

## Church Contact List

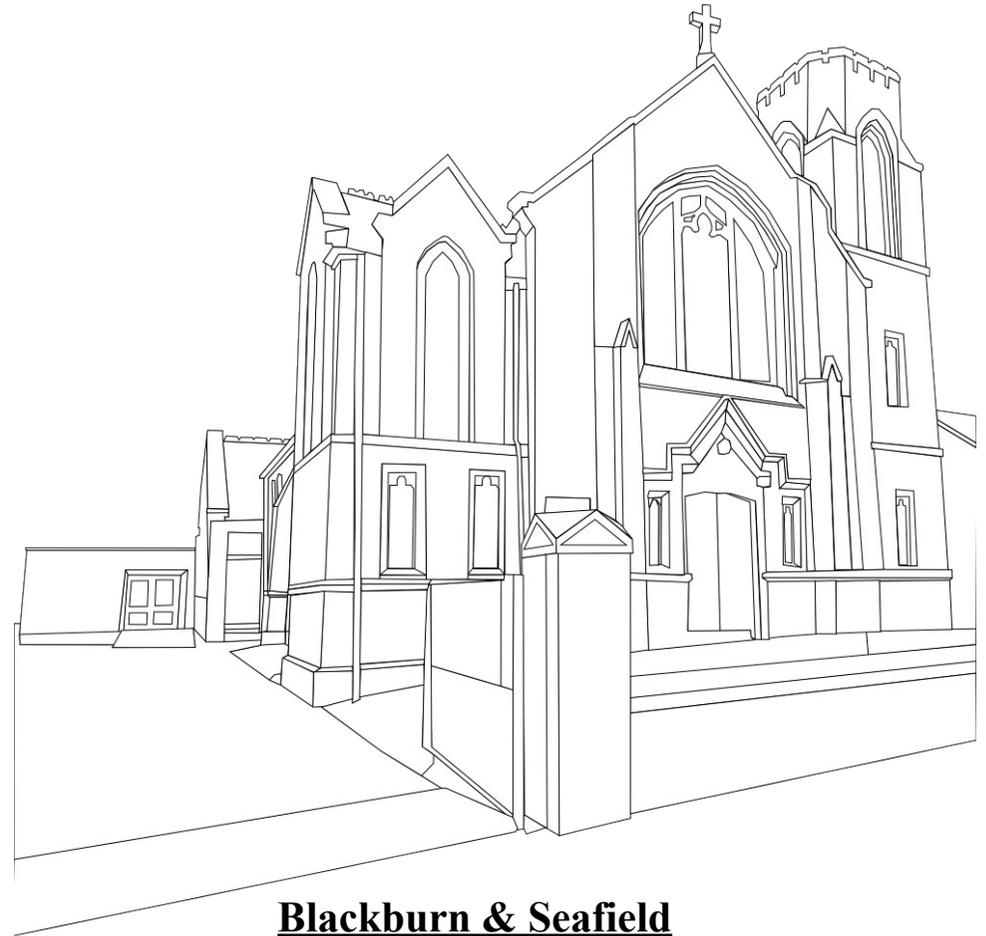
Locum:	Mr David Wilkie	(01506) 238644
Session Clerk:	Mrs Jean Lumsden	(01506) 430731
Treasurer:	Mr Brian McMillan	(01501) 770388
Clerk to the Board:	Mr Eddie Younger	(01506) 655362
Church Officer:	Mr Sampson Ahenkora	07478992633
Property Convenor:	Mr Willie Gilfillan	(01506) 633929
Roll Keeper:	Mr Gordon Todd	(01506) 651105
Prayer Correspondent:	Mrs Isobel Brown	(01506) 636733
Tally Lamp Editor:	Mrs Carne McCulloch	(01506) 656009
Child Protection:	Mrs Linda Graham	(01506) 634073
Flower Convenor	Mrs Elma Stockman	(01501) 741659
Food Bank Coordinator	Mr John Ewart	(01506) 654288

## Church Organisation Contact List

Stepping Stones:	Mrs Tracy Newall	(01506) 632847
Girls Brigade:	Mrs Moira Brown	(01506) 631833
Women's Group:	Mrs Mina Todd	(01506) 630369
Boys Brigade:	Mrs Linda Graham	(01506) 634073

Any contributions intended for the January Tally Lamp may be passed to the Editor, via email, at [carne.mcculloch@sky.com](mailto:carne.mcculloch@sky.com) by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

*Blackburn and Seafeld Church of Scotland*  
*Scottish Charity No. SCO 24154*  
[www.blackburnandseafeldchurch.co.uk](http://www.blackburnandseafeldchurch.co.uk)



**Blackburn & Seafeld**  
**Church of Scotland**  
**Parish News**

***December 2017***

Dear Friends,

As we enter into advent, along with the Christmas music in shops, I hear the now traditional Christmas comments. Oh it's too dear, oh I don't know what presents to give, oh the price of cards, oh the price of stamps, oh it's not the same anymore. Although some people seem to really enjoy Christmastime, so many comments seem to be negative about Christmas. Christians particularly, can be positive. Let's keep reminding ourselves that no matter the expense of Christmas, the real meaning is a priceless present for each of us if we choose to accept the present. Priceless but not expensive. Of infinite value, yet there is no cost. The gift offered to each of us – The Christ child, born to ultimately save us from ourselves, and make us fit to live, and enjoy God with us now, and always.

As John Betjeman ends his poem Advent 1955 -

“The time draws near the birth of Christ'.

A present that cannot be priced

Given two thousand years ago

Yet if God had not given so

He still would be a distant stranger

And not the Baby in the manger.”

God bless you this Christmastime

Robert Malloch

### **Elder's Rota**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** – I. Henderson, L. Graham, M. Shields, S. Merry, L. Thomson

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – E. Stockman, E. Younger, W. Gilfillan, J. Mitchell, E. Wood

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – A. Gilfillan, I. Brown, I. Milne, J. Robertson, C. McCulloch

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec** – R. Dunlop, A. Simpson, M. Brown, F. McLennan, K. Burnett

**31<sup>st</sup> Dec** – J. Muir, A. Muir, D. Anderson, T. Stockman, M. Savage, M. Mason

### **Tea Rota**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** – J. Lumsden, M. Arnott, H. Lind, K. Burnett

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – J. McAloon, I. Ross, M. Savage, L. Thomson

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – E. Stockman, K. Younger, M. Brown, S. McGowan

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec** – A. Gilfillan, C. McCulloch, M. Mason, S. Merry

**31<sup>st</sup> Dec** – G. Anderson, E. Brown, M. Millar, M. Todd, M. Boyd

### **Flowers for the Sanctuary**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** – Flower Fund

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Woman's Group

17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mrs. B. Hazzard

24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mrs. E. Stockman

31<sup>st</sup> Dec – Flower Fund

## Church Organist

As you all know by now that Ross our fantastic organist is leaving us at the end of December due to family commitments.

Does anyone in the congregation know of an organist who would be willing and able to play for us each Sunday/Special services etc. on a permanent basis?

Thank you  
Jean Lumsden

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When the path of life is difficult

A real rollercoaster ride

Take comfort in knowing

That your angel is by your side

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In this season of Christmas I wish you all peace of the Season Spirit of Love, comfort of faith and beauty of the Yuletide! Merry Christmas to you all!

- Isobel  
Brown

## From the Locum

As I write this article for the Tally Lamp, Christmas seems very, very close.

Sadly for many in our communities the true reason for the celebration of this festival will be a mystery, lost in the clamour for gifts, an over indulgence of food and drink, classic Christmas Pop songs drowning the shopping centres massed with frantic shoppers.

Only to realise in January as they receive their bank and credit card statements how they have overspent another year despite promising this year would be different.

Jesus, the Reason for the Season, came into this world as a baby but was destined to be a King. However his arrival was not to some great palace, pampered with nannies and

servants, but to manger in a stable shared sheep, goats and mice as there was no room for him in the inn.

With Jesus, God's own Son, was a light to a dark world, a love that could not and would not be found in the trappings of this world.

Let, Jesus, the reason for the Season be made known in your home, your workplace and the communities you inhabit this Christmas.

The gift of love and light are free to all who come humbly to accept Jesus as their Saviour. This gift will last forever, God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us this gift is for life, eternal life.

I know for some in our community, even in our own fellowship, this Christmas will be hard with someone they have loved as passed on, or words spoken in anger has caused division. Pray for these folks that they will be surrounded by their families and disputes are resolved by saying sorry.

God bless you all this Christmas, may you know God's love surrounding you.

David Wilkie (Locum)

### **Nominating Committee Update – December 2017**

The committee have interview questions all ready and waiting for suitable candidates. Since going into vacancy the following has happened:

- Parish profile complete and on the website (will need an update in January)
- One interested party who was unsuitable at this time
- All interview questions written
- Advert placed in Life & Work in the September issue, closing date was 31<sup>st</sup> October – No applicants from this advert
- New advert will appear in the January edition of Life and Work, closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March
- We are still keeping in touch with probationers as we receive the information each month with none called to us at this time.

Please keep the nominating committee in your prayers and pray that a suitable minister hears the call to our parish soon.

Many thanks,

Elaine

### **A Christmas prayer for peace**

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life, burdens that steal the joy right out of our Christmas stockings. Crazy weather, disasters strike at unsuspecting areas ravaging peaceful homes and interrupting the lives of unsuspecting residents. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer and an inner voice whispers "WE NEED YOU JESUS." In a world where worry not peace prevails, stir up that good news again; make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed your joy and peace more than now, we not only need your peace and joy.

You have promised rest for the weary, victory for the battled scarred, peace for the anxious and acceptance for the broken hearted not just at Christmas but every day of every year.

Amen

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### **From the Editor**

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and wonderful Christmas season, may all your dreams come true. All the best for 2018!

- Editor



Christmas is fast approaching and we have a number of events happening within the Parish and you are all warmly invited to join us...

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 6-8pm - Christmas Fair**

Lots of stalls for Christmas Shopping, Santa's Grotto, Home Baking, Girls' Brigade & Boys' Brigade stalls and much more, come along and enjoy the fun!

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm for 6.30pm - Family Christmas Service**

A lovely way to begin the Festive Season with your family and refreshments will be served afterwards.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm - Seafield Carol Service**

The annual Carol Service will be held in **Seafield Community Centre**. Come and support the community and enjoy a Christmas sing song.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm - Christingle And Tree Festival**

Come along and enjoy a family Christmas Celebration, singing carols by candle and tree light and enjoying mince pies afterwards.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 7.30pm - Christmas Eve Service**

Enjoy a peaceful celebration on Christmas Eve appreciating the real joy of Christmas with family and friends.



Blackburn & Seafield Parish Church  
<http://www.blackburnandseafieldchurch.co.uk/>

Blackburn  Find us on Facebook  *Parish Church*



*We are now on Facebook, please like and share the church page...*



*Church Website*  
<http://www.blackburnandseafieldchurch.co.uk/>

Our web page was updated for the vacancy, however, if you note anything that needs to be changed/updated, please email:  
[webmaster@blackburnandseafieldchurch.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@blackburnandseafieldchurch.co.uk)

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### Christmas Wishes

Wishing all a Christmas full of Peace and Joy, and a happy and healthy 2018! God Bless you all!

- Irene Milne & Family

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### Christmas Tree

Just a note to say that the Memoriams from this year's Christmas Tree will be going to the McMillan Nurses. Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, TheTrainLine and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to our church to say thank you for shopping with them.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/blckbnseafchurch/>

2. Sign up for free

3. Get shopping – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to the church. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges; all you need to do is login to Easy Fundraising every time you shop on line...

Thank you for your support.



**1<sup>st</sup> Blackburn Girls' Brigade**  
01506 631833



Hello everyone.

All the sections had a busy November.

The **Explorers** had a great night dressing up for a big event – Sandra made the sun lounge look like a fancy dress shop !

They also made crafts for the Christmas Fayre.

A celebration theme of birthdays included the birth of Jesus and the girls enjoyed a party with cakes, crisps, sweets and juice. They also linked their seasons theme to Noah's Ark and pretended they were on a boat trip to Africa sailing on stormy seas.

The **Juniors** were concentrating on the physical part of their badge work and skipped, hula-hooped, raced each other, and competed in various games and races. They also made lovely tree decorations for the Christmas Fayre which they took great care over.

The **Brigaders** had a great time making bags from wrapping paper, and they also decorated cotton tote bags with material, ribbon and buttons, helped by Elaine's Aunt Cecelia. Each design was different and looked very professional.

We had a good turnout of girls for the Remembrance Service, and the younger ones enjoyed being in Stepping Stones

On Friday night myself, Elaine and Caitlin took the Brigaders and two of the P7's to Lanark to see the Illuminated Procession of the Lanimer lorries. It was a dry (if cold) night, and we had a super time, and of course enjoyed the chips from Valerios at the end.

We are now looking forward to all the Christmas activities and services in the Church, especially our own Christmas party with HOPEFULLY a visit from Santa.

Wishing you all a happy peaceful Christmas

*Moira and all at 1<sup>st</sup> Blackburn.*



**FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE – How much can we raise for our Congregation before Christmas?**

Thank you to those who have signed up on line and began shopping to earn much needed funds for our congregation. So far, 10 members and nearly £10 earned...can we make £50 by the January edition of the Tally Lamp?

By making one simple change to your online shopping, you can help us to raise more, much needed funds... here's how,

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a free donation for Blackburn and Seafield Parish Church? There are nearly 3,000 retailers including