

News & Views

Biggar Kirk

Here for You

August 2015



Revelation 21:5

From the Minister

Mike Fucella

This edition of News and Views comes at the time of year when children are heading back to school and other community activities and organisations are starting up again after the summer break. Besides this there are various other 'new beginnings' in our community – new premises for our Biggar museum and a new primary school building. It is an exciting time of year and also an exciting time in the history of Biggar!

The problem with new things, however, is they get old rather too quickly. A new car is great until you get that first scratch. And any child will tell you that the new school term starts to get to be a bit of a drag after not too long!

It's not that NEW isn't ever a good thing—but sometimes we long for things, some things at least, to stay the same. Alas change is inevitable. But there is

one thing that never changes and that is God's love. The Bible says that God, as he was made known in Jesus Christ... "is the same today, yesterday and forever." He has shown us his love in the past, he is loving us in the present and, come what may, his love will be there for us in the future. With this firm foundation of God's never changing love for us we can, indeed, welcome the future with all its inevitable changes—even through the difficult changes like illness, growing old and even death.

Let's celebrate a new term and new facilities here in Biggar, but let's also look forward to the day when all things including us will be made new according to the promises of the One whose love never changes.

Blessings,



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Biggar Guild

*Supporting Projects that
Change the World*

Guild members have met over the summer months in St Mary's Hall enjoying a chat and a cup of tea. At the same time their knitting needles have been clicking away to make scarves, mittens and hats for the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. To date an array of colourful items have been produced.

Members enjoyed a fun and informative meeting in June when we had a visit from Amy Ward. She is an exceptional young Christian woman who had just returned from two years volunteering in a Guatemalan Prison.

Amy worked with young girls some only fourteen years old. Many of the girls had committed horrendous crimes and been involved in gang culture. Through Amy's compassion and her understanding, plus the dedication of others on her team young lives have been changed. As prisoners came to the end of their sentence, they began to feel a sense of hope for the future. All present were full of admiration for the work that had been

undertaken by Amy.

The warmest day of the summer was handpicked for the annual Guild outing. The members went to 'Brodies' in Moffat for a very 'posh' tea, and of course enjoyed a little shopping in the town!

The Guild will have a Service of Dedication on the first Sunday in October in the Kirk and the new session starts on Monday 5th October at 7.30pm. The Speaker for the first meeting will be our own Minister Rev Mike Fucella who will speak on the theme, 'Be Bold Be Strong'.

On Friday 25th September we will have a special fund raising evening. 'Sheila Conn' is holding an Autumn/Winter Fashion Show in the Municipal Hall. Tickets and raffle tickets are available from all Committee Members.

Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the varied programme throughout the winter months, either as a member or visitor, so please come.

Frances Henderson
Guild President

Membership



(Rev Mike Fucella with our new members Stephen, Sharon, Joy, Gordon, Kathryn, Bria and Gemma)

What does it mean to belong to Biggar Kirk? Many of us have grown up in and around the Kirk. We may have been baptised here and attended Sunday school. Our children may, in the past, have attended BBs or the Bible Class. We may have had our family weddings here and buried our loved ones in the Kirk yard. Biggar Kirk has been and still is an integral part of the Biggar community. Our annual Remembrance Day Service takes place in the Kirk as does the Gala Inaugural Service and the Biggar Little Festival Service. In lots of ways Biggar people belong to the church and the church belongs to them and this is as it should be.

But at another level Biggar Kirk is more than just a part of the Biggar community. It is a Christian church and as such it belongs primarily to its Lord, Jesus Christ. The church in this

respect consists of those who believe Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Saviour and who commit themselves to following Him with others who have made the same profession and commitment. Those who do this we call church 'members'.

In the Church of Scotland, of which Biggar Kirk is a part, we become members after we are baptised and are of an age when we are ready to make and follow through on certain promises or vows. We make these vows with the Christian understanding that without the grace of God and the power of His Spirit working within us we could never hope to fulfill any promise.

The promises we publicly make when we become a member are:

To Grow

- that is we believe that none of us are 'there yet' and that God promises His Spirit to put us right when we get it wrong. As church members we promise that with the help of the Spirit through prayer and the study of God's Word, the Bible, we will keep trying to grow more like the example that was set for us by Jesus.

To Gather

- we promise too that we will gather with other Christians to support and encourage each other in the Christian life and to worship God together. Our gatherings have traditionally taken place on a Sunday morning, though they happen at other times too as we come together to study God's word or for fun and fellowship with God's people on other days of the week.

To Give

- as church members we promise to give a fitting proportion of our income and our time and our abilities to support the work of God in our local church, nationally and around the world. We give, not just because the church needs our support, but also and more importantly because giving trains us to rely on God and makes us more faithful to Him.

To Witness

- We promise as church members to never be ashamed of our allegiance to Christ and his church. We commit ourselves to share the good news of God's love in Christ in both word and in action whenever we are able.

If you are a member of Biggar Kirk you will receive a letter along with your invitation to the next quarterly communion in October. In the letter you will be reminded of the vows above and you will be asked whether you wish to remain a full communicant member, be moved to a new supplementary roll or resign from membership altogether. We hope and pray that this will be an opportunity for us all to recommit ourselves to the great adventure of being part of what God is doing in and through his church here in Biggar.

If you have never become a member but would like to find out more about what it means to take Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and follow him into membership of his Church please don't hesitate to contact the Minister. He would be happy to chat with you. His contact details are on the last page of this magazine.

Run with the Horses

The Quest for Life at its Best

Rev Mike Fucella

"We live in a society that tries to diminish us to the level of the ant heap so that we scurry mindlessly, getting and consuming..." So contends Eugene Petersen in his book 'Run with the Horses'. This mindless scurrying was never the way God meant us to live. Having been created in God's image we are meant to strive for 'excellence' and run with the horses.

But what does excellence mean? Does it mean following the example of celebrities that the world shows us on our television sets and in fan magazines? Surely not—those celebrities lead lives that we could never hope to emulate. We don't live in Hollywood; we live in Biggar. We haven't been discovered by a talent scout. The only one who thinks I have any talent is my mum! And as the media are all too ready to point out the virtue of the pantheon of celebrities is often just veneer hiding all sorts of very human frailties.

Petersen suggests that we look elsewhere altogether for our examples of excellence— to the characters of the Bible. They were ordinary folk like you and

me but because they lived lives open to God in very ordinary circumstances God was able to use them in ways that were extra-ordinary. The prophet Jeremiah was just such a character. From his youth he knew of God's call on his life. This call in many ways was to go against the flow of what others thought to be right, virtuous and expedient. But because he was confident in God's care and plan for his life Jeremiah was able to persevere and make a mark that is remembered even to this day, thousands of years later.



In Biggar Kirk, starting on the 23rd of August we are planning to study the life of Jeremiah.

Every Sunday for six Sundays we will consider a different part of Jeremiah's life.

Each week people will gather in small groups at various times, in different homes, to discuss the passages from the Book of Jeremiah that we read on Sunday. You are most welcome to join together with others in this series of potentially life changing lessons.

Eugene Petersen's book 'Run with the Horses' is a great resource to

help fill you in on some of the background for this series. You can buy it in our local bookshop Atkinson-Price 27 High Street, Biggar.

Study Groups:

Monday 10am at 160 High Street—Call Trish on 220420

Wednesday 8pm at South Lindsaylands — Call Cameron on 229380

Thursday 8pm at 12 Croft Road — Call Jane on 229291



Burnbraes Park

Saturday 29th August @ 2:00pm

Biggar Kirk will be holding an old-fashioned Church Fete on Saturday 29th August. This will be held from 2pm in Burnbraes Park (in Municipal Hall if wet). As well as traditional games there will be a bouncy castle, a refreshments tent, home baking for sale, tombola and other stalls. The day will close with an outdoor church service led by Rev Mike Fucella, and then a barbeque. Please come along and support this event which is free and open to the whole community.

Donations of books, CD's, DVD's including tombola prizes can be handed in to the church prior to the 11.15 service on Sunday 22nd August, or when the church is open Monday to Friday on the week before the event. No bric-a-brac, thank you!

Come along and also invite family and friends to enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

Alastair Fyfe

Stewardship and Fundraising



Prayer Meetings:

Sunday Mornings
Gillespie Centre: 10:10am – 10:50am

Thursday Mornings
3 South Back Road, Biggar:
09:00am – 10:00am

Harvest Service

4th October

Biggar Little Festival

18th October

Communion Service

25th October

Remembrance Service

8th November

Messy Church

A fun way of being church for families of all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Come and enjoy crafts, games, singing, Bible stories and a meal together.

19th September 11am–1pm– St. Mary's Hall, Biggar

24th October 4pm-6pm– Black Mount Church Hall

21st November 11am-1pm– St. Mary's Hall, Biggar



Wee Worship

Bible stories, crafts, games and songs for pre-school children.

First Wednesday every month (term time) St Mary's Hall, Biggar

11:45am – 12:45pm.

Please bring your lunch and a grown up!

Sharing of Food and Fellowship

Informal evening service preceded by a meal together 5pm at the Manse (6c Leafield Road, Biggar). To assist with catering, please let Jane Fucella (01899-229291) know if you are bringing food.

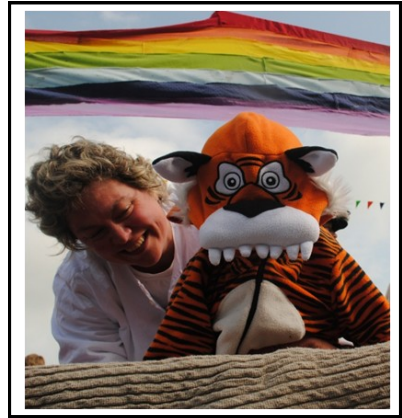
13th September

11th October

15th November

Biggar Gala Day

Thanks to Sam McShane and her team for the work involved in creating 'the ark' float. It was certainly a day of fun and fellowship for young and not so young, making a guest appearance on the float as part of our outreach within the community. The Gala Day Service was well attended and the everyone who was there will remember the sharing of the story of Esther. The word search below is based on this story.



Esther the Queen Word Search

I	K	I	L	L	E	D	C	P	B	S	H	H	X	K
C	A	I	G	I	I	R	B	E	N	R	A	O	A	I
H	H	C	Q	N	O	O	A	R	X	C	A	V	G	N
O	S	E	E	W	W	U	D	M	M	Y	L	V	E	G
S	I	G	N	D	T	E	Z	I	N	V	I	T	E	D
E	W	A	F	I	R	I	Y	S	U	O	L	A	E	J
N	E	R	F	O	Y	O	V	S	R	E	Y	A	R	P
A	J	U	N	B	K	W	M	I	D	E	T	S	A	F
A	L	O	N	A	M	A	H	O	S	U	P	P	E	R
B	H	C	Q	U	E	E	N	N	W	M	H	Y	D	W

BEAUTIFUL
BOW
BRAVE
CHOSEN
COURAGE
CROWN
FASTED
HAMAN
HONORED
INVITED



JEALOUSY
JEWISH
KILLED
KING
MORDECAI
PERMISSION
PRAYER
QUEEN
SAVED
SUPPER

Holiday Club

Searching for the truth

Anne Smart



We ran our Holiday Club this year on the week beginning on the 6th of July culminating in a special Holiday Club service. Our theme was "Polar Explorers" – the programme produced this year by Scripture Union. The hall was transformed into the Antarctic complete with penguins. Over twenty children came along to take part in the week. We spent time each day singing songs, playing games, keeping fit and enjoying the banter of "Heather with the Weather" and "Bessie" our rather unlikely "Naturalist" who told us all about penguins. The children also really expressed their enjoyment of the crafts and this year left with a kit they had produced during the week to help them on future expeditions – this included a "rucksack" a compass and a map! Of course we also wanted the children to find out

more about Jesus and the people he chose to follow him. We found out that you can serve God wherever you are and that you can never be too bad, too unlikely, too young (or old) or make too many mistakes. These were messages that were good for the leaders to think about as well as the children and working together to make this week happen was a joyful venture with such a great team. As always a



large number of talented and dedicated people contributed their skills to help the children have an enjoyable, fun-filled time and I would like to thank again everyone who helped in any way.



Visit us on
Facebook

Just search for 'Biggar Kirk'

Note from the Editor

It is a real joy to be a member of Biggar Kirk and a privilege to be involved in the creation and editing of the Church Newsletter. Thanks to all our contributors and to Mike, Elaine and Sharon for their very valuable assistance.

The next Newsletter will be available just before Advent. Contributions will be needed by Monday 9 November 2015. Please email contributions to Caz Alcorn (email: billandcaz@btinternet.com) or drop a note to: Harchurah, 9 Coulter Road, Biggar ML12 6EP.

God Bless

Carol-Anne Alcorn (Caz)

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Have you already started to squirrel away little gifts for your family for this Christmas? Now is



the time to begin thinking about our annual Shoe Box Appeal.

Perhaps you could start knitting or buying an extra item or two when you do your weekly shop for those not so fortunate as our own families.

Our regular supporters will know the most important items needed are: Hat, scarf and gloves, Toothpaste and brush, Soap, Doll or toy car for the children.

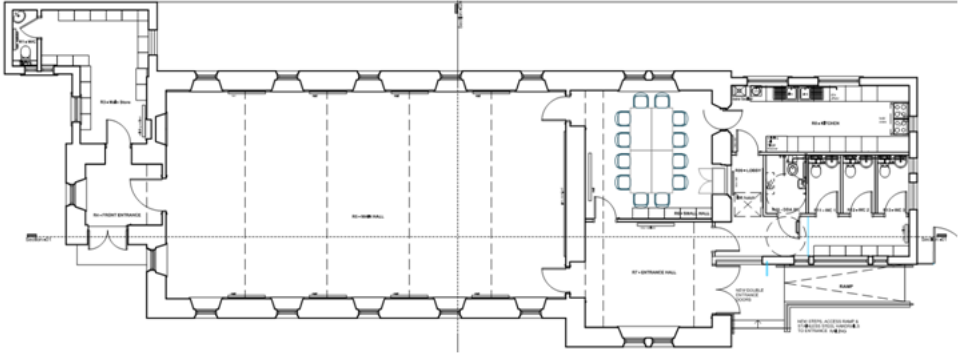
All items must be new. Boxes need to be ready by the end of October - exact date to be advised later. Instruction leaflets will also be available a little later. For more information contact Kathleen Roger (01899 220235)

Please give this Appeal your usual generous support.

Kathleen Roger and Jill Allen

St Mary's Hall refurbishment project update

Property Team



St Mary's Hall requires significant fabric alterations, upgrade and renewal to bring the property in line with current legislation and to provide more effective facilities for the many groups that currently use the hall, including the congregation of Biggar Kirk.

Since the proposals were presented on Vision Sunday, a lot of work has been done to develop the drawings to enable us to get detailed tender costs.

It is proposed to carry out the following works:

1. New fully glazed feature entrance doors and frames
2. New fully glazed rear entrance doors, with disabled ramp access
3. Removal of glazing bars/mesh to windows
4. New double glazed windows throughout to reduce heat loss
5. Internal alterations to form 4 modern WCs, consisting of 1 disabled WC and 3 unisex WCs.
6. Internal alterations to form a new entrance/waiting area and small hall/meeting room
7. Revised kitchen layout with modern catering kitchen
8. Plaster repair and decoration to the main hall
9. New brighter decoration throughout, including new carpets, vinyl to entrance areas, stores, WCs etc.
10. New gas fired efficient condensing central heating/ Hot water boiler
11. New energy efficient lighting

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throughout, and illuminated escape signage.

Next steps

We now have a proposed cost of £150,000 which includes VAT and fees and we need to submit for Planning and Building Warrant which will take approximately 8 weeks before we can start work. We have had a meeting with the Presbytery and Church of Scotland General Trustees who are supportive of the refurbishment works, but we must submit final proposals for their approval prior to starting the works.

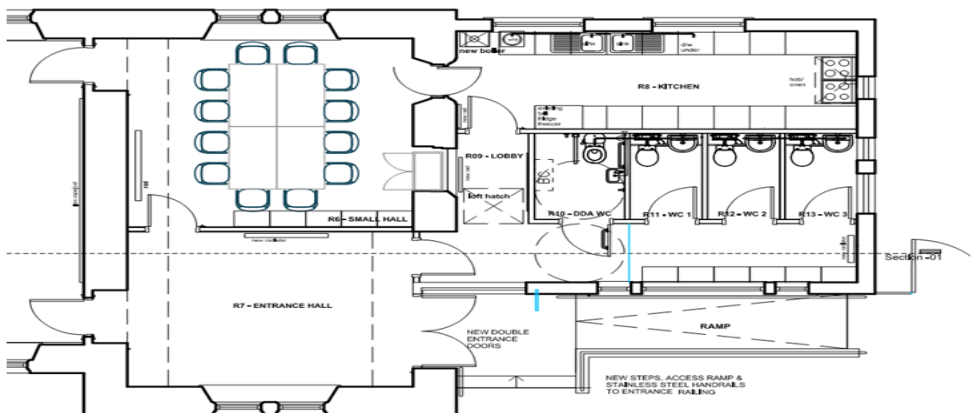
We would ask for your prayers for following:

- That the refurbishment works would bring glory to God and bring the community into the church
- Donations to finance the

works. This could include donations towards specific parts of the works eg the kitchen, the storage, the furniture, the landscaping, new signage etc.

- Smooth transition for all the hall users when the works are being done, including the timescale for the works
- Assistance for some of the easier refurbishment works that could be carried out by ourselves. This could be cleaning, painting and final touches

Adrian Shilliday
The Property Team



Sunday Club

Anne Smart

Our new session of Sunday Club began on 16th August. We are delighted to welcome Tracy Good and Stewart Houston who have agreed to help out when needed on the team. This means that we are able to have two classes running each week and still allow the Leaders to remain in Church when they are "off duty". The classes are for children from nursery age to Primary 3 and from Primary 4 upwards. We will continue to use the Scripture Union material with ideas and activities appropriate for each age group.

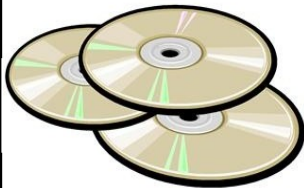
We have of course been able to offer provision for children during the Summer, due to the commitment of volunteers from the Church who helped each week throughout the holidays.



They all did a fantastic job and prepared some great activities for the children. Thank you again for that contribution to our work.

All children aged three upwards, can meet in Church and join the Sunday Club 'walking bus' to make their way to St Mary's Hall for stories, games, crafts and songs. Please share this information with friends who might wish to come and join us at Sunday Club.

Recordings at Biggar Kirk



Thanks to Greg Davis and Pete Brotherstone we are now able to offer recordings of all our worship services held in Biggar Kirk. If you would like a FREE CD of the service please let Elaine Fyfe in the Church Office know. Her contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

Clydesdale Food Bank

Helping neighbours close to home



In addition to the opportunity available on a weekly basis to donate food in the church or at the Co-op, Biggar Kirk will gift Harvest Food donations to Clydesdale Food Bank. Please help feed local people in crisis by buying and donating items such as the following:

- Milk (UHT)
- Sugar
- Tinned Soup
- Rice
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Vegetables
- Cereals
- Rice Pudding
- Tea Bags
- Instant Coffee
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam
- Biscuits or Snack Bars

If you would like to donate food or become involved please call Caroline Deerin, Volunteer Co-ordinator, on 01899 220224.

If you are online you can listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday right on your computer. Go to <https://soundcloud.com/biggar Kirk>. There you will find the sermons from several weeks at a time to listen to at your leisure and also for FREE.



Greg Davis—who has kindly volunteered to look after the sound and recording in Biggar Kirk.

Contact Us

If you would like to get married in Biggar Kirk, become a member or arrange for a baptism or a thanksgiving please contact the Minister.

If you are interested in joining any of the activities happening in the church or would like to book an event or activity in St. Mary's Hall please contact the Church administrator either in the office or by phone or email.

We are happy to serve you

Minister	Rev Mike Fucella	01899-229291 mike@fishwrapper.net
Administrator	Mrs Elaine Fyfe	07532-266505 biggarkirk09@gmail.com

Our Office is located on the ground floor of the Gillespie Centre. Our opening hours are Wednesday (9:00am - 4:00pm), Thursday and Friday (9:00am - 12:00 noon).



Please join our facebook group: **Biggar Kirk**



We are also on the web: www.biggarkirk.btck.co.uk