

Blackbraes and Shieldhill
Parish Church
linked with
Muiravonside Parish Church
Spring 2012

**From the Manse
February 2012**



'Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.' Luke Ch24, v12.

Dear friends,

A week past Sunday, as I arrived at Muiravonside Parish Church to conduct the service, I noticed to my joy and delight, countless sprigs of snowdrops, newly burst through the ground, their buds still tight, scattered throughout the ancient graveyard with surrounds the church.

I normally treat myself to a bunch each week when they are in bloom. Placing them in my small, posy vase, I always pause to wonder at their simplistic beauty, the calming colours of green and pure white, their fragility. They only last a few days, their life being just for a brief moment, but for two or three days, they grace my fireplace, and make it more beautiful, more peaceful, and more tranquil.

When I was first ordained over four years ago now, I remember one afternoon walking around the graveyard at Muiravonside Church and taking time to look at the carvings on the stones and reading the names and dates of the deceased. One stone was erected in memory of a 12 year old girl. At the time my daughters were not much older than that and I felt a deep sadness at the tragedy of this loss but at the same time was aware of the love and joy that this child had brought to her family, which had resulted in them having daisies hand-carved so delicately and precisely into her headstone.

Life is beautiful yet fragile like the snowdrops which surround Muiravonside Parish Church. Life is a gift, each day is precious, each moment is sacred, each season has its own unique blessings. Life is also a mystery. We do not fully understand the Universe, the human mind, and even what exactly happens when we die. Faith is not about certainties, if it was then it could not be called faith. Faith is believing when we're not really sure, faith is having many more questions than answers, faith is trusting that whatever happens - somehow all will be well, and that in death - we will be held safe in loving arms, which will not let us go.

Faith cannot be proved - because it is experiential. Like the love that we feel for family and friends, faith is very much something which we experience, yet we cannot prove its existence. But like love, faith can be shown in our words and actions. In the way that we treat others, in our care for the planet.

Faith is like the little bunches of snowdrops which surround Muiravonside Parish Church. Fragile, vulnerable, even at times appearing insignificant. But our world would be deeply impoverished without their presence. For the appearance of snowdrops bring hope, and so too our faith brings hope. And without hope, life is futile and meaningless.

As so as we approach Easter, we celebrate the hope of our faith, the hope of new birth and new life, the hope of resurrection. A hope so beautifully manifested in the appearance of the snowdrops which surround Muiravonside Parish Church at this time of year. A hope so perfectly manifested in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May you sense in a new and special way the hope of our faith this Eastertime,

***Your minister and friend,
Louise***

Weddings

***'Meanwhile these three remain -
faith, hope and love. But the
greatest of these is love.'***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish

Gayle Campbell and Steven Wilson
on Sunday 13 November 2011

Baptisms

***'Whoever welcomes a little child like
this in my name, welcomes me.'***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish

Caragh Isabella MacKinnon
infant daughter of
Kenny and Sharon MacKinnon
on Sunday 12 February 2012

Funerals

***'The Lord will protect you
as you come and go,
both now and forevermore'.***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish

Mr James Liddle
Miss Agnes Peacock

Muiravonside Parish

Rev Tom Fleming
(formerly minister of
Slamannan Parish Church)
Mrs Anna Kerr
Mr James Rankine

Blackbraes and Shieldhill and Muiravonside Diary

Mon 5 th March	2pm at the Haining Nursing Home - Short service of worship - all welcome
Tue 6 th March	7:15pm at Falkirk Old and St Modans - Presbytery Meeting
Wed 7 th March	1:30pm at Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Rendez-Vouz
Wed 7 th March	7:30pm in the Manse - Bible Study
Tue 13 th March	7:30pm in Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Congregational Board and Kirk Session Meeting
Wed 14 th March	7:30pm in Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church- Guild - Salvation Army Songsters
Fri 16 th March	Ceilidh in Welfare Hall, Shieldhill
Sun 18 th March	After worship at Muiravonside - Annual General Meeting and tea and coffee served.
Tue 20 th March	7:30pm at Muiravonside Church - Kirk Session Meeting
Wed 21 st March	7pm at Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Annual General Meeting
Tue 27 th March	11am at Louise Park's house - prayer meeting
Wed 28 th March	7:30pm at Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Guild AGM
31 Mar -5 Apr	Church Retreat to Spring Harvest, Minehead
Mon 2 nd April	2pm in Haining Nursing Home - short worship service
Sun 8 th April	10am at Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Easter Family Service
Sun 8 th April	11:30am at Muiravonside Church - Easter family service with Holy Communion and baptism of Mrs Lindsey McGuire and her infant daughter Sophie Ella McGuire.
Wed 11 th April	7:30pm - Bible Study in Manse
Wed 25 th April	1:30pm in Blackbraes and Shieldhill Church - Rendez-Vouz with Bohemians

Sat 28 th April	Maddiston Community Centre - Muiravonside Spring Fayre.
Tue 1 st May	7:15pm at Falkirk Old and St Modans - Presbytery meeting
Thu 3 rd May	11:15am at Larbert East - Minister conducting morning worship
Wed 9 th May	7:30pm in the Manse - Bible Study
Sat 12 th May	2pm at Muiravonside Church - Wedding of Emma Wilson and James Gilvear
Sun 13 th May	Deadline for magazine articles for summer edition. Please email yvonne.elder@blueyonder.co.uk
Sun 13 May	Christian Aid Snack Lunch after the service at Blackbraes and Shieldhill
13—19 May	Christian Aid Week

Girlguiding Scotland, in partnership with Women's History Scotland, are doing a national project called 'the big name hunt'. The aim is to find and research as many memorials to women around Scotland and put them on a virtual map.



As we do not have any such memorials in the local area, the Senior Section and Guides are finding out from others in the community about local women. We have been finding out about Mrs Cockburn, a midwife from around the area. She is fondly remembered and her grandchildren still live around the area.

We are hoping to construct a memorial to her and are currently working to raise funds for this. We are appealing to anyone who may like to get involved in this project or has any stories about Mrs Cockburn. They are free to contact me at 1stbraes@gmail.com or on 07766476901.

Emma Guthrie
1st Braes Senior Section

March

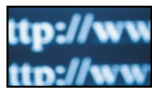
March raises our spirits and gives us cheer,
 hopefully weather getting better glad to say.
 Days now becoming slightly longer and clear,
 daylight lengthens, night is kept a little at bay.
 One more benefit is also held most dear,
 the clocks go forward, daylight begins to stay.

A certain flower blooms throughout as well,
 a welcome gift that the better weather instils.
 Known to the Germans as the "Easter Bell,"
 to us, these yellow flowers are daffodils.
 Blooming in town, country and every dell,
 signs of better days after all our winter ills.

Flowers start to show some life at last,
 roots awaken in the sleeping ground.
 Crocuses bloom in town as traffic goes past,
 hues of yellow and purple all around.
 Tulips also predominate as time goes fast,
 in yellows and purples seas of colour abound.

Often in March the time of Easter begins,
 a very humbling time bringing great reflection.
 As we recall Christ crucified for our sins,
 then Easter Sunday joy in Christ's resurrection.
 The greatest gift for us the Saviour brings,
 redemption for us all through his perfection.

By Drew Robertson



Website

Our magazines are now available on our website
www.bsandm-church.org.uk. If anyone would prefer to access them
 this way, instead of paper format, please let your Church Elder know.

As well as saving paper, and trees, an advantage of using the internet
 is that you would receive the magazine in colour. It could also be
 enlarged if you need to see it in large print.

Katie Hannah, my niece, had to have her leg amputated after cancer was found to be inoperable. I wrote these verses during the two years of her illness. She died in 2010, aged 39.

Katie and cat

Katie and cat,
Curled in the corner of couch.
Crutch propped beside her,
Head cocooned in kerchief,
Fighting cancer
Courageously.

No Place Like Home

Katie's home from hospital!
Happy Katie, Happy Oscar!
Hoovering up happiness,
Mulling over mail,
Talking on the telephone
Surrounded by love
and loving it.
God Bless Katie

Katie is leaving us now

Katie is leaving us now
Lying asleep in her wasted body

Is she dreaming though?
Dreaming of dancing on two good legs
Wearing her little red shoes

Katie is leaving us now
Comfort the watchers by her bed
And God bless Katie

Phyllis McIntosh 2010





Drew's view

Lost in Translation

Do you know that there are over six thousand five hundred different languages being spoken in the world today?

I didn't until I came across this little nugget of information as I was searching for something completely different on *Google*, whilst surfing the Internet on the computer. Now totally side-tracked and completely forgetting the other bit of research I was doing, I decided to explore this further. I became curious to know, which language is the most widely spoken one in the world today. I was sure it would be English.

However, I was in for a surprise.

The answer turned out to be Mandarin Chinese - with over one billion speakers!

I discovered too that out of all those languages, about two thousand of them have less than one thousand speakers. Nevertheless, six thousand five hundred is a pretty impressive amount and it is almost impossible to imagine and contemplate all the different dialects and figures of speech. I always think it is nothing short of miraculous how different cultures communicate with one another and can make themselves understood despite the many language barriers. This can only be achieved in a lot of cases through learning a second language that is more widely known throughout the world.

When I used to work in shipping, I was always impressed by the fact that no matter which ship I visited, or what part of the world they originated from, the captain and crew would put me to shame with their often impeccable grasp of the English (and Scottish!!) language. If a ship visited Scotland regularly, the captain and many of the crew would even become aware of colloquial Scottish words and idioms. It was really touching and quite enchanting to hear words like "wee" and "ye ken" being said in a really broad foreign accent!

I soon realised too that sometimes things are definitely not lost in translation, even if the two speakers are unable to understand each other!

I remember one evening we had a French ship in port and one of the questions I would normally ask the captain is:

"Do you want any fresh water shipped on board and if so, how many tonnes?"

The chief engineer who was standing with the captain immediately went into a long and very animated speech with much gesticulation and vigorous head shaking. After what seemed like about five minutes of this and just as he was becoming increasingly more adamant, he abruptly stopped.

I looked up at the captain, shrugged and said,

“I guess that’s a No!”

Sometimes though, even with the best will in the world, things can quite innocently be misunderstood or lost in translation – often resulting in unintentional and hilarious results!

One such instance happened to me when we used to have a regular German ship visiting once a week. As I had learnt German when I was younger, I always looked forward to getting the opportunity of some practice. I tended to be a bit adventurous, by trying as much as possible to conduct all of the business and paperwork in German. I would get a fabulous welcome, as the crews didn’t encounter many people in Britain who wanted to speak to them in their native language and I was immediately given limitless cups of coffee, as well as being invited to stay on to dinner, which on these ships meant first class food!

I used to enjoy getting this chance to practice and one week we got word that the regular ship was to be temporarily replaced by another one called the “Johanna,” which would be arriving the following Tuesday evening.

“That’s great!” I thought, because next Tuesday evening would be my night on call. This was also the first time that the “Johanna” had called at Grangemouth, so I would be meeting a new captain and crew. My colleague had made all the arrangements for the ship to berth during the day, so when I went on duty that night, everything was in place and ready for me to board.

I greeted the captain and chief officer in German and we worked our way through all the paperwork. I was given my customary cup of coffee and all my questions were politely answered in German, although both the captain and his officer looked a little puzzled from time to time.

“Oops!” I thought, “I must be getting a bit rusty!”



Towards the end of our meeting, both men went out the room and while I was waiting on them returning, I lifted my head from the paperwork and looked at one or two pictures that were

adorning the walls. One showed a very beautiful and regal looking woman who was very elegantly dressed, but smiling happily for the photographer. There was something familiar about this woman that rang a bell, but at this moment, I just couldn't place who she was.

Before I could contemplate this further, the captain returned alone this time and we concluded our business. I was handed a copy of the crew list which I filed away in my briefcase. I wished the captain a very good evening in German which he reciprocated. Then I left. As I was walking back to the car, I kept thinking about the photograph of the very regal looking lady and suddenly something clicked.

This lady who looked so elegant and had such a nice smile, was Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands!

I stopped a moment, thought about the long cheery talk I had in German on this ship, then the realisation set in.

I had been having a conversation in German with a captain and crew who were actually Dutch!

A quick look at the crew list confirmed this. The German owners must have chartered a Dutch ship to cover the voyage from Germany because they didn't have any of their own ships available! What made this utterly amazing was that the captain had politely continued with this conversation throughout in impeccable German.

He must still wonder to this day, why on earth a Scotsman was having a very surreal conversation with him in broken German in Grangemouth of all places! But to his credit, he carried gamely on and patiently took part in what was for me a German conversation class!

My colleague attended the sailing of the vessel the next day and I have always wondered if the captain greeted him in German, thinking that he had arrived in a surreal corner of Scotland where rather broken German was the main language! Or perhaps he was just glad to be sailing back to Germany where he would encounter some real Germans!

This year, Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on May 27. Each time this event comes round, I'm reminded of those days when I attempted to communicate in languages which were not my native tongue. I still remember how thrilling it was to be understood (most of the time!!) by people who came from a different country and culture. One of my favourite pieces of scripture is from Acts. It describes how the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and made the wonderful discovery that they could talk to the large multi

racial crowd in their own languages:

“When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, ‘These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages?’
(Acts Chapter 2 : verses 1 -8.)

I found it exciting trying to communicate in just one language, but how thrilling must it have been for the disciples to find that not only could they suddenly be understood, but understood perfectly by anyone they attempted to talk to, no matter whom this person was or their nationality. At first they must have been a little scared. The power surging through them would have been awesome, almost incomprehensible.

Then as well as this pure energy and power, they would feel the gentle stillness of God’s quiet voice talking through them, encouraging them and nurturing anyone they came in contact with. Suddenly they would know deep down in their hearts that things were going to be alright. Whereas for me, in my limited attempts to talk in a foreign language, it involved a lot of thought and concentration to make myself understood. For the disciples, it would have been effortless. The words would have flowed from the tongue probably quicker than the speaker could keep up with them.

What I really love about the events that took place during Pentecost was that because the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, the words of wisdom that they imparted with the people in the crowd in so many different languages would be crystal clear. These words would contain such clarity and purity that the message contained within them would be understood deep within the very core of the recipient’s psyche. They would be totally unambiguous.

Unlike human inspired words, not a single sentence would ever be lost in translation.



Notes From a Shieldhill Garden



To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Deuteronomy 10: 14

From time to time we hear on the news about global warming, what the scientists are saying, weather patterns because of it and the effect on the world and ourselves. We have experienced very high winds over the past year and the high snow levels that we had over the past two winters. That, so the experts say, is what we can expect more of in the future as global warming progresses. Other parts of the world are becoming warmer and drier and wetter places are becoming wetter. We have seen the effects of hurricanes and tsunamis on our television screens.

In recent years, one of the most widely reported effects of climate change has been changes in the timing of biological events - phenology. People record when they see the first butterfly, bumblebee, may trees in flower etc. I think it was The Woodland Trust, with the help of BBC Springwatch, who conducted this study.

Your garden is an ideal place to watch what is happening. You will see some plants that are flowering earlier or perhaps you will see changes in the creatures that visit. In recent winters I have had Bullfinches and Lesser Redpolls regularly feeding on my birdfeeders. At first The British Trust of Ornithology did not accept that Redpolls had visited my garden but many of us garden bird counters were recording this species and so they sent us a questionnaire regarding Redpolls and they are now accepted as garden visitors.

One of the surveys that The British Trust of Ornithology carries out is about nesting birds. Since the 1970s, many birds are now nesting earlier. Some species such as swallows are arriving in the UK up to 20 days earlier. These migrants also meet many different types of weather on their journey from their wintering grounds to their breeding grounds.

Although many birds are nesting earlier than they used to, insect activity is occurring even earlier and plants are moving faster still. This causes a miss match with some insect eaters. In some parts of Europe, Great Tits and Pied Flycatchers are suffering reduced breeding success because they are nesting later than the peak number in caterpillars, which is their favourite food. This doesn't appear to present as much of a problem in Britain although some of our common Summer visitor numbers have declined. Cuckoos spring to mind as does Spotted Flycatchers, and some of the warblers that frequent The Bings area of our village. This decline could be caused too by difficulties found in the wintering lands and/or on the passage

back to the UK.

It is interesting just watching what is happening in your garden or on a patch of ground that is near you. Quite often what you see is also happening as part of the bigger picture. As Spring approaches, enjoy the Spring flowers but also note the creatures who are appreciating the flowers too.

Happy Spring Watching.
Rena

World Day of Prayer Service

Polmont Old Parish Church 7pm Friday March 2nd

Braes Holy Week Services 2012 - all start at 7pm

Monday 2nd April - Redding and Westquarter

Parish Church

Tuesday 3rd April - Brightons Parish Church

Wednesday 4th April - Muiravonside Parish Church

Thursday 5th April - Slamannan Parish Church

Friday 6th April - Wallacestone Methodist Church



I would like to thank my friends who gave me cards and gifts for my 94th birthday, and the ladies of the Women's Guild who so kindly provided the lovely birthday cake, which was very much appreciated.

Best wishes to everyone
From Jessie Mitchell



Tea, coffee and a chat are always available in the hall after services. Please stay if you can.





Guild



In 2012, we look forward to a year of anniversaries. February marked 200 years since the birth of Charles Dickens. We have enjoyed many of his tales, possibly the favourite being "A Christmas Carol" but in his stories, he brought to the fore many Victorian injustices. On a sad note, it is 100 years since Captain Scott and his friends died in the cruel climate of Antarctica. However the men returning from the expedition had made many scientific discoveries. It is a 100 years since the "Titanic" sailed from these shores amid great jubilation but the ship never reached its destination and many lost their lives. Perhaps the shipbuilders were over confident when they declared the liner unsinkable.

Of course the national event this year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, sixty glorious years. Her dedication to duty has been well recorded and we look forward to the summer events marking the occasion. Nearer to home the Hippodrome Cinema Bo-ness celebrates its 100years. Many of us have enjoyed hours of entertainment in this refurbished gem. Lastly, the Guild, formerly Woman's Guild was founded 125 years ago by Dr Charteris "to organise the work which women did in the church and to enrich their spiritual life". Shieldhill Guild can be traced back to 1938. Many members of the Guild today have memories to share.

The Woman's Guild centenary 1987, I remember it well. An excited group of guild members gathered early at Falkirk High Station. We were bound for Edinburgh where the national meeting would be addressed on this special occasion by Princess Ann. Our plans went awry. We arrived late at the venue because of hitches on the rail line. We were really disappointed as we thought that we would have missed Princess Ann's talk. The doors might even be closed! However it was smiles all round when we heard that the Princess travelling from Glasgow had also been delayed and she arrived at the Assembly Hall later than we did. Relaxed now we listened intently as she talked sensitively about her work with "Save the Children". It turned out well in the end

Now to the present. How quickly this session has passed. Thanks to the committee working behind the scenes. and the members who support the fortnightly meetings so faithfully. We look forward to having as our guests on Wednesday 14 March the Salvation Army Songsters from Falkirk. This evening is open to all. A happy evening can be guaranteed. Come along and bring a friend. The council ABM will be held in Falkirk Old and St Modan's Hall on Thursday 15 March at 7.30pm. In line with a modern society, the Guild in Edinburgh appointed a gentleman Iain Whyte as the

new general secretary to replace Alison Twaddle who had retired because of ill health. He has accepted an invitation to speak at the Summer Rally on 7 June in Abronhill Church Cumbernauld. All are welcome.

Past, present, now to the future. It won't be like the past. The organisation changes with changing times. The Guild is still a family. We look forward to new people and new challenges. We have thrived over the years by keeping our motto "Whose we are and Whom we serve" at the heart of our work. In the future we will continue to express our faith through worship, prayer and action.

Lorna Coulter

Sandy Simpson MBE

The congregation of this church send Sandy hearty congratulations on the award of MBE in the New Year honours.

Sandy is of course the husband of Shieldhill's organist Ailsa and we will be looking forward to seeing the photographs after their meeting with The Queen later on this year.

The citation stated that Sandy earned this honour because of his services to the community of Polmont. Many of us know Sandy because of his work with Polmont Horticultural Society and some of you may have heard his gardening program on local radio. He has also been involved with the trains in Bo'ness and was a community councillor for some time.

In addition to the MBE, The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society has also honoured Sandy because of his contribution to horticulture.

Sandy hasn't retired completely from serving The Horticultural Society because he was appointed as Honorary President of The Society at a special dinner last year.

1st Shieldhill Brownies



The Brownies have been very busy over the last few months, having fun and keeping their promise.

The Christmas trip for 2011 was a train ride into Edinburgh and a day in the National Museum of Scotland. This was followed by a short visit to Princes Street Gardens, the fun fair and a walk through the Christmas German Market, visiting the candy floss and doughnut stands of course!!

The Brownies raised a lot of money for charities at home and around the world; the coffee morning raised £375 for the Cystic Fibrosis unit at the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh and the Webb Ivory Christmas catalogue raised £250 for the Al Shurooq School for the Visually Impaired in Bethlehem. At this years Thinking Day Service, the Brownies had filled smarty tubes with £1 and 20p coins, donating £150.40 to Brownies in Lesotho. A huge thank you to all the Brownies, families and friends who support their hard work.

Coming up in 2012 is a trip to the Time Capsule, Mini Olympics, baking, a sausage sizzle and a summer trip to an exciting outdoor venue. Six Brownies will be taking part in the County Swimming Gala on the 2nd March at the Grangemouth Sports Complex, we hope that they will be successful and enjoy the experience. Brownies will also be working towards a badge to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. A busy time and a Pack Holiday weekend to look forward to in September.

Elaine McDiarmid
1st Shieldhill Brownies
07789 023616



**Brownies
Christmas Trip**

Al Shurooq School for the Visually Impaired ~ Bethlehem

I am always looking for new and different ways to raise funds to support the school, so I will be creating a book full of favourite recipes and creative writing (poems, short stories, anecdotes etc).

I am looking for your help and support to make the book lots of fun, so dig out your old recipes, blow off the dust; put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and be creative!!!

You can either send these to me by e-mail ~ elliescotland@hotmail.com, snail mail at 18 Ledi Place, Shieldhill FK1 2PA or pin them to the Brownie notice board and I will collect them on a Monday night. I hope to have this in print and available in time for Christmas.

For those following my work with the Al Shurroq school, I have been given a month off by my employer to help out at their summer camp etc. I leave around the 14th June.

Thank you,

Elaine McDiarmid 07789 023616



Christian Aid

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 13th to 19th May. If anyone could help with the door-to-door collection in Shieldhill or California during that week – even to deliver some envelopes – this would be much appreciated. Please let Marion Zacks or the minister know if you would like to help.

To mark the start of Christian Aid Week the Welcome In Committee are planning to hold a snack lunch in the church hall after the Service on Sunday 13th May. Everyone is invited.

There are also small money boxes available for anyone who would like to collect their small change from now until June.

Marion Zacks

Prayer for the Day

Dear God, so far today I've done alright.
I haven't gossiped, or lost my temper,
Been greedy or grumpy, been nasty,
Selfish or overindulgent.
I'm very thankful for that.

But in a minute, God,
I'm going to get out of bed,
And from then on,
I'm probably going to need a lot more help.
Amen

Submitted by Jean Crow, Muiravonside

We would like to
thank everyone
most sincerely for
the beautiful
flowers we
received from
Blackbraes and
Shieldhill Church -
we appreciate the
thought very much.

***Bobby and Jean
Young***

Key Lime Pie

Ingredients:

Pack of Ginger Nuts or Digestive Biscuits
100g of butter
400g tin condensed milk
400g double cream
Finely grated zest and juice from 5 large limes

1. Place the butter in a pan over the lowest heat to melt.
2. Crush the packet of biscuits, place in a bowl, and add the melted butter. Mix well.
3. Next place the butter - crumb mixture into an 8 inch flan tin (removable base preferred), press it down evenly and firmly. Chill in fridge.
4. Mix cream and condensed milk in a bowl. Add juice and zest. Whisk all of the ingredients until they are thick and creamy. Spoon this mixture over your biscuit base and chill in the fridge for an hour before serving.

Enjoy

Moir Sharp, Muiravonside

A Sea Captains version of The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift
He lighteth me across the dark waters
He steereth me in deep channels, He keepeth my log
He guideth me by the Star of Holiness, For his name's sake
Yea, though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life
I will dread no danger
For thou art with me, thy love and thy care shelter me
Thou prepares a harbour before me
In the homeland of eternity
Thou anointest the waves with oil, my ship rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me
In the voyage I take
And I will rest in the port of my God forever.

Submitted by Rita Braes, Muiravonside

Colour me in!



On the 30th of October 2011, I had the privilege of joining Muiravonside Parish Church. The fact that my family came along to support me added to the occasion, the warm welcome that we received from all the congregation was very humbling.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan and the members of the Muiravonside Choral Society for the special hymn which they performed for me. I was very surprised and also extremely honoured by their gesture. My father was a lay preacher and was devoted to his Christian beliefs, and for me to be made so welcome by the congregation made it a lot easier for me to return to the Church.

I would very much like to thank Louise for her continued support and the encouragement she gave me in joining the choir, and for the service she performed on the day reaffirming my faith in both God and the Church.

Once again thank you all so much for making me feel so welcome and at home in this wonderful place of worship.

John Jones - Muiravonside Parish Church

This year, The Fairtrade Foundation is asking everyone to take a step for Fairtrade.

It can be a simple step, like swapping your tea to Fairtrade, or a bigger step, like asking everyone in your office to do it too. You'll be joining thousands of others all over the UK when you take a step for Fairtrade. Make it as inventive, daring, funny or messy as you like. Every step counts for millions of farmers, workers and their communities in developing countries who urgently need a better deal from trade.



Take a step in 2012 begins in Fairtrade Fortnight from 27 February – 11 March 2012.

Grandparents Answering Machine

Good morning . . . At present we are not at home but, please leave your message after you hear the beep.



beeeeeppp

If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then select the option from 1 to 5 in order of "arrival" so we know who it is.

If you need us to stay with the children, press 2

If you want to borrow the car, press 3

If you want us to wash your clothes, press 4

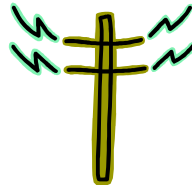
If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5

If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6

If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your home, press 7

If you want to come to eat here, press 8

If you need money, press 9



If you are going to invite us to dinner, or take us to the theatre, start talking - we are listening!

As part of the National Stewardship Programme, we are being encouraged to give our time and talents as well as money to support the church. The Minister and Board of Blackbraes and Shieldhill thought it would be useful to publish the monthly free will offering amounts in the magazine.

October	£1594.20
November	£1311.50
December	£1799.70

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer. You are the greatest!!!

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.
In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online. '

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

It's Surfer Grandma !



We do not stop playing because
we grow old;

We grow old because we
stop playing ..

Never be the first to get old!



Ceilidh

**16 March 2012
Welfare Hall,
Shieldhill**

Spring Fayre

Saturday 28 April 2012

**Maddiston
Community Centre**

What is a grandparent?

(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man and a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are old, they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on cracks.

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They don't say 'Hurry up.'

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have a snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him.

It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks and they blame the dog.



For Easter, try making some Easter biscuits.
Here is a recipe for you to try and to share with
your friends.

Easter Biscuits

Ingredients

125 g soft butter or margarine	1 egg
100 g caster sugar	250 g plain flour
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon	50 g currants



Method

1. Cream (beat) the flour, butter or margarine, sugar and lemon rind until the mixture is fluffy and is a paler colour. Beat in the egg.
2. Stir in the sifted flour and currants.
3. Use your hands to knead the dough slightly until it is nice and smooth.
4. Put the dough on a plate and put it in the fridge for 1 hour.
5. Put some flour on your work surface and roll your dough until it is about 1cm thick. Cut the biscuits out with a small cutter and put them on a baking tray that you have greased.
6. Set your oven at 180 deg C or gas mark 4. Cook them for about 12 minutes, until your biscuits are a light brown colour.
7. Put them on a wire rack to cool

Note g stands for grammes

Instead of currants you can add chocolate chips and orange peel.

*If anybody manages to make the biscuits they could
share them with the Sunday School at juice time.*