

Kilsyth Anderson

Parish Church News

April/May 2023



Have you read a good book recently? Well, a volume that I found helpful, encouraging and ultimately, challenging, is one entitled, 'Just As I Am' The autobiography of the late Dr. Billy Graham. The title says it all. In a chapter entitled 'Moscow and Beyond' Graham tells of his 1984 visit to the Russian Orthodox Theological Academy in Leningrad, where he was met by the Rector, Vladimir Sorokin, who accompanied the evangelist on his preaching campaign. A real friendship blossomed between the two, and the American evangelist confesses to have learnt a most important lesson in preaching from his soviet colleague. *"You've listened to me preach a lot of sermons now," said Graham. "Please give me any critique you may have."*

*"This is what we need in the Soviet Union," replied Sorokin. "We need your emphasis in our churches." But then he added one thing. **"Put more emphasis on the resurrection,Because without that event the Cross has no meaning."***

The resurrection appearances of our Lord are never regarded as purely subjective, but as concrete fact. The fearful and confused disciples were not expecting to see their Master. Yet, these were the very people who became the respectable leaders of the young Christian movement, and who emphatically and repeatedly affirmed that they had seen Jesus, talked with Him and enjoyed a meal with Him, after His resurrection. Not once, but several times over a period of weeks. Nor were they the only ones to see Him, **"... After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep."** (1 Corinthians 15:5-6).

The resurrection of Jesus is the crowning triumph of life in the created universe. As we read through Genesis, we cannot but marvel at the words, *"And God said, Let there be light, and there was light And God saw that it was good."* But we also witness how sin entered the created order, resulting in death, destruction and separation between God and man.

However, in Jesus, we have One who is, *"The resurrection and the life."* As streams of life giving water flow from a fountain, so Life, Resurrection Life flows incessantly from Jesus to all who will receive it.

The resurrection of Jesus also reveals the Spiritual renewal that takes place in the inner life of a believer, *"because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."* (2 Cor. 4:14-16.) The believers' inner life is mostly hidden and misunderstood by unbelievers, but is nurtured and grows through worship, prayer, feeding on God's Word and fellowship with God's people.

The resurrection also begins to answer the many quandaries and fears we may have about the future. Listen to the confident affirmation that we find in Peter's first letter, *"Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"* (1 Peter 1:3).

There are many things that we hope for in this life; a long, happy, healthy and prosperous life, but we have no certainty that any of these things will be ours. No matter how we may wish to separate ourselves in body and mind from the day of our 'departure', deep down in our hearts we know that it is not that far away. Yet, even though we are bombarded by reminders of our mortality, we have in Jesus Christ a concrete & joyful **'Living Hope'**.

I leave the last word 's' to Warren W. Wiersbe, who writes in his commentary on 1 Peter, entitled, 'BE HOPEFUL.'

.... "To begin with, it is a living hope because it is grounded on the living word of God, and made possible by the living Son of God who arose from the dead. A Living Hope is one that has life in it and therefore can give life to us. Because it has life, it grows and becomes greater and more beautiful as time goes on. Time destroys most hopes; they fade and then die. But the passing of time only makes a Christian's hope that much more glorious".

May your Easter be filled with Resurrection Blessings,

Your friend,

Kenneth.



Boys' Brigade

It has been another VERY busy quarter for the **Boys' Brigade** as we rapidly approach the end of the session. We had a Fashion show in the Masonic Hall as a fund raiser for Malawi which was fantastic my supported and we raised £920. A great total and a huge thank you to everyone who came along.

Our next event is a Burns Supper on the 8th of April, also in the Masonic Hall, at a cost of £8 per ticket, including all food and entertainment. If anyone is interested in coming along, please see Christine, Craig McFarlane or myself.

Over the next couple of months we will have our parents' nights - the first ones since before covid. (Dates tbc at this point but listen out in intimations).

This year will be the first since covid where we have been able to present Queen's Awards - the highest in the BB. We have 3 Boys who have worked extremely hard to gain theirs.

We also have our annual weekend camp in May which for the 2nd year will be alongside our Girls' Brigade. Pictures to follow in the next newsletter!



Scott Anderson, Captain

Light & Life from the Scottish Bible Society is the life story of Jesus as told by John, an eye witness and companion of Jesus. As you read its pages, discover a life transforming story of passion and betrayal, life and death and a promise of eternity for all who believe.

Copies are still available on the vestibule table to share



Pastoral Care

If you would like a visit from your Church elder or one of the Pastoral Care team, please let us know. Whether it's coming round for a cuppa or chatting on the phone, we are here to support each other. Even if you haven't been to church for a while, we will be glad to hear from you.



Contact Hazel on 07986861834

Turkey and Syria – prayer suggestions from Tearfund

Pray for people affected by the earthquake

✦ Pray for comfort for those who have lost their loved ones and healing for people who are injured. Ask God to draw near to them in this time of grief and uncertainty.

✦ Pray for provision of safe shelter, food, clean water and warmth for people who have lost their belongings, homes and livelihoods. Ask God to give them courage and strength to face these new challenges.

✦ Pray that vulnerable people – such as people with disabilities, orphans and pregnant and nursing mothers – will be protected and that no one will have to suffer alone.

Pray for freedom from anxiety and fear for people who are feeling distressed – particularly those already in fragile situations throughout the region.

Pray for peace

Conflict broke out in Syria in 2011. Much of the country now lies in ruin. The city of Aleppo, which was badly hit by the earthquake, is home to millions of people who have already faced devastating conflict. Many people in northern Iraq, who are rebuilding after years of conflict, and in Lebanon, also felt the earthquake tremors.

✦ Pray for a lasting peace and recovery for Syrians who have suffered more than a decade of conflict.

Pray for peace and comfort as people are further traumatised by the earthquake and already are feeling anxious, depressed and fearful. Pray that people will not lose hope – even in these challenging times.

Pray using a map

Use an internet search engine, globe or an atlas to find a map of Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Lebanon. As you look at the map, invite the Holy Spirit to reveal a particular location to you.

Once you have chosen somewhere, lay your hand above it on the map. Pray for that location and the people there. Ask God to reveal specific things you can pray for, or use the first part of this guide to help.

If doing this activity as a group, you could take it in turns to choose a location to pray over. If you're using a physical map, you could keep it up as a reminder to pray and add Post-it notes throughout the week.

Write a psalm of lament

This earthquake feels like a huge injustice. Millions of people – who were living in poverty and affected by conflict – have had their world turned upside down again.

The Psalms are full of prayers and songs of lament: of pain and hurt. They can help us to put into words our disappointment, desperation and anger at the world around us – such as the earthquake hitting people who are suffering so much already. David, who wrote many of the Psalms, even voiced his anger at God himself (Psalm 13, Psalm 79).

Begin by reading some of the Psalms to help you find the words to bring to God. Then, write your own psalm of lament to God over this crisis. Ask God to move in power to help end this injustice.

Good Friday Walk of Witness 7th April.

This will start at **10am at St Patrick's Church** with a prayer and hymn.

It will then proceed to the Burngreen bandstand where a short message will

given, followed by a hymn and prayer.

Thereafter the walk will proceed via East Burnside and end at Anderson Church where, after a hymn and prayer, tea and coffee and fellowship will be provided in **Anderson Church Hall.**



Today, when the cross and all it stands for is seen as no longer relevant in the lives of many, there is an urgent need for a powerful ongoing and public statement of faith.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every Good Friday, in every Town and City in our land, there was a walk of witness to the Cross and the saving power of Christ? The centrality of the Cross and the celebration of the Good Friday message across the denominations, provide the opportunity for a united witness to the people of our nation.

The times demand and our nation requires a strong and ongoing witness to the Christian belief.

If you're away for the Easter weekend why not find out if your destination has a walk of witness and join in there instead?

Lenten lunch

Our soup & sandwich lunch on 5th March was attended by over 100 people. Many thanks to everyone who made this event such a success. If you helped with baking, making, hosting, setting up or washing up don't hang up your apron yet - we hope to invite everyone along again soon !

If you're lucky enough to be able to go on a foreign holiday, one of the highlights is to experience the culture and traditions of the host country. Ian and I were in the Portuguese island of Madeira at the start of Lent, or Carnival.

The word Carnival comes from carnelevare, "to remove meat," the traditional abstinence from the consumption of meat and poultry during lent, and the festival lasts a fortnight! Although every town on the island celebrates in its own way, it's Funchal that is best known (and biggest). There are two parades – the first is the Allegorical Parade featuring thousands of participants in beautiful and elaborate costumes dancing to samba music spreading an atmosphere said to evoke the Carnival in Rio. The streets are closed to traffic and stalls are set up selling crafts, religious artefacts and food and drink.

The second parade, called 'trapalhão', traditionally floods the streets of the city centre on 'Mardi gras' (Shrove Tuesday) featuring participants dressed as caricatures of local and international politicians, and social happenings of the year past.

I went to mass on the first Sunday in Lent and the Cathedral do Funchal was packed with worshippers. Like many Portuguese churches, a plain white exterior hides the extravagance of riches on the inside of this 500 year old church which was once home to the largest diocese in the world since it covered all territories discovered by the Portuguese from Brazil to Japan! The ceiling, made of cedar and inlaid with ivory, is famed throughout Europe and the chancel area is richly covered in gold leaf.

Despite the comings and goings of ignorant tourists during the service, the respectful and attentive congregation was led by a very high calibre praise group of musicians and singers along with the organ and a precentor-like singer who led us at several points.

As far as my limited Portuguese allowed me to understand, the priest was keen to stress Lent not as a time for gloom and denial but a time to return to church and celebrate the gift of Jesus for all and he seemed keen for people to encourage their family and friends to come to worship (I think).

Mass is more participatory than a presbyterian service and I am not always sure of the responses in English so it was sometimes difficult to work out where we were in the service but in general it was a very uplifting experience that I would recommend if you're lucky enough to go to Madeira.



What is Conversion Therapy and why is proposed legislation controversial for Christians

According to <https://www.gov.scot/news/> the Scottish Government has committed to introducing legislation by the end of 2023 which will end conversion practices as comprehensively as possible within devolved powers. This was something that Rev MacLeod mentioned during ta recent service and we thought it was a topic that requires some further information for readers.

Conversion therapy is any emotional or physical therapy used to “cure” or “repair” a person’s attraction to the same sex, or their gender identity and expression. Providers claim these therapies can make someone heterosexual or “straight.”

This does not – or certainly *should* not – refer to conversion as Christians usually understand it.

The government isn’t talking about conversion in terms of evangelism - following the call of Jesus to preach the good news and make disciples. When discussing a ban on conversion practices, this usually relates to efforts to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

Over the last century, horrific practices have been conducted in the area of ‘gay-cure’ treatment from electro-shock therapy to aversion therapy; to encouraging people to have sex with someone of the opposite sex to ‘turn’ them straight. It may include using

anti-gay prayers. In severe cases, it could also include beating, shackling, food deprivation, and even exorcism.

Abusive practices are already illegal, and should be.

An expert group has been established to advise the Scottish Government on the banning of conversion practices. The group includes people with personal experience of conversion practices as well as representatives from LGBTI organisations, faith and belief communities (including CofS), mental health professionals and academics.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/expert-advisory-group-ending-conversion-practices-report-recommendations>

The advisory group’s full report is available at the above website and we encourage readers to examine it in full. The following extracts would seem to be relevant

Practices named as therapy or other forms of care, including “pastoral care” that do seek to change, suppress or inhibit sexual orientation, expression of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, **will fall within the definition of conversion practices.**

We believe that the existence of **specific intent to cause harm, malice or ill-will is not required for an act to be considered a conversion practice**, and therefore a criminal offence. In some cases people who carry out acts...

that would fall under the definition of conversion practices may not view these acts as either harmful or seeking to change someone's sexual orientation...but rather as helping or supporting them. However, **we believe that this motivation should not be relevant.**

Why is this controversial?

The advisory group's recommendations go much further than calling for action against abusive and coercive practices. In fact, it goes as far as to say that teaching the "importance of marriage" could be considered 'conversion therapy' and be made potentially illegal under the new law.

In his written opinion, Aidan O'Neill KC a top Scottish human rights law-

yer puts the matter starkly: "This would have the undoubted effect of criminalising much mainstream pastoral work of churches, mosques and synagogues and temples.

"Prayers and sermons would be criminalised if their content did not conform to the new State requirements only to affirm, validate and support the identity and lived experience expressed and stated by an individual."

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By Simon Calvert

Presbytery Plan - Our proposal for the way forward was rejected – we were asked to provide dates when the linkage and union with Burns and Old would take place. This has been done and submitted to Presbytery. We have been cited to attend a meeting on 25th March in Cumbernauld when we should find out what the final plan looks like. We will update you as soon as possible.

Lunches - On Sunday 5th March we had our first Lenten lunch – soup and sandwiches were served to around 100 members of our congregation. Although Lent will soon be over, the Session believes that this is something we should continue to provide. The next lunch (no soup this time) is planned for May 14th, so please make sure that your name is on the list nearer the time to allow for catering.

Joint service - On Sunday 12th March we had a very successful first joint service with Burns and Old. It was good to see the pews filled up, the singing was uplifting and the fellowship afterwards was great.

Thanks

I would like to thank the church very much for the lovely flowers which I received. These brought comfort at an anxious time.

Kathleen Ross

Margaret Hughes was delighted to receive Church flowers and thanks the congregation for them.

I would like to thank you for the flowers received from the Church. They were beautiful and very much appreciated.

God bless,

Hilda Dodds

Thank you to the congregation for the flowers I received recently. They were beautiful.

Every blessing

Margaret Laird.

Many happy returns to **Ena Graham** who recently celebrated her 80th birthday.

Thank you to our lovely flower ladies who kindly chose to give me Church flowers at the end of January. They were beautifully made up and I really appreciated their gesture.

Dorothy Barrowman.

Property News

The Manse - As of 13th January, a young family has been renting the Manse. Thanks to Kelvin Valley Property Services for finding us a tenant so quickly. It is good to see the doors open, the blinds closed and lights on in the house and, on top of that, we have the rental money coming in.



Church and Halls

At the moment we are not allowed to do work in the buildings until a decision has been made as to which Church will be used as the main sanctuary for the united Churches. A representative of the Presbytery property committee was in the Church and halls recently and asked if he could have a good look round. He was impressed with the way the buildings have been maintained over the years and knows that we are aware of work needing to be done. The only work we can do is if it breaches health and safety regulations and to keep the building wind and water tight – unfortunately no cosmetic work!

Spring has sprung! Thanks to Marion Cowie for tending the plants at the front of the church to produce such colourful display and the promise of life returning after the long dark of



Future Service Dates and Holy Week

- April 2nd Joint service with Burns and Old in Burns and Old Parish Church.
- April 2nd Palm Sunday
- April 6th Maundy Thursday – joint Communion Service in Anderson Church at 7pm
- April 7th Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at St. Patrick’s Church and ending at Anderson halls for Teas and Coffees.
- April 7th Good Friday joint service in Burns and Old at 7pm
- April 9th Easter Sunday – services in both churches at 11am
- May 14th Lunch served following the service
- May 28th Joint service with Burns and Old in Anderson

2nd Kilsyth Girls’ Brigade

We were thrilled on the 5th Match to welcome Mhairi Mcfarlane as our new Girls’ Brigade Commissioned Officer into our Company.



Hazel Gordon is now a Trainee Leader working with the Explorers along with Emma More also a Trainee Leader who works with the Explorers and Juniors. Emma has now completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award which has been a huge amount of work.

We have 8 Explorers, 15 Juniors and 2 Brigaders and are thrilled how the Company has grown over the last year. We want always to thank parents and the church for their ongoing support. Our Parents’ Evening is on Tuesday 9th May at 6.45pm and all are welcome. Six girls and two leaders are joining with the BB Company on the 5-7th May at Dalguise Outdoor Centre Dunkeld. We are planning a day trip with everyone on Saturday 13th May.

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Thank you again for your support. **Jean Ewen**

The Guild

Our Guild session with its theme 'Wee Seeds, Big Trees' has drawn to a close.

I'm delighted that at our AGM we were able to announce that we were giving from our funds £300 to each of our 2022/23 Guild Projects - **Blether with Beat** which helps people with eating disorders and the Vine Trust's **Kazunzia, Village of Hope** in Tanzania. It was also agreed to give £600 into the **Church funds**.

At our Closing Social we were treated to a wonderful evening of song from Sweet Harmony, a male barbershop chorus.

A special presentation was also made to Annabel Smith on her retiral as Treasurer after 21 years of selfless service. We are glad that Annabelle will remain on our committee so we can benefit from her experience and expertise.

We will continue to 'Look forward in Faith' as we prepare for our 2023/24 theme 'New Wineskins, New Wine' but always remembering our motto - Whose we are and Whom we serve.

Margaret Brown, Convener.

Dear President and members of the Kilsyth Anderson Church Guild,

Thank you all for the very kind gift and long service certificate I received at our closing social on Monday the 13th of March. It was a lovely evening which I enjoyed greatly.

Also, thank you on behalf of my family who were invited to join us on the night.

Wishing everyone health and happiness during our recess.

God Bless, **Annabel**



Last deadline for June/July edition will be 28th May for publishing on Sun 4th June

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona Dawson on a Sunday

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life

January – Betty Beaver and Margaret Gillan.

February – Sadie Corrigan and Bobby Young

Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flower donations
2 Apr	Burns & Old	Olivia Brittian	Team 1 (Sat)	
9 Apr	C McIlwain B Reynolds	Margaret Brown	Team 2 (Thur)	Christine Johnston
16 Apr	I Ross K Ross	Ann Sneddon	Team 3 (Thur)	Mae Shaw
23 Apr	A Strang E Strang	Elizabeth Strang	Team 4 (Sat)	Ena Graham
30 Apr	E Graham O Brittian/	John Gordon	Team 5 (Thur)	Ann McManus
7 May	A Mitchell A Sneddon	Kathleen Ross	Team 1 (Sat)	May Hamilton
14 May	J Ewen G Ewen	Ian Ross	Team 2 (Thur)	Clem Bryden
21 May	M Brown J Brown	Ann McManus	Team 3 (Thur)	Jean Ewen