



TIDINGS



CHRISTMAS 2014



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Dear Friends

It is a well known saying that time seems to rush past more and more.

Just for the benefit of the “older” who normally find this more emphasised, I am encouraged that Upper School pupils in Uddingston Grammar told me at one time that they felt the same.

I think there was maybe a wee sympathetic look at me as they spoke!!

Here then we are, approaching Advent and the run up to Christmas.

I am aware that there are many who deplore the “early onset” of Christmas when it occurs around September and I can assure you that Ministers think in the same way.

There is so much to consider in the normal “running” of the Kirk, that Christmas doesn’t occur too soon in our minds at all.....but.....the really annoying comment that we receive at Christmas is; “This will be your busy time!” Gnashing of teeth through a smile then occurs! I’ll be waiting for a comment anytime at the Kirk Door!!

What a great privilege it is for all of us to share in the most joyful season of the year; joyful, not beyond all that the rest of the faith year suggests, but joyful because of the welcome of the Christ again.

I know that that is an academic point to make, because we welcome Him, or at least should, into everyday life, but there is such a great emphasis on joy at Christmas, because we know that God gave his greatest gift to us and we all are aware from a human perspective what giving means and indeed, we all know how good it is also to receive.

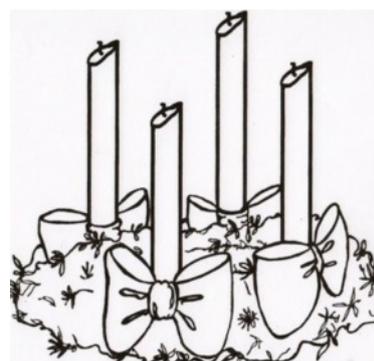
So here we have a gift given in love and, in its reception, we also give in love the one to the other, not just in the tangible elements of Christmas, but in the love that binds in a way that no other “present” might be applied.

All my time with you at Hamilton has been joyful and sharing and I am looking forward to the Christmas celebrations when together, we can all engage in the giving and receiving of the love of God, as his people here.

May we experience a real sense of God in our lives at this time and, in the year that is to open up in 2015, we look forward again to his provision and all with great expectation and hope and joy.

With Every Blessing

Norman



What's On

December

Sunday 7		Second Sunday in Advent
	10.45am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Joint Communion Service in Cadzow Parish Church
Friday 12	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight (in Church – teas/coffees and goodies afterwards in Halls)
Sunday 14		Third Sunday in Advent
	10.45am	Morning Worship & Christmas Lunch
Sunday 21		Fourth Sunday in Advent
	10.45am	Family Service & Christmas Pie Sunday
Wednesday 24	11.15pm	Watchnight Service (followed by hot soup in the North Hall)
Thursday 25	10.45am	Christmas Family Service
Sunday 28	10.45am	Family Service

January 2015

Sunday 4	10.45am	Family Service
Sunday 11	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 18	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 25	10.45am	Morning Worship

February

Sunday 1	10.45am	Morning Worship (Deadline for Tidings)
Sunday 8	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship (Tidings available for uplift)
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship



CHRISTMAS SNOW

Today everything is white;
Snow has fallen and covered everything with a soft blanket.
Underneath the snow, the young plants are warm and snug
Waiting sleepily for the coming of Spring.



In God's time there is always a time of waiting.
We say "I want" and God says "now - but not yet".
He has given us the gift of Jesus "now".
But "not yet" is all revealed to our eyes.

There is much evil, much sorrow and much despair.
But God has not forgotten - He does not change His mind.
As the Spring bulbs grow unseen under the snow,
So God's purposes are working out - unseen but sure.

From "Christmas Snow and Other Poems" by Alasdair Gordon



Finance Report

After almost two years the North church, halls and manse were sold within 3 weeks of each other. Normally a 10% levy is applied by the General Trustees to sale proceeds, 5% of which goes into the Central Fabric Fund to help congregations who need repairs but don't have the funds themselves, and 5% goes into a new 'Go for It' fund which helps congregations to pay for outreach projects. The 10% can be waived if the congregation can identify an approved fabric project and so we were able to pay for the disabled lift without incurring the 10% levy on the value of that. The balance will be placed in the Fabric Fund held on our behalf by the General Trustees. As the title deeds for the manse were held locally, the sale proceeds were returned to the Old to be held in a Fabric Fund.

Recently we were able to hand over a cheque for £4,000 to the Hamilton Food Bank from the proceeds of the Harvest Appeal. This along with the proceeds from the charity lunch which was donated to Erskine, the donations to the Boys Brigade for their Ben Nevis Climb and the contribution of over 250 shoe boxes is a marvellous contribution to the work of other charities by the congregation and you are to be commended for this.

Our offerings Sunday by Sunday are running around the same as last year although the make-up is different. The income from the standing orders has dropped due to members moving away and the contributions through Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes has increased, partly due to new members and partly due to members taking envelopes following Nesella's Gift Aid article earlier in the year. However, our income is still falling short of our expenditure and we are relying on hall lets and donations to keep paying the bills. Have you considered paying by standing order? This has the advantage of being regular and allowing the treasurer to know what will be coming in each month and also has the advantage of saving money as we do not have to pay for the printing of envelopes. If you would like to use this method of payment please ask me for the bank details to let you set this up.

As I come to the end of my first year as Finance Convener I would like to thank Bill Nelson and Alan Blue for their support and advice during the year. The Old finances are very different from that of the North and it has been a very steep learning curve. I would also like to thank the team who, Monday by Monday count the offerings. Iain, Armour and Jim – where would we be without you?

Marilyn Henderson
Finance Convener



Property Committee

The Lift in the Parish Halls is now complete and has access to the office and the upper floor. The lift is operated by a key switch and each organisation that requires access has been given a key.

The Session Room has been redecorated and new carpet tiles have been laid. Unfortunately, the first week the carpet tiles had been laid coffee was spilled, which stained the carpet and a carpet tile had to be renewed. If tea or coffee is spilled can everyone ensure that it is cleaned when the spillage takes place.

The painter work to the fire escape of the halls and car park railings are now complete.

John Downie
Property Convener

Fellowship Committee

Since September, things have been relatively quiet on our front. We held the annual Charity Lunch on 5 October, which raised the wonderful sum of £1002.00, which was given to Erskine Hospital, this year being the Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1.

Currently we are making arrangements for Carols by Candlelight, which is being held in the Church on Friday 12 December at 7.30pm, followed by tea coffee and goodies in the hall.

Tickets costing £1 are going on sale from Sunday 9 December. Entry will be by ticket to allow us to get numbers for catering purposes.

We are also well into the preparation for the Church Christmas lunch which is being held on Sunday 14 December in the hall, following the morning service. Tickets are on sale until Sunday 7 December at a cost of £12 for adults (less the subsidy for those who qualify) and £6 for youngsters of 12 and under. We are expecting a visit from a fat man in a red suit and with a big white beard.

As normal, Christmas cards featuring the inside of the Church are available for sale each Sunday after the service. These can be purchased from Sandy Messer either outside the hall, weather permitting, or inside if it is wet. The cost is a very reasonable £5 for 12 cards.

Looking further ahead consideration is being given to a trip some time in June, and more information will be given in the New Year.

Iain McLean
Convener



Link Committee

We held our autumn concert on 25th October. For the first time because we had the lift we held it in the upstairs hall which gave us much more space. Our MC was Iain Keir with Campbell on the electric organ with Carole as soloist and as usual Peter on the mouthie after which we served tea with lots of home baking. Our next event will be our Easter Service

Your Convener
Jim Naismith

Scottish Bible Society

As we had not had a reply from the Contractors who built Holy Cross School and are responsible for the grounds, having approached them back in June, for permission for Bible World van to come in October, we had to cancel Bible World.

I'm relieved and delighted to say that we now have another venue, namely, the Co-operative Car Park in Mill Road and have managed to book the bus for 16 March 2015. This will also give us a chance to tell children the Easter story and importance of this time in the Christian calendar. If you can help during that week next year it would be much appreciated.

Many thanks to all who have already volunteered and for your continued support.

Muriel Eadie

Sunday Live

With Christmas just a few weeks away we are preparing for the Big Event. You are invited to our annual Christmas Pie Sunday on the 21st December following the Family Service.

Dale Strachan has agreed to join Sunday Live as a leader and together with John Shearer they will become involved with the Christian Education of our "older" members. We look forward to this development in our department. Finally we wish all our readers the compliments of the season together with all good wishes for 2015.

Sandy Messer
Convener



Crèche

After a short break the crèche is now available again.

If you would like to have a young child looked after while you are in Church, you will find us in the Halls in the room next to the Office.

All babies and children too young for Sunday School will be made very welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Catherine Southgate



Monday Club

The Monday club held its first two meetings in the session room, but we have now moved up to the North Hall, as the lift is now fully operational for those who have difficulty with the stairs. We also have a lot more space and would welcome more new members.

On our opening meeting, Rhona Hughes entertained us with several songs and some very interesting stories about her experiences, in the local music/TV industry.

Cameron Merryweather, in full Highland dress, gave us all the information on Glasgow Cathedral, which was well received by club members. He told us of the proposed charges for admission to the Cathedral from next April by Historic Scotland who actually own the Cathedral. A few days later it was being reported on national TV and the press, so if you want to hear it first, come to the Monday Club!!!!

Our last two meetings in December are the Christmas lunch on the 1st and our financial AGM and "Musical Memories" hosted by Nadia Meek on the 15th.

The programme for next year is listed below with dates:

5th January	Allan Joyce	Round the World
19th January	Moira Condie	Burns' Women
2nd February	Helen Dunbar	Mercy Ships
16th February	Alasdair Gordon	Introducing MLP
2nd March	Margaret & Billy Foster	Hearing Dogs
16th March	David	Thorntons
30th March	AGM & Social	

On behalf of myself and the committee we send all in the Church our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a guid New Year.

Charlie Duguid

Choir

At the time of writing the clocks have just changed and we are into winter evenings. Many of the choir take advantage of a late summer break in the months of September and October, and some of the sections have been fewer in numbers during the last few weeks. However, we are gradually getting back to full strength, as everyone returns refreshed and relaxed from their various "jaunts".

We continue to prepare Introits and Anthems for each Sunday at our Wednesday meetings, and the choir are a very dedicated group, willingly giving of their time and talents to support worship. We continue to follow a forward planner, which incorporates music appropriate to the Church year. This session we are focusing from Harvest through to Remembrance and Christmas. It is encouraging when we can also plan an appropriate anthem to link with a specific theme for a service and in November John Rutter's popular anthem "Look at the world" was used to link with the Guild theme "A World to Serve".

The music files continue to be well used and help those who are new to the group become familiar with some of our repertoire. They also give support with the considerable amount of new material we are preparing.

Our final evening meeting for this year will be on Wednesday 17th December when all music should be returned to Sunday 14th December. There will be no mid week meeting on Wednesday 24th and 31st December and also 7th January. We will resume in the New Year on Wednesday 14th January at 7pm.

Helen C Simpson

Organist

helensimps@sky.com



Guild

Whose we are and Whom we serve
Year 3:- A World to Serve

The Guild have met twice and have welcomed 2 new members.

One of our members has compiled a Quiz sheet (answers are London Underground Stations).

Guild will feature on Guild Week Sunday 16th November. See Sunday Order of Service.

The Financial AGM and projects afternoon will be held on Wednesday 19th November.

Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 26th November (note change of date) at 12.30pm for 1.00pm in the North Hall.

Guild meet on the following dates in 2015.

January 7th	Rev A Barrie
January 21st	Armchair Exercises - Jane Steel
February 4th	Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre
February 18th	A Passage to India - Eleanor Campbell
March 4th	AGM & DIY afternoon
March 18th	Closing social with Eleanor Kelly & Afternoon Tea
April 1st	Syllabus Meeting

With all good wishes for Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2015.

Avril Boothroyd

Coordinator



1970 Ladies' Club

After a good start to the new syllabus we are looking forward to the next two meetings - Milk and Bedpans in War and Peace with Mrs Nancy Duncan on 6th November and Cadeau Gifts Boutique with Mrs Debbie Black on 20th November. These will be followed by our Christmas Dinner at the Alona Hotel on 4th December.

Margaret McKinnon

Old Kirk Dancers

Our winter session has begun with a swing, there being a good attendance of dancers at the branch weekend held at Athol Palace Hotel, Pitlochry. All present had a fabulous time dancing to the beat of Allan Ross and his band with the added pleasure of Guest Teacher Janet Johnstone.

We meet every Tuesday at 7.45pm in the North Hall, new members, and old, will be made most welcome.

Christmas draws near and our Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 9th December.

Please come along and join in the fun.

Irene Mathieson

01698 427872



The Banner Group created a banner specifically for the Old Kirk Dancers and were invited to watch them dance a new dance named North Hall which was created by dance teacher Alison Robertson (holding banner) in recognition of the Church union.



Saffronhall Singers

A warm welcome was extended to members and some new members when the Singers resumed after the summer break. We now have 39 names on the register and attendances have been good so far this session. Rehearsals at the moment are focusing on preparation for two events in December. We are singing at the St John's Guild on Monday 1st December and then we are hosting a Carols by Candlelight in the church on Friday 12th December at 7.30pm. Working on the premise "if it ain't broke, then don't fix it" the format will be much the same as last year, with a mix of choir items and audience participation in carols old and new, interspersed with festive humour! We hope this event will be well supported by friends from within the congregation and elsewhere.

Campbell Barr

Olá, Amigos da Casa Semear (Hello, Friends of Casa Semear)



Hi Everyone.

With Christmas and the New Year fast approaching it is easy to get caught up in the preparations and excitement that comes as part and parcel of this festive season. In Brazil it is exactly the same and Robert and Silvana and the team at Casa Semear are very aware of this and will be preparing their own service focused not just at the children from the kids club but their families as well.

In an attempt to provide equally for all the children, there has been a scheme in place for the last few years, where it is possible to sponsor a child for Christmas. Basically for a 50 pound donation, Casa Semear gives each and every child a complete set of clothing including shoes and of course a Christmas gift. If anyone would like to get involved in the sponsorship of a child for this Christmas, please get in touch with myself in the first instance asap.

The clothing and gifts are usually handed out at the end of the service held in a local church where the children get involved in some way with either singing or even a play of some kind. This event has grown in the past few years both in popularity and attendance.

Another service that is gaining support is the Sunday service being held within Casa Semear. During my time in Brazil these services were started again. While the first one could have been better attended the good news is that this has been changing and many more children and families are now attending.



On a slightly sad note, Robert and Silvana said goodbye to the VW Combi that has served them so well for the past 9 years. Bought with the money taken to Brazil by the first group from Hamilton back in 2005, this vehicle has been everything. A bus, a van, a delivery truck, a car, an ambulance and much more. In addition it served me well during my recent 2 months with only the replacement of a brake cable needed to keep it running. Yes, it was a little temperamental and you needed to drive it with a little care, but it will be sadly missed.

I trust everyone was able to read my blog while I was in Brazil, unfortunately I ran out of time while I was there and have now completed the last few posts since being back.

(www.blog.casaabbaproject.co.uk)

The thought I would like to leave you with is that even although I'm back to work as normal, the work with the children and families at Casa Semear continues day in day out. Whether it's the work on the development of the new kitchen or taking the kids out of the city and into the country to camp. The work continues and your support and prayers are very much appreciated.



For further information or to receive newsletters or to arrange a presentation either at home or for an organisation, please feel free to contact me either through the website, on facebook or by email on craig.garrett@blueyonder.co.uk or call Craig Garrett on 00966 556802655.



Anchor Boys and Bluebells



The session got off to a great start with 15 boys and girls joining the sections. It is wonderful to have such numbers as games and crafts are more fun for the children.

A great night was had by all when Mrs. Davidson (and her family) joined us to make up shoe boxes. The North Hall resembled Santa's workshop with the piles of boxes being stacked higher and higher. The Anchor Boys' received a community project credit for all their work and Mr. and Mrs. Munn were very popular when they came along to say "thank you" and presented a large box of goodies

At the time of writing, we are preparing to have a Hallowe'en party, the Company Enrolment Service and Remembrance Service.

Future events will include the Battalion Carol Service in Hamilton Baptist Church, Mr Horne's famous "Film Night" and our Christmas party.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bell, Mr and Mrs. Bill Cherry and Mr. and Mrs Jim Craig for their kind donations of craft papers etc.

Donations of this kind save a great deal of money and are greatly appreciated.

Boys and girls aged 5 and over are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

Nanette McLean
Leader in Charge

Junior Section

The new session is fully underway after the Summer Break.

We are delighted to welcome Dillon Cox, Jack Dwyer, Joshua Greaney and Dominic Rogers to the Junior Section. All boys' from P4 -P7 will be made very welcome.

We recently took the boys Ten Pin Bowling to Cosmic Bowl at M & D's. It's safe to say that the boys all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Not so well attended was our first competition of the year - the Cross Country. Many thanks to Lewis Chisholm, Colin Davidson, Euan Davidson & Brohdan Nicol-Wood for turning out to represent our company. Grateful thanks also go to the parents for encouraging their attendance.

By the time this goes to print, the Board Games competition will have passed, and attention now turns to the PE Competition. This will take place on **Tuesday 9 Dec**, at Flemington & Hallside Church, Halfway @ 6.30pm. Can I please ask for your co-operation to ensure as many boys attend as possible. It is important for a good turnout, as points may be "docked" for a small squad.

Regards

Alan Brown
Leader in Charge



Boys' Brigade



10 Pin Bowling Competition

The Junior and Company Sections held their 10 Pin Bowling Competition on 8th October. It was a good night enjoyed by all.

Sam Walker, Jack Anderson and David Chisholm represented the Company at the Battalion 10 Pin Bowling Competition 27th October. The boys did well coming fourth out of eighteen teams.

Founder's Day Parade

We had a good turnout of boys for the Battalion Founder's Day Parade on 26th October to Rankin Parish Church in Strathaven. A Boys' Brigade themed Service was conducted by Rev Shaw Paterson. The rain was stotting down on leaving the Church but in the finest BB tradition we paraded anyway !

Enrolment Service

We held our Enrolment Service on 2 November 2014. We are very grateful to Rev Norman McKee for organising and conducting the Service. All sections of the Company participated fully in the Service. At the Service several presentations were made:



Russell Anderson and Cameron Marks

Russell Anderson and Cameron Marks received their President's Badge Certificates. The President's Badge is the second highest award in The Boys' Brigade, and is awarded to boys who have achieved Level 4 in each of the badgework zones of Community, Skills and Recreation, and Christian Faith. Both boys thoroughly deserve their awards and they have now embarked on working towards their Queen's Badges.



Fraser Ewart, Andrew Walker, Jack Seaton and Mark Kelly

Fraser Ewart, Andrew Walker, Jack Seaton and Mark Kelly have all gained their Queen's Badges and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Queen's Badge is the highest Award in The Boys' Brigade and in combination with the Silver Duke of Edinburgh requires time and commitment across a broad spectrum of activities, usually taking about eighteen months to two years to complete. The requirements include attendance at a Battalion Candidates' Conference, completion of a residential leadership training course at Boys' Brigade Scottish Headquarters, practical leadership within the Company, voluntary service outwith the Company for a minimum of thirty hours, skills development, participation and progress in physical activities, the preparation for and completion of a Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and satisfactory participation in a Queen's Badge Completion Course again at Scottish Headquarters. A written record has to be kept of all activities and progress.

All four boys have worked extremely hard to achieve their awards and meet the high standards required of them. As a Company we are very proud of them. They are all very fine young men, and in years to come we hope they will always look back with pride and satisfaction on their time in The Boys' Brigade and what they have achieved. Whatever they do and wherever they go they will always be Queen's Men, and we certainly trust they will carry with them good memories of all of the activities, friendship and fellowship they have experienced in The Boys' Brigade, and especially in our own Company.

Colin McLean

We are very fortunate in the Company to have three excellent liaison elders, Alex Stoddart for the Anchor Boys, Sandy McKinnon for the Junior Section and Colin McLean in the Company Section. Colin advised recently of his intention to stand down as the Company Section elder. Colin is a very faithful member of this Church and has served our own congregation and the wider Presbytery with great integrity and dedication. He has brought the same qualities to his role as Company Section elder. We have enjoyed his visits since he has always taken a keen interest in the boys and their activities.

A presentation was made to Colin in recognition and appreciation of his support.



World Mission – “Czech It Out” Project – Ben Nevis Climb

We are delighted that having raised a total of £1326.00 from our Ben Nevis Climb we have retained the Company Section Trophy for the highest amount raised and also the Best Average Trophy for the highest amount per boy.

The funds raised will help refurbish the Comenius Camp in the Czech Republic.

It is a hugely worthwhile scheme, and at our Enrolment Service Ross Smart and Fraser Ewart gave an excellent presentation about the time they spent at the Camp in July. They went out to the camp as ambassadors from The Boys’ Brigade and Church of Scotland and it was clear from their presentation that not only did they commit themselves fully to the camp while they were there, but they also thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from the experience.

The World Mission Cheque Presentation, when a cheque for the total funds raised by The Boys’ Brigade will be given to the Moderator, will be held on 14 November. Ross and Fraser will have dinner with the Moderator and World Mission Committee beforehand and will then run their presentation again to the assembled highheidsins..... and the rest of us !

Our aim with World Mission has always been to raise as much as possible for the projects, but the trophies are well deserved recognition for the effort put in by all the boys and officers in the Company, and for the magnificent support received from their families and friends and everyone in the congregation. Thank you all again for your generosity in helping us to raise such a tremendous amount.

Alistair Buttery
Captain



Safeguarding News

The latest newsletter from the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service reminded coordinators that there is just 12 months to go before all existing volunteers and paid staff working with children and protected adults in our congregation need to join the PVG scheme. I am happy to report that we are well on our way to meeting that target. At present, I am issuing PVG forms to the final group of volunteers, mainly those involved with the Boys’ Brigade and on completion our congregational register will be fully compliant. Thank you to everyone for cooperating in this important task.

By the time you read this magazine, David Young will have completed his coordinator training and will be sharing in some of the administration.

Everyone who has gone through the PVG process is expected to undergo training. The next course is on 24th January 2015 in Westwood Parish Church, East Kilbride from 10am until 1pm. Please contact me if you wish to attend.

Please remember that the church office has copies of all the documentation issued by Edinburgh. In addition, all the relevant information can be found in the Safeguarding Section of the Church of Scotland website.

Nesella Barr
Safeguarding Coordinator

Update on the God Series

Greetings!

For those of you who are interested in the onward progress of The God Question series from Kharis Productions and Search for Truth Enterprises, an update has been provided below.

As a reminder, the initiation of the project was motivated by concern about the impact of New Atheism and its proclamation of the superiority and sufficiency of science over all other forms of enquiry. Three topics emerged as the main arenas for enquiring whether science is progressively removing the need for a creator or, by contrast, making it more and more apparent that the wonders and intricacies of our existence are more evidently the work of God.

The topics are : The Cosmos; Life and Evolution; Mind and Consciousness.

Project update:

- The TV series ***The God Question*** (3 x 1 hour documentaries) – now in the hands of Sydney and London based Flame Distribution - has been taken up by mainstream broadcasters in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Thailand, Kenya, South Africa.
- The DVD Study series ***Exploring the God Question*** (6 x half hour programmes) is already in almost 30 countries worldwide. Some from Hamilton Old Parish Church have already taken part in a study course.
- The related event ***In Concert with the Cosmos*** took place on 7 June at Clyde Auditorium, SECC to an audience of 2000. Thanks to those of you who supported this event!
- The DVD Study series is being translated for distribution in other countries around the world. Almost complete: Spanish language. Work in progress: Ukrainian and Russian. Soon to follow: Mandarin, Norwegian, Italian.
- The schools versions ***Introducing the God Question*** is about to be released and is linked directly to Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies in the Scottish curriculum; A-level Philosophy and RE in England and Wales and links to the Theory of Knowledge in the International Baccalaureate.

If you haven't yet bought a copy of the resources but would be interested to do so, please contact Karen Rollins (choir) or order online via the website: www.thegodquestion.tv/explore (go to 'STORE' on the top right of the page).

For further information, flyers are available at the church notice board...



Visit www.thegodquestion.tv/explore



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project and is run by the Christian relief and development organisation, Samaritan's Purse. Its aim is to bring a smile to the faces of countless children, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in the poorest of circumstances at Christmas. The project enables us to make anonymous but nevertheless very special connections with these deserving children by wrapping and filling shoe boxes with great little gifts. A team of UK based volunteers then organise their transportation to Eastern Europe and Africa and their personal delivery to each child.

This year's appeal was launched at the morning Service on Sunday 5th Oct and members of the congregation were asked to either wrap and fill one or more of their own shoeboxes or use specially pre-decorated boxes provided by the church. An incredible total of **256 boxes** were filled and returned to be dedicated by our Interim Moderator Rev Norman McKee, at the morning Service on Sunday 2nd Nov before being whisked off to the welcoming hands of some very deserving children.

At 9.30am on Tuesday 4th Nov the boxes started the first leg of their journey, in a Samaritan's Purse van, all the way from The Old Kirk to Lennoxton!! After being 'Customs Checked' they'll then join thousands more boxes to begin the second leg, in a fleet of Polish lorries, to distribution centres situated in some of the poorest countries of Eastern Europe. More Samaritan's Purse volunteers will then arrange the last leg and their delivery to children in a huge number of local schools, hospitals and orphanages. Some will even make it to Africa! Every effort is made to ensure the boxes remain secure throughout their journey and are delivered to each child with their original contents intact. That's the volunteers' top priority and reflects their respect for the fact that each box has been individually, thoughtfully and lovingly packed.

My personal thanks go to all members and friends of the congregation who filled one or more boxes and made this year's contribution to The Shoe Box appeal so successful. In particular I'm very grateful to:-
All the boys and girls of the Anchor Boys and Bluebells who spent a whole night making up over 200 hundred flat packed, pre-decorated boxes.

Forbes and Andrea (and their families) for the many different ways they helped me and for living and working amongst an ever increasing pile of boxes over the past few weeks.

Nanette McLean and Nancy Naismith who acted as our 'personal shoppers' and helped those of you who wanted to contribute to the appeal but just couldn't tackle shopping for suitable items. By collecting your money and indulging in some very prudent purchasing and housekeeping they managed to fill in excess of 60 boxes!

Sandra and Bill Craig who coaxed, cajoled and probably coerced their friends and colleagues from The Procurator Fiscal Service to fill 50 boxes!

Alison Munn





Thank You Letter from Erskine

4th November 2014

Dear Friends

Thank You

I write on behalf of everyone at Erskine to thank you most sincerely for the wonderful donation of **£1002** raised from the Church Charity Lunch. We are delighted the church committee nominated Erskine to support this year Thank you!

Through the generosity and commitment of our donors we will continue to provide veterans with the high quality care and support services which we believe they so richly deserve.

The donation your church have sent us could provide specialist equipment such as adapted bathrooms within our veterans cottages or recreation activities that our residents look forward to so much such as attending football games and ladies pamper days.

We must raise **£173,000** every week and without your support we would simply not be able to provide the high standard of care our brave veterans deserve. Thank you so much again for your wonderful support.

If you would like any further information from myself regarding Erskine or Its activities please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Susan Bradley
Community Fundraising Manager



Thank You Letter from Hamilton District Foodbank

3rd November 2014

Dear Mr Munn,

On behalf Of the Trustees of the Hamilton District Foodbank, may we express our sincere thanks for the exceptionally large cheque for **£4000** donated by your congregation from your Harvest Festival collection.

This magnificent donation has been gratefully received by all the members of the Committee as we endeavour to keep the Foodbank up and running. We operate the Foodbank at the Nazarene Hall, Blantyre St. Andrews on Tuesdays, Hillhouse Parish Church Tuesdays and Thursdays and Salvation Army, Burnblea Street on a Monday. Since opening at the beginning of December last year we have been able to provide food for over 1,100 persons, a good proportion being children and your donation will be a great contribution in our effort to help those suffering hardship in these difficult times.

Please pass our thanks to the members of your congregation for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

With our blessing and many thanks once again

Kind regards

Mrs Elsie Balneaves
Secretary

Flower List 2014/2015

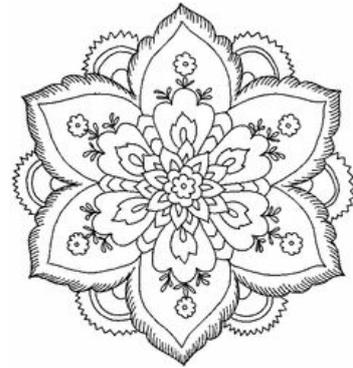
December	07	Mrs MacLean	11 Bent Road
	14	Flower Fund	6 Stonebyres Court
	21	Mrs Wilson	115 Chatelherault Crescent
	28	Mrs Kinsman	47 Smithycroft
2015			
January	04	Mrs Garrett	7 Bent Road
	11	Mrs Maxwell	36 Orchard Brae
	18	Mrs McLuckie	Flat 52, 24 Woodside Walk
	25	Mrs French	27 Bourtree Road
February	01	Mrs Hunter	72 Low Waters Road
	08	Mrs Simpson	138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston
	15	Mrs Scott	26 Marshall Grove
	22	Mr P Murphy	29 Allanshaw Street
March	01	Mrs Renwick	17 Nethan Gate
	08	Mrs Laird	9 Portwell Mews

Donations to the fund are always welcome since they assist with the special occasions such as Harvest.

Thank you for your generosity and co-operation.

E Gardiner

01698 427852



Flower Delivery

December	07	Mrs F Brown	1A Allanshaw Gardens
	14	Mrs M Henderson	67 Sycamore Drive
	21	Mrs F Moffat	101 Townhead Street
	28	Mrs C Morrow	42 Silvertonhill Avenue
2015			
January	04	Mrs A Henderson	49 Avonbank Crescent
	11	Mrs A Messer	9 Hutchison Street
	18	Mrs J Paterson	134 Chatelherault Crescent
	25	Mrs K Shearer	115 Spruce Avenue
February	01	Mrs A Gibson	5 Scott Grove
	08	Mrs Y Paterson	49 Smithycroft
	15	Mrs S Bell	63 Mote Hill
	22	Mrs B Smith	5 Old Avon Road
March	01	Mrs H Simpson	20 Oak Lea
	08	Mrs G Keir	6 Mauchline Court

Flowers are usually delivered after the Morning Service. If the date is unsuitable, please try to re-arrange or contact:

Kate Morrow

01698 420748

Rose Bowl List 2014/15

December	07	F McIntosh
	14	E Reid
2015		
January	04	H McGreevy
	18	J Henderson
	25	F Young
February	01	L Munn
	08	J Mathie
	15	M McCartney
	22	A Girasoli
March	01	M Wilson



Flower Circle

Would the members and any friends please meet on Friday 5th December to decorate the Church for Christmas.

E Gardiner

01698 427852



Sunday Flowers & Rose Bowl

Thank you to everyone who has gifted the flowers for the Church each week. If anyone wishes to make changes ie withdraw please speak to me.

E Gardiner

01698 427852

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Gift Aid

It is hard to believe that the end of my second year as gift aid convenor is fast approaching and that early in the New Year I will be finalising the church's claim for 2014. Over the course of this year, a number of people have signed declarations, allowing me to claim back the tax which has already been paid on their donations. This is a very effective way to maximize income for the church at no additional cost to members. As long as sufficient tax is paid by an individual, then I can make a claim to HMRC on their behalf. The money is refunded straight into the church's bank account. The new system is done online in that I have to submit a spreadsheet which details names, house numbers and postcodes and well as total donations and dates. While this is relatively easy to do once the data is all entered into the spreadsheet, it also makes it easier for HMRC to cross check information and so I would ask everyone to remember to keep me up to date with any changes relating to your tax position and also any changes to your address.

We are now also able to claim for up to £5000 which has been donated through the open plate. This yields an additional £1250 which makes it very worthwhile. It does involve some extra work for the counting team and so we are grateful to them for this.

Thanks also to Bill Nelson, the FWO convenor who passes me the relevant information from his records. This is combined with the standing orders from the bank statements which I collate. As you can see, it is a team effort, but thanks are also due to all the members who have made the commitment to support the work of the church by regular giving. Well done everyone!

Nesella Barr

Gift Aid Convener

(01698 329177 nesella.barr@blueyonder.co.uk)



Entered into Eternal Life.
"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ
 You have given us new birth into a living hope.
 Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection
 and keep us united with our loved one
 from whom in death we are not divided;
 for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen*

*15 August 2014
 William Wilson, 29 Avonbridge Drive*

*26 August 2014
 Tom Jackson, 15 Windmill Road*

*26 September 2014
 Mary Martin, 25 Roseberry Place*

*28 September 2014
 Margaret English, Avonbridge Nursing Home*

*2 October 2014
 Marion Stoddart, 16 Woodburn Court*

*9 October 2014
 Agnes Colquhoun, 2 Manor Park*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*31 August 2014
 Eilidh Jane Burgess*





Christmas Prayer

We thank you Father, for joy in life and for this season of Christmas that exudes joy and presents it as nothing else can, as we think about the birth of Jesus.

Lord, we know that any birth is a cause for celebration, but this Holy Birth, with all the promise it yields, goes far and beyond all that we can ever imagine and we thank you so deeply for that.

As we look at the Bethlehem scene again, help us to see newness in what is an old story.

Help us to see love in a way that it never again was presented, but given to us to share and to bring newness through the love we have and which we refresh in and for each other.

So Lord, may all put the primary reason for the season in the forefront, seeing and appreciating the depth of what was expressed in that place where there was no room, save a stable.

Be with all who suffer lack and hope, that our prayers may bring the spirit of this Holy Time, binding all together in hope and provision of all that is good and these things we pray in the Name of the Christ of Christmas, our living Lord, Amen.

