyed further evenings with Eleanor Hall and Carol Kyle, both of whom sought to deepen our knowledge and love of the Lord. Stewart Grady, our Session Clerk, spoke about his own life and upbringing which had an emotional effect on us as we remembered his parents June and Jim. We were so glad to have known them.

This year we once again had our Shoebox Appeal and once again we thank all those who supported us in this venture. Seventy-two boxes and £320 as well as a big bag of baby knitted items were handed over to Blythswood Care. We thank Ronnie Burke very much for transporting them. The Guild would like to wish him a speedy recovery from surgery. May the Lord strengthen him and heal him. In the present financial climate we give God thanks for the sheer generosity of the people of Burnhead Church.

In November we had our own Guest Night with the Arrietta Choir entertaining us. They performed a delightful repertoire which held us all in rapt attention. We thank their conductor, Janet Young and

pianist Iain Hewitt for a wonderful night. It was good to have such a good attendance as every Guild which had been invited sent at least one person. We thank the folk of the congregation including the men who came along to enjoy an evening supporting Burnhead Guild.

We celebrated Christmas with a lovely lunch at the Alona Hotel in Strathclyde Park. After the Christmas break, we enjoyed a lovely musical evening with our organist Iain Hewitt. He took us on a musical journey over the past sixty years. Iain's humour added to the great music.

Please consider coming along to the Guild of you are free on Monday nights between 7:30pm and 9:00pm. We have only a few more weeks till our formal session draws to a close at the end of March. I would like to thank the small bunch of ladies who do attend for their hard work, generosity and faithfulness. May God richly bless you all.

S Roy

Reflections Service

This is held on Thursday mornings at 9:30am in the Session Room. It is a very short service of hymns, prayers, poems, Bible readings and short talk. It is open to anyone who wishes to join with us to worship the Lord together. Come and see what it's like if you're unsure. Thank you to all the faithful regulars for their fellowship and concern for others. May the Lord bless, strengthen and continue to use each of you in the furtherance of His Kingdom.



That's the festive season well and truly over, the decorations are away and many of us now thinking about holidays!!

Our Christmas party and nativity went well & lots of fun was had by all as you can see from the pictures!!



Thank you again to all those who bring their children each week. It's so important for them to get to know God's word which we do through stories, music, games and quizzes.

Do you have nieces, nephews, grandchildren or even neighbours' children age between 3 – 11 who could come along and join us – we would love to see them.

God Bless

The Sonhouse Team

Hi there! The BIBLE CLASS has started back after their Christmas Holidays and we would like to wish you all the best for this coming year.

Just to let you know that the praise night was a success and it lets you see that the young ones are open for discussion and are willing to put their points forward. We were very proud of our young ones and they raised £77.10 for the jubilee fund.

We also raised a further £150 by selling costume jewellery for the Jubilee fund so well done kids.

We done a Hymn in sign language at Christmas – 'come join the celebrations' – which we only had around half an hours training for but it all went very well.

This coming year along with our studying, we are hoping to take the kids to a few excursions, one being to the Theatre and hopefully a trip to Erskine home later in the year.

Carol and I wish to thank the kids for all their hard work and are very proud off every one of them. We are both looking forward to working with them this year

God Bless

Carol Brunger and Liz McLaughlin



The Girls' Brigade

Numbers have remained steady in the Girls' Brigade from the start of the session with just over 20 girls through-out the different sections and our usual officers / helpers.

We welcomed Fiona back from working abroad in October; however she aims to head back out to work around April time. We have Rachel and Rebecca helping out in our Explorer and Junior sections.

Our girls have all started their badge-work for this session and are working well through it.

We had our fancy dress party in October and in December our Explorers and Juniors had a Christmas Party and the Brigaders headed to the cinema. The Juniors and Brigaders also went to the Panto in Motherwell and the Explorers were invited to Motherwell to the sing-a-long of Frozen, however unfortunately only one of our girls attended.

Two of our Brigaders (Alana and Hollie) entered the divisional ten pin bowling competition in January and came runners-up. Well done girls!

We have recently held a fundraising dance-a-thon with girls dancing for 1.50 hours and officers dancing for 2.50 hours. This was a great night enjoyed by all and has also given us a boost to our company and divisional funds.

Going forward we will be looking to head off to camp at some point and will be preparing for our annual display. We also have the divisional competitions to enter in February so there is plenty to keep us busy.

Michelle Miller

Church Quiz

The annual church Quiz was held on Friday 22nd of January and after a very close contest the winners were the 'Brain Drain' team. The number of teams competing this year was up by one to ten teams and although there were the usual complaints that the questions were too hard everyone enjoyed a night where everyone learned something they didn't know. E.g. when there is an emergency in the UK the government calls a meeting of C.O.B.R.A. but do you know what the letter A stands for – the answer is A as in Cabinet Office Briefing Room A.

Full results are below:

Burnhead Parish Church Quiz Night 2016 Score Sheet

		Max	Langs	Help	Don't knows	Brain Drain	Cat Lovers	Muppets	A.I.	Scousers	Dams	Whiz Quiz
1	General Knowledge	10	6	5	7	8	8	8	7	9	8	5
2	2015	10	4	3	6	4	4	5	4	4	1	1
3	Song Titles	10	6	5	3	8	7	4	6	3	5	4
4	Abbreviations	10	6.5	2	6.5	3.5	1.5	6	4	3.5	1	2.5
5	TV Intros	10	10	5	9	9	8	9	9	8	7	7
6	Trio	10	4	2	5	8	4	8	7	8	2	4
7	Sport	10	4	4	7	8	3	8	4	5	2	4
8	TV & Film	10	9	6	5	7	10	6	7	8	5	5
9	Common Sense	10	5	5	2	5	8	3	5	4	3	5
10	General Knowledge	10	4	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	2	1
11	Quick Fire	20	11	7	10	11	10	11	9	12	7.5	8.5
	Total	120	69.5	47	65.5	75.5	68.5	72	66	69.5	43.5	47
			3rd	8th	7th	1st	5th	2nd	6th	3rd	10th	8th

Christmas Services

Our build up to Christmas began with our annual Advent Reflections Service; a sensitive service at the start of Advent to remember the ones we wish were still with us to share in the joy of the season.

This was followed a week later with our Church Carol party, a time for all to join together in singing everyone's favourite Christmas Carols. It was attended by young and old alike and a welcome unexpected visitor in a red suit.

The next Sunday saw the Sonhouse young people leading our Nativity Service. What a joy it was to see the smiles on the faces of all who participated and all who watched.

The fourth Sunday in Advent saw the admission of four communicants into the membership of the Church and what a special occasion it was.

Christmas Eve saw two services, the first being an early evening family service at 6.30pm especially designed for those with young excited children and the traditional Watchnight service at 11.30pm for the adults that couldn't sleep

Christmas Day service at 11.00am had a small loyal number of attendees, who met to acknowledge the Saviour on the day we celebrate his birth. The young people also had a chance to show some of the presents they received earlier.

Mens' Breakfast Social Night

The Mens' Breakfast Club are having a fundraising social night in Burnhead Bowling Club on Friday 26th February at 7:30pm. See Allan Lacey or Hugh Brownlee for more information and ticket arrangements. Open to both men and women, a perfect chance to see if the women know how to end a night right enough as they claim on page 5!

Church Library

The Church has started a library to encourage all who want: to further their understanding of their faith, to learn more about other faiths and to read inspirational stories and testimonies.

The library has at the moment a limited number of books but hopes to expand as church members lend to the library the books that have spoken to them about their faith.

The library is situated in the Session / Crèche Room and is open on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.00am (the church sanctuary is also open at this time to allow any who want to find a place for quiet reflection, the space and opportunity to do so).

There is no charge to those who want to borrow any of the books and no deadline to bring them back by – we trust you.

For those who would like to borrow a book but have no transport to get to the Church arrangements can be made to deliver and collect

For further information contact Rose Sangster or the Minister.

The Rock Café

The Rock Café is open for lunches, light snacks and home baking with tea or coffee every Thursday from 11:00am till 2:00pm in the Church Hall. Good food, low prices and great company... come along and try it out! The menu can be found on the church website also if you would like a sneak peek!

Church Website

To keep up to date with what is going on at Burnhead Church, log on to the church website at www.burnheadchurch.com. You can listen again to previous sermons, see the latest ministry rotas, intimation sheets if you missed the weekly service & keep abreast of upcoming events.

Death – A Wonderful Way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You're a Christian man and don't now what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened he sprang in without fear."

"I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Sign of The Fish

In the early days of Christianity it could be very dangerous to admit that you were one of Jesus' followers. You could be arrested, imprisoned and killed, simply for your beliefs. Christians had to meet in secret – but how could you tell if a stranger was a Christian or not? Who could you trust?



Christians used secret signs to recognise one another. And one of these was the sign of the fish which could easily be scratched on a wall or drawn in the dust of the road. If the other person wasn't a Christian they'd just think you were doodling. The fish was used as sign because, in Greek, the first letters of the words 'Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour' spell 'ichthus', the Greek word for fish.

How can you show other people today that you are a Christian? If you have the joy of knowing Jesus in your heart then it should show on your face!

Secret Writing

The fish was a secret sign. If you would like to send someone a secret message, you can do it with 'invisible ink'. You need a lemon or an onion. Squeeze the juice of either into a small bowl. Using the juice as ink, with a clean nib in a proper pen, write your message on a piece of paper. Leave it to dry and as it dries the message will disappear. To make it reappear, hold the paper over a lamp or radiator. This is a very easy way of sending secret messages ... but you have to be sure that the person you are writing to knows the secret of how to make the message reappear!

What game do fish like playing the most?

Name that tuna!

Church Organisations

Crèche from birth to 3 years old. Meet during the Sunday service.

Sonhouse from age 3 to Primary 7. The children meet during the Sunday Service through school term time. Please contact Anne Morton on 07443 416017 for more information.

Bible Class from S1 upwards meet during the Sunday service. Speak with Liz McLaughlin, Carol Brunger or Rev. Les Brunger for more information.

The Choir meet for practice on Sunday mornings at 10:15am except for those when the Sacrament of Holy Communion is held. Please speak with our Organist and Choir Master Iain Hewitt for more information. New members are always welcome.

The Guild meet every Monday evening at 7:30pm in the Extension. The theme for the 2015/16 session is '*Go In Peace*'

Pre-5 Praise – Tuesday mornings between 10am and 11am in the Extension. A group for pre-5 year old children. See page 7 for more information.

Crochét Club meet on Tuesday mornings in the Extension.

The Church Library is open on Wednesdays between 10am & 11am where you can borrow from a range of books – inspirational, reference, prayer resources, children, true testimonies and more

The Girls' Brigade meet every Wednesday in Burnhead Church Halls. Explorers (P1-P3): 6pm to 7:30pm; Juniors (P4-P7): 7pm to 8:30pm and Brigaders (S1 upwards) 7pm to 8:30pm.

The Rock Café is open between 11am and 2pm every Thursday.

Bible Study Group meet on Thursday nights at 7:15pm for all who like to spend a little time delving into the meaning of the scriptures and how it impacts our present day life.

Mens' Breakfast meet on the second Saturday of every month when all men connected to Burnhead Church can come along and eat a hearty breakfast while discussing current issues in the church and society.



The Proclaimer is the magazine of
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