

December 2017/January 2018

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# CONTACT

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[www.dundonald-parish-church.com](http://www.dundonald-parish-church.com)

My Dear Friends

There is always something exciting about Christmas and its tireless traditions and I trust that we shall share these during the coming weeks. The message of the birth of this world's Saviour needs telling and retelling in a world which still manages to pitch itself into dark places far too often. And there is also something refreshing about entering a new year as we do soon after Christmas. It offers a new chance or new opportunities. Or it allows us to put to bed last year, especially if it was tough in any way for us. But the period of good intentions that belongs to the New Year resolutions we make can often be short lived. We mean to see them through - but we slip back to the old ways. We try hard - but not hard enough.

And it reflects our human condition. I believe our world, our society, our town and our Church are populated, by and large, by well meaning people. Most men and women don't want the grief and hardship we often help to create. But it seems we can't help it. And that's what our religion is really about. Resolutions aren't enough. We need help. We need a hand in life. We need a Saviour. And having our Saviour goes beyond Christmas. It's on the day to day level that He offers Himself to us as well. We need Him in ordinary things and He will surely help us. A quick prayer - a moment to be still and think about Him - a sense that there is something greater than us in this funny old world...and we will be better people for it.

I hope and pray for you and for your Church in 2018 all that is good. We hope for a new minister to take us into the next chapter of our life. But until that day comes, I shall happily be your locum minister and do whatever I can to be alongside you. If you need to see me or want to see me, let me know and I shall respond as soon as I can.

Meantime, let me wish you a Happy Christmas and a good New Year and every blessing as we move forward together.

Yours sincerely

Alastair H Symington

Locum Minister, Dundonald Parish Church



## THE YEAR GABRIEL BURST INTO TEARS

*And she brought forth her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)*

One of my favourite things about the advent season is watching the children as they take part in the nativity play. It always brings a tear and a large smile.

This verse always takes me back to my youngest son, Daniel, and his first nativity play. He was just three years old and he was dressed up as the angel Gabriel – the cutest angel Gabriel I ever saw. All was going well until Mary and Joseph got to the scene where the inn keeper says “no room”.

As those words were spoken, Daniel burst into tears and rushed out to attack the little innkeeper. He was totally inconsolable! The innkeeper started to cry, and then other children started to cry. Embarrassed and apologetic, his dad and I managed to remove him from the scene, still crying inconsolably. We left behind an audience fighting back fits of laughter.

As the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents, I wonder if they cry, like Daniel did, when Jesus comes knocking at our hearts and finds no room. I wonder how they will feel as they watch our festivities this Christmas. Will they laugh and celebrate with us, or will our indifference to the Great Tidings of Good News break their hearts? Will you make room in your heart for Jesus? Will you make the angels smile, or cry? Here is a Christmas prayer to give you the best present you ever had.

*'Dear Lord Jesus, please forgive the times I've shut you out. My heart is open now, will you come in? Please cleanse me from anything that might cause you pain and fill my heart with your love this Christmas and forever. In Jesus name, Amen.'*

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be.

***Anne Frank (1929-1945 in Bergen-Belsen) German born, known for her 'Diary of a Young Girl' published after her death.***

# CHRISTMAS PARADE

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Dress up as your favourite Christmas character - Starts at Dundonald Church at 1:55pm - Help Santa open the Church Christmas Fayre at 2pm - Prize for best costume - Children to meet at Church from 1:30pm



## THANK YOU!

Please accept my thanks for the good wishes that have come my way recently following the surgery which I have had. Recuperation has been made easier with the cards, flowers, messages and visits which have come to me from folks in the church. I know I hardly see most of you these days as I am still working as locum at Castlehill, but it is lovely that you have shown such care and kindness. Love and prayers, Christine Stewart

## BOB'S MINISTRY - ANOTHER FACET

Much has been said recently about Bob's ministry over the 29 years that he was with us, but very little about the Youth Group work. I would like to mention – on behalf of the many young people of Dundonald who made up the Bible Class and Youth Group for the 20 years or so I was leader – that we also owed him a great deal. He shared the work with me most of that time, especially for all the extra activities that we did apart from Sunday morning in Bible Class. The Youth Group work was vibrant to say the least – at times it happened on a Saturday night; sometimes a Sunday night; and sometimes away elsewhere. I could not have done it without him. He taught us how to cook; how to abseil; how to play many different Board Games – always with great hilarity; and how to reply with humour to his constant teasing – just to mention a few things. Above all, he helped to teach the many young people who met with us over the years that being a Christian was part of your whole life, not just for Sundays in Church. He taught us all how to enjoy being Christians – to have fun as well as to serve. Thank you, Rev Bob Mayes. Enjoy your retirement! CS

## CHRISTMAS LIVE

Sometimes when people tell you a story it doesn't really mean as much as it would if you could see it for yourself. St Francis of Assisi had often preached about that very first Christmas in Bethlehem with the animals round the manger and the baby lying on a bed of straw. But he wanted the story to come alive for his congregation. In the year 1223 he had a brilliant idea and planned a very special surprise for Christmas Eve.

Instead of the sermon in Church, Francis led the people to a cave. There, to their amazement, was a manger set out with a doll in it, and all around were real animals who watched while Francis told the old story with a new meaning because people could now see it for

themselves. The idea grew each year, soon they used a real baby in the crib (an orphan with no home because someone would then willingly take in the 'Christ-baby'). And still today, Churches and homes everywhere put up their cribs and wonder anew at the story of God come down to earth, a child like us.

***From The Beacon magazine,  
St Mary's, Caterham***



### *Volunteers Wanted!*

The Fabric Committee are looking for a number of able bodied volunteers to assist in preparing the Manse for forthcoming decorative work prior to a new Minister taking over. The work includes the stripping of wall paper and preparation of the paintwork as well as lifting of some floor coverings. This work can be undertaken at night or weekends.

Volunteers are also wanted to assist in tidying up the rear garden area. This task will be undertaken on a designated day, most likely on a weekend.

Please contact Doug Grant if you can help with this 01563 850985

# BOARD MATTERS

Bob McMillan

The Congregational Board met on 21<sup>st</sup> November with Rev. Fiddes presiding. The meeting was constituted with a prayer and a hymn.

**FINANCE REPORT:-** The bank balance stands at £29144.90. Total offerings for October 2017 were £4091.25, down £1587.15 on same month in the previous year. Total for 2017 to date is £47578.28 which is down by £1196.83 on same period last year. The retiral offering for Christian Aid's Rohingya appeal raised £164.00.

**FABRIC REPORT:-** As stated before, there will be a need for a working group to prepare the property for any new incumbent, be it a let or a new Minister. An item will be placed in Contact seeking volunteers, initially to strip wallpaper and wash down paintwork. Etc. Additionally the garden needs to be put in to reasonable shape. Volunteers please contact the Fabric Convenor ASAP.

Some works have already been put in place to make the roof watertight due to missing slates and gutters. The Convenor has also arranged for quotations to be obtained for the major works such as a replacement heating system (the present oil fired one being changed to gas with upgrades to the heating and hot water provision. The major expense will be in the total replacement of the kitchen and bathroom, with associated works, new flooring and decoration. The creaking pews will also be attended to by a joiner.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE:-** It is planned to have tea and coffee available after the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in December and a Two-spoon lunch on the 17<sup>th</sup>. December. The usual mince pies etc. will be available after the Christmas Eve service.

**LOANS SERVICE:-** On 17<sup>th</sup> Dec when Mrs. Cain will play the piano.

**AOCB:-** Mr Appleby reported that on 1<sup>st</sup> November he found the Hall disabled toilet filthy and insanitary. This was shown to the leader of the organisation using the Hall at the time, then subsequently cleaned. While it is not suggested that the organisation in the Hall at that time was involved, it is important that the leaders of ALL organisations fully check the Hall and toilets before and after use.

# ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER



## **SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER - ADVENT BEGINS**

Jesus our Emmanuel, we celebrate Your coming with joyful anticipation! First as the Babe of Bethlehem, but one day as our glorious King, arrayed in power and majesty to bring justice and peace to all the human race. Make us ready to receive You. Amen.

## **SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER - INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

Pray for all those engaged in highlighting the global evil of corruption, which causes poverty, instability and the breakdown of government. Ask God to be at work through His Church to prevent these from happening.

## **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

God of justice and love, You alone offer true liberty to human beings. We praise You for sending Your Son to live and die that we might live freely and forgiven. Help us to uphold the rights of people everywhere to be treated with fairness and dignity. Amen.

## **MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY**

Rejoice today that Jesus Christ left the perfect bliss of heaven to come to earth, born of Mary in a lowly stable, to change the whole world and become our Saviour! May we worship Him with joy and gladness because of all He has done!

## **MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2018 - NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Thank God for the blessing of fruitful and rewarding work, both through paid employment and other duties and responsibilities. Pray for those who will embark upon something new in the coming year and ask for God's protection and blessing upon their activities.

***Thanks to Care Prayer Diary Online***

Please remember in your prayers the Christian Union Carol Services which take place at Universities all over Britain. Last year more than 38,000 students heard the good news of Jesus through a CU Carol Service - from end of November to the middle of December.  
[uccf.org.uk](http://uccf.org.uk)

*Thank you Father, for this loved and familiar season: for tuneful carols, for reunions with families and friends, for giving and receiving. For a sense of celebration everywhere, for all the ways of saying 'Christ is Born'.*

# GUILD



Eileen Docherty

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Miller welcomed everyone and asked Adaline Finlayson to do the reading and prayer. She then introduced Jennifer Park whose talk was entitled "**21 Years on Air**". Jennifer's minister in Beith had been involved with "Sunday at Seven on West Sound and had asked her to come and help one evening. That one evening became a weekly commitment and eventually she began presenting the programme. That was when it was a box of records and 2 turntables! The records were mainly hymns, some of which were requested every week. 21 years later, with changes to the Radio Station plus work and family commitments she decided to stop. She said many of the callers to the programme became familiar voices and felt like friends. Elaine Grant thanked Jennifer on behalf of the Guild for a very interesting talk. Mrs Miller announced that the recent coffee morning had raised £278 for Guild Projects.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs Miller welcomed members and asked Anne Watson to do the reading and prayer. She then introduced Barbara Graham, who had been to Dundonald previously, speaking about Marie Curie. This time her subject was '**Women in Munitions**'. Her talk was illustrated by scenes from WW1 Factories and works where the workforce was depleted of men going off to war and women were then drafted in to replace them. They did dangerous and dirty work, but pay was more than they could earn in traditionally 'women's work' like domestic service. However, they were warned they could only be employed for the 'duration of the war'. When peace was declared they returned to a different world where they were expected to resume their role as homemakers and mothers, but the die had been cast and they were not prepared to go back to where they had been in in 1914. Women's suffrage followed and eventually women over 30 were given the vote; just the beginning of the move to equality. Anne Young thanked Barbara on behalf of the Guild for a most interesting talk.

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*A happy and blessed Christmas from the 'Contact' Committee  
and a grateful thanks to everyone who has  
contributed to the magazine throughout the year!  
Your support has been invaluable.*

**THE BOYS  
BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here



## 1ST DUNDONALD COMPANY

All sections took part in the Remembrance Day Parade in the village on a beautiful November morning. We were joined for the parade by our friends from 1<sup>st</sup> Irvine Company, and were led by our piper Mr George Campbell. Corporal Lewis McLeay laid the wreath on behalf of The Boys' Brigade. We were all deep in thought as we made our way to church, where the boys were captivated by Rev Symington's sermon about the Unknown Warrior.

**THE ANCHOR SECTION** have enjoyed their usual evenings of crafts, games and mayhem served up by Mr Keenan and Co. We attended the Battalion trip to Pirate Pete's soft play in Ayr. That is always a popular trip for the boys, and the officers too as they enjoyed a wee breakfast while they are there. The boys also entered the Carronvale Christmas card Design competition. The winning design will be used for the BB Scotland Christmas card 2017. Fingers crossed boys.

**THE JUNIOR SECTION** attended the Battalion-swimming gala at new Cumnock outdoor pool along with the company section. Great fun was had on a sunny afternoon and we won a number of medals. We also attended a fun-cooking event run by the Battalion in Cumnock. A variety of tasty snacks were made (and eaten!) and the boys even made their own mocktail! In our own hall we had our Halloween party which saw the boys show off their fancy dress. Some amazing costumes were on display and lots of games and dancing meant the boys had a great night!

**THE COMPANY SECTION** are continuing with their First Aid Course for badge work, which will be ending soon with a competence test, hopefully earning them a badge. We have also been involved with Battalion activities attending the Flip Out event in Glasgow. I can only assume the boys enjoyed themselves as we hardly saw them for the two hours that they spent in the arena.

The next Battalion event is the Bible event, which sees the return of the stained glass window competition themed around the parable of David and Goliath. Hopefully we may have another addition to our

window collection soon.

Recently, the Boys took part in Boys' Brigade Flag week, and I would like to thank the members of the congregation, and residents of the village for their generosity in helping the boys raise £950. This is a fantastic total, and will contribute greatly towards the of the company fees, equipment and camps etc.



### **Christmas Card Delivery Service!**

The BBs will be repeating the service this Christmas! Post boxes' will be put out in the village from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Please note they can only deliver cards within the village and not the outlying area. With your kind donations they hope this is a successful venture again this year.

**AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT THE ADDRESS AND SURNAME OF THE RECIPIENT ON THE ENVELOPE FOR EASE OF DELIVERY!**

### MY CHRISTMAS LIST

There is a list of the folks I know, all written in a book,  
And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look.  
And that is when I realise, that these names are a part,  
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.

For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase,  
The memory of a loving word nor of a loving face,  
Never think my Christmas cards, are just a mere routine,  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.

For, be you relative or friend, or someone I've just met,  
You happen to be one of those I'd rather not forget,  
And whether I have known you, for many years or few,  
In some way you have part in shaping everything I do.

So as you read this message that I send at Christmas time,  
Know that I send you all my love while you are on my mind.

## BUSY DAYS (Christmas Shopping)



These are busy days for there is so much to be done.

You rush from shop to shop, and try to think of everyone.

You sometimes wonder how on earth you are going to get through.

Time is getting short and there is still a lot to do.

Gifts to pack and card to choose and letters you must write.

Meals to plan, your thoughts are in a whirl from morn till night.

Puddings, holly, cakes and crackers, pies and mistletoe.

And all because a Child was born two thousand years ago.

*Taken from Contact magazine 1996*

## SOUTH AYRSHIRE FOOD BANK ADVENT CALENDAR - an Advent Calendar with a difference!

PLEASE COLLECT SOME OF THESE ITEMS FOR THE  
FOOD BANK and then take your collection to Morrisons, Troon  
on 17<sup>th</sup> December - with many thanks!

1	8	16
Packet of 80 Teabags	Tin of tomatoes	Tin of Mince
2	9	17
UHT milk	Packet of biscuits	Tin of bolognese
3	10	18
Bottle of diluting juice 750ml	Jar of pasta sauce	Tin of carrots
4	11	19
Tin or packet of potatoes	Tin of rice pudding	Tin of sweetcorn
5	12	21
Tin of chilli	Tin of fruit	500g pack of cereal
6	13	22
Tin of Peas	Jar of coffee	Toilet roll
7	14	23
500g dried pasta	Jar of Jam	Toothpaste
	15	24
	UHT milk	Soap

# CHURCH DIARY

<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	Every Sunday at 11.00 am
<b>CRECHE</b>	Every Sunday from 10.45 am (Hall)
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	Every Sunday at 11.00 am (Church)
<b>BIBLE CLASS</b>	Every Sunday at 11.00 am (Church)

DEC	3rd	<b>WORSHIP</b> (First Sunday in Advent) Followed by tea/coffee in the Hall
	10th	<b>CHILDREN'S GIFT SERVICE</b> – featuring Marr College Band and Santa.  <b>SHELTERED HOUSING CAROL SERVICE</b> (2.00pm in the Sheltered Housing Unit)
	17th	<b>THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL</b> Followed by our Christmas "Two Spoons" lunch <b>Loans Village Service</b> (Village Hall at 2.30pm.)
	19th	<b>Congregational Board</b> (Church Hall at 7.30pm), followed by a meeting of the <b>Kirk Session</b> .
	24th	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE</b> – 7pm in Church, followed by mince pies and goodies in Hall.
	25th	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE</b> - 10.00am Followed by Informal Communion.
	31st	<b>WORSHIP</b>
JAN	7th	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b> Followed by tea/coffee in the Hall
	14th	<b>WORSHIP</b>
	16th	<b>Congregational Board</b> (Church Hall at 7.30pm), followed by a meeting of the <b>Kirk Session</b> .
	21st	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Loans Village Service</b> (Village Hall at 2.30pm. )
	28th	<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Sheltered Unit Service</b> (2.00pm.)
FEB	4th	<b>WORSHIP</b> followed by tea/coffee in the Hall

## Presbytery of Ayr Alternative Gift Scheme

Looking for the perfect Christmas or Birthday gift for your friends and family - then why not buy them some seeds and fertiliser?

"They don't need seeds and fertiliser!" I hear you cry!

**Well, maybe they don't, but our friends in Malawi do.**

Alternative gift cards can be bought for £5 each which will buy seeds and fertiliser for our partners in Bandawe and Limphasa Presbyteries in Malawi.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

Church of Scotland Presbytery of Ayr Charity Number SCO20676



## WATER AID CHARITY

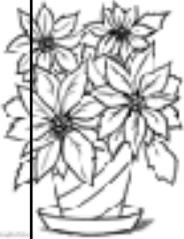
A further reminder that if anyone has their jars full of small change I'd be grateful to receive them in before the end of the year.

Clean water is something we take for granted and to everyone that has given throughout the year you have my thanks. Morag



## FLOWER FUND

Flowers for the first three Sundays were provided by the Flower Fund and the fourth Sunday by Mrs Cissy Parker. Thanks to Jean for putting them in the vases and delivering them after Church, as I will not be driving for another two weeks.



**Dundonald Delights! Our recipe book for sale at £5 each - a great Christmas gift. The Second Edition has just been printed and is available at Church and Castle Visitor's Centre.**



## House Groups

### The Bible Overview

Final Session - 7.30pm

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

at the home of Anne  
FitzGerald, 1 Main Street

**All are very welcome.**

Please contact Sandy or  
Frances Mavor for details.

## DUNDONALD CHURCH

### GUILD

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Party and Auction  
at The Auchans

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Centrestage  
with Paul Mathieson

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Flanders Field  
Alexander Hall

**5<sup>th</sup> February**

Canine Partners

## OUR ANNUAL

### TWO SPOONS LUNCH !

*ON SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
AFTER CHURCH.*

*DELICIOUS SOUP AND  
CRUSTY BREAD FOLLOWED  
BY SCRUMMY PUDDINGS !*

You are warmly welcomed  
to the

### SHELTERED HOUSING

### CAROL SERVICE

on

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

at 2pm in the SHU

Refreshments afterwards!

## BADMINTON

All are welcome to join the  
Badminton Group held in the  
Church Hall

**every Tuesday and  
Thursday 10am -12noon.**

Anne Picken (850619)

## THE MEN'S CLUB

If you enjoy a game of  
bowls, and a cup of tea and  
fellowship, please come and  
join us. We meet every

**Thursday at 7.30pm**

Dougal Gray (830452)





**DUNDONALD CRAFT &  
SOCIAL CLUB**

**Thursday afternoons** in the  
Montgomerie Hall

2.00 – 4.00pm.

Carpet bowls, pool and a craft  
section.

Open to everyone over the age  
of 50, come and join us.

Douglas Munro  
01563 850125

**DUNDONALD HISTORICAL &  
ARCHIVE SOCIETY**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January**

**Sandy Nixon**

Scottish Dance Music

Irene McMillan (850702)

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

Peter Clark

Knotted History of Lace

*Irene McMillan (850702)*

**AYRSHIRE HOSPICE  
CHRISTMAS CARDS**

On sale in the Sheltered  
Housing Unit between  
8am to 3pm

Until the second week in  
December.

Come and support this worthy  
cause!

**DUNDONALD SWI**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**Mrs Deborah McQuire**

A Decorated Shell for Christmas

Competitions

Single stem vase

3 marzipan fruit

Nellie Murdoch Trophy

6 pieces of tablet

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Meal

Competitions

Coins for Friendship

Small Trinket Box

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Mrs Ann Kerr

Care Home Services and  
Dementia

Competitions

Twiddle Muff

Small Photograph Frame

**LOANS SWI**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Party**

Santa Surprise £3.00 gift

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

"Garden Design"

Brian Young

Competition

3 Custard Creams,

Miniature Garden

## VOCATIONS INFORMATION DAY

Explored your calling to serve God? Have a sense training for ministry could be for you? 10 February 2018 9:30am - 5:00pm, Conforti Institutes Calder House/Calder Av, Coatbridge ML5 4JS. Your next step is to apply to attend a Vocations, which provides an opportunity to learn a bit more about the different ways you can serve.

### **Dreghorn Musical Society**

#### *Winter Concert*

25 years 1992-2017

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Grand Hall, Kilmarnock 7.30pm

*Tickets £7 from Anne Watts, Anne Young or Moreen Linton*

[dreghornmusicalsociety.co.uk](http://dreghornmusicalsociety.co.uk)

***For Ayrshire Cancer Support  
and Chorus Community***

### **KILMARNOCK CHORAL UNION**

*Winter*

*Wonderland*

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Family Christmas Concert

St Andrew's/St Marnocks

7.30pm

with mulled wine and  
mince pies, Tickets £5

### Christmas with Marr Cappella

featuring

Auchenharvie Flute  
Ensemble

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm**

St Meddans Church &

Troon Old Parish Church

£8 available from Words and

Music, Wallace Stephenson

Pharmacy and the Herbery, Janice

Hardie or David Harper

***For Down's Syndrome Scotland  
& Victim Support Scotland***

### **CALEDONIAN VOICES**

In Time For  
Christmas

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
December**

Music by Rutter &  
Lauridsen and some well  
known carols

Prestwick South Church

At 7.30 Pm

*for Alzheimers*

## MALAWI – message from Rev. Bordington Singini

"Greetings from Mdyaka Congregation how are you? We are all fine. Thank you very much for helping us to start an income generating project that will help to fund the running costs of our two Nursery schools.

From the funds you have kindly sent us, just over £500 will go to the poultry house construction as per our estimations and just under £500 will go towards 'production' costs i.e. purchase of chicks, feeds, feeding trays, drinkers, medicine, 1 solar torch & bulbs and some transport costs.

We shall be rearing broilers instead of rearing hens for eggs, this is so because in our locality now people prefer meat than eggs. We hope to make 2 major sales per year and after allowing for costs of feeds etc, we should have a surplus of about £200 from each sale and this shall be shared equally to our two Nursery schools for support."



### JESUS - Loving Saviour and Friend

Twenty centuries ago, a baby was born of a virgin, not in a palace, no room in the inn for Him this birth was unique. He startled King Herod, He lived in humble surroundings, He worked as a carpenter, before being baptised and beginning His ministry and preaching about the kingdom of God. He knew the thoughts of men, He healed the sick, the lame, the deaf and the blind. He did miracles and walked on water, gave bread to the hungry crowds, and had compassion, He loved little children. The religious leaders and rulers grew jealous, they told lies about Him and sought to kill Him. He was nailed by soldiers to the cross but had victory over death and the grave. He rose from the tomb, and later ascended into the glory of heaven with his father. All love was displayed during His life and at Calvary. This is our loving, living Lord. HALLELUJAH! What a Saviour!

***Taken from Anchored magazine***

## THE HOMELESS CHRIST

No room! No room! There was no room for Christ when He was born,  
Except a stable where there shone the world's first Christmas morn.  
The dusty roads of Palestine, He was compelled to tread,  
Because He had no place at all where He might lay His head.  
His kingdom of this world was not Jerusalem and Rome,  
No resting place had they for Him He was without a home.  
Long centuries have passed, and lo another Christmas Day!  
But where shall Christ find lodging now in all the earth I pray?

Who now will entertain the Jew, or bid Him to their feast?  
What Western land will say Come in! who loves Him in the East?  
O homeless Christ, O Prince of Peace I bid thee be my guest,  
My heart shall be a home for Thee, come in, come in, and rest!

*From The Unicorn Magazine Kinghorn Parish Church*

## THE STRANGER

The stranger seemed to just appear as if from nowhere, out of the air.  
He knew her name and told her more, of things that had never been heard before.  
Time now had passed, they were ready to leave, an arduous journey for them lay ahead. At last they had reached their journeys end, with nowhere to stay, just a sort of a shed.  
Together in wonder they looked at the child, that they had wrapped in a blanket and laid in a bed. And then they remembered the stranger who called, it all had happened just as he said.

*From The Beacon magazine, St Mary's Caterham*

## THE ALL SUFFICIENT CHRIST

For the ...

**Artist,** He is the altogether lovely (Song of Solomon 5:16)

**Architect,** He is the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6)

**Astronomer,** He is the sun of righteousness (Malachi 4:2)

**Baker,** He is the living bread (John 6:51)

**Banker,** He is the unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8)

**Builder,** He is the sure foundation



(Isaiah 28:16 & 1 Corinthians 3:11)

**Carpenter,** He is the door (John 10:9)

**Editor,** He is good tidings of great joy (Luke 2:10)

**Electrician,** He is the light of the world (John 8:12)

**Farmer,** He is sower and the Lord of the harvest

(Matthew 13:37 & Luke 10:2)

**Florist,** He is the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley

(Song of Solomon 2:1)

**Jeweller,** He is the living precious stone (1 Peter 2:4)

**Lawyer,** He is the counsellor, lawgiver and advocate

(Isaiah 9:6 & 1 John 2:1)

**Labourer,** He is the giver of rest (Matthew 11:28)

***Taken from 2003 Contact magazine***

I don't like the new LED street lights that have just been installed, they're very Harry Potter-esq if you know what I mean, pools of harsh white light and deep shadows. The old sodium lights seemed to cast a widespread welcoming orange glow compared to the gas lights of my childhood and I miss that. I went outside the other night for some reason and was muttering under my breath about the new lights when I stopped short and gasped, I could see many more stars and planets than before thanks to the much reduced light pollution from the LED lights! It made me realise that even in what we don't like there can be hidden benefits, if we just look for them. Maybe we should look at our daily life a bit closer and find the hidden benefits God has put in the " don't like" bits we just grump about. I guess that's what our faith in Christ is all about, finding the unexpected good through the bad! He puts both there for a reason?

## **Dundonald Castle Visitor Centre**

Open Every Day 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

The Centre has a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

***Why not try our Christmas Goodies? - Flavoured lattes, mince pies, baked potatoes done in a special oven and lots of yummy cakes. Also, a fabulous range of teas and coffees and delicious home-made soup and sandwiches***

Lots of Arran Aromatic gifts, jewellery, scarves, books and festive gifts

# 'HEAVEN ON EARTH'

**SEC ARMADILLO GLASGOW 18 April 2018 – 21 April 2018**

*Heaven on Earth* is a brand new musical and has been described as a unique, live arena spectacular. It journeys back to the very beginning of time and is a re-telling of the well-known story of Adam and Eve, and their tragic fall from Paradise. It is an exhilarating story of love, loss, and redemption, and an exploration of the search for the meaning of life. Its original emotive songs, will resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds and the stage-set for Eden is breathtaking. The West End director describes the show as "a visual treat and a delight to the ears; one that will transport the audience to another world."

The musical stars Kerry Ellis as EVE, and Hugh Maynard as ADAM, and Russell Watson as 'THE VOICE OF GOD.'... and is an epic and inspirational journey with state of the art digital technology, innovative staging, stunning choreography and a cast of over 30 directed by Racky Plews with musical arrangements by Adam Langston (But not recommended for children under 8 years unless with parental discretion).

With all the costs involved in a 'West-End' production, the tickets are not cheap ... they start at £21 right at the back, and the next are £36. If you are interested, please contact Sandy or Frances and if there are 10 or more, then we will be able to get a group discount.

*heavenonearththemusical.co.uk*



For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook, while applying the same principles. Therefore, everyday I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving round town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs-up" and tell them I like them.

I already have four people following me, two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist!

# Wordsearch

## Christmas - Religious Festival

A B A U B L E S E G A N G E L E  
S E L D N A C U J O S E P H S S  
D R S T R E E A E B H M Y I T N  
R U J Y U E M L S E E E E N A E  
A S P P O R I C U T P S K N B C  
C H R I S T M A S H H I N T L N  
A A E F K I O T C L E W O P E I  
K B S O N N T N H E R O D Y C K  
O O E O I S N A R H D L O G R N  
L U N D R E A S I E S O N E I A  
S T T O D L P P S M A R Y C B R  
S Y E K R U T A T O M Y R R H F

<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Tree</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>	<b>Bethlehem</b>
<b>Tinsel</b>	<b>Baubles</b>	<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Mary</b>
<b>Santa Claus</b>	<b>Toys</b>	<b>Shepherds</b>	<b>Angel</b>
<b>Presents</b>	<b>Cards</b>	<b>Wise Men</b>	<b>Stable</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>Carols</b>	<b>Frankincense</b>	<b>Myrrh</b>
<b>Food</b>	<b>Drink</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Inn</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Pantomime</b>	<b>Donkey</b>	<b>Crib</b>
<b>Rush About</b>		<b>Herod</b>	<b>Egypt</b>

or Secular Holiday?

## CHRISTMAS COOKERY CORNER



### **RUDOLPH'S CHRISTMAS CASSEROLE**

***Sheila Payne Serves 4-6***

1.2 kilos venison, 125g bacon in one piece  
2 tablespoons flour, 3/4 pint beef stock  
1 large onion, finely chopped, 2 tablespoons red currant jelly  
Bouquet Garni, 2 tablespoons lemon juice  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, Forcemeat balls

Cut the venison into 1 inch pieces. Trim rind from bacon and cut into rectangles Sauté bacon pieces gently in a frying pan without allowing them to become too crisp. Transfer to a heatproof casserole leaving the liquid fat in the pan. Coat the pieces of venison with flour and sauté in the bacon fat till browned, then transfer to the casserole. Add stock to the frying pan and cook over a high heat stirring all the crusty bits from the sides and bottom of the pan into the stock. Strain over the venison and add the chopped onion, red currant jelly, bouquet Garni , lemon juice and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cover casserole and simmer very gently for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. This can also be cooked in a slow oven or slow cooker.

About 20 minutes before serving, add some forcemeat balls made of sausage meat mixed with 1 egg and seasoned with dried herbs.

### **COINTREAU AND ALMOND ROCHERS**

***Moira Kerr***

225gm(8oz) flaked almonds, 100gm(4oz) icing sugar  
2 tablespoons cointreau, 225gm(8oz) white chocolate melted

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas4. Put the sugar, almonds and cointreau in a bowl and mix well. Spread onto an oiled and lined baking sheet. Bake for 20mins stirring every 5 mins until golden brown and beginning to crystallise. Cool slightly on the tray and then mix into the melted choc. Spoon into petite four cases and leave to cool. Will keep in a sealed container for ages

*Tastes very like a well known brand of chocolates!*

# CHURCH ROTAS DEC 2017/ JAN 2018

DATES	Car 1	Car 2	Car 3
10/12/17	Graeme Dunn	Maggie Kuczynski	Elizabeth Munro
17/12/17	Pat McLaren	Moreen Linton	Keith Parker
24/12/17	Morag Gilmour	Maureen Brown	Elaine Grant
31/12/17	Pam Kavanagh	Kate Tweedie	Margaret Miller
07/01/18	Sandy Parker	Janette Caldwell	Bob McMillan
14/01/18	Angus Stirrat	Gemmill Jack	Frances Mavor
21/01/18	Moreen Linton	Johnann Stewart	Jane Ritchie
28/01/18	David Harrow	Margaret Rae	Yvonne Cain
04/02/18	Graeme Dunn	Maggie Kuczynski	Elizabeth Munro

DATES	CRECHE	BIBLE READING
10/12/17	Lynne Fagan & Joan Edgar	Y. Cain
17/12/17	Pat McLaren & Katy Purdie	-
24/12/17	Jean Gray & Debi Dunn	-
31/12/17	Libba Fallows & Anne FitzGerald	-
07/01/18	Frances Mavor & Kathleen Morton	-
14/01/18	Helen Jamieson & Nancy Armour	J. Caldwell
21/01/18	Catherine Robertson & Margaret Rae	-
28/01/18	Linda Hall & Shona Jack	A. Douglas
04/02/18	Lynne Fagan & Joan Edgar	-

<b>10/12/17 DOOR DUTY</b>				
W. Rae	E. Gray	G. Kenmuir	Mrs J. Ritchie	G. Baird
<b>17/12/17</b>				
J. Morton	E. Grant	M. Miller	J. Hardie	
<b>24/12/17 AM</b>				
E. Docherty	E. Munro	Mr J. Ritchie	G. Dunn	L. Axford
<b>24/12/17 Christmas Eve</b>				
D. Harrow	A. Ferguson	M. Brown	J. Harper	
<b>31/12/17</b>				
G. Jack	H. Harrow	D. Richmond	Y. Cain	
<b>07/01/18</b>				
W. Thomson	S. Mavor	D. Gray	M. Gilmour	
<b>14/01/18</b>				
R. McMillan	F. Mavor	A. FitzGerald	J. Wilson	
<b>21/01/18</b>				
J. Kerr	S. Payne	A. Picken	A. Brown	
<b>28/01/18</b>				
W. Rae	E. Gray	G. Kenmuir	Mrs J. Ritchie	G. Baird
<b>04/02/18</b>				
J. Morton	E. Grant	M. Miller	J. Hardie	

***Lord of the Years***

*We ask your blessing on the year to come.*

*Give us the resilience to bear it's disappointments,  
energy to seize its opportunities*

*and openness to accept the more abundant life  
which you have promised us in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

***From 'More Everyday Prayers'***

***As I was lying around, pondering the problems of the world, the following occurred to me...***

If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.  
A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat. ..  
A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while ..  
A tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years. And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.

**Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:**

- I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
- My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and All-bran.
- I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
- It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.
- I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere..
- When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
- It's not hard to meet expenses . . . they're everywhere.
- These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . .I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".

Have I read this somewhere before?

***Observations On Life ...***

- \* The measure of your real wealth is how much people would still value you, if you lost all your money.
- \* *The nice thing about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, somebody else always does.*
- \* Always keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them, and never put both feet in your mouth at the same time because you won't have a leg to stand on.
- \* *We will not be remembered by our words but by our kind deeds.*
- \* Life is not measured by the breaths we take but by the moments that take our breaths away.

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**Session Clerk:**

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**Clerk to the Board:**

Bob McMillan 01563 850702

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Please give  
articles to Editor  
for February Magazine by  
**Sunday 28th January 2018**  
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