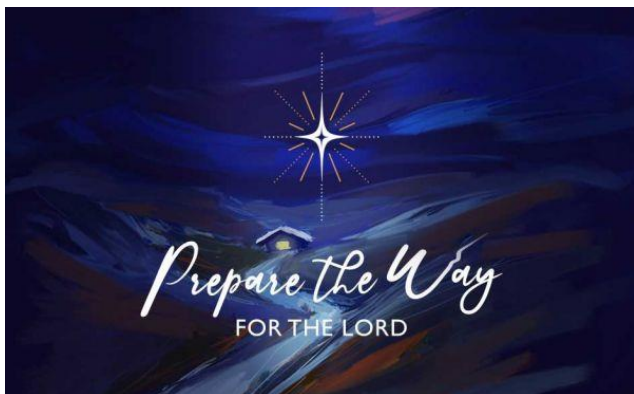




## From the Minister

It always feels like Christmas comes earlier every year. It's not helped by shops and supermarkets filling their shelves and windows with Christmas stock as soon as the last spooky bat and spider web is tidied away after Hallowe'en. Even in the church though, Christmas feels earlier. That's perhaps because the first Sunday of Advent is as early as it can possibly be since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. This is both a good thing and a bad thing, I think. Getting an early dose of Christmas cheer will be very welcome for some. For others, it simply means that the stress begins earlier. For most, there will be a mix of both, I suspect. Whether someone is full of festive cheer or is perhaps a bit, 'Bah! Humbug!' our response should not be to criticise or complain, but to give thanks to God for an opportunity to celebrate too, or to show loving care. There's a phrase that often does the rounds on social media that, roughly paraphrased, says we can choose many responses to life, but above all we should choose to be kind. Being kind will often mean putting others first and will sometimes come at a cost to us, perhaps setting aside our own desires for a time. That sacrificial love is at the heart of the way of our faith. If it's any consolation, Christmas may seem to be rolling in on us all too soon, but there's no reason for it to disappear quickly after the day. It is, as the popular song reminds us, a 12-day celebration. Perhaps that thought gives us even greater stress. What shouldn't stress us though is that Christmas (and Advent) mark the start of another year of growth and growing understanding of our faith, knowing that God walks with us, regardless of how we are feeling, into the year beyond, and for all time. Whatever Christmas and the New Year brings, may they be full of the blessings of God, and may you know his faithful love always. *John*



## Church of Scotland – Advent

**'Prepare The Way For The Lord'** is the theme of this year's Advent calendar. It is inspired by Mark 1:3 - "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way - a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" 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 the Advent calendar goes live.

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



### Kirriemuir Parish Church

The Church of Scotland in Angus

#### Minister:

John Orr 01575 572610 [JOrr@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JOrr@churchofscotland.org.uk)

#### Office:

Julia Mitchell 01575 572819 [Julia@gkupc.org](mailto:Julia@gkupc.org)  
Kirriemuir Parish Church, Bank Street, Kirriemuir, Angus, DD8 4BG

#### Office Open:

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

[www.gkupc.org](http://www.gkupc.org)

Scottish Charity Number SC015123

[www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk](http://www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk) Scottish Charity Number SC006317

*Caring for God's Creation*

*Fairtrade Church*



### Harvest Services

**Cortachy Harvest Service** – Thank you to all those, including Lidl in Forfar, who donated food for the Harvest Service. £72.08 in donations was received for some of the food following the service. The donation was given to Kirriemuir Day Care and the remaining food was given to the Kirriemuir Food Hub.

**Parish Church Harvest Service** – Thanks also to all those who donated food for this service. The food was given to the Kirriemuir Food Hub.

**Tannadice Harvest Festival** - Thanks to all who brought along donations for distribution by the Kirriemuir Hub. In addition the retiring collection on behalf of Self Help Africa raised the sum of £198.00. Again thanks to all who contributed to this Appeal.



### Shoe Box Appeal 2022

Thank you to everyone who donated items and filled shoe boxes for Blythswood this year. We filled 94 boxes!



## Remembrance Sunday – Cortachy, Tannadice and Kirriemuir



(Cortachy & Kirriemuir photos – Frank Proctor Tannadice photo – John Rome)

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Coffee Morning for Macmillan on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. It was lovely to see so many of you filling our hall and having a good catch up with one another. Helen Taylor won the hamper. We made £619.40! *Wendy Smeaton*



## Thrums Tots Toy Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated toys, bought toys and helped on the day of our Thrums Tots Toy Sale. What a fantastic response we had, so many lovely toys and games were rehomed! We also made £673 for Thrums Tots! *Amanda & Julia*



## Angel Tree

This Christmas time, we would like to reach out to local people in need through our Angel Tree gifts.

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Church on Sundays and in the office during the week. There are labels attached to the tree with 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.

Some suggestions for gifts are winter woollies for all ages, toys, toiletries, sweets and tins of biscuits. This year, Women's Aid have also suggested new children's Pj's and slippers for all ages, hot water bottles, snoodies, dressing gowns or fleece blankets. You can also find Women's Aid suggested gifts on their

Amazon wish list - [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

**Please leave gifts unwrapped or in gift bags.**

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'.

Please bring your gifts to the Parish Church by **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

**Angels are messengers – may our gifts be messages of our love in our community at Christmas.**



## Tannadice News

**Coffee Morning** - Thanks to Linda and her helpers for organising Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> November Coffee Morning which raised £131 for Church Funds. Also we wish to thank Members of the Congregation and Friends of Tannadice Church who came along and supported the event.

**Tannadice Remembrance service** - About 65 including the Youth Organisations attended the Service. The retiring collection for Poppy Scotland raised £50.00.

**Bronze Collection** - Our Annual Bronze Collection for Christian Aid Scotland will be uplifted on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Please support this worthwhile cause.

**Christian Aid Scotland** - A reminder that Sunday Coffee/Tea and biscuits served after Church on Sundays are provided to raise funds for Christian Aid Scotland. Please use the donation plate if you avail yourself of this facility. Thank you.

**Christmas Coffee Morning** – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Gift and Carol Service** - On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December with music provided by the Brechin Instrumental Band. Gifts for Children should be marked accordingly and placed under the Christmas tree on arrival at the Church.

**The Nativity Service** - Will be held the following Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas cake and Coffee and Teas will be available in the Extension or Vestibule afterwards depending on numbers attending.

**Watch Night Service** - Tannadice will be hosting the Watch Night Service on

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December with Carol Singing commencing at 11.15pm. The service will commence at 11.30pm and on conclusion Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Shortbread will be served in the vestibule. All are welcome to this Service.

After the Christmas and New Year Festivities our first Service will be taken by the Worship Team in the Extension on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Please note from that date all Sunday Services at Tannadice will commence at 9.45pm.**

*John Rome*

## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
December 2022**

**Tannadice Church & Extension**

**10.00 - 11.30am**

**ENTRY £3.00**

**Children under 18 Free**

**SAUSAGE ROLLS, MINCE PIES &  
CHRISTMAS CAKE  
WITH TEA/COFFEE/JUICE  
A Few Stalls and Raffles**

**In aid of the work of Oathlaw &  
Tannadice Church**

A registered Scottish Charity SC006317

## GKUPC Church Finances

There hasn't been very much said about Church Finances in recent newsletters but that doesn't mean they have been neglected. The past three years in all our lives have certainly not been very predictable and the same can be said for our Congregational Finances but the Finance Team have been keeping a close eye on what has been going on.

Early In 2020, less than a year after our Union, we were hit with the pandemic which resulted in the Church building being closed for most of the year. We are grateful to the many members who changed their method of giving so that our finances did not suffer, but despite these efforts our General Fund showed a deficit for the year 2020.

In 2021 we managed to generate a surplus, but this was due mainly to the National Church taking the decision to reduce contributions from all congregations towards the costs of Ministry and Mission, in an effort to help us deal with the financial effects of the pandemic. In the current year, 2022, we are once again facing a deficit in our General Fund and as we look forward to 2023, we are aware that many individuals and households will be facing difficult financial situations, given the rising cost of food and other basic household bills.

This is, therefore, not the time to make an appeal to all members to increase their financial support, but as we approach a new year, perhaps it is a time for us all to review the commitment of our time and talents, as well as our money, to support the work going on in The Glens and Kirriemuir United. Whilst this might result in some of us increasing

our financial contribution, it might also mean more practical involvement in Church projects or more prayerful involvement to support work that is being done. We all have a part to play in these difficult times and we hope and pray that in 2023 the world will become a more settled place.

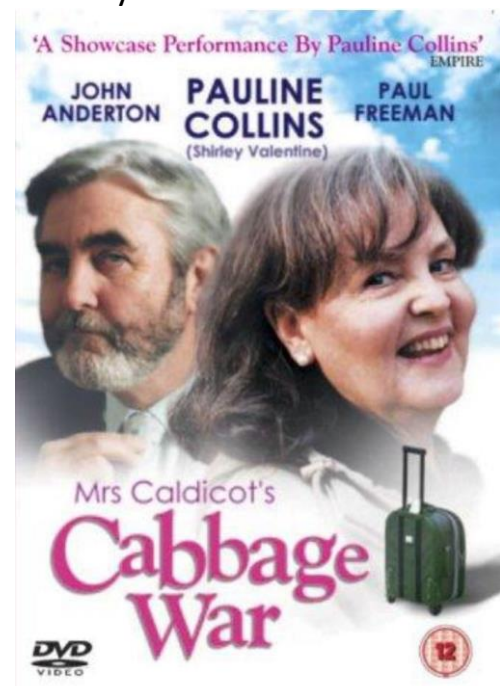
To finish off on a financial note, if you would like more information about the different ways in which you can donate money to the Church, and if appropriate take advantage of the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact Julia in the office, or Shan Coombs, Session Clerk and Gift Aid Convener, or Liz Adamson, Treasurer. Thank you for taking time to read this.  
The Finance Team

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## Film Night

The next film night will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm. There will be a short cartoon and the feature film will be Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. Please come and join us. Just a donation is requested.

The next film night will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. *Alex Rae*



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

**27 November - 1st Sunday in Advent**

10am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

Back to Church Sunday

Guild bacon rolls



**4 December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

Worship Group - Café Service

11.15am **Cortachy**

**11 December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am **Tannadice** Brechin City Band

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

**18 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am **Tannadice** Nativity Service

Cake & Coffee

11.15am **Kirriemuir** Brechin City Band

11.15am **Cortachy** Worship Group

Carols & Readings

**24 Dec – Christmas Eve**

6.30pm **Kirriemuir** Family Service

11.15pm **Tannadice** Watchnight Service  
& Mince pies!



**25 Dec – Christmas Day**

10.30am **Christmas Morning Service** at  
Kirriemuir Parish Church



## January Worship Diary Kirriemuir Parish Church, Cortachy Church & Tannadice Church

[From 8 January, the time of worship at  
Tannadice will return to 9.45am]

**1 January – Shared Service**

**11.15am Kirriemuir** Worship Group

**8 January** Worship group led services at  
9.45am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**



**15 January**

9.45am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

11.15am **Cortachy**

**22 January**

9.45am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

**29 January**

9.45am **Tannadice**

11.15am **Kirriemuir**

Guild bacon rolls



[Services in Tannadice will be held in the  
extension except for services on 11 Dec,  
18 Dec and the Watchnight Service on 24  
Dec]

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**Christmas Eve Family Service 6.30pm**  
**24<sup>th</sup> December Kirriemuir Parish Church**

Nothing beats a bedtime story!

Come along on Christmas Eve and  
listen to the amazing story of God's  
wonderful gift for us all.

A service for all the family.



## GKUPC Dates for your Diary -

### December

- 1 Dec **Film Night**  
Parish Church small hall 7pm
- 3 Dec **Coffee Morning**  
Tannadice Church 10am
- 5 Dec **Guild Meeting**  
Parish Church Hall 2pm
- 19 Dec **Guild Christmas Lunch**  
Parish Church Hall 12.30pm
- 20 Dec **Last Souper Tuesday of year**  
Parish Church small hall 11am

### GKUPC Dates for your Diary – January

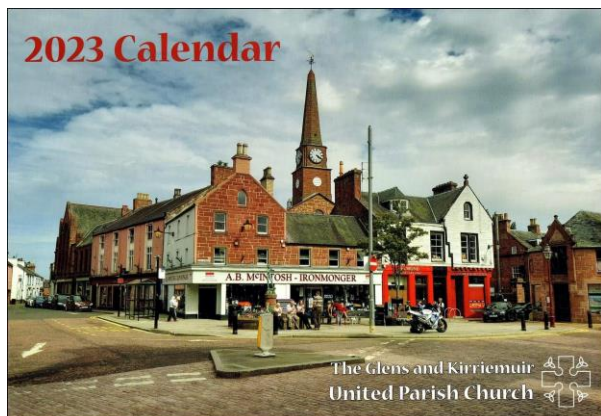
- 9 Jan **Guild Meeting**  
Parish Church Hall 2pm
- 17 Jan **Souper Tuesday Restart**  
Parish Church small hall 11am
- 23 Jan **Guild Meeting**  
Parish Church Hall 2pm
- 28 Jan **Book Sale**  
Parish Church Hall 10am

### 2023 Calendar

The calendar is on sale at the Parish Church Office, the Post Office, Pixie Dust, Paper Chain, Moments Cards & Gifts, Paul's Hair Studio, Oslers, Autosales, Westmuir Shoppie and the Northmuir Shop. Also available from Hampton's, Forfar and 1<sup>st</sup> Stop to Shop, Brechin.

**Still only £5!**

The calendar makes a lovely gift – remember to buy in plenty of time for posting abroad for Christmas!



## Deaths

*“I am the resurrection and the life”*

Colin Stewart  
Bob Inglis  
Peter Wilmshurst  
Jim Ritchie  
Jean Cameron



### Kirriemuir Churches Together

**Saturday 26 November 2022** is the Switch-on of Christmas Lights in Kirriemuir. This is a fab night in which KCT hand out free Hot Chocolate to those turning up for the Lights. We will be serving Hot Chocolate from 4.00 pm

**Wednesday 25 January 2023** is the first meeting of the year at 7pm hosted by Strathmore Christian Fellowship in Bridges. All Welcome.

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## Traidcraft

We have a wonderful range of Traidcraft Christmas cards available in the church office. There is also a small selection of half price cards still available.



You're invited to our

# CHRISTMAS Concert

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Venue: Lowson Memorial Parish  
Church, Forfar

Musical Director: Richard Waghorn  
**Christmas Programme of Carols for  
Choir & Soloists**

**Tickets: £12 (inc refreshments)**

Available from ACS members / at the door

## Thrums Tots Christmas Parties

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10am – 11.30am

and

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec**

1pm – 2.30pm



## Kirriemuir Knit and Natter

The group meets every Thursday in the small hall of the Parish Church from 2pm till 4pm.

In the months before Christmas, we get out our pins for a good cause and knit a variety of hats, gloves and scarves etc.

This year, we are selling our knitwear from a basket in the Shear Beauty hairdressers shop in the town square. We will keep adding to the basket up to Christmas as we make more things.

We are trying to keep our prices low as we realise that money is tight for a lot of people. But any contribution that you can make will go to Kirrie Day Care to help the elderly in our community. So far, we have already raised over £100.

*Elspeth Hobson*

## Kirriemuir Scouts Christmas Card Delivery

The Scouts will be delivering cards around Kirrie, Westmuir and Maryton this year. 30p per card. Please ensure cards are fully addressed.

Look out for their post boxes around the town – Greens of Kirriemuir, Moments Card & Gift Shop, Visions In Cards, Paper Chain, Co-Op, Best One 1st Shop 2 Stop Northmuir, 1<sup>st</sup> Stop 2 Shop Glamis Road, Spar & C&D Westmuir Shoppie.

Last collection date is 15<sup>th</sup> December.



### Guild Update

In the last report I wrote about the busy long weekend we were about to experience. Members thoroughly enjoyed the live stream of the Guild Annual Gathering from Edinburgh sharing what the speakers had to say and joining in the hymns. On the Sunday we took the Church Service and were pleased to be well supported by members of the congregation. The next day was our regular meeting when Eleanor Russell told us about the extraordinary life of Mary-Eleanor Bowes, wife of the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn. She lived a lifestyle well before her time and was a botanist and writer who suffered domestic abuse from a subsequent husband, Stoney, (of stoney broke fame) who was a sadistic psychopath. It was suggested her story would make a good



film! Eleanor was thanked by Mary Morrice.

We had our first Souper Tuesday Drop-In the next day which was well supported by members of the congregation. We hope they and you will spread the information to anyone who would benefit from some company, warmth and a hearty plate of soup with home-made bread. Tuesdays from 11am – 3pm, soup is served from 12.30-1.30pm. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, Souper Tuesday will have a party feel with mince pies and pudding served as well as soup. Souper Tuesdays will restart on 17<sup>th</sup> January. We thank the people who have donated in any way towards this venture.

At the next meeting Ann Findlay welcomed members, Linda Wells did the reading and Ruth Fraser said the prayer. Ann introduced Rosie Campbell from Stonehaven, who talked about the Guild Project "Homes for Good" which is about fostering and adoption. The charity's vision is to find homes for the thousands of children who are homeless, as there is a shortage of adoptive and foster parents. The money which the Guild sends to Edinburgh will be used to further the work of "Homes for Good" such as workshops, speakers and support groups. as they are not an agency. After a very interesting question session, Rosie was thanked by our Project Partner Muriel Guthrie.

Ann Findlay welcomed everyone who had braved the bad weather to our recent meeting. Vina Dalgety read an appropriate poem and Charlotte Brown said a prayer. Ann then introduced Ann Stott, Community Minister in the new housing area, Bertha Park north of Perth. Ann explained that a new way of "doing"

Church was necessary to provide a Church presence in the area which could grow to 3000 homes. A new school, sponsored by Microsoft, has already been built in the area and Ann has made contacts with staff and pupils. She went on to tell us about some of the initiatives which have already taken place to sow seeds and make relationships such as a "Nativity carol crawl", personal visits to every home with small gifts, school volunteering, walking group, Covid food share, welcome packs, pop-up picnics and cafes on the green and a community fun day. A flexible space is planned, which has faced many obstacles, but discussions have been had on how it will be used, one of which is a place for prayer and use by small groups is also a possibility. Ann emphasised that the work being done has to have a foundation in prayer. Jean Elder thanked Ann for her most interesting talk and wished her well in the important work she is doing.

Arrangements for our Christmas party were made and Ann announced that there will be a bring and buy sale at the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, the proceeds from which will be used to buy trees for the Green Canopy Project in Malawi (Update: We have bought 18 trees). The speaker on that day will be Ros Smith who will tell us about "Communicating with the Deaf".

Ann announced that bacon or vegetarian rolls will be served after the morning service on the last Sunday of the month.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings at 2pm every second Monday - 5<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Church Hall. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas party, names are required. *Charlotte*

## Christmas Day Lunch

**The Rotary Club of The Angus Glens will be holding a Christmas Day lunch in the Parish Church hall from 1pm – 3pm on Christmas Day.**

Are you spending Christmas Day on your own? Struggling? Away from your family? Then why not join us for a few hours company, a Christmas lunch and join others in friendship and warmth.

If you know anyone, have a neighbour or friend that could come along and enjoy the company of others old and young, let us know. If they can make their way to the hall they will be made most welcome. Get in touch with any Angus Glens Rotarian, private message the Facebook page or contact Heather Kelly 01575 574796. We look forward to having lunch ready for you.



## Church Office

The office will close at 4pm on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> December and will reopen on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am.  
Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas, Julia



God of all wisdom,  
at this strange time of year when so much money is being spent  
on gifts that no-one really wants or needs,  
we give thanks for those gifts that cost nothing  
other than our time, attention and care:  
gifts of listening and understanding;  
gifts of kindness, compassion and respect;  
and the precious gift of simply being there  
for one another in good times and in bad.  
All of these are your gift to us in Jesus of  
Nazareth, Mary's son.  
And so we give thanks to you for the greatest  
gift of all.  
Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer in Spill the Beans)



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# Book Sale

in the Parish Church Hall

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

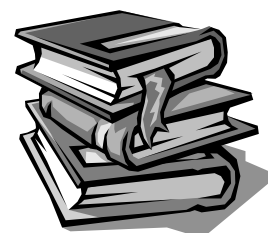
**10am – 4pm**

&

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 10am – 2pm**

Please hand books in to the office on  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> & the morning of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Thank you



(Glens & Kirriemuir Charitable Trust SC041609)