



**The Church of Scotland
Bearsden Cross Church**



*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

**WORD FROM
THE CROSS
November 2017**



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Cover based on photograph by Margaret Campbell

Lines from "The Fallen" by Laurence Binyon

Any content for the December/January edition of the magazine should be forwarded to the editor by Thursday 16 November.

Web version of the magazine

www.bearsdencross.org

Parish Letter

Dear Friends,

On the 31st October 1517 Martin Luther pinned his 'Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences', otherwise known as the '95 Theses', on the door of Wittenberg Castle Church and what we now know as the Reformation was begun.



Some 500 years have now passed since that day. Martin Luther did not want a new church, or a breakaway, rather he sought to **reform** the church from the inside based on the principles of the Bible itself. He wished to assert that the forgiveness of sins comes through God in Jesus Christ alone, and therefore it is not in the power of the church to grant, let alone guarantee. Martin Luther objected to the sale of 'Indulgences' – a document with a Papal seal saying that the named bearer, and their family, were guaranteed forgiveness of their sins and assured of a place in heaven. These were being sold in the poverty of Luther's rural Germany by Johann Tetzel, with the money raised being used to rebuild St Peter's basilica in Rome. Tetzel's famous aphorism was,

*"As soon as a coin in the coffer rings,
the soul into heaven springs."*



The Reformation quickly spread throughout northern Europe and Protestantism soon became the main tradition in Scotland after the Scottish Reformation of 1560, led by John Knox. The focus on the Word of God, i.e. the Bible, was a key reformation principle and as churches were established in parishes throughout Scotland it was often with a school alongside – in order that people could be educated and therefore read and study Scripture for themselves. This focus on education served our country well and soon we had a worldwide reputation of being at the forefront of education and invention.

Sandy Forsyth and I gave a series of talks/sermons on the Reformation over the summer and we hope to have these made available on the website, and perhaps also by means of a printed booklet, in the not too distant future. Hopefully I will be able to give you more details of this in next month's magazine, but I hope you will find these reflections interesting and informative.

Martin Luther wrote of the principle of 'sola gratia' – "grace alone" – and this principle continues to underpin our faith today. God's grace comes to us – we cannot earn it for ourselves by works or good deeds, as important as these are. This is the same grace that John Newton wrote about in his famous hymn:-

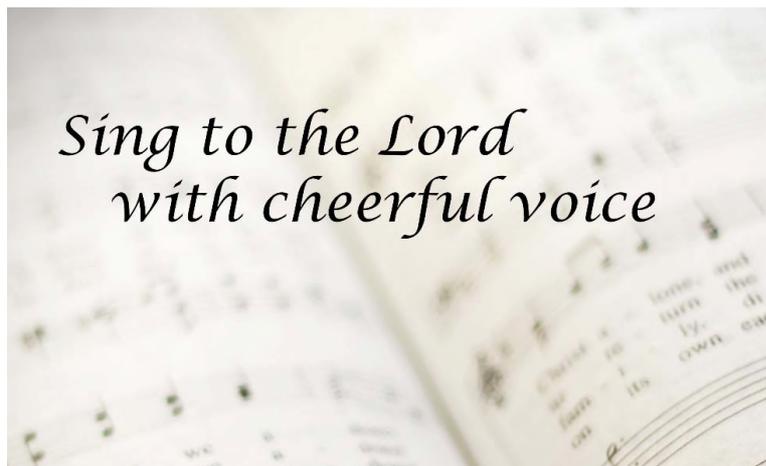
*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

Shalom

Graeme

Picture above from Microsoft Clip Art – Martin Luther pinning his Theses to the door of Wittenburg Castle Church

Evening Communion Services 2017-18



Do you have a favourite hymn? A hymn that means a lot to your faith, or reminds you of a particular time or person in your life? This year I want to take **your** choice of favourite hymns to be the theme for the monthly evening communion services.

If you have a favourite hymn and would like to talk a little (or a lot!) about it then call me on 0141 942 0507 or email me at graeme.wilson@gmail.com to have an initial discussion without obligation! You may just wish to speak for a few minutes, and wish me to say some more, or you may wish to speak for 10-15 minutes ... it's up to you. The main thing is that it is your choice, and your voice!

The evening communion service takes place at 6.30pm on the second Sunday of each month, and is a chance to celebrate the sacrament in a more intimate setting. The dates of the services are as undernoted, and we will also continue to have a 'Time for God' – a time for silent prayer and reflection – from 6 to 6.20pm before the service itself.

Graeme

November 12 th	<i>'And can it be that I should gain..'</i>	Nairn Young
December 3 rd	<i>'At the name of Jesus'</i>	Renton Thomson
January 14 th 2018	TBC	
February 11 th	<i>'Will you come and follow me'</i>	Anne Henderson
March 11 th	<i>'God is our refuge and our strength'</i>	Gwen Stokes
May 13 th	TBC	
June 10 th	Still free!	

'Exploring Mark' – New Bible Study groups



The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, and is considered to be perhaps the most straight-forward too, though it does have a richness of its own.

I have started a day-time Bible Study called 'Exploring Mark – Bible Basics' and is intended to be a fairly gentle and non-

threatening entry into Bible Study. This is aimed at those curious to find out some of the basic ideas and themes of Mark, as well as looking at some of the key stories and characters. No prior knowledge assumed and no question asked is a bad question! We have had quite a few folks at the first two sessions and the remaining dates for 2017 are as noted below.

We meet in the Manse and Bibles and the relevant materials will be provided. The Bible Study's will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 – 11.30am and last around an hour, and there is no need to have attended previous sessions to come along.

We will meet on the following dates:

Wednesday 8th November (at 11am),

Wednesday 22nd November, and

Wednesday 6th December.

If you think you might be interested then please give me a call on 0141 942 0507 or email me at graeme.wilson@gmail.com, or alternatively just turn up on the day!

Graeme

Twining with Poitiers



Following on from the recent exchange trips with our friends from the Eglise Réformée de Poitiers (France), a small committee has been set up to look at how we might take things forward. We hope to arrange a visit to Poitiers, and vice versa, in the course of the next year or so in order that our respective congregations and communities

can learn more about one another and our shared Reformed heritage.

Someone asked recently if the Session had considered supporting a congregation in say Africa, rather than a more 'local' twinning arrangement. The answer is that we did, however we took the advice of the World Mission Council of the church who suggested that any twinning arrangement should be mutually enhancing rather than giving aid in a one way direction. This congregation has always been incredibly generous when it comes to Christian Aid and DEC appeals, and has also given monies to overseas projects in the past; however the benefit of a twinning relationship is that we can learn from one another and form friendships based on a mutual faith in, and love of, Jesus Christ.

If you think you might be interested in visiting, hosting or helping out in the future with the Poitiers twinning then please take the time to complete the questionnaire enclosed with this magazine and return it to your Elder or to the church office and we'll get back in touch.

Merci!

Graeme

The Guild

The United Meeting takes place on **Wednesday 1st November** at 7.30 in Baljaffray Church. The speaker is Rev Martin Forrest ,Chaplain at Low Moss Prison.

On Monday 13th November we will hear about the Guild Project , 'Feed the Minds' and on Monday 27th November we will have a Musical Afternoon with Mr David Sturgeon. All are welcome to our meetings which start at 2pm.



Irene McLachlan
Secretary

CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARDS

An order worth £250.15p was sent to Crossreach with the orders from the Guild and from worship on 15th October. By now you will all have your cards and I am sure the more organised of you already have them written!

The cards will again be on sale on 5th November and we will be taking orders (with money) before and after worship in the Assembly area.

Thank you to those of you who have already assisted the valuable work done by Crossreach by purchasing cards and calendars. Last year our orders totalled £400 so it would be wonderful if we could exceed that this year

Anne E Henderson
Congregational Contact for Crossreach

Funday Sunday



October saw us start with Harvest Sunday, when the children brought gifts for the Maryhill Foodbank.

In the Hall, we continued the theme of Harvest and God's gifts. We made apples from paper plates and tissue paper and hung them on a tree "grown" by the Bible Class. We also enjoyed a fruity quiz and eating bread, cheese and grapes.



After the October holiday, we will continue looking at our theme of "Community" until we start our advent preparations. Remembrance Sunday will be marked on 12th November, when both Funday Sunday and the Church service will start at 10am. After the shorter service, parents can either collect children to take them to the service at the Cross, or leave them to continue Funday Sunday activities until after the service at the Cross.

*Elizabeth Thomson,
Sunday School Secretary*

English Conversation Classes for Refugees

Some time back Roddy Hamilton, minister of New Kilpatrick, set up Bearsden Refugee Response Group as a community organisation. It had been helping, mainly collecting clothes and other items for the organisations in Glasgow City helping out Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Another, longer established group in Milngavie (Milngavie Refugee Action Group) was also active, among other things supporting distribution of items to the then Calais camp and organising a concert in Cairns. Then at the end of June, East Dunbartonshire Council accepted 4 refugee families into the area (Bearden, Milngavie, Kirkintilloch and Twechar), under the Home Office's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The scheme is a well organised and UK funded initiative to resettle 20,000 Syrian and other refugees that the UN have declared very vulnerable from the refugee camps in, mainly, Jordan and Lebanon. So 21 refugees arrived including a baby, a couple of toddlers, 7 young kids, 4 teenagers and 7 parents.

So how to help the council? After a quick search the group sorted TVs for each household to let them stay in touch with home and learn some English. Next we launched a English Conversation session which meets each Monday morning in our church hall. Now in its 15th week, it's been very popular with transport and an interpreter provided by the Council. It is led by Caroline Thomson from Westerton Church, with volunteers from New Kilpatrick, Westerton, Milngavie and ourselves. Many thanks to John and Caroline Fisher and Nicola Shirlaw for all their support through the weeks.

Last month we had a day out to the seaside at Ayr for the kids' first October week holiday from school...and had some sunshine just before the storm hit. Graeme, with his local knowledge, led the trip. Here are some of the New Scots enjoying our warm October waters!



Peter Drummond



MSPs hail 'brilliant' Church community work

Text reproduced with permission, from the Church of Scotland website

Published on 28 September, 2017

Church members have been hailed at Holyrood for the “brilliant” community work undertaken across Scotland. Green MSP Ross Greer said the state would not be able to cope if services and support provided by faith communities were withdrawn. He said he was “immensely proud” of the contribution members of Bearsden Cross Church in East Dunbartonshire make to improve and enrich the lives of others. Mr Greer, a member of the congregation, made the remarks during a recent debate at Holyrood to celebrate the launch of Serve Scotland, a network of church-based charitable organisations. The session was led by Kate Forbes, SNP MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, who said faith communities hated injustice, loved people and “will not be content until peace and love reign supreme in Scotland”.

Mr Greer said: “Faith organisations provide such a range of services and support in every city, town and village in our country that, if they were to go, we would not be able to cope. “That is particularly true in this era of austerity, of public services being hammered by cuts and of a concerted effort to reduce the supportive role of the state.”

Immense pride

Mr Greer said members of Bearsden Cross Church ran a “Mind That Song” club for people living with dementia and their carers. The club uses singing to bring together those who can often feel isolated and overwhelmed – using the well documented ability of music to bring back long forgotten memories and give those with the condition a renewed sense of self.

Church members are involved in BEAM- Bearsden and Milngavie’s talking newspaper – which benefits people with eyesight challenges. Mr Greer said they have also worked alongside East Dunbartonshire Council to welcome four Syrian families to the local area earlier this year. “I’m immensely proud

of the brilliant work my church and many others do within the community and it was a wonderful opportunity to talk about this in parliament,” added the MSP. “I’m particularly pleased that Bearsden Cross have taken a lead in supporting Syrian refugees and referred in my speech to fantastic volunteers like Peter Drummond, who has given up to 40 hours of volunteering a week to help our new residents feel welcome in the community.”

“Of course the church doesn’t stand alone, there are many thousands of volunteers from other churches, faith groups and secular organisations working together across Scotland to make a difference. “Without this amazing work we simply would not be able to cope and we should be grateful for it.”

Defender of the poor

Mr Greer, Scotland’s youngest MSP, said his faith motivated him to enter politics.

“Jesus was overtly on the side of the poor, the excluded, the ignored, the disenfranchised and the exploited. He was on their side when it damaged his reputation, his earning potential and any hope he had of moving up the ranks of religious or political power. He was on their side when he drove out the price-manipulators and rent-seekers in the temple courts and he was on their side when it cost him his life. That is what has always motivated me in my faith and my politics -the desire to serve others.”

Invaluable

Graeme Dey, SNP MSP for Angus South, highlighted work carried out at a drop-in centre in his constituency which helps people struggling with addictions. He said the Havilah Project, run by St Andrew’s Parish Church in Arbroath, was doing important work. Mr Dey said: “Havilah began in response to the desire of some members to reach out to the many people in the local community who, for whatever reason, often find themselves excluded, isolated and unloved. It helps people who are struggling with addictions. Volunteers have also visited some of the service users who have been sent to prison, and some people, on leaving prison, make Havilah their first port of call because they know of the welcome that they will get. Angus Council and the Church of Scotland’s Go For It fund provide financial support

and, in 2015, the project was presented with the Queen's award for voluntary service."

"St Andrew's church also works alongside Arbroath Old and Abbey church on operating a food bank in the town. Having visited the food bank, I know of the invaluable service that it is providing to people who are in times of crisis."

Love

Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser and Dave Stewart, a Labour politician, praised the "inspirational" work carried out by Street Pastors – who support late night revellers worse for wear and the homeless - in cities across the country.

"There is a general view that, across Scotland, church congregations are dwindling—at least, that is what recent censuses and surveys have told us," said Mr Fraser. "However, perhaps what we are learning is bums on pews on a Sunday morning might be less important than the holistic work that churches do, particularly in the wider community, in reaching out with the gospel and in their other outreach work. Such work is a practical illustration of the Christian faith, in offering help and relief to, and demonstrating love for, those who are less fortunate."

[MSPs hail 'brilliant' Church community work - The Church of Scotland](#)

Too Many Candles (TMC)

Continues to meet on the last Monday of the month at Massimo for Fellowship, Friendship and chat. All welcome to share this time with us. Further details from Anne, Marlene or Diane

Lesley Shaw

The Phoenix Circle

13 November: “**A talk by Canine Partners**”. This is a charity which provides assistance dogs to help disabled people and I am sure we will be amazed to learn exactly the difference it can make to enhance the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves.

27 November: “**Wrapping Parcels**”. This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and see how all these awkward parcels are wrapped so professionally – no excuse for poorly wrapped Christmas presents!!

All welcome. Main Hall 8.00pm.

Senga Dempster (Secretary)

Bearsden Cross Church Walking Club PROGRAMME –2017.



Saturdays

Walkers leave from Bearsden Station Car Park at 9:30am (weather permitting). Friends and occasional walkers welcome. For further information contact Sheila Stevenson or Margaret Mackinlay or the Church Office.

The Walking Club also meets **every Wednesday** at the Allander Leisure Centre car park at 9.30am (weather permitting). There is no set programme of walks. More information can be had from Amanda Mackenzie or the Church Office.



All walkers participate at their own risk.



On 12th October, Radio Clyde broadcast a programme on its own investigation into homelessness. It visited Glasgow City Mission and various other organisations in Glasgow that work with the homeless, such as the Simon Community and H4TH (Help for the Homeless), and also inquired into how Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government are currently dealing with the problem. For good measure, its reporters actually spent a night among the rough sleepers of Glasgow, to find out what brought them to this level of homelessness and how they cope.

On 16th October, one of the GCM project workers, Joe Thomson, after 19 years of service, spent his last full-time evening leading the Monday night drop-in. For everybody who knows him, Joe represents exactly what the Mission stands for. He himself says of his work with it;

“The guys who come here become part of a community and they look out for one another. It gives stability to people who are leading chaotic lives. They know where to come when they need help and that we will help. It excites me that the Mission has been at the sharp end of the need in Glasgow for almost 200 years. It’s profoundly life changing support. I’ve had a brilliant time working here. The years have flown by and God has been very good. I’m going into semi-retirement, so I’ll still be around. It’s a blessing working with everyone.”

For those of us in the Monday night team his departure will leave a great gap but he’ll still be around officially two days a week helping clients on a one-to-one basis as before – and, typically, he’ll also be doing an extra day as a volunteer.

These two items of news are to be found currently on the Mission’s website www.glasgowcitymission.com under News. Indeed you can listen to the Radio Clyde programme there too. Taken together, they represent the public work and the personal work that the Mission strives to do in Glasgow at its best. Do read them in full!

Katie Thomson



First of all - a huge "Thank You" to everyone in our congregation who last month very generously supported Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal. We have raised over £454 which will go directly to help farmers in Malawi who are coping with the devastating impact of climate change and the effect it has on the crops which they can grow.

On a local level, the Bearsden churches jointly raised the magnificent sum of £38,398.26 for Christian Aid in the year from July 2016 to the end of June 2017. This is just over £7k more than last year and is due to the hard work and commitment of all our congregations. As I reported in September, we here in Bearsden Cross contributed just over £12k to that amount.

The DEC Rohingya Crisis Appeal is on-going. If you would like to give, you will find Christian Aid Emergency Envelopes in the pews and assembly areas. Cheques should be made payable to "DEC Myanmar".

"WILL AID" runs again throughout November. This is a will-writing scheme which offers an opportunity for people who have yet to make a will, or need to update one, to do so while benefitting Christian Aid and eight other charities. Solicitors give their professional time for free and in return ask for a voluntary donation which goes to the charities. A suggested donation is £95 for a single will and £150 for a pair of basic mirror wills. Participating solicitors can be found on the Will Aid website or can be contacted through Jo Dallas, the Christian Aid Scotland Legacy and in Memory Coordinator on 0141 241 6139.

Copies of the current prayer diary, newsletter and empty penny boxes can be found in the Assembly Area under the Christian Aid notice board. Your interest and continuing support is very much appreciated.

Lyndsay Ross



“Mind that Song”

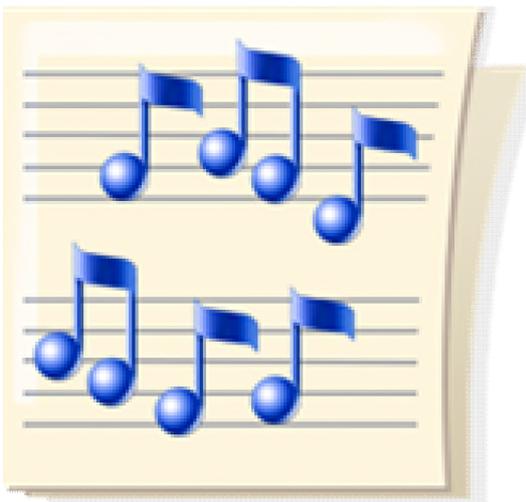
“Mind that song” is a service provided by Alzheimer Scotland, in conjunction with **Bearsden Cross Church**, which uses singing to bring people together in a friendly and stimulating social environment.

Our Forthcoming events will be:

10 November and 8 December

FROM: 2 – 3.30pm

Tea and coffee provided



WHERE: Church of Scotland
61 Drymen Road
Bearsden
G61 2SU

CONTACT: Anne O'Donnell
AO'Donnell@Alzscot.org



Flowers October 2017

" Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

Anon.

Rene McKenzie memorial flowers

Thank you to the following, the members of the flower group who decorated the church, the Sarofilovic family for providing the corn bread for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and to members of the congregation who donated the flowers in October.

Provided by :

Arranged by :

OCTOBER

1st.

Mr. A. Gall.

Mrs. M. Land.

8th.

Mrs. A. Sutherland.

Mrs. A. Minty.

15th.

Mrs. M. Turkington.

Mrs. E. Hall.

22nd.

Mrs. S. Ritchie.

Mrs. C. Taggart.

29th.

Dr. J. Thomson.

Mrs. G. Stokes.

A kind donation Mrs. J. Matheson.

The Flower List for 2018 is now available in the Assembly area. If you have a particular date in mind, please add it to the list.

If any members of the congregation would like to volunteer to decorate the church with a floral arrangement for the Sunday service please contact either Aileen Minty or Christine. Your help will be most welcome.

Christine Taggart

Church Register

Change of Address

4.10.17 Mrs Elaine O'Hara *from* Boclair Cresc
to Russell Drive

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

29	Bible Class	10.00 a.m.
	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday & Crèche	10.30 a.m.

NOVEMBER

30	The Phoenix Circle	8.00 p.m.
1	Bearsden Guilds United Service (Baljaffray)	7.30 p.m.
2	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
4	Saturday Night Club	7.30 p.m.
5	Bible Class Breakfast Club	9.45 a.m.
	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday & Crèche	10.30 a.m.
	Traidcraft goods on sale	11.30 a.m.
8	Bible Basics Bible Study	10.30 a.m.
	Congregational Board	7.30 p.m.
9	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
10	"Mind that Song" with Alzheimer Scotland	2.00 p.m.
11	Kirk Session Conference	10.00 a.m.
	Saturday Night Club	7.30 p.m.
12	Remembrance Service	10.00 a.m.

	Funday Sunday & Crèche	10.00 a.m.
	Evening Communion	6.30 p.m.
13	The Guild	2.00 p.m.
	The Phoenix Circle	8.00 p.m.
14	Follow	7.30 p.m.
16	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
	Follow	7.30 p.m.
18	Coffee Concert	10.45 a.m.
	Saturday Night Club	7.30 p.m.
19	Bible Class	10.00 a.m.
	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday & Crèche	10.30 a.m.
	Traidcraft goods on sale	11.30 a.m.
21	Follow	7.30 p.m.
23	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
	Follow	7.30 p.m.
25	Saturday Night Club	7.30 p.m.
26	Bible Class	10.00 a.m.
	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday & Creche	10.30 a.m.
27	The Guild	2.00 p.m.
	The Phoenix Circle	8.00 p.m.
28	Follow	7.30 p.m.
30	Choir Practice	7.30 p.m.
	Follow	7.30 p.m.

DECEMBER

1	Messy Church	3.30 p.m.
2	Saturday Night Club	7.30 p.m.

Prayer

Prince of Peace,
Let us be peace-makers;
More ready to call people friends than enemies;
More ready to love than to hate;
More ready to trust than to mistrust;
More ready to respect than to despise;
More ready to serve than to be served;
More ready to absorb and transform evil than to pass it on.
In this season of Remembrance,
Let us remember not only wars of yesterday
And the scars they have left on so many lives,
But also the conflicts of today,
And the raw wounds that have not yet healed.



Prince of Peace,
Help us to be more like you.
Help us to live peaceably in our home lives, where peace begins,
And help this choice of peace at home radiate outwards
Into every hurting heart and home,
And into every torn community and fearful nation.
Lord, peace is Your gift to us;
Let peace be our gift to the world.

Amen

*A remembrance prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning. This prayer first appeared in the **November 2017 edition of Life and Work***

Any content for the December/January edition of the magazine should be forwarded to the editor by Thursday 16 November. Contributions, photographs too, reflecting all aspects of the life of the Church and congregation are welcome!