



The Proclaimer

The Magazine of Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church

Winter 2015

Message from the Manse – Rev. Les Brunger

Six decades of music were celebrated on the 1st of October at the Jubilee Concert with such a wonderful blend of songs that it had the audience itching to join in with the guest performers. A huge thank you to our organist and choirmaster Iain Hewitt, who crafted and orchestrated a memorable night of musical nostalgia, to all his invited artistes and to everyone who attended.

Saturday the 3rd of October was a busy day for all. 11am saw the start of a Jubilee Party in the Hall for all primary aged children associated with the Church. At the same time the secondary aged young adults set off on a mystery car trail, which was enjoyed as much by the adult drivers and co-drivers as it was by the young detectives. At 1pm all ages met together to enjoy a hearty lunch prepared by volunteers in our kitchen.

Those attending the Jubilee Ball later that same night had been encouraged to wear formal dress, and didn't everyone scrub up well. The evening began with guest speakers taking everyone on a walk down memory lane as they shared treasured moments from the last 60 years of Burnhead Church. This was followed by a hot buffet then dancing to a five-piece band. The atmosphere was special, partly because there was no fund raising pressure that often surrounds church dances, but also because everyone was in a party mood.

It was great to see so many who had partied all night still managed to attend the family Communion Service on the Sunday morning where we were joined by members of Rev Macdonell's family as we dedicated a memorial piece in the garden after the service. It seemed as if the whole church stayed for cake and.

fellowship. As a relative newcomer to Burnhead, being here just over 5 years now, I was able to stand aside and watch the buzz in the hall as the pictures from the past (lined round its walls) sparked memories of good times and special occasions. I saw many smiles, heard much laughter and felt privileged to now be a part of this wonderful Church family.

As we have recalled the past, may we always remember as we journey into the future, the cornerstone that Burnhead Church is built upon. Jesus Christ is our rock, and that Burnhead Church is not about making history but rather telling His story.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless everyone in and associated with Burnhead Church, that the Lord will lead us in the direction he wants us to go and that we will forever reach out into the community of Viewpark and tell everyone who comes through the doors of the Church that Jesus Christ is Lord

Rev. Les Brunger

Uddingston Burnhead Parish Church

Church of Scotland

BURNHEAD
PARISH
CHURCH
1955-2015



Lorna Fyfe

Les asked me last Sunday morning to say a few words about myself.

Firstly though, I would like to thank you for the most amazing welcome I've received. Everyone has been very kind and I've appreciated that very much.

I was born and brought up in South Lanarkshire. I live in Larkhall and have done for most of my life - I've tried to leave a few times but I'm always found and returned!

I am a Mum of 5 and when I say that I usually hear a few gasps around the room. Dougie, Lulu and Jessie are my 3 gorgeous Lahso Apso dogs and then..... I have 2 children. They are grown-ups - for most of the time! I also have a Grandson aged 3 and another baby is on the way and expected in early February.

My day job is working for a Christian Homeless Charity ... and really was my first indication of my call to serve. Shortly after joining the organisation, I had heard of the Church of Scotland's Vocations conference and I was curious. I went along to the residential weekend and then progressed through the enquiry and assessment stages; I was accepted for Readership training last November. So far I've been based at churches in Motherwell and Wishaw.

God gives us the most amazing personal challenges! I remember meeting my Assessor for the first time and thinking never in a million years will I be able to do this... I still have times when I think that way but obviously God has a different plan and I receive strength and direction from him.

As well as my placement here at Burnhead, I am also required to complete some academic studies. My subject this year is New Testament Greek so, if any of you are experts... please let me know. Believe me... I could do with some help!

I'm privileged to have Les as my mentor and learn from him, and to serve the congregation at Burnhead as best as I can over the next few months.

Repent O Scottish Sinner

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water...

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, So he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke..

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

The Day of The Funeral

A few months after he was called to his new charge, a minister could not believe the amount of apathy that had been allowed, by former ministers and members, to take root and grow. He was looking for more elders. The answer was “I'm too busy to commit myself to that!” He wanted to have a team of members to commit themselves to a visitation of all members, to encourage them to come to church, and to increase their time and talents to the activities he wanted to begin. He was met with negative responses like “A visitation? That's never been done here before. They wouldn't like that.”

The minister got so vexed and depressed about the apathy - or the sloth, as the last of the Seven Deadly Sins is called - of the people, he sent to every member of the church an invitation to attend a funeral! So, at the time on the day in the church as intimated on the invitation, hundreds of people appeared. Many began to mutter to each other, “Who's died?”

The service was moving, and, at times, most personal. Then, after the benediction had been pronounced, the minister did a strange thing: He opened the coffin and asked all who were present to form an orderly queue in order to file past in respect and sorrow. As they did, each was horrified to see that the coffin was empty, except for a mirror which was set in such a position that all who looked in saw only themselves. Many got the message that 'day of the funeral' for they realised that without their presence and their support, through their time and their talents, the local church, their church would die.

Now that is what I call a Resurrection story!

Do you want to be part of it?

After all, **you are the church!**

Sonhouse Report

Our new session started back in August when we welcomed a couple of wee ones who moved up from the crèche. We also have a few other new faces – 2 directly from the kids holiday club which is great. For the first time we no longer have children of secondary school age as they have all moved on to the newly formed Bible Class. Sadly, for us, it means that Carol is no longer with us as she is heading this group along with Liz McLaughlin – we wish them well as they learn more about our Lord Jesus.

In June we finished our session with the usual trip to Ayr (even although the weather wasn't too kind, we still had lots of fun) and the presentation of books to the children the following week.

We have 21 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.

We are currently working on our 'Promise Tree' which can be seen on one of the boards in the extension and also looking at the life of Moses.

Our nativity is on Sunday 13th December with rehearsals starting shortly. It would be great to see as many of you as possible come along and support the children on this day.

The day before is our Christmas party where we all have a great time. The children look forward to the games, food drinks and of course the special guest who makes an appearance at the end.

After the nativity service we shall be on holiday for 3 Sundays and will start back on Sunday 10th January 2016.

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

God Bless

The Sonhouse Team

Bible Class

This year we have 10 young people in our group with roughly 6 attending each week. We meet in the stage area of the hall (cupboard) and although it's not what most would claim to be ideal, we have made it home by decorating it ourselves.

Since the new session began in September we have been very busy; we have begun to study the creation story in the book of Genesis, read a lesson during a church service, and been selling jewellery after services (in aid of the new jubilee hall). At present we are preparing an evening praise night - hopefully you came along and found it enjoyable).

If you would like to find out more about us you can speak to Liz McLaughlin, Les Brunger or myself Carol Brunger.

Pre-5 Praise

This group was created to reach out to children (0 – 5years) and their parents/carers in our church and within our community. Through stories, song and art, each week we have fun exploring different bible stories and at the same time enjoy the fellowship of others.

If you would like to join us or would like some more information please feel free to meet with us in the extension on a Tuesday morning (term time) or phone me on 01698 813716.

We look forward to meeting you.

Carol Brunger

A teddy bear is working on a building site. He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has gone missing. The bear is angry and reports the theft to the foreman. The foreman grins at the bear and says "Oh, I forgot to tell you, today's the day the teddy bears have their pick nicked."



Scarves Fundraiser

I would like to thank everyone involved in this fundraiser. A special thanks to Ann Russell & Sandra Bryce who have been knitting all year & to Rose Sangster who has recently joined the team, not as a 'nutter' – sorry knitter, but is still 'crackers'. She must feel a bit like that as she has been using her time & talents to put together lots of lovely Christmas crackers using the scarves matched with umbrellas & purses.

To all those who have been selling them, given donations for the gift sets & of course to everyone who has bought one.

All funds raised this year it will go towards the Jubilee Hall – isn't it great what can be achieved when people help each other & pull together.

I'm not buying any more wool so when this lot has gone there'll be no more so if you still want a scarf then you need to be quick.

Thanks again

Anne Morton

Yesterday's Worries

Take yesterday's worries and sort them all out

And you'll wonder whatever you worried about;

Look back at the cares that once furrowed your brow -

I fancy you'll smile at most of them now.

They seemed terrible then, but they really were not;

For once out of the woods, all the fears are forgot.



Amazing But True

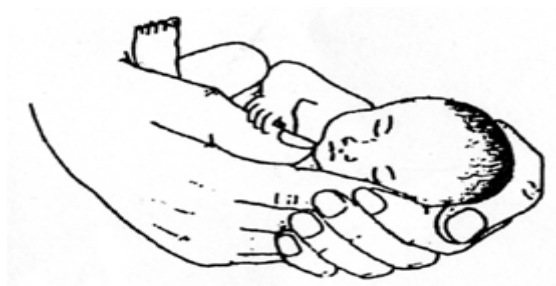
I am the proud possessor of a fabulous building in which I live in comfort and security. Let me tell you about some of the systems and properties.

The building is held together by 202 girders of varying sizes. Inside there is a complicated array of plumbing, in all some 60,000 miles of pipes. The environment is thermostatically controlled to an exact temperature. The most interesting part of the building is the intelligence and security system, consisting of a central computer that outshines even the most sophisticated developments of this world's governments. There are more than 13 billion electrical 'gates' operating a data sorting complex with over 10,000 gigabytes of memory. The electrical connections are more than 100 times as frequent as in all the world's telephone systems put together. Within the building, there are no less than 3 billion security guards trained to deal with anything that might intrude, cause injury or lessen the total functioning. Video cameras and sound-sensing equipment is of a highly sophisticated kind, quite beyond the capability of most optical and acoustical agencies. Finally, I enjoy the facility of self-regeneration of worn out parts.

Perhaps you have already guessed. Yes, I have spoken about my own body. It was created by the hand of God and, as King David said, it is “fearfully and wonderfully made”, a body which furthermore may become the home of God's Holy Spirit.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)



Christmas Health and Safety Notice

All persons planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a risk assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.

Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.

To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools, and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his / her glory all around, she / he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of glory.

Following last year's well publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr Rudolph Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr Rudolph Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practise in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.



***M**ay you find this Christmas inner peace
Equal to the patient love you give,
Releasing all the pain you can release
Renewing all the grace with which you live.
Yearnings may you turn to rhapsodies,
Choosing to find happiness in beauty,
Holding in their haunting melodies
Riches that sustain your sense of duty.
In anger may you find an evening star
Showing you the way to Bethlehem.
The angels that watch naked from afar
May you hear sing of who would none condemn.
As all you love are blessed in having you
So may you feel the joy in all you do.*

The Real Meaning of Christmas

It's that time of year again. December is upon us and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town

of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met. Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

Christmas Services

Sunday 29th November:

- 11:00 – 1st Sunday in Advent Service of Worship
- 19:00 – Advent Reflections

Sunday 6th December

- 11:00 – 2nd Sunday in Advent Service of Worship & Holy Communion
- 18:30 – Evening Service of Worship & Holy Communion
- 19:15 – Carol Party

Sunday 13th December

- 11:00 – 3rd Sunday in Advent SonHouse Nativity Service

Sunday 20th December

- 11:00 – 4th Sunday in Advent Service of Worship

Thursday 24th December

- 18:30 – Christmas Eve Family Service of Worship
- 23:30 – Watchnight Service

Friday 25th December

- 11:00 – Christmas Day Family Gift Service

God grant you peace at Christmas
And fill your heart with cheer;
God grant you health and happiness
Throughout the coming year.
God guide you with His wisdom
And keep you in His care;
This is our special wish for you
This is our Christmas prayer.

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.



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