

Church Contact List

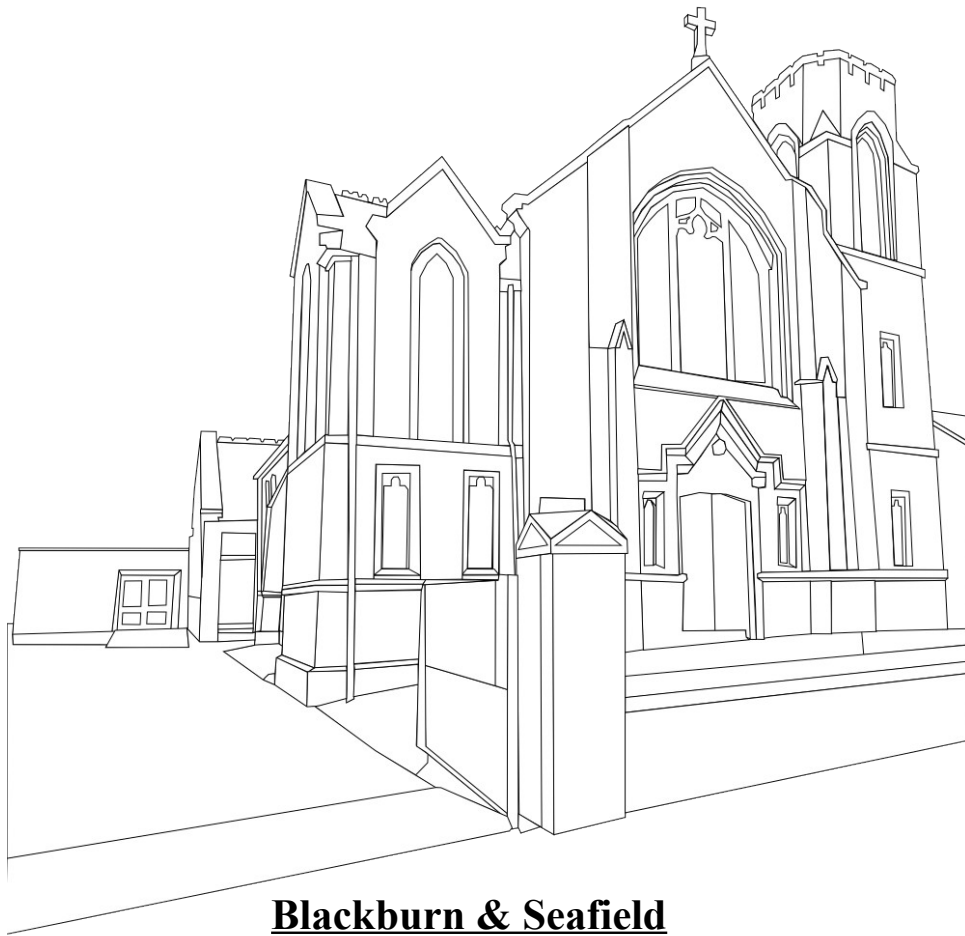
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Women's Group: Mrs Christine Anderson (01506)
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Boys Brigade: Mrs Linda Graham (01506) 634073

Any contributions intended for the June Tally Lamp may be passed to the Editor, in writing, or emailed to carne.mcculloch@sky.com by Sunday 28th May 2017.

Blackburn and Seafield Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity No. SCO 24154
www.blackburnandseafieldchurch.co.uk



Blackburn & Seafield
Church of Scotland
Parish News
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Interim Moderator Letter

Dear all,

As your Minister has now retired, the Presbytery appoints a neighbouring Minister as Interim Moderator. My job is to oversee the business of the church, and to help the process of finding a new Minister. Although I will appear sometimes on a Sunday, mostly Sunday worship and pastoral care will be provided by a Locum appointment – Mr David Wilkie, a Presbytery Reader.

Saying goodbye to your Minister of 19 years has to leave fond memories tinged with sadness, and yet the Church will go on - a vacancy never means nothing happens, and Church members will continue to support one another, and the work of the Church.

The processes of the National Church mean usually a vacancy takes at least six months to be filled, and sometimes longer. However a vacancy is often a time for people to think about the local church, its future direction and their part in it. So in some ways this can be a positive time.

I look forward to getting to know many of you, and ask you meantime to support David in his Locum duties.

May God bless you at this time.

Robert Malloch – Minister, Breich Valley

Elder's Rota

7th May – I. Henderson, L. Graham, M. Shields, S. Merry, L. Thomson

14th May – E. Stockman, E. Younger, W. Gilfillan, J. Mitchell, E. Wood

21st May – A. Gilfillan, I. Brown, I. Milne, J. Robertson,
C. McCulloch

28th May – R. Dunlop, A. Simpson, M. Brown, F.
McLennan, K. Burnett

Tea Rota

7th May – J. Lumsden, M. Arnott, H. Lind, K. Burnett

14th May – J. McAloon, I. Ross, M. Savage, L. Thomson

21st May – E. Stockman, K. Younger, M. Brown, S.
McGowan

28th May – A. Gilfillan, C. McCulloch, M. Mason, S.
Merry

Flowers for the Sanctuary

7th May – Mrs. E. Innes

14th May – Mrs. K. Johnston

21st May – Mrs. M. Savage

28th May – Mrs. E. Brown

And I will ask the Father and He will give you forever the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him for He lives with you and will be in you.

- JOHN 14, 16: 17

PRAYER

Lord our God and our Father we thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit who binds us to you. Give us continually afresh something of this Spirit so that we can go forward with light shining on the paths we must follow on earth. Grant us your Spirit, grant that light may break into our whole life and we can rejoice because we experience so much of what You are doing, for through the power of Your Spirit you can help us toward your future and all that is to come that we may not live only in time but in eternity. AMEN

Please pray for our church and congregation that we may come together stronger than before, let us rejoice in the Lord our God may we welcome new members and a new minister when we get One, to those who conduct services on Sunday and the peace of our Lord be with you all.

Thanks...

Dear Everyone,

Thank you so much for all your kindness to us. Thank you for the cards, gifts and generous

donation to our pilgrimage. Thank you to Bill Grieve for providing the excellent congregational meal.

Resurrection Day, Holy Communion and the Celebration Feast made our last Sunday with you very special. We have been privileged to live and serve Our Lord Jesus in Blackburn and Seafield. There's much still to do here and we pray that another minister will come and help to carry the work and witness on.

We will always remember you.

God bless,
Robert and Christine



1st Blackburn Girls' Brigade
01506 631833



Hello everyone,
We only had a few company nights in April due to the Easter holidays. We have been practising for our

Badge Service on 3rd May. I'm sure it will be alright on the night!! When we start off in September we think the following May is so far away, but the time flies past.

We have had a good year albeit with fewer girls, but the ones who do come are good attenders.

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who support us.

Best wishes,
Moira & all at 1st Blackburn.

Church Flowers

Anybody who knows anyone who is currently sick or bereaved; let me know and I will take the Church flowers to them.

Also, anyone who you think would like a cheery bunch of flowers on a Sunday morning - let me know.

Thanks,
Elma Stockman

Mr. X wrote to the Presbytery Clerk, saying how pleased he had been with the funeral service. To give him his due, Duncan Shaw came round and showed Robert the letter. However, at the next meeting of the Presbytery, then the item 'Correspondence' came up, there was no mention of this letter. When Robert raised this, Duncan said "I regarded it as a private letter".

I will finish with a few words from the Bible, directed at Robert. These will be echoed by everyone here, by all those whom he has visited during illness and bereavement to give them comfort and hope, by Rev. Dr. Dick Anderson who really appreciates the work that Robert did to get him accredited as a Minister in the Church of Scotland, and also by those in our partner Church in Kenya, where Robert spent time, and who are still benefitting from his work to this day. These words, found in Matthew, Chapter 25, verse 21, are "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Thank you Robert.

To Robert

As Robert recalls in March's Tally Lamp, his first impression of the Church was that it was closed. If you remember, it did look a bit derelict, with a large crack

down the roughcast at the front. Thankfully, he rose to the challenge.

It wasn't easy, or quick, but he persevered and brought the Congregation together. With his encouragement, and fundraising, the roughcast was renewed. The Church was re-roofed, and following Presbytery's instruction, the slates and cast-iron guttering were replaced, like for like. The tiles and plastic guttering looked like the original.

The inside of the Church has completely changed, as has the landscape between the Church and the back fence. Not only has the physical side of the Church been improved; but we now have a Girl's Brigade, a resurrected Boy's Brigade, Stepping Stones and the Summer Holiday Club. In the last 20 years, a large number of young people will have passed through this building.

We must not forget the work Robert did in schools as their Chaplain. This means that a large number of young people in the local area will have received the Christian message. The most memorable services in the Church included Robert's wedding to Christine, and our Centenary Celebration nearly 10 years ago. The then Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rev. David Lunan, took part in the service and at the photo-call afterwards, revealed that he knew Robert. He put his arm around Robert's shoulder, pointed to him and said "Robert is my friend" – not the normal behaviour of Moderators.

Robert was also on the Committee at 121 which appointed Moderators. I don't think all of Robert's choices became

Moderators. I accompanied Robert to General Assemblies (one about every 4 years), and meetings of Presbytery (9 per year). Some were LESS eventful than others!

The last Presbytery Report revealed that 4 members of this Congregation had shown an interest in becoming a Minister, a figure that left many Presbyters gob-smacked.

The last time someone from Blackburn had applied to become a Minister; he was rejected by Presbytery at the first hurdle. He is now the Chief Executive of West Lothian Council (and a Celtic FC season-ticket holder).

I have a story from Presbytery, a few years ago, a Mr. X had attended a funeral in the Presbytery, and complained to the Presbytery Clerk about the service. Mr. X was not satisfied with the response, and a major row developed over many months (years even?) wasting hours of time at each meeting. Presbytery blocked Mr. X's emails, and referred him to 121.

One day Robert phoned me saying that a relative of Mr. X had died in the parish. The funeral had been arranged in this Church, and Robert wondered if Jean and I could go to "keep an eye" on things.

When the family took their seats, I looked for someone fitting the description I had built up at Presbytery. There was no-one with a black mask, black coat, forked tail and a trident! As usual, the service went very well and I phoned Robert that evening to find out how things had gone. He had met Mr. X, and got on well with him.