

**BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**SERVICE Of UNION in Westerton Fairlie Memorial Parish Church**  
5<sup>th</sup> June 202

**Transcript (partial) of Proceedings**

**Officiating :** Revd David Burt, Moderator, Revd Robbie Hamilton, Presbytery Clerk,  
Revd Christine Murdoch.



**1. Welcome :** Revd David Burt



## 2. Call to worship

Moderator: The Lord is the vine:  
All: **we are the branches.**  
Moderator: Dwelling in him:  
All: **we bear much fruit.**  
Moderator: Apart from him:  
All: **we can do nothing.**  
Moderator: Heeding his commands:  
All: **we dwell in his love**  
Moderator: LET US WORSHIP GOD

**Hymn : The Lord's my shepherd** (Stuart Townend version)

## 3. Opening Prayer

4. **Scripture Readings** Acts 11 Read by Helen Stuart  
John 15 : 9 – 17 Read by Marlene Anderson



5. **Hymn CH4 511 Your Hand O God has Guided**

6. **Sermon** Revd Christine Murdoch

7. **The Apostles' Creed** said by all standing

8. **Hymn CH4 198 Let us build a House**

9. **The Narrative** Revd Robbie Hamilton

10. **Prayer**

## 11. Union of the Congregations: David Burt

Following the resolution of the Presbytery of Clyde to unite the parishes of Bearsden Killermont and Bearsden Westerton Fairlie Memorial as from the eighth day of May 2024 under the minister of Bearsden Killermont Rev Dr Alan Hamilton we meet as a presbytery to seek the blessing of Almighty God on these congregations and parishes as they come together as one and upon their minister, as we come together to share and declare

### **BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Would all members and adherents of both congregations please stand as a sign of your assent of this Union.

### **Prayer**

To the Glory of God the Father who has called us by his Grace

To the Glory of God the Son who loves us and gave himself for us

To the Glory of God the Holy Spirit who enlightens us and sanctifies us

We consecrate this Union, in the community of Faith, in the community of Saints, in gratitude of the labour and sacrifice of our forebears, in loving remembrance of those who have finished this race, acknowledging that without us, their work is not made perfect, we dedicate ourselves to the worship of God and the continuing service of His Kingdom

Now therefore in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, I declare united as one congregation as BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH serving one parish within different communities. Spare no effort to make fast the bonds of peace, the unity which the Spirit gives, live in union with Christ our Lord, be rooted in him, be built in him, grow strong in faith, let your hearts overflow with thanks. **Amen**

## 12 Appointment of Revd Dr Alan Hamilton as Minister

Reverend Dr Alan Hamilton was ordained and inducted into Bearsden Killermont Church on 26 February 2003. Congratulations on being 21! And after a congregational board earlier this year Alan was accepted as Minister by Bearsden Westerton Fairlie Memorial Church to be the minister of the united congregation.

We now proceed to appoint Alan as Minister of the united charge of Boclair Community Parish, Church of Scotland.

Alan, will you please stand....

Alan, at your ordination you solemnly vowed that believing in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and accepting holy scripture and the fundamental doctrines of the Faith, contained in the confession of Faith of this Church, you would seek the unity and peace of the Church, and that, inspired by zeal for the Glory of God, by the Love of Christ and by a desire for the salvation of all people, you would lead an ordered and circumspect life and with cheerfulness would discharge the duties of your Ministry. Do you now reaffirm your adherence to that vow? (Alan said yes)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by authority of this Presbytery, I now declare you Alan Hamilton to be minister of the united congregation of BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH. Do you, the people of this newly united congregation, in welcoming Alan in this new sphere of service, renew your promise of encouragement and support? The answer is yes.

In recognition of this new relationship for this renewed path, it says here, “let everyone applaud! ” . I think we should say a huge thank you and well done. ( Rapturous Applause)

### 13 Signs of Shared Ministry

Alan approaches the Communion Table

**A Bible is brought to the minister, by Alan Sinclair, who then places it on the Table**

Member: It is through Scripture that we are called to be Christ's body.  
Teach us the faith so that we may be true to the Gospel.

Minister: Together may we listen for the Word of God.

Congregation: In our words and in our lives, may we declare the Good News to all people.

**A pitcher is brought to the minister, by Ian Welsh, who then places it on the Table.**

Member: By water and the Holy Spirit we are claimed as God's own.  
Renew us in our calling as servants of Christ in the world.

Minister: Together may we live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ.

Congregation: May we nurture one another in faith, uphold one another in prayer, and encourage one another in service.

**Communion vessels are brought to the minister, who then places them on the Table.**

Member: In celebrating Holy Communion, we know Christ present among us.  
Gather us round the Table that we may be united as his Body.

Minister: Together may we celebrate the Meal of the Kingdom.

Congregation: We shall always be ready to meet Christ in this place and show in our lives the promise of his reconciliation.



## 14 Charge to the Minister

Alan, it is my duty tonight as moderator to give you charge. I always feel slightly inadequate doing that - giving charge to any colleagues - because we all share in the privilege of ministry and that ministry calls us in different ways, to do different things, but we all share the core values of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the God who sent his Son to reclaim the world and to save us from ourselves, and we come together tonight to welcome you into this new role.

You've been at the heart of this process of reorganisation, and you have done so with faithful endeavour and with total integrity, seeking what is best and seeking to serve the call of God in the Church of Scotland as it continues its mission and work within the new life in which it finds itself.

You've done so with tremendous gifts and also with a passion, but you've also done it at the sacrifice, I suspect, of time for family, and that is difficult; and so my charges to you tonight are : to make time to be with your family; take time off. THAT'S AN ORDER . Take time to be with your family and to value that time because it's so precious and sometimes we are so involved and caught up in the reality of ministry that we forget that we, too, need to recharge ourselves. You've taken on this new role as Minister of BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH and you do so of your own free will and volition and that stands as a testament to your faithfulness, because as Ministers we're not "employees" of the Church - OH NO WE'RE NOT!-





We are called and given the thing called “**Tenure**”. Tenure is important because it sets us apart as employees, but tenure means that you don't have to do or take on any more responsibility, and the fact that you've been willing to engage in this process and take on the role as minister of this new united congregation, shows me that you don't just talk the faith, you *walk the faith*, but we know that, we know that because you have come from another profession as a respected lawyer; lawyers have a great respect within their communities, although, that said , I do have 2 volumes in my library, called "Lawyers and Other Reptiles " ... .volumes 1 and 2, which were given to me by a lawyer.... whom I married ....it was an unusual gift, but very useful....

But you've come from that sense, of another profession, into the call of God in your life, Christ calling you in that ministry, and you have built that ministry for 21 years in Killermont. I think the difficulty now for you will be to make that sense of community work for both parts

And it *will* be difficult - there will be times when you are pulled in two ways, you will already know “the Killermont ways” because ... *you set them up!* But you will be told “this is the Westerton way” and as Christine so beautifully reminded us - at the end of the day, think of the scone, the jam and the cream: it doesn't matter – it's all going the same way , although, that said , it IS the scone, the cream, then jam.... just for any clarity on that! (laughter!)

But the Church can only move forward, with people like you who are willing to make sacrifice of time and commitment and to take on the responsibility. So I wish you God's richest blessing in this new endeavour as Minister of BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH. I wish you God's richest blessing in all your continued ministry and the new peaceful ministry that will come as part of that ministry. And I wish you God's richest blessing on the people here who have called you, not for the 21 years you've been at Killermont, but have called you here, now, into this place, into this community , to witness and to serve them. Alan, may God bless you .... and remember .... put your family first and take time off as well. That's an order. ( They shook hands)

## 15 Charge to the Congregation

To you the congregation of BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH, what's in a name? Quite a lot. My full name is the Reverend David William Gilmour Burt. That's a mouthful . That's a mouthful when you're in Primary 1, it's a mouthful when you're trying to spell it!

What's in a name? Well, "David" because my mother liked the idea of the hebrew name meaning "beloved of God" apparently; also "William" is from my father's side and "Gilmour" was my mother's maiden name, so basically I am a product to keep the whole family happy!

What's in a name? What's in a name is important. The name tonight BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH makes a statement of intent and the key word is COMMUNITY! What's Community? Community is people, as reminded by Christine preaching tonight, it's about people working together, coming together, and when we work together we can achieve great things : United we stand, Divided we fall

Last night I was talking to a wee group of Beavers, but you know the rhyme – here's the church, here's the steeple, open the doors and there's the .... people!

That's what it's about! **YOU** – people, being a Community of Faith; but it's about being a *welcoming* community, an *open* community, it's about a community that's *willing* to share the good news, *willing* to share the gospel, *willing* to share, with the communities you serve the wonder of God's love. Don't go down the road of "this is the Killermont way " or "this is the Westerton way" .....

My first church was a united charge in Hawick in the Borders – that's the wee bit between the rest of Scotland and England....

My first session meeting - I was young, and I was arrogant. At my first session, I said "Some of you will tell me we're going to do things the St Mary's way, and some of you will tell me we're going to do things the old Parish way; I'm telling you now, you're doing things **MY** way! Not necessarily the *right* way, not necessarily the *wrong* way, but the way *I want* to try things, and that means we make mistakes, we get things wrong. Ministers, - and I'll bet this will be a shock to you! - Ministers are *human* too! Now I know that's a shock to people, but we **are** human, we **do** make mistakes, we **don't** get it right. Give Alan time to settle into his new role, give him the benefit of the doubt, that he's doing the right thing for all of you, as he takes you on the journey of faith in this new role as BOCLAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH. Give him the time and respect that he deserves, and put your trust in him, because *his* trust is in God, through Jesus Christ, just as *your* trust is in Christ, who is with us always and we're never alone.

And remember the words of your Church – "**Community**" Community is about being together, being open and welcoming : I thought Christine was right "Sit anywhere".

As a minister, I've experienced it: I went into a church and I got "*the look*", and you suddenly realise that you've sat in Mrs Smith's seat, who's been there since 1923. The fact that she's not there that Sunday has nothing to do with it, - she left her *aura* there!

Don't be that church; be a church that welcomes everyone, not judges them, but welcomes them with open arms, as brothers and sisters, welcomes everyone; and that this place may radiate the light of Christ. A light that calls us to love....

My charge to you the Congregation is : don't be afraid of the "new" that is upon you, embrace it, share it and be joyful. Journey with Alan, and give him your support, be there to minister to him as well, because he needs your care, he needs to know that he's uplifted

by you, in your prayers, as you are uplifted by him in his prayers. Share that journey together and serve the Community that you seek to serve within this new parish.

And may you do so with JOY. ....

Joy is something we do lots of, in the Church of Scotland.....

[at this point his body language is... 😊 ]

We talk about **Joy**, but we don't know what it means - so we go around .... Joy 😊

“ May the joy of Christ be with you 😊

Be HAPPY! Look forward with faith and journey in this new beginning, in this new place, not afraid, not tense, strong and resilient in the God of Love, whom Christ calls us to serve in.....

And may God bless you all as you take this journey together.....

I feel like I'm launching a ship. In some ways I am, but I mean it: you'll be in the prayers of the Presbytery; walk forward in faith.....

## 16 Prayer

Alan then leads the congregation in prayer, picking up the themes from the passage in Acts.....



## 17 HymnCH4 519 Love Divine

And just before we say the benediction, may I compliment you on your singing tonight, it's almost as though we're on "Songs of Praise!.....!

## 18 Benediction

Lord, as we go forward to be the Community that you want us to be, here in this place, here in the community we seek to serve, may we be that light in the darkness, may we be that salt in the world, may we, o Lord, take your Word into the community we serve knowing that it tests our faith.



And as we give thanks for this united congregation tonight and bless Alan in the start of his ministry, so we ask your blessing be upon us, as together we share that community of faith, in love. Go now in the peace, love, and joy of the living God, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon and dwell within your hearts this night, remain with you and be with you and all whom you love and share your journey , your story with, now and forever more. **Amen**

Presbytery files out of the Church