



A View from the Manse

Dear Friends,

I have a very small book called Book of Blessings, which I read from time to time. In it are blessings from all over the world that different people have written down and said many years ago.

I have just read a blessing composed by Robert Louis Stevenson..."Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell, For the love that unites us, For the peace accorded us this day. For the hope with which we expect tomorrow; For the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful " Amen

This blessing teaches us that it is good for us to be able to reflect upon the blessings which God has given to us and to say to Him thank you. If we are honest, often we can't see the blessings and yet if we really took time and looked we would realise what a blessed people we really are.

In 1952 Irving Berlin wrote "When I`m worried and I can`t sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep. And I fall asleep counting my blessings. When my bankroll is getting small. I think of when I had none at all. And I fall asleep counting my blessings".

The old hymn writer summed it up superbly, "Count your blessings, name them one by one and you will see what the Lord has done!"

Take a few moments now and think about some blessings in your life. It may be a person, it may be your health, it may be your faith, it may be a talent...Now thank God for them.

Often our blessings are not spectacular but they are just the ordinary things of life and it`s good for us to be thankful for these as well. In an old Inn in Lancaster was scribbled the words, "Give us Lord, a bit o` sun. A bit o` work and a bit o` fun; Give us all in the struggle and sputter, Our daily bread and a bit o` butter!

So let me indulge in one of my recent blessings...the new arrival of my little granddaughter Eva Elizabeth. Eva was born on Sunday the 6th of October and both Eva and my daughter Lindsay are doing well.

The MacGregor and McBride family have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the

people in the church and for the lovely welcome that we have received into a very special club called the Grandparents Club – a club that has special privileges of enjoying your grandchild and handing them back to their parents at the end of the day!!

I`m sure the illustrations in my sermons will be greatly enriched through Eva and hopefully that will be another blessing. But what an amazing miracle a new life is and one of life`s greatest blessings. I know that we have many grandparents in the church and I now appreciate what it means to be a doting Papa.

But it is truly remarkable that the Eternal God, chose to make his entrance into our world as a fragile and vulnerable baby, born to a young mum in humble circumstances? It is not what we would have chosen for the eternal God and yet this was His way of connecting with us.

And so in humility, we thank Him for this blessing. Remembering the reason that he did it! Simply because He loves us! No other reason, God loves you! Now that is something which should inspire us to count our blessings!

Very soon, we will again be preparing ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ. As we do, let us reflect on the blessings that this little baby has brought to the world.

Here is a blessing that I have written for you today.

Lord, I thank you for the path you chose,

I thank you that you took on Yourself human flesh,

I thank you that you were born like me as a baby,

That you were born to bring this world peace,

And that you were born to give eternal life to all who trust in you.

And that you did it all because You Love me!

Thank you for all your many blessings in my life,

Amen.

With Every Blessing,

Your minister and friend,

John

Craigton Residents Association

Annual Christmas Fayre is on 30th November and will start at 2.30pm and finish about 6.30pm. The lighting of the Christmas tree 5p.m.

We are hoping to have singers and musicians from our Church to lead some carol singing.

There will be a gazebo for the singers and hot refreshments to keep the chill out. The Fayre will have some home baking stalls and craft stalls and all moneys raised will be put back into the community garden to buy plants and flowers for the spring time.

The children will be entertained by Freddie Wiz a fabulous face painter and there will be refreshments.

Come along and support this event and so be part of our local community.

Job Vacancy

We are currently looking to employ a Part – Time Administrator for the church.

The job will include taking minutes at Session & Board meetings, secretarial work, administrating the web site – full training given.

If you are interested in this job please contact the Minister.

GUILD

GUILD: The items for month of November are as follows:

MONDAYS at 7.30p.m. in the North Hall:

4th Nov.- Theatre Nemo

18th Nov - Glue, Glitz and Glamour

TUESDAYS at 2p.m. in the Large Hall

12th Nov. - Helen Kerr and Company - entertainers (Guest Afternoon)

26th Nov. - Rev. Jim Birch - Love Russia



Minibus Volunteers

As most of you will be aware we have the use of a minibus from Hazelwood school on Sunday mornings that allow us to pick up those who would otherwise find it difficult to get to church. We have a group of faithful drivers, but recently have lost a few of our volunteers. We could benefit from a couple of new drivers. It would involve driving the minibus once every 6-8 weeks. If you're interested in being a member of this valued group speak to Gail Vasey after the service on a Sunday or phone her at 0141 882 3746.



The Flower circle



The ladies of the flower circle would like to thank the following people for donating towards the flowers in the month of September:

Mrs N Storrie
Mrs M Charleston
Mrs M Beattie
E Christie
Mrs Bunce
Flower boxes

Once more I would like to thank the ladies for doing the flowers so beautifully. They are much admired every week.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Anyone wishing to donate towards the decoration of the Church for Christmas please speak to Isabell Nugent or Helen Shanks.



I would like to thank the Minister John and the Congregation of Hillington Park Church for the beautiful flowers I received recently. I would also like to thank Margaret Fleming for her visit to bring the flowers.

Betty Walker

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Minister John for his visit to me after my short stay in hospital. Also, many thanks for the lovely flowers and get well wishes I received from the Congregation. It was greatly appreciated.

Thanking you all once again,

Violet Stewart

Grandparents

*Grandparents meet a need
That no one else can fill,
They're always kind and gentle,
They love you and always will.*

*They take you special places,
They're never in a hurry.
They soothe you when you're troubled,
And help you not to worry.*

*They focus on your good points,
And overlook each flaw.
How could we do without
Our Grandma and Grandpa?*

*Thank you, Grandma and Grandpa,
For giving life a special shine.
I'm glad to have grandparents,
And happy you are mine!*

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	MEMBER
Lillian Elder	115 Glenavon Road	18th August 2013	No
Mrs Nancy Cummings	1447 Paisley Road West	21st September 2013	No
Mr Donald Beresford	1399 Paisley Road West	25th September 2013	No
Mr George Maxwell	23 Tannadice Path	6th October 2013	No

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"
"In my Father`s house there are many rooms if it were not
so I would have told you".*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Matthew 7v7 " Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you "

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers :

- All our members who are ill at home, in hospital or Care homes.
- All who are alone or depressed.
- All in our congregation who are having treatment or waiting on hospital appointment or results
- All who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- All who are unemployed and struggling to pay bills.
- Remember all the countries who are at war and people who have had to flee their country.
- Remember those who have died serving their country.
- Remember all our elderly as the weather starts to change and it is dark and cold.
- Remember CAP – (Christians Against Poverty) and ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) and The Trussel Trust Food banks - pray that they get the support to run these organisations.
- Pray for John and Susan as they take on their new roll as Grandparents to Eva Elizabeth.
- Pray for John as he leads us in worship every Sunday and visits our Housebound and
- Our members in hospital.

MESSENGER

All articles for inclusion in the December 2013 issue of the Messenger must be submitted no later than

Tuesday 12th November 2013.

Articles can be left in the Pigeonhole marked "Messenger" or e-mailed to us at

L.Drummond@sky.com

All submissions should include a name and contact number.