The winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come... Song of Solomon 2:11-12

The magazine of

BALJAFFRAY PARISH CHURCH

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Baljaffray Parish Church of Scotland-Charity Number SC037739
Dates For Your Diary

25th Mar  11:15am  Church AGM
25th Mar  7:30pm  Palm Sunday Youth Service: Bearsden Baptist Church
26th Mar  7:30pm  Stations of The Cross: St Andrews RC Church
28th Mar  11:00am Lunchtime Service (inc light lunch): Westerton Parish Church
30th Mar  7:30pm  Good Friday Service: Baljaffray Parish Church
1st Apr  9:30am (from) Easter Celebration: Baljaffray Parish Church
On Easter Sunday there will be bacon rolls, tea, coffee etc before the service starts. So please come down a bit earlier to enjoy these because it is hard to sing well with your mouth full! The younger ones may want to take some decorated hard-boiled eggs along for rolling down the wee hill at the school after service.

4th Apr  5:00pm  Gavin’s Mill 1st Birthday Party: Gavin’s Mill
23rd Apr  12:30pm  Guild outing to Inveraray Castle
11th May  10:30am  Tea Service
1st Jun  1:30pm  Strawberry Tea
3rd Jun  10:00am  Worship and Communion
20th Jun  7:30pm  Session Meeting
31st Jul – 3rd Aug  Holiday Club
Do not forsake me, oh my darlin'
On this, our weddin' day
Do not forsake me, oh my darlin'
Wait, wait along

Oh, to be torn twixt love and duty
S'posin', I lose my fair-haired beauty
Look at that big hand move along
Nearin' high noon

What film is this song from? The answer of course is contained in the last line. The song comes from the 1952 cult western called “High Noon”. It stars Gary Cooper as hero Marshall Will Kane who on the day of his wedding and his last day in the job hears that his mortal enemy Frank Miller is arriving on the noon train with only one thing on his mind. Will gets married and leaves town with his new bride, but then conscience gets the better of him and he turns back to face down his nemesis and to save that little town once again.

The film is so striking because it is set in actual time, the tick-tock and swinging pendulum of the clock is used to build the suspense and count
down the minutes until High Noon. Recently, I watched the film again with my father while up in Inverness (we used to watch a lot of westerns together). Around this time, we (Baljaffray) were reading through the gospel of Luke as part of our Community Bible Experience.

In High Noon, the one fixed point in the film is the character and courage of Will Kane. Everyone else cuts and runs, deserts the sinking ship, flip flops about, is blown back and forth by the wind of circumstances; ultimately, they are revealed to be much reduced people than they first appeared to be. The only person in the film who knows who they are and what they are doing is Marshall Will Kane. He stands for something; all the others are just ciphers and opportunists – chaff in the wind.

As I read the second half of Luke’s gospel, the events leading up to the cross, I had this really strong sense that Jesus was the fixed point around which the story revolved. He was the only one who really knew who he was and what he was doing. There is a calm, a certainty, a focus in his bearing that only comes from a deeply rooted character and identity and the strong principles this brings with it. So, for example, in the garden scene of Gethsemane, Jesus prays while the disciples sleep; you can sense his disappointment. “What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray.” When moments later Judas arrives, Jesus doesn’t recoil in fear or run away but simply asks, “Would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” And then when one of the panicked disciples takes a swing at a soldier with a sword and cuts off his ear, Jesus simply stands them down and says “Let them be. Even in this” and then he heals the soldier’s ear. We change scene to the High Priest’s courtyard and the difference between the dignity, courage, majesty and poise of Jesus and the fearful, self-preserving denials of Peter is all too obvious.

It goes on and on in the interrogation of Jesus by authorities – who really was in charge in those moments? It climaxes in the words of
forgiveness uttered as the nails were being hammered in, “Father forgive them”.

There are two things to learn here. The first is that High Noon is a brilliant film to watch, good preparation for Easter; and if you need any excuse then this minister’s letter might well provide it for you. The second thing is that we see exemplified in Jesus Christ what a life deeply rooted and grounded in God looks like. We see how an awareness of God’s presence in seasons of extreme adversity can shape and form within us, come what may, a deep sense of peace and comfort, together with a clarity of purpose and principle.

Archimedes said, “Give me a lever and a place to stand and I will move the earth”. I often think that many of us would love “to move the earth”, but we haven’t yet found our place to stand. Jesus’ last hours before the cross show us the difference that having “a place to stand” makes. Spend a moment quietly reflecting on these words from Psalm 18……

“I love you, God—
you make me strong.  
God is bedrock under my feet,  
the castle in which I live,  
my rescuing knight.  
My God—the high crag  
where I run for dear life,  
hiding behind the boulders,  
safe in the granite hideout.”

Psalm 18 v 1,2

“God is the bedrock under my feet.” Now that is really something to be basing a life on – that is certainly “a place to stand”.

[Signature]
Sunday School Slot

It’s been great to see Sunday School grow recently with lots of new children. Exciting times!

Some of our team – after many years – will be giving up at the Summer so we will be looking for new volunteers. Please consider whether you might want to join with us. A ‘volunteer job description’ is available, as well as an enthusiastic team able to share how we do things!

Disclosure forms need to be processed before you can work with young people so it would be great if we knew about our new volunteers before the end of April.

We are a family, privileged to have many children in our care. Might God be asking you to join in and help? The job description is available from the office or I can email it to you.

*Edith*
This will be our 11\textsuperscript{th} Holiday Club. 80 children usually come along and we have great fun together as well as sharing the love of Jesus.

The dates this year are: 31\textsuperscript{st} July – 3\textsuperscript{rd} August, 9.45-12 midday.

The ideas for this have begun but we do need a large team of people – about 20 working with the young people, half a dozen doing crafts, a few on snacks and team lunch.

If you would like to be part of this please email me. Before we can go ahead I do need to know that we have enough volunteers available.

If you are new to the team and 16 or over, it is necessary that you have a church disclosure form. This takes time so please volunteer soon!

This is a huge opportunity for us in our community but it does need a lot of us working together!

\textit{Edith}
We are planning to have our next Tea Service on Friday 11th May. If you have not been before, the short service starts at 10.30 a.m. and includes Communion. After the Service we have tea, coffee and home baking and lots of chat. The cost is £2.00 and you are free to bring along friends.

*iIan M, June R, Agnes M, Margery H, Grace C and Norma K.*

**Strawberry Afternoon Tea**

The date for the Strawberry Afternoon Tea is Friday 1st June, a slightly earlier date than usual, but the time is the same at 1.30 p.m. We will be entertained by children from Baljaffray Primary School. After the entertainment we hope you will enjoy the strawberry 'goodies' and chat. Any donations received will go to Glasgow City Mission. Invitations will be going out in May and we hope you will come along and look forward to welcoming you then.

*iIan, June, Agnes and helpers.*
The Boys’ Brigade

The 1st Bearsden Company are enjoying their 120th session. The Annual Concert in November was a tremendous success and the Boys are now hard at work taking part in national Brigade competitions and preparing for their visit to Wisconsin in late June.

Every 5 years, ex-members are invited to join with The Company for a weekend of celebration: the Annual Inspection (on Friday 11th May), followed by a reunion on the 12th and a Thanksgiving Church Parade to Bearsden Cross Church on the 13th.

Invitations will be circulated to ex-members in late March. These are sent to the last address we have, sometimes this is a parental address. We are trying to build an active ex-members’ community and are asking for some help from the congregation. If you receive a letter addressed to your son, please pass it on to him.

Ex-members who do not receive an invitation by Easter should contact Robin Linton.

Robin Linton

Glasses & Stamps

So far, we have 38 pairs of glasses handed in. If anyone else has unused glasses please give them to me to pass on. Three big bundles of stamps have also been passed on, so please keep them coming too.

Thanks!

June
What a buzz! What a challenge! What an outcome! One hundred and three people reading the New Testament in 8 weeks. Fourteen groups of people getting together to discuss what they have read and encouraging each other. None of us would say it has been easy. All of us were delighted to have a week off to catch up or get ahead. One group suggested that we have another week off (nice try!).

But the amazing thing is that conversations we have with each other are all about reading the Bible. Are we up to date? What did you think about Paul? (no comment!) Isn’t it good to read the book in this way? What a relief to get to Matthew! Who would have thought that you would discuss Bible passages in the street, in the school playground, in the cafes and at keep-fit.

Many of us have met with people we only knew to say hello to and now have made new friends. All of us realise that there are no correct answers to some of our questions. All of us are benefiting from our daily time with God.
There have been so many lovely passages but I give you one of my favourites from Paul’s Letter to the Romans;

‘That neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

It was worth the read just to get to that passage!

Happy reading.

Moira
The Ladies Who Lunch Club meet once a month (on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays) and sample the delights of reasonably priced local restaurants!

Here are some of the restaurants we have visited:

Andiamo's Milngavie; Cyan, Milngavie; Caulders at Mugdock; The Burnbrae, Bearsden; The Kirkhouse Inn, Blanefield; The Sisters, Crow Road, Glasgow; The Wee Lochan, Broomhill; House for an Art Lover, Glasgow

We average around 20+ ladies coming along regularly to enjoy fellowship, chats and lots of fun. If you haven't been before we would love to have you join us. We meet at the Church at 12 noon on the day of the lunch to organise transport, although some of the ladies make their own way there.

Our next lunch will be at Andiamo, Glasgow Road, Milngavie, on Thursday 8th March at 12.30 pm.

Why not come along and give it a try? Please let myself or Agnes know if you would like to come along. You will be assured of a very warm welcome!

Rae Galbraith and Agnes Montgomery
Ferguson Family Update

Lorna and Daniel had what sounded like the same cold, cough, flu-type thing which we had here. However, the family managed a couple of days in the mountains north of Tokyo. The meals contained a lot of raw fish and also a giant sea snail, wriggling around just before it was cooked!

Lorna, after seeing the snow here, said it reminded her of life in Hokkaido where the snow lasts for five months!

Chiba Prefecture, where Lorna stays, is in the Greater Tokyo area. Several cities are pressed next to each other. Lorna caught a train in Ichikawa (population nearly half a million). Six minutes later, the train reached Funabashi (633,000), in four minutes Narashino (168,000) and finally arrived in Chiba, a city of nearly one million people.

Lorna oversees child protection and with a couple of others has been working on a policy to ensure children they work with are kept safe. This will then be translated into Japanese and then gone through with a Japanese Pastor. There is not a great deal of awareness of child protection so far in Japan.

Daniel and Matthew are still hunting for jobs/traineeships. Calum has end of year exams on 6th to 9th March before the school year ends on 23rd March. There is a short break before Calum's last year at school. Lorna asks for prayers for the right doors to be opened for the boys. Please keep Lorna in your prayers, for all the work she does and for her support of the boys.

June
The Guild

As we come to the end of another successful year I would like to thank all the ladies and the occasional man who faithfully attended our meetings. All the speakers commented that you were a very happy and interested group. Numbers have been constant despite cold frosty nights. Nothing stops Guild members from attending on a Monday night.

Sadly, the weather meant that we had to postpone our fund raiser on 2nd March. However, The Bearsden Fiddlers, our entertainment, have agreed to rearrange the event. So please keep tickets safe as they will be honoured. Of course, should the new date (to be arranged) not suit you, we will refund your money.

Our outing this year is on 23rd April to Inveraray Castle. The bus leaves the church at 12.30 and should be back by 6.00pm. There are 2 seats left. If you wish to join us you will be most welcome. The cost is £20.

We are delighted to host the summer rally of the Presbyterial Council on Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm. The speaker for the evening is our very own Deborah Chestnutt. Please put the date in your diary now and come along and support Deborah and the ladies of your Guild.

Finally, as I demit office I wish to thank all the ladies of the committee who worked away quietly and did all they were asked to do. My grateful thanks to Liz Linley who made sure that all the speakers turned up, to Chris Osborne who looked after our pennies so diligently and to Magda Scott who played the piano for us each week.

I am delighted that Morag McGowan is taking over as President and I wish Morag and her new committee God’s blessing for the next session.

Moira May
Open Doors Prayer Group

Imagine a land....... 

Where it is almost impossible to be Christian.
Where the state decides where you live, what work you do, what food you eat or whether you eat.
Where the streets and buildings are dominated by propaganda images.
Where the great leader, dead for 24 years, is still president, and whose starving followers must worship him, his son and grandson as gods.
Where spies are everywhere, and parents are nervous about what to tell their children.
Where disloyalty can send you to horrific labour camps to be literally worked to death.
Where, while people starve, millions are spent on nuclear missiles.
Where Christians are condemned, imprisoned, killed - and even so hundreds of thousands of people worship JESUS in secret.

Welcome to North Korea - number 1 on the 2018 world-wide watch list.

Despite all this the church is still active and growing. Thanks to the prayers and courageous secret workers who are able to bring vital help, aid to help the North Koreans survive spiritually and physically – with much-needed food and medicines - enabling the 60,000 secret believers to survive. Precious bibles or even pages of bibles keep their faith alive.

One believer says “Thanks for praying for me, my colleagues and brothers and sisters here...I always thank God that He has called you and me to be part of the one body”

Please also pray for safety, peace and blessings and that the peace talks will continue.

Please join us in our group. For info contact Liz Findlay
We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the newest member of our Church and we hope that she now feels very much at home in our congregation.

31.01.18 Mrs Linda Waddell,

(Lines received from Bearsden Cross Church).

Grateful thanks to those have donated to the church flowers

14th Jan Irene Nicolson
21st Jan Anne Craig
28th Jan Church Flowers
4th Feb Church Flowers
11th Feb Church Flowers
18th Feb Fiona Renouf
25th Feb Anne Robertson
4th Mar Church Flowers
11th Mar Margaret Stewart
18th Mar Moira May
25th Mar Agnes Montgomery
1st Apr Maureen Sim/Chris Osborne
Excerpts From Thanks Received For Church Flowers

The flowers received was a nice surprise and very much appreciated.

One of the great things about going to Church is that one becomes part of a larger family and one realises that folk care about you if you are not too well or can share the ups and downs of life.

I was feeling sad after the death of a dear Aunt and the lovely flowers received brightened up my day. It was very thoughtful and meant a lot to me.

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers and good wishes. We both thought the ‘get well’ card made by the children at the Holiday Club was very clever and it made us smile.

I wish to express my surprise and joy at receiving such a beautiful bouquet flowers from the congregation of Baljaffray Parish Church. My thanks to the members of the Flower Fund Team for their kindness and generosity.

Many thanks for the flowers I received from the church after my fall. I really appreciated them. The card made by the children was lovely.

The flowers brightened up the room on these dull days and are much appreciated. The flowers on the ‘get well’ card are lovely as well.

The flowers were so unexpected and did help to brighten up our day. It was so kind of you to remember us at this time.

The comfort given from the flowers which have been in the Church and the thought that a sad memory is being remembered by others eases the loss.

Ian, June, Emma and Caroline.
Year One at Gavin’s Mill

Gavin’s Mill Fair Trade shop and café opened for business on 1st March 2017, so as I write we have just passed our first anniversary. We had planned to have a Birthday Party on 1st March 2018 to celebrate, but the snow got in the way! These pictures were taken on the Friday, when we were digging paths through to the doors to let us open on the Saturday. Even now it seems incredible that there was so much snow!

Our 1st Birthday Party will now be held on Wednesday April 4th 2018 at 5pm, and we hope that you will come along to celebrate with us and help us to look forward to the future of the Mill and celebrate its place in the community. Everyone is invited and if you want to bring others who are interested, they will be most welcome.

See you there!

Sue Milne
Our Big Arran Challenge is back and this time with more options to conquer the island than ever before. Choose from our cycling options, to cycle around the island, climb Goatfell, or if you're brave, do both!

Now in its fifth year, the event has grown from strength to strength raising thousands for Glasgow's most needy. All money raised will be used to provide practical support for people battling homelessness, poverty and social isolation. such as our evening meals, lifeskills workshops, back-to-work support and much more.

“Springtime = Poppytime” Karla Nolan

“If Spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change!”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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