

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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DECEMBER 2013



From the 'Manse'

At least Advent stays the same! What I mean by that is, it is always the four Sundays prior to Christmas. However, a visit to the shops, say end of October or beginning of November, and the run up to Christmas seems to get earlier and earlier every year!

As a church we need to stay focused on what Advent and Christmas are actually all about, and if we took away the cards, the gifts, the meals, the trees and everything else that has come to be associated with Christmas, the meaning of Christmas, in the birth of Jesus, would still be there. The temptation is for Christ to get hidden under the wrapping paper of Christmas!

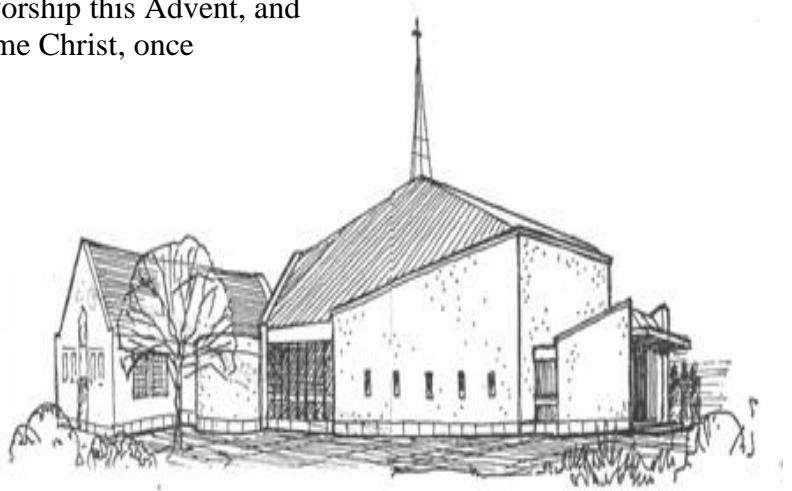
Advent is meant to be about a journey that leads us to the birth of God into the world, but it is easy to get distracted; after all, "*Christmas is for the children*". No it is not! Christmas, and the gift of God's love into the world, is for everyone. We must not lose sight of that in the midst of the school nativity play. If our faith is real, then so was Jesus' birth; to a homeless couple in far from salubrious surroundings! Like many today, Jesus did not have the best start in life, even if we are told; he was later visited by Kings!

Advent today is more and more about trying to 'dig out' its precious meaning and seeking to proclaim it against the noisy background of Christmas tunes in shops, the pressure to spend and people rushing round on Christmas eve, looking for last minute gifts.

So please journey with us as we gather in worship this Advent, and on Christmas Eve join with us as we welcome Christ, once again, into the world.

With all God's blessing this Advent time

Robin



Free Will Offering Envelopes

Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, Free Will Offering envelopes for the coming year. If you no longer require these for any reason - maybe you have changed your method of payment – please inform Ena Thomson, our FWO Convener (tel. 269630) or tell your elder. If you would like to set up a standing order for your weekly offerings please speak to our Treasurer, Brian Booth, Audrey Taylor, our Gift Aid Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Team.

Our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th November raised a total of £2,094. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard and everyone who supported the Fayre and helped to raise this magnificent amount.

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal - LOVE IN A BOX

Blythswood Care combines the Christian message with practical help for those in need at home and abroad, regardless of their political or religious beliefs or ethnic origins. Members of the congregation have been busy covering and filling shoe boxes which are being sent to countries where there is a lot of poverty. The boxes contain toiletries, hats, gloves and scarves, a small toy, sweets, colouring book and crayons. This is the 20th anniversary of Blythswood running the Shoe Box Appeal and over 1.6 million boxes have been donated and distributed throughout the years. This year the boxes are going to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and the Ukraine. On Thursday, 14th November our boxes were collected and taken to Templehall Church, which is the collection point for the Kirkcaldy area. Over eight hundred boxes left there by lorry and then on to Glasgow where they are checked before going to Moldova - the journey takes about 5 days. It's not difficult to choose gifts for people who have so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. By filling a shoe box you can bring joy and laughter to someone this Christmas. Thank you for being part of it.



Get Together - The Get Together Christmas Party is in the Methven Hall on Thursday 12th December from 2 – 4 p.m. and the cost is £9. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Helen Lundie.

The Flower List for 2014 is now in the vestibule of the Church. If you wish to provide flowers for the Sanctuary, please write your name against the appropriate Sunday.

Deaths

10.08.13	Mrs C Hay, Marchmont Home, 24 Bennoch Road.
11.09.13	Mrs Margaret Smith, 45 Muirfield Street.
25.09.13	Mr Andy Gillon, 34 Elgin Street.
02.10.13	Mrs Avril Caird, 26 Woodland Walk, Dunnikier Park.



Philippines Relief

A donation drop off point is now open in the Postings from 9am - 6pm Monday to Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sunday – just knock on the blue door near Tesco. Clothing, blankets, kitchen utensils, buckets and tools are all urgently needed, even toys (NO PERISHABLE GOODS PLEASE). If you have any questions you can contact Sally Walsh at 07737306522.



KART CORNER WINTER 2013



Registered Charity No. SC037866



Scripture
union
scotland

Sponsored Event

We give thanks to God for blessing our sponsored event with such fantastic weather!

25+ people walked, jogged or cycled round Lochore in September to raise funds for KART. In total 195km were completed in this sponsored event.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who took part and supported KART in this way.

SU Groups

Our SU groups are all up and running again. Please remember

Supaseekers at Kinghorn P.S. that numbers will grow. Pray for the **X-Site** group at Balwearie H.S and give thanks for the increase numbers of those attending. Pray for **Ignite** at Viewforth H.S that God will build on the work there.

November Weekend

11 young people from Kirkcaldy attended the Secondary weekend at Lendrick Muir at the beginning of November. Give thanks that so many from the Kirkcaldy area took part in the weekend. Pray also that God spoke to each person there and continues to be at work in their lives as they learn more about Him.

Assemblies

This term Chris will be leading assemblies at Capshard P.S, Balwearie H.S and Viewforth H.S. Pray for God to speak to those listening and for them to want to learn more about Him. Give thanks that the doors are open in Scottish schools for assemblies and class time where the principles of the Christian faith can be explained and discussed.

Volunteers

Chris would like to thank everyone who supports KART either financially or through time spent in working with children and young people in schools and in our churches.

We could not do the work without you.

We would also like to thank those who remember the work in their prayers. If you would be interested in getting more involved either through prayer or helping to lead a group or to support KART by giving on a regular basis then please do contact us. Without the financial support of churches and individuals then there is a limit as to how long Chris can be employed to work in the schools in this area.

Please do prayerfully consider how you can support the work of Chris and KART.

If you would like to contact Chris:
Email - chris.beattie@kart.me.uk
Telephone - 07746373860



KIRKCALDY FOODBANK NEWSLETTER ~ October 2013

Welcome to the October edition of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank *e-newsletter*. Work is now well under way to finalise the setting up of the Foodbank. Members of the steering committee are putting all the necessary legal requirements in place, such as insurance and health and safety procedures. The Foodbank will soon have official charitable status and its own bank account, which will make it more straightforward to administer. While putting this structure in place, we can get on with the practicalities, such as fitting out food storage and distribution points.

The main distribution point (the Hub) is to be in the basement of Dysart St Clair Kirk and this is being fitted out with flooring, shelving and useful table space, much of which has been donated by Fife Council and other local organisations and businesses.

- Volunteers are still needed to work in the Hub as well as in the distribution centres in Kirkcaldy, one of which is *The Cottage Family Centre* in Templehall, which already provides 20 – 30 food parcels on behalf of the Foodbank each week.
- Help will be needed for stock control as well as contact with clients
- Drivers will also be needed to transport tinned and dried goods between venues.

The Foodbank steering committee applied for and was awarded £1,000 start-up funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund, and this is already being well utilised to buy items of equipment not supplied from other sources.

As soon as volunteers have been recruited for the many tasks associated with the Foodbank, basic training will be offered through a carefully coordinated training programme, probably starting at the end of November.

An information event for referrers, referral agencies and volunteers was held in Dysart St Clair Kirk on Friday 8th November.

The information event will coincide with the launch of the Foodbank website, designed by Matthew McWilliams. This will make information about the Foodbank readily available to interested parties as well as to the wider public, making it easier to find collection and distribution points, to download volunteer application forms or to contact the steering committee. Contact at the moment is via kirkcaldyfoodbank@gmail.com

Meanwhile, donations of food have been coming in steadily, particularly from local schools and churches which have been keen to share the produce offered at their harvest festival celebrations. These have been distributed via the Salvation Army, the Cottage and Home4Good, ensuring that they reach those in the most need.

Several local supermarkets are making good their promise of support and collections of food will be more widely advertised in Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury's once the Foodbank is operational. Already Asda has shown considerable interest and the Foodbank was able to show its support for partner organisations at the recent launch of the Women's Aid Fife/Asda collaboration in the Kirkcaldy store.

The Foodbank will soon have its own logo, making it more easily recognisable online, in supermarkets and at collection/distribution points. HND students at Fife College were invited to submit designs for this and a final selection will be made from the nine excellent logos submitted.

Your involvement and interest are much appreciated and you are invited to reproduce and circulate all or part of this information to other members of your organisation or any interested individuals. Application forms are still available from ian.campbell15@gmail.com. If, however, you would prefer not to receive regular updates about the Foodbank please drop us an email and we will remove you from the Newsletter distribution list.

Kirkcaldy Food Bank - Update

The “**Kirkcaldy Food bank**” will be launched on December 2nd and is now collecting suitable foodstuffs to share with those in our community who are experiencing a food crisis at this time.

As well as on-going collections of food, it is organising an immediate food collection so that the Food bank has full shelves: “***No-one in crisis going hungry in the Kirkcaldy area - everyone sharing what they can***”. See the list below of the types of food items that are required.

The Food bank’s volunteers will take donated items to the store in Dysart for sorting and packing so that the food-parcels themselves can be made ready for distribution through their partnering agencies.

In the longer term there will be a strategy for regular food donations throughout Kirkcaldy which will include the major supermarkets and other community groups as well as faith groups that have been so instrumental in setting up the Food bank.

If anyone wishes to donate food items from the list, they can be brought to church on Sunday mornings, or from 10.30 to 12 noon on a Thursday when the *Olive Branch Cafe* is open.

Required Items

Food	Carbohydrates	Other
Beans/lentils/pulses	Rice: dry or boil in the bag	Cooking oil
Tinned main meal such as stew, mince or curry	Pasta: dry or ready meal	tea/coffee
Tinned meat such as ham/corn beef	Noodles	long life juice
Tinned fish	Tinned/dried potatoes	sugar
Tinned/packet soups	Breakfast cereals	UHT/powdered milk (not babies’)
Meat / fish paste	Porridge oats	UHT fruit juice
Cooking sauces in a jar	Couscous	Bovril
Tinned pies	Fruit/Veg	Oatcakes/crackers
Nuts	Tinned fruit	Tinned puddings
	Tinned vegetables or in dried form such as peas	Misc.
	Dried fruit	Disposable Nappies
	Tinned Tomatoes	
	Dried Fruit	

Volunteering Opportunities with Trust In Fife

Trust In Fife is a voluntary sector organisation, providing a range of services to homeless people throughout Fife. To assist in supporting these services, we operate two charity outlets, The Cairn Centres, in Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly. Both offer good quality, previously owned goods to the local community.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in both our Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly outlets who have an interest in Trust In Fife’s services. The role would include advising and assisting customers, cash handling, stock rotation, dealing with telephone enquiries and recording of messages. Volunteers with retail experience would be particularly welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to find out more then please contact:-

Helen Mitchell, Co-ordinator, Trust in Fife
The Cairn Centre, 83-85 Dunnikier Road, Kirkcaldy KY1 2QW
Tel: 01592 644060 email: cairncentre2@trustinfife.co.uk

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are now rehearsing for our Christmas play. Performance is on Sunday 22 December during the morning service. Please come along and support us, we are few in number, but we enjoy telling you the Christmas story our way.

After the morning service on 22 December we shall have our usual lunchtime party with a visit from Santa.

William's chosen Bible Verse.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 1 VERSE 18.

This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy spirit.

William's words of wisdom.

Everything happens for a reason,
lets just hope it is the right one.

Our new member in Sunday School is Calum who joined the beginners section on 10 November 2013. We hope he has many years of happy times with us.

There will be no Sunday School on 29 December 2013 and 5 January 2014. We will start again on 12 January 2014. Children aged from 3 years to 16 years who wish to join us, either on a regular or occasional basis, will be made most welcome.

We would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Try making Brodie's choice of Breakfast stars on Christmas morning.

BREAKFAST STARS

What You Need

- two or three slices of bread for each serving
- one egg for every three slices of bread
- star-shaped cookie cutter
- butter or margarine
- one cup powdered sugar
- milk
- cinnamon
- paper lunch bag

What You Do

1. Crack open eggs in a large bowl. Add a tablespoon of milk and a dash of cinnamon. Beat eggs rapidly with a fork.
2. Cut as many stars as possible from the slices of bread.
3. Dip each star in the egg mixture.
4. Ask a grown-up to help you fry both sides of the stars in butter or margarine until they are golden brown.
5. Pour powdered sugar into the paper sack. Drop a fried star into the sack, close the sack, and shake it. Take out the star and repeat with other stars until all of them are coated with powdered sugar. Serve them right away.

Mollie still likes spotting the differences.
CAN YOU???



These pictures look the same,
but can you find 6 differences?



Morgan chose this Christmas wordsearch.
Can you complete it???



WORDSEARCH

Find the following words
in the grid:

GLORY TO GOD, PEACE ON EARTH,
SHEPHERDS, CHOSEN, WATCH,
ANGELS, SHEEP, SINGING,
FEEDING TROUGH,
BETHLEHEM.

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

Christmas services for 2013

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the **Christmas story...**

December 1 st	The first Sunday of Advent
December 8 th	Our family gift service
December 15 th	Lessons and carols led by our choir
December 22 nd	the last Sunday of Advent
December 24 th	Watchnight service @ 11.15 for 11.30 p.m.
December 29 th	Joint service at Abbotshall



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. for teas, coffees, home baking and lunches.

N.B. Closed 12th & 26th December and 2nd & 9th January

Biblical Alphabet

As taught by Mrs Margaret Kininmonth, who died 28th April 1971 in her 99th year, born 7th October 1872.

A	stands for Antioch where Christians got their name
B	is for Bethlehem from whence the Saviour came.
C	is for Calvary where for our sins He died
D	is for Dothan where to God Elisha cried
E	is for Eden where Eve's obedience failed
F	is for Fair Havens where Paul's ship once sailed
G	is for Gethsemane where Jesus was betrayed
H	is for Hebron where David king was made
I	is for Iconium where Paul preached the word
J	is for Jerusalem, the City of Our Lord
K	is for Kirjatharba where Isaac's mother died
L	is for Lebanon where Cedars were supplied
M	is for Mamre where Abraham pitched his tent
N	is for Nazareth where Jesus' youth was spent
O	is for Ophir from whence much gold was brought
P	is for Philippi where Paul and Silas wrought
Q	if you seek a place, not one can be found
R	is for Red Sea where Pharoah's host was drowned
S	is for Samaria where Philip taught them all
T	is for Tarsus, the city of St Paul
U	is for the land of Uz where patient Job once dwelt
V	beginning names we find but places none to spell.
W	no city is but wilderness begins where thousands wandered many years and perished in their sins
X	and for Y we find no city, place or town
X	may remind us, no Cross, no Crown.
Z	is for Mount Zion where Christ our Lord, shall reign, from sea to sea most gloriously, when He comes again.

Now all that is written in God's most holy Book.
It's written for our learning if we to it but look,
to teach us the way to Heaven and How to happy be,
not only in this present world, but through Eternity.