

BIGGAR KIRK OFFICE BEARERS

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Newsletter

Biggar Kirk



You've probably heard the story of the hen and the pig. As they walked down the farm road, they reflected that things weren't what they used to be. "Take the Scottish breakfast," said the hen. "Who tucks into bacon and eggs now? All these breakfast cereals make me feel so unwanted." Just then they came to a transport cafe at the end of the road. Outside was a placard advertising bacon and eggs at "£2.50. "Look," said the hen, "we're needed after all!" But the pig didn't share her excitement. "It's all very well for you, " he said. "You only have to make a contribution. For me, it's total commitment!"

The story has many applications. It applies to life in our community. A few committed people, the "movers and shakers", work hard to make it a better place while the majority make the occasional contribution. And it's much the same in the church. Many of us make a contribution to the life of the congregation (and, of course, contributions of every kind are always welcome), but how much more dynamic, vigorous, and fit for purpose the church would be if sacrificial commitment were the norm among us.

The challenges we face in the church are many - half-empty pews, the task of reaching out to a generation who are lost to the church, financial shortfalls, the legacy of buildings largely unsuited to present needs, the erosion of faith, the uncertainty which now surrounds once clear moral codes, and more. . The challenges are many and call for a high degree of commitment from us all if they are to be met. While we don't pin our hopes for the church on our efforts but on the sovereign, renewing work of God's Spirit, it is the case that God works through people who are consecrated to him.

Earlier in the year we held a series of services under the title 'What it means to follow Jesus' at which we looked at the profession of faith we all made and the vows we took when we became members of the church. An invitation was delivered to every home in the congregation. Apart from those who attend church regularly, only a handful of members whom we hadn't seen for a while responded to the invitation. We all found the services thought provoking but were left wishing that more had taken the opportunity to reconnect with a faith once professed. Clearly, the issue of commitment is one many of us have still to reckon with.

When we speak of what the pig in the story described as total commitment, we're not in the first instance talking about heroic exploits in the service of Christ. The hymn, 'New every morning', puts it like this:

*If in our daily life our mind
is set to honour all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.*

*The trivial round, the common task,
will give us all we ought to ask:
room to deny ourselves, a road.
to bring us daily nearer God.*

Faithfulness in "the trivial round" and "the common task" is the first requirement. "Whoever can be trusted with very little," Jesus said, "can also be trusted with much." Such faithfulness in turn leads to "room to deny ourselves, a road to bring us daily nearer God."

In the church we have plenty of eggs but bacon is in short supply. The reason is not hard to find: we balk at death, that death to self and sin which is the basis of all effective Christian service and witness. Yet Jesus taught us that it is out of such death that new life flows. "I tell you the truth," he said, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Buried seeds grow. Out of death comes resurrection!

David Easton, Locum and Interim Moderator

Congregational Register



Deaths

*During the months of
March and April we
have had a number of
bereavements and
we would ask that
you remember the
families and friends of:*



March

Miss Jane Anderson
Mr Alex Gardiner

April

Mrs Betty Amos
Mr Neil Martin
Mr Ian Paterson

May

Mrs Helen Kerr

*"The Lord is good to all: and his tender
mercies are over all his works."*

[Psalm 145:9]

Office Bearer Resignations:

Kirk Session

Dr. Fiona Burnett
Ms Lesley Craise
Dr Lal Sharma

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Ruth Dunn

Property Convenor:

Mr Graeme Kerr

Office Bearer New Appointments:

Church Treasurer

Mr Peter Brotherstone

Property Convenor

Mr Alastair Fyfe

Certificate of Transference:

Dr Fiona Burnett to Parishes of Upper Tweedsdale

Admission of New Member:

Mrs Tilda Boyd from Coulter Parish Church to Biggar Kirk

*Sing to the LORD
a new song;
sing to the LORD,
all the earth.*



**Church Services Diary
June to August 2012**

June

- 3rd 11:00am Morning Worship
- 10th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 17th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 24th 9:30am Holy Communion
- 11:00am Morning Worship

July

- 1st 10:00am Morning Worship
- 8th 10:00am Morning Worship
- 15th 10:00am Morning Worship
- 22nd 10:00am Morning Worship
- 29th 10:00am Quarterly Communion

August

- 5th 10:00am Morning Worship
- 12th 10:00am Morning Worship
- 19th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 26th 9:30am Holy Communion
- 11:00am Morning Worship

**Biggar Kirk:
Door and Offering
Duties**

May - Group 'B'

- Anna Boyd;
- Ella Coubrough;
- Joyce Kelly;
- Margaret Moffat;
- Patricia Saulnier;
- Cameron Sutherland;

June - Group 'C'

- Caroline Deerin;
- Alastair Fyfe;
- Stella O'Brien;
- Kathleen Roger;
- Shona Thorpe;

July - Group 'D'

- Sadie Cameron;
- Peter Lyon;
- Lorna MacDougall;
- Janette Rae;
- Rhian Sharma;
- Joan Urquhart



"YES, I THINK GOD STILL WOULD WANT YOU
TO SAY GRACE FOR ASPARAGUS AND CARROTS."

Adult Quiz Answers: 1. A Cat; 2. Lebanon; 3. Zionism; 4. Brazil; 5. John; 6. Sodom and Gomorrah; 7. Italy and France; 8. The Orange; 9. The Reformation; 10. Babylon; 11. Vatican City; 12. 12 (Revelation 21:12-21).



**A View from the Chancel
(by Mike Chad)**

As most readers will know, our former minister, Jim Francis, became a full-time Army Chaplain in 2009. His first posting was to Germany, where his regiment, the Royal Anglians, was based. Jim, Loraine, Hannah and Patrick (and Monty, the dog) moved to the base at Celle, where they stayed for two years.

Daphne and I visited them there, and it was interesting to learn a little about Army culture, and observe how the British presence in Germany has evolved since the end of the Second World War. Jim was then posted to Cyprus. By this time, the family had expanded, to include Pippa. We have tried to keep in touch, and when Jim told us that they would shortly be returning to the UK, we decided to pay them another visit – partly in the vain hope of some “summer” weather. As it transpired, our proposed dates almost coincided with the 50th anniversary of the garrison church, and Jim persuaded us to make a slight alteration to our plans, so that we could join in the celebrations.

St George's Church, Dhekelia (re-dedicated to St Barnabas in 2005) was consecrated on 11th March, 1962. For 50-years this iconic and imposing building has sat on a promontory overlooking the South Gate to the Garrison and out over CESSAC Beach towards Larnaka. As the garrison has contracted over the years and several other churches have closed, the role of the single Station Church has become ever more important. Today, St Barnabas Garrison Church continues to serve the whole military and civilian population of Dhekelia as an ecumenical centre shared by all denominations of the Christian Church and with the schools, youth organisations and other welfare agencies within the Garrison.

During his posting to Cyprus, Jim spent a gruelling four months in Afghanistan. Now he is returning to the UK. For an army chaplain, and his family, little is permanent, and at the age of seven, Hannah has already attended three different schools. So in order to provide a more stable base for the children's education, Jim and Loraine have decided to buy a house in Coleraine. They moved in on Easter Monday, and are getting settled into their new environment. We hope to see them a little more often, and wish them well in this next stage of their life adventure.



VACANCY UPDATE

The committee appointed by Presbytery in December to draw up a Plan to replace that which was rejected last June, intends to present on 5th June proposals for the Biggar end of the Presbytery.

David Easton, Interim Moderator

ST. MARY'S HALL

As reported at the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation on 1st April, plans for the refurbishment of St. Mary's Hall are being developed. Once the plans have been finalised and costs established, the proposals will be presented to a meeting of the congregation for decision.

David Easton, Interim Moderator

Solas Festival:

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th June, 2012
Wiston Lodge, Millrig Road, Biggar,
South Lanarkshire, ML12 6HT



Christian Aid Scotland is delighted to be partnering Solas Festival once again. Solas Festival is an independent arts festival for all, with a programme that's jam packed with music, literature, theatre and debate. Christian Aid's venue at the festival features a weekend-long programme showing the work of our partners across the world and offers the opportunity to hear from experts in the fields of economic and climate justice. To see the full festival line up visit www.solasfestival.co.uk. For more information about Christian Aid's venue, contact Christian Aid Scotland's Churches Development Officer, Wendy Young, on: 0141 241 6137 or email: wyoung@christian-aid.org

From the smallest of babies through to the tallest of teenagers there is something in our church for you.



Our Crèche is for the tiny tots of our church family. They meet every Sunday morning at 10:45am in St. Mary's Hall until the end of service. Some tots do stay in the church where there are leaders and toys to play with in the North transept.

The Sunday Club is for young people of P1 to P6. They meet in St. Mary's Hall from 10:45am until the end of service. Most Sundays we walk from the hall to join in the first part of the service at the Church and then go back to the hall for our own activities.



B.Y.F.



The teenagers (S1 to S6) of our church family get together most Sunday evenings at 7:00pm until 8:30pm in St. Mary's Hall for their own Youth Fellowship where they like to chat about things which concerns them and take part in activities they enjoy, e.g. crafts, baking, DVDs, music and outings.

CREATED IN LOVE

God, let's celebrate - for you never see us as Muslim or straight, Poor or Sikh, Gay or rich, Christian or black, but as persons created in love and bearing your image.

Anon



Biggar Kirk Summer Opening 2012

During the summer months of July and August, Biggar Kirk will be opening each Monday to Friday from 10:00am until 4:00pm for the many visitors who come to visit our town.

To enable us to do this, we require volunteers who are willing to provide 2 shifts each day from: 10:00am until 1:00pm and 1:00pm until 4:00pm. If you would like to help and are available during any of these times, please contact Kathleen Roger on: 220235



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Scotland
CrossReach,
Scottish Charity SC011353

CROSSREACH providing a caring future

Dear Members of Biggar Kirk,
We wondered if you were aware we have our own Directory Enquiries 118 number? It's much cheaper than many of the other 118 numbers and costs 40p per call from a BT landline.

The exciting thing for us is that every time someone uses it, 9p comes to CrossReach! It's such a simple way to raise funds at no additional cost to the person making the call!

Laura Barnett,
Business Development Officer
CROSSREACH, Charis House,
47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2SR

118 599

The Directory Enquiries
Number of Choice!

Why?

- It is 75% cheaper than some other 118 services
- Each call costs just 40p (BT landline)
- 9p per call comes to CrossReach

Biggar Kirk 'Family' Ceilidh



Families and individuals in age ranges spanning four generations got together in the Municipal Hall for an evening of music and dance and to enjoy each other's company at the Kirk 'Family' Ceilidh on Friday, 27th April.

'Everyone likes a Ceilidh', was the consensus of the Adult Education team at one of their meetings, when thinking of ways to round off the Stewardship programme. With a relatively short time to organise a comparatively large event, it was a case of 'all hands to the pump' with the Adult Education and Outreach groups working together. Much needed help, especially with catering, was readily forthcoming from many quarters within and outside the Church, and was heartily welcomed and appreciated.



Ticket sales, slow at first, gained momentum and about a hundred guests turned up at the Municipal Hall on a chilly April evening. The music of the Clyde Valley Ceilidh Band soon had folk up on the floor dancing everything from the Eightsome Reel to Buffalo Girls and the Flying Scotsman. At the 'halfway mark', the band, dancers (and spectators!) were treated to a first-class buffet provided by an 'ace' catering team.

As with the Holiday Club, success depended on a huge team working together to put on an event for the whole community to enjoy. Thanks to all those who helped and to all those who came!

Stella O'Brien and Trish Reith



News from the Education Group (Children and Young People)

We continue to be encouraged by the number of children coming to church, which is definitely an increase from previous years. The crèche is obviously flourishing too, and children from there usually start to come to Sunday Club, often with one of their parents at first, from the age of three. Since Mairi has joined the team teaching Sunday Club we have been able to have a class just for the 'tinnies', and she has been introducing them to some of the most well-known stories in the Bible.

The older children have been using some material we have worked with previously (although of course not with these children). It is called "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" and it encourages the children to think carefully about various passages from the bible and what the implications are for us as Christians. Each week we show a short clip from one of the earlier Harry Potter films and then go on to explore issues such as "showing mercy", "dealing with anger", "using our words wisely" etc.

With all of the children we try to provide a range of activities – crafts, games, songs etc. This last session has also seen the children work collaboratively to make the banners about "creation" and we also put on the nativity "Whoops-a-daisy Angel" at Christmas. We plan to finish this session with our usual "Coffee and Cakes" fund-raiser in St Mary's hall immediately after the service on the 24th June.

We have also been delighted to welcome some more young people to our youth group. There are a number of adults in our congregation who take turns to prepare the sessions for the young people and provide a varied programme. Quite a number of the teenagers help us with the younger children at Sunday Club and Holiday Club and we value



Thank You

Every little bit helps



A big thank you to those who, following my last appeal, have simplified their giving by changing from envelopes to standing orders with the bank. There is still time for others to follow on – we re-order envelopes in the summer months of July and August.

Unfortunately, there is still a lot of money given in the "open plate" each Sunday morning - **PLEASE THINK ABOUT GIFT AID** – if you are happy to stay with your present arrangements, that's fine. We appreciate all that you give no matter the method.

If you do not attend Church regularly but would like to contribute in some way to the upkeep of YOUR Church, please contact me: Anna Boyd, Gift Aid Treasurer. Tel: 01899-220068



Sunday 'Afternoon' Services

In recognition that the Church has a rising number of folk finding it more and more difficult to get to the Kirk on a Sunday morning, the Pastoral Care Group thought it would be a good idea to hold an afternoon Service in St Mary's Hall to provide better accessibility for people.

The first of these services was held earlier this year in February and a second has just taken place on 13th May prior to this publication of News and Views. As the time and place of the Afternoon Worship is meeting the needs of an increasing number of folks and those who have attended previous services have commented how much they have enjoyed them, it has been agreed to continue with the services.

The next dates for our Afternoon Services in St. Mary's Hall will be: Sunday 9th September and Sunday 9th December both at 2pm. The Worship lasts for about 30 minutes and is followed by tea and an opportunity to catch up with old friends. For anyone who requires it, transport is available if you contact Mrs Nanette Stott on: 01899-221163



Biggar Kirk Guild: The Guild has just ended another successful year with an outing to Houghton Hall Garden Centre in Cumbria. This year we were joined by members of Carwood W.R.I. and other friends.

The theme of the Guild for the last three years has been: *'To Act Justly, Show Mercy and Walk Humbly with God'* – this we have tried to do with the Speakers at our meetings, our actions in raising monies for good causes and our prayers.

Next year, it is 125 years since the founding of the Guild and we hope to mark this in various ways starting with a *'Songs of Praise'* on Tuesday 22nd May in The Assembly Hall, Mound Place, Edinburgh. Our theme for the forthcoming year is: *'To Proclaim our Faith'* as we uphold the Guild Motto: *'Whose We Are and Whom We Serve'*.

Ruth Bryden, President

It's not just about money.... by Mike Chad

At our annual business meeting, on 1st April, the congregation had the opportunity to review the church accounts for 2011. For reasons which are largely outside our control, our expenditure was £107,000 – up 12% from 2010.

Our income was £92,000 – down 6% from 2010. So 2011 saw a net loss of £15,000. And in the first quarter of 2012, income is already behind expenditure by £7,000.

While we are fortunate to have some reserves, these will not last very long, and we must strive to live within our means. There are things we can do:

Any group can organise a **fund-raising event** – coffee morning, lunch, sponsored swim – your imagination is the only constraint.

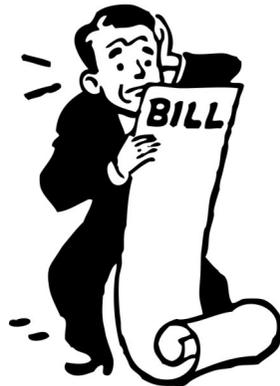
Be alert to **economies** – turn off lights, close doors, don't waste heating.

We can look at our individual **offerings**, and perhaps give a little more.

We can make sure we are maximising **gift aid** contributions.

Even more thoughtfully, we can remember our church in our **wills**.

Asking for more money is not a vote-winner. But our church is important to all of us. It's not just about money... but we can't survive without it!



their energy and enthusiasm. During the summer we will be able to continue to cater for the children because of the encouraging response to our plea for help in providing this. I really do want to thank everyone who has offered their help thereby ensuring we have adults to take the summer sessions. I am also grateful to the people who will be involved in our Holiday Club. This year it will be on the week beginning the 16th July and will again take place each morning of that week in St Mary's hall. The club has an Olympic type theme and is for all children who are currently attending primary school. There will be the usual range of crafts, games, drama, music, bible stories and fun. More information and application forms will be available in June. The club is free but we are always grateful for donations to help to cover our costs.

Anne Smart

Scripture Union Group Biggar Primary School



In October 2011, 3 volunteers decided to start up a Scripture Union group in Biggar Primary – Ann Lyall, Alex Kelly and Mairi Maxfield, with Elaine Fyfe joining us after Christmas. The SU runs each Tuesday lunchtime between 12:30pm and 1:00pm for children in P4 to P7.

When the group began, we had a small group of 4-5 children who came regularly every week. After Christmas the numbers rose dramatically and we suddenly had 14-16 children which was amazing! All the children are very enthusiastic and keen to be there.

We use the SU *'Schools Live'* material which is designed for groups of our size and which requires very little preparation for the leaders. It contains well thought out games and activities to present the gospel in a fun way to youngsters (whether they attend Church or not) who meet in groups which cover a range of ages and have very little time available.

All of us have found it very encouraging to be involved with the children and the school have been very supportive of us. Going forward: It would be great to have a few more people involved so that we could lead on a rota basis and we would ask the congregation to remember the work of the group and especially the children in their prayers.

Mairi Maxfield

Children's Puzzle Page

Lord's Prayer Word Search

Using the Word Search can you find the missing words to complete the Lord's Prayer?

o r z n y z a w h s t r
m o d g n i k a r r e e
e h t e l a l j e o m w
a s e e v l m r v t p o
r e a a o i e e e b t p
t d n w v v g n f e a w
h o e i i e e r p d t i
h d y l h m n c o b i l
d o e f a t h e r f o l
v d s t b e d e v b n r
l i v e i d a g l o r y
v j g m s d o u r k n x

Our _____ which art in
_____, _____ be thy
_____, thy _____ come,
thy _____ be done in
_____, as it is in _____,
give us this day _____ daily
_____, and _____ us our
_____, as we forgive our
_____, and _____
_____ not into _____, but
_____ us from _____,
for _____ is the kingdom, the
_____ and the _____, for
_____, and ever, _____.

Sudoku:

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 6. Every row, every column and every group of 6 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.

2		5	3		4
	6			2	
1					2
5					1
	5			1	
6		1	2		3

Adult's Puzzle Page

Quiz

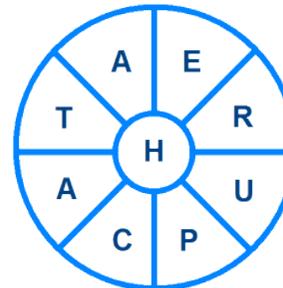
1. What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible?
2. What Arab nation has the highest percentage of Christians?
3. What political movement got its name from the hill in Jerusalem boasting the Temple of Solomon?
4. What country boasts the largest number of Catholics?
5. What name has been shared by the most popes?
6. Which two wicked cities were destroyed by God in Genesis?
7. What two countries claim two-thirds of the world's 2,000-plus registered saints?
8. What fruit is depicted in Leonardo's Last Supper, even though it did not arrive in the Holy Land until long after Jesus' death?
9. What religious movement began with Martin Luther's attack on the sale of indulgences?
10. What storied city on the Euphrates River was 55 miles south of Baghdad?
11. What's the only 100 percent Christian nation on Earth?
12. According to the Bible, how many pearly gates are there?

Sudoku

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9. Every row, every column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.

HUB-WORDS

How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel? Each word must contain the hub letter **H**. Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 15 other words of five letters or more avoiding proper



			9		1	3
			5	3	4	
9	4				7	2
		4	8			
6			9	2		8
				6	4	
3		5				2
	7		3	8		
4	6			5		