

# LinkUP



Reaching children, serving churches



**S**IMPLICITY is the theme of the 2020 BCM Scottish Ladies Conference.

Would you like to join us as we celebrate 40 years of God's goodness on these weekends?

It's 40 years since Sandy Barber and Margaret Gilvear saw the need as young mums for ladies to relax and to spend some uninterrupted time in the presence of God.

Their aim was that all would leave refreshed, encouraged and better prepared to face life's challenges.

*He may only have been five years old but Alasdair Matheson, pictured with mum Loriann and his brothers Sorley and Charlie, already knows how to share the good news about Jesus. His faithfulness in telling a school friend about God's love led to a weekly Bible Club being started - with mum as an enthusiastic helper. Pages 2-3. Meanwhile as we report on this new BCM ministry another, the Scottish Ladies Conference, is about to clock up a 40 year milestone!*

## WE'RE MOVING ON WITH GOD

This year's speaker is Esther Zimmerman, the daughter of Sandy, co-founder of these conferences.

Esther lives in the States with husband David and they have three amazing children.

**Continued on back page**



Happy teens at the 7Up youth club

Can you help? A mum after camp was in genuine distress at the thought that her son would no longer be able to attend Bible Club.

He had been attending our club for three years but now he was moving up to secondary school.

I was reminded of the dream Paul had of the man from Macedonia, who asked him: "Come over here and help us; Paul's response was to go, so my answer was: "Yes we can help you."

We run a junior and a teen camp in the summer but there is also a monthly teen event, so I was able to assure this mum that there is still a programme to suit her son.

What a joy to be asked to play a part in the life of this woman's son.

Please pray for him and the Teen Club/Merge team that meets every month in Glasgow.

**FIONA BLYTH**

## A Bible Club

**E**ARLIER this year we started a new Bible Club in one of the local primary schools in the Glasgow suburb of Bishoppbriggs.

Meadowburn is unique because it is actually two schools in one. There is a Gaelic language school running alongside an English-speaking one.

Loriann, a young mum in my church had asked me a few years ago about Bible Club in local schools as she and her husband, newly moved into the area, researched educational provision for their children.

I told her that if there was no club in the school they chose but that I would help her

A youth club was started a year ago at Chryston UF near Glasgow. What does this have to do with BCM?

Steve Marr who is also the minister at Chryston runs a BCM club in come of the local primary schools and a particularly keen group had reached Primary Seven.

They would go to high school in 2019 where there is only contact via assemblies.

This group were keen to have a club for themselves after primary school so it was thought it would start at P7 and hopefully grow up with them - so 7Up was formed.

In 2018 /19 session there was up to 30 young people on the register although there are usually around 20 any given evening. This was very encouraging but all concerned wondered if they would return once the

transition to high school had been made. To this end we agreed to do a week long summer youth club - and no-one attended.

Not to be deterred we decided to start back on a Friday evening and on the first evening two of our regulars from the year before came back.

On the second night 12 showed up and on the third we were delighted to welcome 29.

Fourteen of them had either seen the 7Up banner or been told by their friends.

God has shown us a number of things:

He will build on what has gone before;

Nothing is wasted in His kingdom;

We are only asked to be faithful - God does the rest.

God has a heart for young people and wants to hear their questions.

## started by the children

By **FIONA BLYTH**

run one, if the school permitted.

So, when she told me about her five-year-old, Alasdair, sharing the love of Jesus with his friend at school, and how, because he wanted to tell others, that she had already sought and obtained permission from the headteacher, I was blown away.

We were able to start with primary one and two initially across both schools and ran the club from Easter to the start of the summer holidays. A girl from my church was in her primary seven at the school, and asked the headteacher for permission to come as a helper.

Charis, 11, was excellent with all the computer and projection technology, sound for

our singing, teaching all the moves for the songs, and with setting up and clearing up the room. Aware that she would be going on to high school, she told us that she was instructing her wee brother with the tech stuff as her replacement. So now we have Eli, six, as our computer tech.

The first day we had 15 children attend and that number has stayed the same. The school are very happy to have these P1-3 children spend each Thursday lunchtime with us. And that is as much as space permits.

Maybe we could make space for the boys and girls in P4-7.

Loriann comes to club every week with her other two wee boys, Charlie, two, and Sorley, four. Please pray for them as a family and for their witness in the school.



Can you give us a leg up?

**WOULD** like to invite you to get involved in the BCM camp programme. I don't know what that statement makes you think of. Maybe it is of the freedom of being out of in the wilds, well at least getting a little closer to nature.

For others it may mean getting cold and wet and up close and personal with hundreds of creepy crawly insects. Well did you know getting out in a temporary shelter for a week is one of the Old Testament festivals?

For BCM it is about giving young people a holiday in a Christian environment. Getting together with other Christian young people and being encouraged by leaders who have 'walked that way before'.

It is unfortunate that the cost of these types of holiday is constantly increasing and what was once an inexpensive treat for children has become, for many parents, unaffordable.

Most of our camps have faced this problem and re-

● **Details of how to sponsor a child at a BCM camp of your choice can be obtained from BCM International UK (Anchor Trust), PO Box 668 Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 9PP. Tel 07845 174853. Email [office@bcm.org.uk](mailto:office@bcm.org.uk)**

sponded with various sponsorship schemes. It is in this way that I would invite you to be of help.

While we would always encourage those who are called by God to serve with us at the camp, others can help by

making it possible for children to attend despite family financial pressures.

If you feel that you would like to help, please contact us at the address given and we will be glad to advise you as to how you can give to the camp

sponsorship scheme of your choice.

BCM runs camps with sponsorship schemes in the North and South of Ireland, and also in Scotland and England.

**Stanley Paget**

# All those lonely people

**S**INCE coming to live in Kilsyth the words opposite from the Beatles song *Eleanor Rigby* have been in my thoughts.

What have I noticed in my community? A big percentage of people living on their own behind these closed doors are lonely people.

I had never experienced real loneliness until I moved from Weston-super-Mare. Living on my own has been a new experience and a hard one.

This has made me aware of others and the words in the story of the Good Samaritan: Who is my neighbour?

Greek word: someone who is near;

Hebrew: someone you have an association with:

I have an association with my immediate



*All the lonely people  
Where do they all  
come from?  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all  
belong?*

**Loneliness blights the lives of so many**

neighbours as I live in an apartment block of six flats. Each neighbour comes from a different background, has different pains, some are young, some older, and some have some dis-

# need loving neighbours

abilities. But we we share an entrance, we share a garden and we are on our own.

But we also in some way share our lives.

I have been granted the amazing privilege of listening to their stories, sharing Jesus with them and inviting them to church or pointing them to a place they might get help.

One of my neighbours in the next block was feeling down and lonely and I was able to invite her to our cafe church and Alsortz group. It has been lovely. She was the very first person I met on the day I was given the house.

Thomas passes my window a few times each day. I pray for him as he passes, because he has a bad drink problem.

I enjoy chatting with him and Betty and I invited him to cafe church. One day I pray he will come.

I could write many stories of the way my immediate neighbours have opened up. It sur-

prise me every time but the Lord in His wisdom helps me to listen, share my faith in Jesus, and and point them to the places of help.

When I go for a walk in the park I meet lots of people who just want to chat and tell me their news or worries - or the things that make them smile.

What have I learned through this? Don't be afraid to chat, smile and listen to someone else's story as they are lonely people who need to feel they are still of value.

God has placed me in this community and I am thankful for all my neighbours.

I pray I will listen to the same Jesus Who told the leaders: Go and be a Good Neighbour.

The challenge He gave is that we should go and do likewise.

**Kate Macnab**

I would like to help BCM reach more children with God's work and support its missionaries in their valuable work. Please find enclosed a cheque for:

£..... payable to BCM UK.

I am a UK taxpayer and wish BCM to reclaim tax on this and my future gifts. I confirm that I pay at least as much income tax or capital gains tax as will be reclaimed by all charities on my donations in each tax year, including community amateur sports clubs. (Please note that other taxes such as council tax and VAT do not qualify).

Please send me a standing order form to set up regular giving from my bank or building society.

I have arranged to leave BCM UK a legacy.

Please send me details of how I can leave BCM UK a legacy.

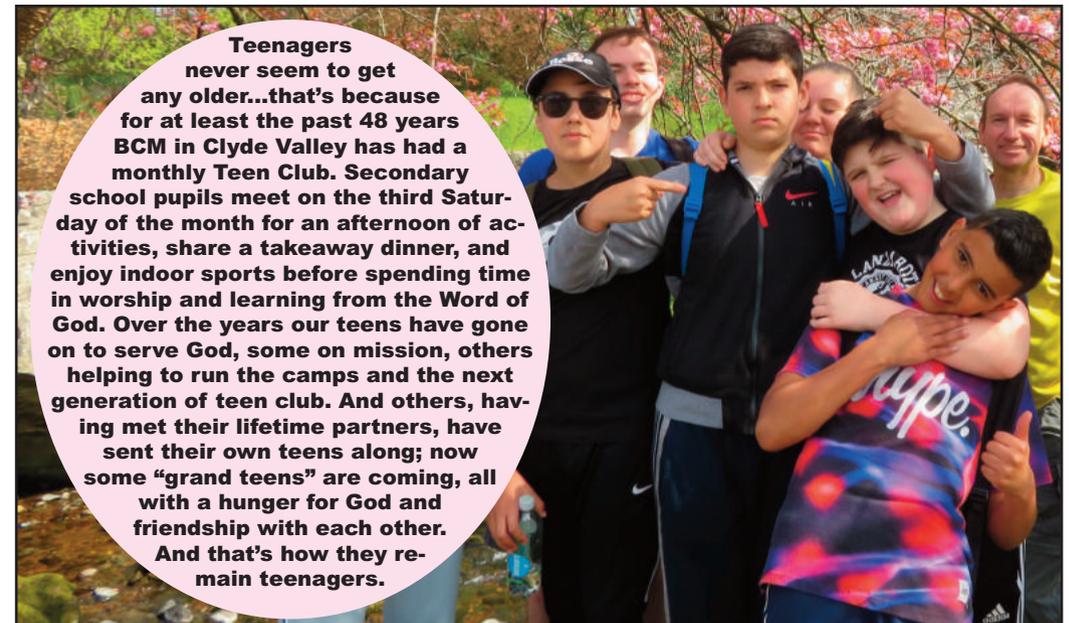
Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Please return to BCM UK, PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 9PP



**Teenagers never seem to get any older...that's because for at least the past 48 years BCM in Clyde Valley has had a monthly Teen Club. Secondary school pupils meet on the third Saturday of the month for an afternoon of activities, share a takeaway dinner, and enjoy indoor sports before spending time in worship and learning from the Word of God. Over the years our teens have gone on to serve God, some on mission, others helping to run the camps and the next generation of teen club. And others, having met their lifetime partners, have sent their own teens along; now some "grand teens" are coming, all with a hunger for God and friendship with each other. And that's how they remain teenagers.**

# Alsortz of happy days in Kilsyth



## 40 year milestone

### From front page

BCM has always been a huge part of Esther's life and she continues to represent us as an am-



Esther Zimmerman

bassador whilst teaching full-time at Lancaster Bible College/Capital Seminary and Graduate School in Pennsylvania.

We are excited about Esther's visit and look forward to all God has for each of us.

The conferences take place at the Salutation Hotel in Perth on two weekends in February or March.

Interested in attending on either of these weekends? Contact irene.paget@bcm.org.uk or call 01236 827313.

Each Tuesday afternoon Kate and Irene, two of the Scottish BCM missionaries meet in Kilsyth with Alsortz of people of Alsortz of ages and from Alsortz of backgrounds.

The Alsortz group continues to grow in number, friendship and spiritual interest. They pray for and encourage each other. They also enjoy days out as can be seen in the picture.

We ask you to pray with us for wisdom in how to grow the group spiritually and physically.

Many local people would benefit from a group of this nature.



BCM [www.bcmireland.ie](http://www.bcmireland.ie)

[www.bcm.org.uk](http://www.bcm.org.uk)

Reaching Children, Serving Churches

Our vision: For more and more children and young people to know, love and obey God.

BCM is a faith mission. The work is financed through freewill offerings from faithful people whose hearts are touched by God. Any gifts can be sent to BCM International UK (Anchor Trust), PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 9PP Tel 07845 174853; Email: [office@bcm.org.uk](mailto:office@bcm.org.uk) Follow BCM UK on Facebook.

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