

Boghall Parish Church Newsletter – September 2024

Dear friend,

We hope you all had a lovely summer and are ready for Autumn! It will be lovely to see the different leaf colours on our trees; something we can appreciate as the darker nights begin.

We just wanted to let you know that things are progressing nicely in relation to being able to Call a minister soon. We now have our Parish Profile completed and have a Nominating Committee appointed, consisting of 9 members of the Congregation. It will be their job to organise the practicalities around advertising and filling our current vacancy. This is a very exciting time for us as we await our new minister. We will keep you posted on progress.

Our All Age Harvest service this year will take place on Sunday the 6th October and we are supporting the charity Bethany Christian Trust. As you know Bethany do a lot of work to help the homeless and this will be the theme for our Harvest Service. We hope you can attend. We have issued you with an envelope alongside this newsletter and invite you to donate if you can to this very worthy charity. Any envelopes should be returned to the Church by the end of October in person or just ask your elder to collect it from you.

We will once again be supporting the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal and leaflets are available in the Church for you to pick up anytime or you can download one too. Shoe boxes will need to be ready for the 13th October pick up, so it would be good to get started gathering any items required as soon as possible if you wish to contribute. Any knitting or money donations are also appreciated.

Our Gardening project at the back of the Church is progressing well with lots of work going on to help this area become a community garden where vegetables can be grown and used. Artlink, the not for profit charitable organisation is leading the way on this and has had plenty volunteers helping with this exciting initiative including involving some of the Asylum seekers currently housed in the Cairn Hotel. We look forward to seeing the end result.

Our yearly All Age Toy Service will take place on the 1st of December where any toys can be donated and will be delivered to the River Kids charity for distribution to children across West Lothian who would otherwise not receive any presents at Christmas. We hope you can help with this in any way.

Please find the Finance report on the back of this sheet to keep you fully informed.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” Galatians 6 :9

Boghall Parish Outreach Team.

Boghall Parish Church SC001881

Finance Report September 2024

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Boghall Church either financially or with their time or talent. It is very much appreciated, especially during a period when we have no Minister.

Our Congregation are very generous when asked to support the various charities Boghall are involved with, either financially or in other ways. Last year we donated £3,160 between eight different charities.

We also sponsor Chloe age 8, a child at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India. The cost of this is £1,500 per year and covers education and full board at the school. We received a letter from the UK section of The Homes advising that due to increased costs the annual sponsorship fee for supporting a child at The Homes will now be £2,400. We have managed every year to cover the full cost however it has not been easy. This is funded by donations from the Congregation, our various Organisations and occasional fundraising events. There will be no Guild going forward and they were a big supporter of Kalimpong. The increase in cost was discussed at a Kirk Session meeting and it has been agreed that Boghall wants to continue supporting a child at The Homes but cannot guarantee to meet the increase. I included this report at the Annual Stated Meeting in June and since then there has been an increase in donations placed in the Kalimpong box next to the Sunday Offering Plate. We have now received the original fee of £1,500 and any further donations will help towards the new fee of £2,400. **Thank you to everyone who is supporting Chloe.**

You will see from the monthly finance intimations, that most months our expenditure is more than our income. We rely on Fundraising and Gift Aid to help reduce the deficit.

An easy way to increase our income would be through claiming more Gift Aid from the HMRC. If you are now paying Income Tax on earnings that you did not before, then there is a possibility you could complete a Gift Aid Declaration. This would allow the Church to claim a further 25% of your offering from the HMRC and would not cost you anything extra. If anyone would like further information then please speak to me or your Elder. Also, if you now do not pay income tax and you previously did, please let us know.

Another source of income is if you shop online; including holidays, insurance and much more, please consider using Easyfundraising. There are around 7,500 retailers who support charities by giving a percentage of your purchase to your named charity; this does not cost you anything extra. Since Boghall signed up to EF members have raised over £2,260 for church funds. All you have to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk sign up and search for Boghall Parish Church then search for your online retailer and shop as normal. **The important thing is you must start your order by signing into EF first before you log-in to the retailer you are using.** Please speak to me if you need any further information or help.

Best wishes to all

Janice
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