



From the Minister

Round about this time last year, just as we were preparing for Christmas celebrations, we heard the news that church services had to stop once again. It was a disappointing time, without a doubt. As we found other ways to share the Christmas message, and as we adjusted plans for family gatherings, we may well have lamented the circumstances we once again found ourselves in. The hope this year is that we will be able to celebrate both in church and in our family and social circles in ways approaching the normality of years past. Perhaps, though, the upheaval of the last two years (almost) serves as a



reminder that life can be messy and unpredictable. The warm glow of the Christmas story, with angelic choirs, a peaceful baby, and worshipful visitors often eclipses the backdrop of political tensions, cultural expectations and pressures, and the harsh reality of being displaced from home and family. It is into this messiness that God steps, to be present in a world of uncertainty and concern. Behind the glittering lights and cheerful gatherings, so often a façade for some, there is the reality of our everyday worries and trials.

The good news of this season and, indeed the entirety of the Christian witness, is that God is with us in all our moments. It may be easy enough to remember when we have the joy of the season and the trappings of Christmas around us. We can often forget that assurance when all the tinsel is packed away again and the bills and bank statements start to arrive. It is into these moments that we can bring the continuing message of hope that Christmas heralds. We may not have the resources or the gifts to ease every burden and salve every hurt, but we can draw on the strength offered by our ever-present God to show love and compassion where it is needed (and even when we may not see that obvious need).

This year, may you know the fullness of the joy of the Lord as we celebrate his birth, and may the presence of his Spirit guide you throughout your days. *John*



Kirriemuir Parish Church



Cortachy Church



Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church

The Church of Scotland in Angus

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Office Open:

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12noon

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am – 12noon & 2pm – 4pm.

www.gkupc.org

Scottish Charity Number SC015123

www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC006317

Caring for God's Creation

Fairtrade Church



Remembrance Sunday

Unlike last year, we were able to gather as a community to mark Remembrance Sunday. There was a great turnout at churches and war memorials across the area to mark the sacrifice of those who have died and suffered in past conflicts.



Kirriemuir War Memorial

With thanks to Frank Proctor for the photographs.



Cortachy War Memorial

Change of Role

The weeks are passing by quickly and before we know it, we will be into 2022. None of us know what that year will bring but we step into it with hope and faith.

For me, 2022 also brings my 60th birthday and with that I've been reflecting a great deal on my role in the church. I feel it is time for me to have a change of direction. I have decided to retire from full-time ministry on the 1st May. However, I won't be disappearing! I plan to continue to work in the church for the foreseeable future on a voluntary basis. I will be stepping down from leading regular Sunday worship but continue to support pastoral work.

Like you I head into 2022 not quite knowing what lies ahead but as Minnie Hoskins wrote: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Every blessing, *Linda*

Angel Tree

This Christmas time, we would like to reach out to local people in need through our Angel Tree gifts. We will do this via Women's Aid, Homeless Support and the local Health Visitors again this year.

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Church on Sundays from Sunday 21st November and in the office during the week.

There will be labels attached to the tree.

These labels will have a description of someone to whom we would like to donate a gift e.g. 'boy, age 6'. You are invited to take a label home and purchase a suitable modest gift.

You do not need to choose a label, we will welcome gifts for all ages and for families.

Please leave gifts unwrapped or in gift bags this year.

If you would prefer to donate money, we can choose a gift on your behalf. Please pop your money donation in an envelope clearly marked 'Angel Tree'.

Some suggestions for gifts are winter woollies for all ages, toys, toiletries, tins of biscuits and sweets. Women's aid suggested gifts -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1F7A5OCLFSURV?ref=wl_share

Please bring your gifts to the Parish Church by **Sunday 12th December**. Thank you.



Baptisms

"He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them"

Ezekiel McKay

Deaths

"I am the resurrection and the life"

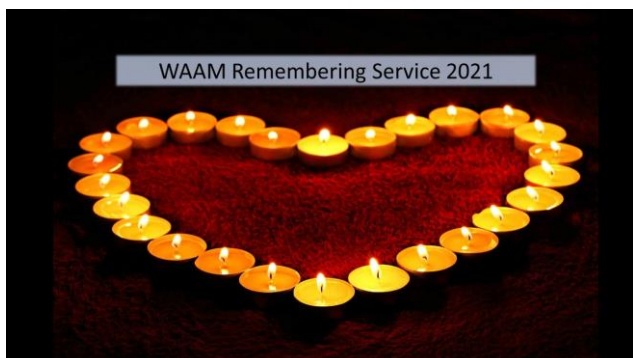
Alistair Ballantyne
Robert McAllister
Mary Mitchell
George (Sandy) Fryers
Richard Poor
John Boag
Agnes Mills
Margaret (Pearl) Fletcher
Rita (Margaret) Murray
Iain Miller
Betty Mills
Kay Dorward



Remembering Service

The Remembering service is available on the WAAM YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/c/WestAngusAreaMinistryWAAM and on our website www.gkupc.org for you to watch at any time. You may wish to have a candle, small stone and bowl of water handy for the service.

If you would like a DVD copy of the service, please contact Julia.



GKUPC Calendar 2022

Calendars are still only £5.00 each and are available to purchase from the Church Office, AB McIntosh, Post Office, Pixi Dust, Paper Chain, Northmuir Shop, Paul's Hair Studio and Oslers Hair Salon and from our website <https://www.gkupc.org/calendar-2022-1>



GKUPC Kirk Session Meeting

There will be a Kirk Session meeting on Thursday 3rd February at 7.30pm in the large hall.

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Email williamlyall-fd@btconnect.com

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2020

We filled exactly 100 shoeboxes for Blythswood Care this year! Thank you to everyone who knitted items, donated items, wrapped, packed and transported the shoeboxes.

Your generosity really will bring so much joy this Christmas.



Alison Ramsay, Anne Pole and Renee Wingfield with the shoeboxes.

Thrums Art Group

We are an informal, friendly group of keen, amateur artists (both men and women), who meet every Thursday afternoon in the Southmuir Hall in Glamis Road, Kirriemuir, from 2 – 4 pm.

Perhaps you have not drawn or painted since schooldays, but anyone can draw or paint! You do not have to be skilled to enjoy it. We would love to welcome new members. Just come along and meet us any Thursday afternoon.

For more details contact -

Muriel Farquharson – 572474 or
Heidi Findlay – 570089

Christmas Cards

We have a wonderful range of Traidcraft Christmas cards available in the church office.



Kirriemuir Scouts Christmas Card Delivery

The Scouts will be delivering cards around Kirrie, Westmuir and Maryton this year. 25p per card. Please ensure cards are fully addressed.

Look out for their post boxes around the town – Spar, 1st Stop 2 Shop, The Blue Shop, Visions In Cards, Paper Chain, Wee Co-Op, Big Co-Op Best One 1st Shop 2 Stop & C&D Westmuir Shoppie. Last collection date is 16th December.



Christmas Services

Dates for Christmas (and New Year) services have now been set. Due to ongoing restrictions, current COVID levels and the continued requirement for additional cleaning, not all of the usual services will take place. As we have been doing, and where possible, services will be livestreamed to our YouTube channel. Our Boxing Day service will be held in the large hall, café-style. This will be an informal service with chat, favourite carols, and tea/coffee.

December Worship Diary Kirriemuir Parish Church, Cortachy Church & Tannadice Church

28th Nov - 1st Sunday in Advent

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

5th Dec – 2nd Sunday in Advent

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

11.15am Cortachy Church

12th Dec – 3rd Sunday in Advent

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

There will be no Carol Service at Clova Kirk this year.

19th Dec – 4th Sunday in Advent

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

11.15am Cortachy Church



24th Dec – Christmas Eve

There will be no Christingle service at Cortachy Church or Family service at the Parish Church this year.

11.30 pm Watchnight Service – at Tannadice Church

25th Dec – Christmas Day

10.30 am Christmas Morning Service at Kirriemuir Parish Church



26th Dec – Café-style Service in the Parish Church Hall.

January Worship Diary Parish Church, Cortachy Church & Tannadice Church

2nd Jan – Worship group led services at 10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

9th January

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

16th January

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

11.15am Cortachy Church

23rd January

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church

30th January

10am Tannadice Church

11.15am Parish Church



Church Office

The office will be closed from Tuesday 21st December at 4pm and will reopen on Wednesday 5th January at 9.30am.



CHRISTMAS Carol Concert

**Programme:
Christmas Carols for choir
and audience
"Gloria" Vivaldi**

**Saturday 11 December
7.30pm**

East & Old Parish Church, Forfar

Please note that there will be no formal tickets for this event and entry will be by donation at the door on the night

Life & Work Magazine - Feature From 'Blah Blah Blah' to 'Geht Doch!'

Adrian Shaw, who attended COP26 as a volunteer with Eco-Congregation Scotland, looks back at the event and assesses what has been achieved.

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/features/features/view/595-from-blah-blah-blah-to-geht-doch>



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Moderator and Archbishop issue Statement on refugee crisis

"The Church of England and Church of Scotland, along with Christians around the world, believe that every person is made in God's image.

We celebrate our work supporting vulnerable people seeking refuge and asylum.

In a climate that is often hostile towards these men, women and children, we commit to offer them welcome and compassion.

In too many cases, the churches are the only available support in an asylum system that is proving inadequate to the task.

We take care to ensure our practices are safe, robust and above all founded on Christ's command to welcome the stranger.

It is a tragic reality that worldwide there are more than 26 million refugees, around half of whom are children.

The number of displaced people due to persecution, conflict and violence is more than 80 million.

This is a global challenge of terrifying proportion.

No effective solutions will be found unless states, religious groups and civil society come together in a spirit of pragmatism and compassion.

This situation cannot go on - let this be the moment we bring hope for all God's precious children."

**Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland
The Most Reverend Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury**

From the Church of Scotland Website

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

The Guild

Guild members are looking forward to their Christmas Party in December catered by Allison Beattie. Santa is going to leave a sack of gifts for us and traditional games and carol singing will follow.



In January our Trainee, Tim Podger, will give us a talk and we will welcome a speaker from the Vine Trust to our other January meeting to talk about Kazunza village of hope in Tanzania. In February we plan a meeting when members will be asked to "Show and Tell" about a skill they enjoy, which fits in with our theme of "Lights and Bushels". Also in February May Kydd will come along and share some of her many experiences. In March we will hold our AGM with the Rev. Linda Stevens as our speaker and we will end our season with what has become our traditional Songs of Praise. We hope circumstances allow us to complete our programme.

A very interesting and varied syllabus is planned and we welcome anyone to join us at 2 pm every second Monday in the hall beginning on January 10th 2022.

Charlotte Brown (Press Secretary)

Christmas Day Lunch

The Rotary Club of The Angus Glens are wondering if you or a loved one are going to spend Christmas at home alone?

They are more than welcome to join the community Christmas Meal being held in the Glens and Kirriemuir United Church Hall. Please get in touch if you would like to join us there or know someone who might benefit from some company for a few hours.

This is open to people of all ages, it is to try to make sure no one spends the day alone or going with out a bit of Christmas cheer.

Please contact Heather Kelly for more information heatherkelly11@gmail.com or 01575 574796.



Changed days...

When services restarted earlier in the year we were able to make use of some technology we had installed previously but never got an opportunity to use. Barring technical glitches, Sunday services from Tannadice and Kirriemuir are now streamed directly to YouTube where they can be watched live or as a catch-up recording. These days you don't necessarily need a computer or tablet to watch as smart televisions often have the capability (although you still need an internet connection). Simply search for 'West Angus Area Ministry' on YouTube to find us.

Getting online would not have been possible without a small group of volunteers being willing to learn the ropes and help operate the kit every Sunday. Many thanks to Brian, John, Sandy, and Caroline for their technical assistance. Should anyone want to learn how to operate it all and be part of the team, please let us know. *John*

Kirriemuir Churches Together



Kirriemuir Churches Together were out Carol Singing in the Square on Wednesday 24th November spreading Christmas cheer to all on the late shopping night!

Thrums Tots & Messy Church

We wish all our Thrums Tots and Messy Church families a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Church of Scotland – Advent

'Light in the Darkness' (#LightInTheDarkness) is the theme of this year's Advent calendar, which runs from 1 December until Christmas Eve (Friday 24 December).

This year's theme is inspired by John 1:5

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

Each day during Advent, a new window will be available to open with a themed prayer, video, or story. Sign up below to receive notifications via email when our Advent calendar goes live.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/advent>



God Beyond Us and Beside Us

Advent is a time that invites us to engage and reflect, in song, word and prayer, the wonders of the birth of Christ. I was drawn to do this when I read the words of Rev David Ogston in his Advent Prayer that I came across in a book called Scots Worship. This I would like to share with you as part of your own advent journey towards Christmas.

~

*Almighty one, holy one, God of mystery,
We worship you, God beyond us.*

*Did we journey to the farthest star to find You,
We would only be at the beginning of the quest.
Did we scale the dizzy heights of perfection,
Yet another peak would beckon.
Did we think that our minds had grasped You,
We would clutch thin air.*

*Almighty one, holy one, Beyond us You dwell,
and we worship. But this Advent.
And our eyes have been opened.
The farthest star has come close to guide.
The lonely mountain we struggle to climb
is now the bright hillside of the angels' song.
Our questing minds have only to find the stable door.
and there You are. God beside us.
God feeling the wind in His face,
Majesty enduring the frostness of our winters,
the Holy One blinking the sweat out of His eyes.
Bless us, O God, by the wonder of your nearness.
Give us delicious uncertain questions,
invite us to Advent adventures.
What might the bairn begin in us if He cried from the straw?
What might we be drawn into, if He clutched our finger?*

~

Poignant words from David that invite us to pause and reflect on just what Christmas means for us.

~

A Christmas blessing

And, when Christmas comes,
May every blessing be with you this Christmas.
May the love of God enfold you,
May the peace of God still you,
May the Spirit of God fill you,
and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Linda

Bananabox Trust

I have good news for all our lovely knitters! Although Mission International are no longer taking donations of 'fish & chip' baby jumpers, the Bananabox Trust would love to have them. The Bananabox Trust is a Scottish charity established in 2017 to support and send aid to the people of northern Malawi in Africa. They are based in Dundee and all the trustees are volunteers. The main vision is to help the people of Northern Malawi to help themselves out of poverty. Goods are sent out in banana boxes as they are strong and easy to handle and to stack.

So if you would like to support this charity, please keep knitting!

Hello Julia,

Lilian here from Bananabox Trust. Just to let you know the expectant mothers and the mums love fish and chips jumpers along with all knitted and crochet donations. Here are a couple of photos I took when out in Malawi and at the baby clinics.

I read you were asking what other knitted donations are needed so here goes. Jumpers from birth up to older children, Hats and beanie hats for all ages including adults. Baby booties, the kind that have ties as there are no prams in Malawi and if the bootie comes off they are lost as mums carry the babies and children to about 3 years old on their backs. Knitted and crochet blankets about 1 meter square for the babies is a perfect size but bigger blankets are also well received. Please no mittens as the mums just don't use them. If hats and booties are to match a jumper could the knitters please attach to the jumper with a scrap bit of wool. When they are given out it can become a bit of a scramble! Thank you for thinking about us.

Lilian <https://www.bananaboxtrust.org/>



Please hand knitted items in to the Parish Church.



Christmas Coffee & Craft Morning!

Saturday 4th Dec 10am - 1pm
Kirriemuir Parish Church Hall

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF ECO-FRIENDLY
CHRISTMAS CRAFTING & ENJOY HOME
BAKING & ALCOHOL
FREE MULLED
WINE OR A
COSY CUPPY!



Book Sale

in the Parish Church Hall

Saturday 29th January 10am - 4pm

&

Monday 31st 10am - 4pm

Tuesday 1st 10am - 2pm

Books may be handed in to the office on
Thursday 27th & Friday 28th January

Further details to follow

