



ST DAVID'S HIGH KIRK DUNDEE

THE KIRK NEWS

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DECEMBER 2016

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

We are at that stage of the year when everyone is gearing up for the annual celebration of the birth of Christ. The shops are getting busier, and I certainly am being bombarded with catalogues and invitations to spend, and spend, and spend. And I am also being asked to give more and more to deserving causes. Indeed, there seem to be so many causes to support, people to help, as well as so much for us all to do in terms of the preparations we make for the big event that it is hard to see how we could possibly manage it all. In fact it would be very easy to get everything completely out of proportion. Indeed, the big question on everyone's lips at the moment seems to be, 'Will we be ready in time?' But let's think for a moment about what the world was like at the time of the birth of Jesus.

Palestine at the time was an occupied country and it has to be said that the religious and political leaders who were in power then, wanted to keep things the way they were. So they misread the signs at the time of Jesus' birth. They were far more interested in their own concerns and their own importance, than in the plight of a young couple expecting their first child. So they made Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem with only a donkey for transport. And when they arrived, despite Mary's condition, they could find nowhere to stay. And as a result, the baby was born in a stable, probably a cave, and had to be placed in a manger in amongst the animals. Mary and Joseph had done their best to be ready in time, but everything going on around them had conspired to make things difficult for them. Has it ever occurred to you then, that there are quite a few parallels here with the world of today?

Just at the moment the political situation in our own country seems to be of overriding concern for everyone. We hear so much about Brexit and its possible effects on our well being. We hear about terrible problems in the health service, and about the financial problems of Just About Managing families. And more than that, we hear so much about the political situation in other parts of the world, as well as the effects of wars and terrorism. Was ever a world more in need of a Saviour? And yet, still we are being asked to spend and spend and give and give. Surely it must be time for us to get back to basics as far as Christmas is concerned, but just what are the basics?

The true meaning of Christmas is love. The gospel writer says, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**" The true reason for Christmas is to celebrate this incredible act of love. So the real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. That is what we will celebrate on December 25th.

But why did God do such a thing? Well, because He loves us! He loves his creation and he loves his people. And why is the Christmas celebration necessary? ... Because the world still needs a Saviour, and needs to recognise him! And why does God love us so much? ... Because he is love itself, and we are his creation. So why do we celebrate Christmas every year? ... Because out of gratitude for what God has done for us in love, we remember his birth by giving gifts to those we love, by worshipping him and thanking him for his the less fortunate.

If all people could remember these things amidst all the frenzied activity of preparing for Christmas, surely we would all be less stressed, and everyone would have a happier time.

I do hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas, as you reflect the love of God for our world, given to us in Christ.

With every blessing

Marion J Paton

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti 1830-1894

SERVICES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Wednesday December 7 - 1.45 pm

Midweek Carol Service

Sunday December 18 - 11 am

All age service for Christmas with a Nativity Play by the young people

Saturday December 24 – 11.30 pm

Watchnight service for everyone.

Tea, coffee and warm mince pies will be served in the Lower Hall from about 11 pm.

Please come early and share a time of fellowship
before the service

Sunday December 25 – 11 am

Christmas Day service in our church. This is a joint
with our friends from Coldside Parish Church

Sunday January 1, 2017 – 11 am

Joint morning worship with Coldside in COLDSIDE CHURCH.

*There will **not** be a service in our church that morning*

POPPY'S CHRISTMAS PIES

Dear Friends,

It is now just over a year since I have been living in the Manse and I love the garden where I can run around, and my cosy bed next to the radiator at the top of the stairs. I had two friends to play and what fun we had running round the garden.

However, it would be lovely to see you at Christmas and I would like to invite you to come to the Manse for tea/coffee, mince pies and chat **on Saturday December 17 between 10 am and 12 noon**. I love to eat anything that is available, especially scarves and gloves, so please don't put them anywhere that I can get at them. My mum gets very cross when I try to steal things that belong to other people. Although I like mince pies [and all food], please don't encourage me to eat them – I have lots of dog food that I really like in my tin.

I do hope you will come to see me, and my mum!

With love from Poppy.



CHRISTMAS AT TESCO

It has been arranged that we will have a slot at the entrance to Tesco in the Kingsway on the morning of Christmas Eve. The time is not confirmed yet but this will be an opportunity to share the Christmas message in an informal way with the many people who will be doing their last minute shopping at that time. This is a joint venture with Coldside church and we would appreciate as much support as possible. It is not a fund raiser, simply an opportunity. So please come and sing if you can.

MARION

MARION'S FINAL SERVICE

Please make a note in your diaries that Marion's final service with us as our Minister will be on **SUNDAY APRIL 30, 2017**. This will be a Communion Service which means it will be one week later than usual.

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session a sub-committee comprising some of the committee conveners and myself was appointed to make arrangements for Marion's farewell. We will give more information when it is available but please remember the date and make every effort to be present that day.

COLIN WILSON

THE VACANCY

As anticipated, at their meeting in November, Presbytery appointed an Interim Moderator for our forthcoming Vacancy. She is Rev Donna Hays, minister at Fowlis and Liff linked with Lundie and Muirhead. We look forward to welcoming Donna to our midst in due course. There is no other information about the future at this time. You will be told as soon as there is.

COLIN WILSON

PRAYER TIME

Our next Prayer Time is **on 5th February at 10.30 am** in the vestry. All will be made very welcome.

FIONA ANDERSON

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will be leading the service on Sunday 8th January 2017. We are very busy preparing for this service and we look forward to seeing you at church sharing in our morning worship.

FIONA ANDERSON

PROPERTY UPDATE

A reminder that the refurbishment of the Lower Hall in preparation for the installation of the stained glass windows from St David's will be taking place over Christmas and New Year. As suppliers are closed most of that time, materials will need to be stored in advance, likely from Monday Dec 19. It will also mean that some of the items, particularly the chairs from the Lower Hall, will be stored in the church. Please bear with us as we carry out this work.

In early November a problem developed with the main lights in the Lower Hall. After many hours of investigation and trial and error, this was eventually found to have been caused by mice eating through a cable and having a go at a further two. These have now been replaced and plans are in place for the remainder of the cables in the same area to be replaced too.

Two reminders to all keyholders. Salt for use on the paths in the case of frost or ice is stored in the gardener's store adjacent to the Youth Hut kitchen door and secondly if a fault such as that described above in the lights occurs, or any other problems develop or are found, there are guidance notes in the Information Book For Use of Kirk Premises which every keyholder has a copy. For everyone's safety, please ensure these guidelines are followed.

An update on the **GROUNDS**. The summer bedding plants at the front have been removed and the tubs filled with over-wintering and early year plants so there should be colour over the winter. These plants have been donated. The paths have had a general tidy. The bushes on the east boundary have been cut back and the waste disposed of. The grass has had its final cut for the year and the area outside the kitchen window tidied up. **This doesn't happen by magic. As I said in the last issue, and I make no apologies for repeating it, we MUST all express our appreciation of the work done by those looking after the grounds around the church.**

COLIN WILSON

THE GUILD

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning when we raised £725. Catherine, May C and Wilma *Walked the Extra Mile* between Discovery Point and the rail bridge and back, raising £175 for Guild projects.

Our programme is: Dec 6, Christmas Flowers with Margaret and Mabel; Dec 13, Christmas Lunch, Queen's Hotel; Jan 17, Mission International/Haiti, Hugh Henderson; Jan 24, Dundee Asylum, Roddie McKinnon; Jan 31, Bliss Baby Charity, Elspeth Smith; Feb 7, Dundee Dance Halls, Ron Elder.

The Guild wishes everyone in St David's High Kirk a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2017.

WILMA DUNCAN, Co-ordinator.

ERSKINE

Donations from retiring collection taken for Erskine on Remembrance Sunday amounted to £223.40, £172 of which was Gift Aided. Many thanks for your generous donations.

MARGARET MULGREW

HARVEST SERVICE AND FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST

The money raised for the Haiti Project being run by Mission International was: collection £304 and breakfast £61.55. Donations of food brought by the Sunday school and members of the congregation were handed into St Salvador's Foodbank, for which they were very grateful. A newsletter from Mission International says that although Hurricane Matthew devastated large parts of the south west of the country, Ouanaminthe, the city where the Mission International Haiti Project is being developed, was largely unaffected by the hurricane, although many internally displaced people are likely to descend on the city seeking refuge and support. **MARGARET MULGREW**

FINANCE REPORT

At the November Kirk Session meeting the Treasurer Kenneth D'All reported that all the indications were that there would be a deficit in the general fund at the end of the year of around £3,500, much the same as 2016. Exact figures won't be known until after December 31. Ken also reported that St David's High Kirk had received a legacy of £1,000 from the estate of our late friend and member Ella Stothart.

I am delighted to report that Pam Reid has been appointed convener of the Finance Committee. We wish her well in this post and assure her of our support.

COLIN WILSON [now retired Convener pro tem].

RAMBLERS - NOVEMBER

Autumn - the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, still hanging on into the new month. Walking round Five Mile Wood, near Stanley, was our delight and thankfully we had no mist but a fantastic display of nature's wonderful colours at which to marvel. Blue skies and bright sunshine accompanied us as we started

out, and lots and lots of mud. After we left the farm track and entered the wood, it was much drier underfoot. Much of the wood has been harvested so as we reached the open ground the cold north wind made itself felt. This walk ought to have been a circular one but felling operations had turned the track into deep ruts filled with water. Even taking to the moorland proved impossible, with deep boggy hollows, so it was decided to retrace our tracks. Finding a sylvan glade we stopped for lunch before returning to the car park and a welcome coffee. Besides the multicoloured leafy carpet underfoot, we stopped several groups of fungi – tiny ones, huge capped ones and several red and white spotted varieties.

NORMA STURROCK

SEASONS GREETINGS

A very Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy 2017 to one and all at St David's High Kirk. I would like to sincerely thank Marion for her faithful visits and my loyal friend Margaret, always ready to cheer me! I can hardly believe it is two and a half years since I left for Iona and then straight into Ninewells! Everyone has been most kind and encouraging and with all your prayers and support I am on the way to being ME! (Oh, no, I can hear!!) Never undervalue the flowers in church – not only are they appreciated on a Sunday but it gave me such an uplift to receive them and to know I was not forgotten. So thank you to all concerned.

MAUREEN

STARTER PACKS

Starter Packs is a voluntary charity started by Scottish Churches Housing Action in 2000 to help resettle the homeless and needy folk in the Dundee area, with packs of household goods and bedding, as they prepare to take on a tenancy. Churches help with this, as we do, by donating goods and/or volunteering to make up packs. Starter Packs recently moved to new premises at 39 Forest Park Road, Dundee DD1 5NU. Please continue to give, as you have been doing, by either taking your donations to the above address, or leaving them in the Ladies Room as you enter the church. Leaflets and information on what to donate, are displayed on the table in the lower hall.

CATHERINE CARDOZO

*Nothing destroys the Christmas spirit more
than looking for a place to park*

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

We are slowly coming to the end of yet another busy and productive few months. We are still small in numbers but have welcomed a new knitter. We have sent away 97 mini Christmas stockings to Trinity Hospice in London; 93 mini hats [so far] to the Innocence Smoothie campaign which gives money to Age Concern for every bottle sold which has a hat on it; and 159 baby hats to Ninewells Baby Unit; also a large amount of squares have been handed to Alison Marshall who is to sew them into blankets. We are also knitting large squares for Cats Protection. I have offered our services to knit hats, blankets, booties for a charity Angel Wings (you can look this up on the web). This charity supplies these items to families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, still birth, cot death etc. I would like to thank everyone, Knit and Natter members and members of the congregation who have knitted these items, donated wool and delivered our finished items. Your support is really appreciated. If anyone hears of charities home or abroad looking for knitted items please let me know, as we are always looking for different and new charities to help.

We meet on Dec 5 and our last week is Dec 19 - our Nibble and Natter night so no knitting needles needed. We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. **Christine Wilson, Jennifer Paxton, Sheila Bisset, Janet Wood, Elizabeth Wood and Margaret Mulgrew.**

*Keeping peace in the family at Christmas requires
patience, love, understanding and at least two TV sets*

LADIES WEEKEND – TEEN RANCH

The next Ladies Weekend at Teen Ranch, Inchtute, (for any recycled teenagers) is due to take place from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March 2017. For the energetic there is Archery, Horse Riding, Canoeing etc. or enjoy a seat beside a roaring fire and tea and cakes (and more cakes!). Anyone interested please give your name to Kay Husband

From the mouth of babes....

A mother was teaching her 5 year old the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she repeated it after her mother. However, one night she said she was ready to say it by herself. The mother listened with pride as the little girl enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer - "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen."

I'm sure God knew what she meant and her prayers (and e-mails) would have been answered.

LOCAL CAROL SERVICES

- Wed Dec 7 Midweek Carol Service, Lower hall, 1.45 pm
Thurs Dec 8 Nurses Carol Concert, Caird Hall, 7.30 pm
Sat Dec 10 Tearfund Carol Service, Downfield Mains Church,
7.30 pm £6
Wed Dec 14 Lydian Singers Concert, Dundee West Church,
7.30 pm £5
Sun Dec 18 Choral Union *Messiah*, Caird Hall 7.30 pm

TRAIDCRAFT

Just a wee note to thank all who have supported this, by either buying from stall or catalogue or both. It is great to be able to support such a worthwhile cause. Even though the stall is now finished items can be purchased from catalogue all year round. The only problem with this is that postage has to be paid if under a certain amount, so we would have to keep orders until there is enough for free post or you are willing to pay the postage. Many thanks again for your continuing support and keep our church a Fair trade building.

CHRISTINE WILSON

A Christmas song, according to the Health & Safety brigade.....

***Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw him you would even say it glows***

You are advised that under the Equal Opportunities Act, it is inappropriate for persons to make comment with regard to the ruddiness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from the Reindeer Games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence. A full investigation will be implemented and sanctions – including suspension on full pay – will be considered while this investigation takes place.

***The Twelve Days of Christmas is an English Christmas Carol.
This is the religious meaning....***

A Partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus.

Two Turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five golden rings were the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming - the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful apostles.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of Belief in The Apostles' Creed