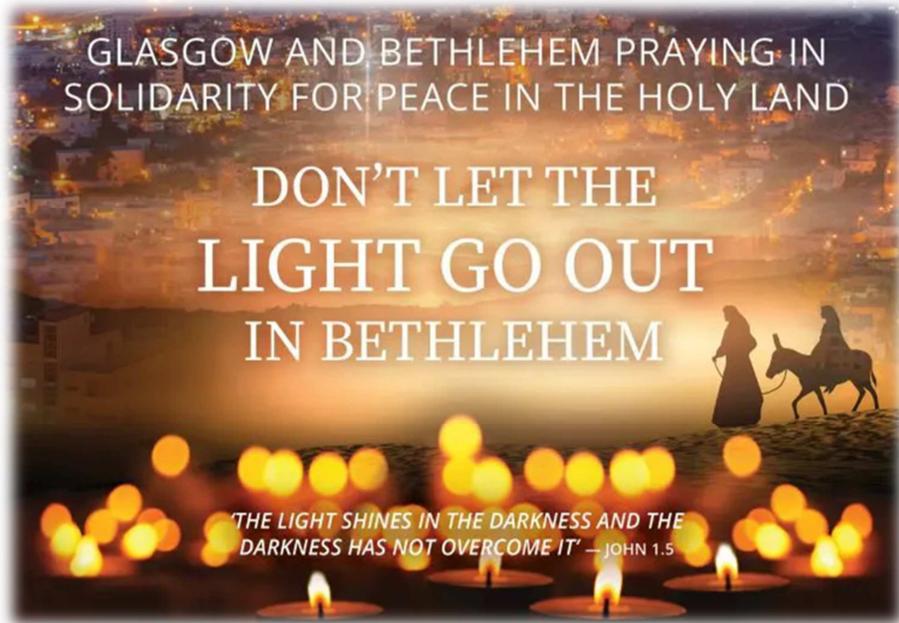


# December - January 2024 Magazine



*All Saints Scottish Episcopal  
Church*

*Drymen Road Bearsden*



Rector: Revd. David Guest

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**All Saints Episcopal Church, 71 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 3QT**

The cover picture: Glasgow joins with Bethlehem in an ecumenical Advent service, simulcast between the two twinned cities. details p.11

Dear All,

### THE EVERLASTING LIGHT

One of my very favourite Christmas carols is *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and it's a great one to use for personal reflection, not just thinking of the location of the Christmas story, but – bearing in mind all that has been going on in the Middle East recently – its significance for the world today.

In fact, thinking about the significance of the whole Christmas story for the world today is really what we should be doing during our Advent preparation, our celebration of Christmas, and in our looking ahead to a new calendar year. It would be fair to say that for most people, it's *that time of year!* In our Western culture that is rapidly losing its once-Christian worldview, Christians and Christian leaders need to use this time, more than ever, to challenge non-Christians. But will they give the vital message people need to hear at this time of history?

It is a fair guess that people who do come to church to hear the familiar story will be comforted and maybe even inspired by what they hear. But when they go off to their celebrations and into the rest of the year, I suspect there will be few who are actually asking anyone about Jesus and the manger, or about the shepherds or the angels who proclaimed the birth of Jesus on earth.

And that is why it is so important to use the opportunity to proclaim the truth of the Bible at a time when some people will just be making their annual visit to church. Helping people to realise that the birth of Jesus was and is actually part of a much longer and bigger and broader story is a good start.

In fact many Christmas carols do dare to take a broad view. Mrs Alexander wrote *Once in Royal David's City* with the express intention of teaching children about the mystery of the incarnation. Unitarian minister Edmund Hamilton Sears wrote *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (my other big favourite) as a hymn offering hope and peace and the fulfilment of prophecy against a backdrop of the California Gold Rush, industrial revolution and slavery.

Phillips Brooks wrote *O Little Town of Bethlehem* to try and capture a memorable moment during his visit to the Holy Land. In 1865, Brooks travelled to the Holy Land and on December 24th he made his way on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem where he attended a five-hour Christmas musical praise celebration at the Church of the Nativity - just a short distance from the hillside where the shepherds heard the very first Christmas song. At Christmastime three years later, recalling that magical night in Bethlehem, Phillips wrote the song for the children's choir of his church. He was a great opponent of slavery and was keen

to help the poor, and a verse of the carol we tend not to sing perhaps makes the social message clearer: *Where children pure and happy, Pray to the blessed Child, Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; Where charity stands watching And faith holds wide the door, The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, And Christmas comes once more.*

When we come to church this Christmas may our ears be open to all that God has to speak to us through the familiar readings and carols and prayers – and may we realise that we do not just celebrate a moment in history, but can rejoice in the birth of Christ the Lord who came to save each and every one of us and who continues to be “God with us” every day through the year ahead and beyond.

My prayer for Christmas and for 2024 is one I hope we can all share:

*O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!*

Revd David



### VESTRY NOTES

6 November

- The Vestry was delighted that the Evensong service with New Kilpatrick was so successful, and especially thanked the choir for their lovely input. Other joint services will follow: we are invited to share in the service of carols and readings on 17 December at 4.30pm at New Kilpatrick and there will be a joint Midnight service on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.
- Work is continuing on the Rectory, especially following continued problems with water ingress.
- **A.G.M. News:** Andrew Long will shortly step down as Treasurer. Revd. David and the Vestry thanked Andrew for all his hard work over eight years. Tracey Conway has agreed to be the new Treasurer. Fiona Hempel has joined the Vestry and will be the new P.V.G. Co-ordinator. David Simmons

was re-elected as Lay Representative. David Hamblen has stepped down as Alternate Lay Representative. Revd. David and the Vestry thanked him for all his work over many years most especially during the vacancy. The post as yet has not been filled.

- Both Aberlour and Glasgow Children's Hospital Scheme will continue to receive our support this Christmas.
- Discussions are taking place about restarting a church social group/committee to arrange social and fundraising events.

Brenda Hadcroft

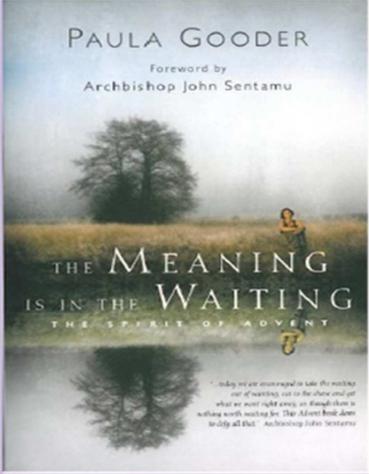
**ADVENT COURSE 2023**



**Our Advent course this year is being shared with St Andrew's, Milngavie, and will be led by Rev David and Rev Andrea.**

**It will be held on Thursday afternoons November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in All Saints choir vestry at 3.00pm**

**We will be using Paula Gooder's Advent book *The Meaning is in the Waiting* which you may wish to buy beforehand.**



# COMPLINE for ADVENT



*Service of Night Prayer with short Advent reflection  
(from An Advent Manifesto by Martyn Percy)*

**MONDAY EVENINGS**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BEARSDEN**

**7.00pm**



## **THE RECTOR'S SERMON BEFORE THE AGM ON BIBLE SUNDAY**

**Readings: Nehemiah 8: 1-12; Colossians 3: 12-17; Matthew 24: 30-35**

Today is Bible Sunday, a day for giving thanks for God's Word as handed down to us in Scripture and perhaps a day for considering how much we treat it as something living and active rather than as just another title on the bookshelves. I hope there is a never a day when you don't take the Bible in your hand; cherish it; read it; think about what you've read; then put it into practice.

The Bible tells us of God's dealings with humanity from the beginning of time, and of our response to God. Sadly that response has not been all that it might be

which is why the world is in the mess that it is in. This book is fundamental to all that we believe and all that we do as Christians within the whole Church of God.

There are so many translations in English alone, and we should not find it hard to find a version that suits us. Some like the poetry of the King James Version, whilst some would find it easier to read a modern translation such as the New International Version. You can even have 'The Bikers Bible', the Cowboy Bible and 'The Cockney Bible'! Would you Adam and Eve it!

It really is our duty to find the one that is best for us, discuss what we read with friends, pray about what we read, and we will find that it comes alive.

One of the ways in which the Word of God truly comes alive is in the life of churches worldwide and it is entirely appropriate that Bible Sunday falls on the day of our annual church meeting this year.

A year ago I was one of the people who had applied for the post of your new Rector. As interim minister Andrea put it, you were on a journey of discernment considering the future in terms of ministry and leadership and you were all urged to pray for the Holy Spirit to call and inspire the right applicant.

Those of us who did apply for the post will have been attracted to the charge by different things. For me, I saw a faithful and hard-working church – a key word repeated again and again in the profile was “active” – who were determined to thrive, unafraid to try new things however challenging that might be, and with a genuine sense of outreach and spirituality.

When I read the profile before applying for this post I was struck by how positive it was and in both that, and speaking to people when I visited after my interview, I felt there were a lot in the congregation and community who were ready to embrace the excitement and challenges of a new beginning. That feeling mustn't change because I have arrived! There is much to be done and it can certainly not be done by just an enthusiastic few. The ways in which churches express themselves and their faith may change to meet the differing needs of society, but at our heart is a faith with Jesus Christ as the one who inspires, encourages, and enables.

For the interviews I had to prepare a presentation as though I had been in the charge for a year and I was looking back at the past 12 months as well as forwards to the future. Well, in fact I have only been here just over four months but this annual meeting allows me to do a little of what was required of me then.

It was a tremendous joy to have so many friends old and new and family with me back in June as Bishop Kevin and others gathered for my institution here. An

incredible amount of preparation had gone into the service and the social event afterwards and it was a great occasion that was much appreciated. Bishop Kevin spoke of our church being next to Bearsden Community Hub and remarked that in many ways we at All Saints should be a hub in our community too. How much more so with the Hub building currently closed - wouldn't it be lovely to be able to help some of the people who rely on its services somehow here. We always need to be a place of welcome to all.

It is all too easy to overlook those people in a church who work hard in so many different ways to make things happen, and at this point I want to thank everyone who has played any part in the past year in simply “getting things done.” If I began to try and name everyone, someone would surely be missed off the list, so I hope you will accept this general word of thanks to each and every one of you.

Everyone involved in any way with any of those things that make up our church life is entitled to receive our warmest appreciation. And if you haven't heard the words THANK YOU that much in past years I write them in capitals and shout them from the pulpit today!

Of course there are some who have to work just that bit harder during a vacancy, and I know I speak for everyone in All Saints when I express our sincerest and grateful thanks to the Vestry and those who supported them.

I was particularly aware when I arrived of a new confidence and excitement about the future, perhaps encouraged by the recent 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations – it's always good to be reminded that we are a part of history, the latest pilgrims in a long line of the faithful and committed who have had a vision not just for how things can be now but also for how things could be in the future.

The consecration by the Scottish bishops of Samuel Seabury as the first bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America in 1784 was one of the bold events which shaped the Anglican Communion as a family of independent provinces. Many of the Scottish saints or those connected to Scotland took risks and dared to go beyond the boundaries, whether trying to convert the pagans, introducing reform, or setting an example by their holy living. As I said from my arrival we have to be equally bold and visionary and it is exciting that we are already doing so much to build on the past and the present to secure the future.

It would be easy to say we have tried to consolidate who and where we are, which is a common trap if the charge or the minister feels they need time to settle in and observe and take stock, but in fact as we have journeyed together since my arrival we have been brave enough to start stepping outside of our comfort zone,

looking beyond the things we do in our buildings – from worship to social events, from study groups to community lunches – to the wider Bearsden community.

While we don't have a right to have a presence in outside activities it has been rewarding to knock on doors and discover where a welcome might be found. And it has been rewarding to visit homes and receive such a welcome, something I will continue to do – hearing people's stories and what their hopes are for this place. It is right to value and appreciate everything the Vestry does and has done, but we also recognise the role every member plays in our life together.

We are starting to work with other churches in Bearsden and indeed elsewhere for services and in other activities and we hope to be able to start up a few social and or fundraising events again – let us know what you would like to do and what you would come to. We are also re-establishing our pattern of services and I'd love us to do some quiet days or away days to focus on aspects of spirituality.

The Bible is filled with expressions of how wonderful God is and how precious it is to hear God speaking through Holy Scripture. The word of God only comes alive when we read the Bible and begin to interpret what it means. And to do that well, we need to be careful and attentive. We need to read the Bible in a contemplative and prayerful way. And we need to live out what we read in our church life and in the community around us.

Bringing together all our readings on this Bible Sunday there is a clear message. If we read the word of God aloud we need to ensure people understand what is being read. We need to send people away rejoicing because they have understood. We need to let the word of God dwell in us richly. We need to understand what it means that the word of God will never pass away, even in the face of persecution and repression and ridicule.

The Centennial history of All Saints published in 1997 was called '**A Temporary Building**' – I hope that after my first few months here we are already showing that we are a lot healthier than that and we are playing our own part in ensuring God can *Bear the Gree* in Bearsden. We look back and thank God; we look ahead and trust God; we look around and serve God; we look within and find God. We do all this together in God's name.

We live in uncertain times both financially and spiritually; never was the need greater to bring people the hope of the Christian Gospel and in our church my prayer is that we can build each other up and encourage one another so that we truly become a force to be reckoned with.

The writer of Psalm 119 – the longest of the Psalms – includes these words: 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path'. We all need something to

illuminate the way ahead and there's nothing better than to trust the same light that has shone in the hearts of humanity for thousands of years – the Word of God. It is the light of truth for every day. Let's put it into practice and be living and active as a church together!

Revd David

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our services over Christmas this year have been planned after a lot of discussion, a desire to join with friends from neighbouring churches, the knowledge that several regular members of the congregation will be away, and a hope that we can offer something that will appeal to the wider community.

On Sunday, December 17th, we have been invited to join New Kilpatrick for their service of carols and readings at 4.30pm. While recognising that this doesn't allow us our own church service this year, we are delighted to be joining our friends, sharing Christmas cheer and our choir and Rector have been invited to play a part in it too. We had thought of joining with Milngavie but they are planning a carol service at another time when we already have a service – hence our decision to join for an Advent carol service on December 3rd. And it saves putting too much pressure on our new organist during a busy period!

On Christmas Eve in addition to our usual 10.30am Communion we will be holding a Crib Service at 4.00pm, which is very much something for all the family. There will be carols and a retelling of the Christmas story which involves everybody.

For the midnight service we have again been invited to join the New Kilpatrick congregation for their watchnight service from 11.30pm, which promises to be a meditative and celebratory service to mark the beginning of Christmas Day. The Rector is involved with planning this act of worship with Roddy. While we are happy to arrange a Midnight Communion we were aware of the likelihood of small attendance this year, particularly with other services during the day.

On Christmas Day we have an all age Communion service at 10.30am, again appropriate for all the family. At its heart will be the Eucharist, but there will be an opportunity to bring along your Christmas gifts to show and also to take part in one of Rev David's long-established church Christmas traditions!



## OUR NEW ORGANIST

We are delighted to be able to announce that our new organist and choir director is Esther Ersfeld, who will be joining us from Advent Sunday.

Esther (21) is currently pursuing her Bachelor's of Music in piano performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she studies with Graeme McNaught, as well as beginning her third year studying organ with David Hamilton, who also teaches at the Conservatoire. In the past year she has played as a deputy organist in a number of churches, including Barrhead, Kirkintilloch and Clarkston, and this has also involved rehearsing with the choir before services.

Esther began her musical studies at the age of five, and has since received tuition in piano, organ, voice, violin, and viola. She is a keen chamber musician and is passionate about collaborating with other musicians both within and outwith the Conservatoire.

In March of 2020, Esther performed in a masterclass led by Scottish pianist Steven Osborne which took place at the Music School of Douglas Academy, where she studied from the age of 12. She has also participated in masterclasses led by the Fitzwilliam String Quartet and Maxwell String Quartet as a member of the School's string quartet.

Esther also previously attended the RCS Junior Conservatoire, where she was awarded first prize at the Gilbert Innes Prize for Piano in 2018. Esther has also been a teacher at Nite Piano School and recently has been performing within RCS Piano Festivals and keyboard concerts, a number of organ recitals, and in concert as part of a piano trio. She has performed as part of recitals this year at St. Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow and at St. Columba's Church, Ayr, and is due to perform a recital at St. Mary's Church, Aberfoyle, in January.

She looks forward to bringing her experience to us at All Saints as well as continuing to learn and grow as a musician. She hopes to be able to arrange concerts and recitals in church in due course.

John Harrington and Gill Hamblen joined Revd David for the interviews in church and all were impressed by the quality of the candidates. Esther will initially be with us on a six-month trial basis, which is normal. We look forward to welcoming her.



## KNEELING AT THE ALTAR RAIL

Practicalities required during and after the pandemic meant we had to stop our practice of people kneeling along the altar rail to receive Communion. Since Rev David's arrival several people have asked if it would be possible to return to this rather than queuing to receive the bread and wine and we felt the new Church year (beginning Advent Sunday) would be a suitable time to revert to our more familiar way of doing things. So **from December 3rd** we will return to inviting you to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive bread and wine; if you still prefer just to receive the bread, please feel free to move immediately after receiving the wafer.



Rev. David

## JOINT EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WITH NEW KILPATRICK CHURCH

On Sunday 5 November we very much enjoyed the Joint Choral Evensong, shared with New Kilpatrick Church. It is always good to feel we are part of a wider church community, so it was especially good to welcome so many visitors. On a personal note: it was quite nostalgic to sing the once familiar evensong psalms, and realise that the words are still well remembered! We enjoyed the excellent singing of the choir, beautifully accompanied by Jonathan. The Revd. Roddy Hamilton gave a thought-provoking sermon, with the encouraging comment that even the great saints had flaws - so we need not feel *too* daunted in our own efforts. It was a memorable service - I hope it will be followed by other similar events.

Gillian Kingslake

## SEARCHING FOR A NEW ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Some of you may recall that, at this year's AGM, we did not appoint a new Alternate Lay Representative to replace David Hamblen. The Alternate Lay Rep position is not an onerous one. The formal role is to serve in place of the Lay Representative (currently me!) at Diocesan Synods (annual, in March) and, most importantly, electoral synods (every 5 years or so) when new bishops are elected. This would only be needed if I was unavailable to attend. However, Alternate Lay reps are also members of the vestry, with all that that entails, and it has been the tradition recently at All Saints that Alternates also attend meetings of the North-West Region Council (NWRC). These are amiable meetings which happen about once per quarter in different churches in the region (Helensburgh, Dumbarton,

Milngavie, Jordanhill, Hyndland and ourselves being the current members of NWRC).

We are able to appoint an alternate pending the next AGM, so if you are interested in this role please let myself and/or Rev. David know and we can talk to you more about it.  
David Simmons

## GLASGOW AND BETHLEHEM PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

The Magazine front cover is part of the poster for this service at Glasgow Cathedral. Glasgow joins with Bethlehem in an Ecumenical Advent Service simulcast between the two twinned cities. There will be a reception in the Cathedral supported by the Lord Provost's Office after the service.

The service is free to attend and walk-ins are welcome on the day, however, to assist with planning for catering please register at:

[friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/glasgow-service2023](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/glasgow-service2023)



## Ecumenical Advent Service

At 2 pm on Saturday December 9th 2023, in Glasgow Cathedral

CASTLE STREET, GLASGOW, G4 0QZ

Glasgow joins with Bethlehem in an Ecumenical Advent Service simulcast between the two twinned cities.

We pray for all those killed and injured, those taken hostage and those in anguish in Bethlehem and within our own communities here in Glasgow as they fear for family and friends. The community in Bethlehem will be gathered in the Chapel of the Divine Child at Bethlehem University.

There will be a reception in the Cathedral supported by the Lord Provost's Office after the service.

The service is free to attend and walk-ins are welcome on the day, however, to assist with our planning for catering please register at:

[friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/glasgow-service2023](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/glasgow-service2023)



Presented by Friends of the Holy Land and Embrace the Middle East in partnership



## MISSION CHRISTMAS ABERLOUR

Christmas is my favourite time of the year! Too many children in Glasgow will not be receiving any presents this year. Christmas is meant for holidays, happiness and joy, when realistically for some families it will just be another day struggling to make ends meet. Aberlour are collecting presents for children in Glasgow. Please help me and donate a gift. Gifts to remain unwrapped and can be left at the back of the church.

I will be taking the presents to Aberlour on **Monday 11th December**.

Present ideas could include:

**Baby's** aged 0-24months (soft toys, books, clothes and hats, scarves and gloves)

**Boys** (footballs, t-shirts, toilet sets, games, hats, scarves and gloves)

**Girls** (makeup sets, t-shirts, toilet sets, arts and crafts, hats, scarves and gloves)

Look at the success from last year.

If you have any queries my email is

[ellen2404@icloud.com](mailto:ellen2404@icloud.com)

Thank you, Ellen.



## WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

Wednesday Lunch Group lunch **December 6th** " Happy Happening " Come and join us for lunch. Freshly made soup and tasty rolls and always home made cakes and coffee and tea, with lots of friendly chat.

We are helping you to make a table decoration to take home for Christmas and everything will be supplied. Please bring a pair of kitchen scissors (to trim the holly).

Members of the church flower group may be on hand just in case.

Your decoration may look like this!



## All Saints Potted Panto

*Calling all potential panto players...*

With the Wednesday Lunch Group Christmas party coming up on **December 13th** it is surely time for pantomime – oh yes, it is!

Revd David is looking for six people to join him in putting on a 10-minute version of the evergreen Cinderella. The very short panto needs: Cinderella, Buttons, Baron, Fairy Godmother, Prince and one more ugly sister (as the Rector will be giving his Droopy Drawers on this great theatrical occasion!).



All you need is a seasonal sense of silliness: the script doesn't need to be learned but each character only has a few lines anyway; we will try and find necessary props but if you have any appropriate costumes that could be worn for any of these characters please let us know.

We will just need one rehearsal of this, to be

arranged as convenient once we have our cast.

*Please contact Revd David as soon as possible* if you are willing to join in the fun as we invite people to the Prince's Bonnie Bearsden ball.

### Arrangements for the Wednesday Lunch Group for the next two months.

You will see above details of the special WLG events in December. As usual all the donations you have made this autumn and will make at these events will be passed on to the Glasgow Childrens' Holiday Scheme. A representative from the Scheme will be attending the party on **December 13th** to receive the donations. In previous years, you have also generously provided Christmas gifts for the GCHS to pass on to their families.

As you see in the notice above about Aberlour, Ellen Whitmore is also collecting at this time both donations and gifts (especially for teenage boys) for the Aberlour Childcare Trust. We appreciate that there is a limit to how much our generous but small congregation can contribute to these good causes, especially at a time of financial hardship, but these two collections are in no sense in competition. Please give as much as you can, in gifts or cash donations, either to Aberlour or to the GCHS or to both.

The WLG will close for the holiday after the party on December 13, and re-open for the post-Christmas session on **Wednesday January 17th 2024**.

Brenda Hadcroft and Andrew Long

## ABC EVENTS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

The ABC (Association of Bearsden Churches) group have organised Carol singing for charity at Asda on **Saturday 16th December** from 11.00- 13.00. All Saints need to provide a minimum of 3 singers for 11.00- 12.00 so please let us know if you can join us.

The other date for your diary is **Saturday January 20th at 12.00 noon** in Baljaffray Church Hall, with a light lunch at 13.00. The speaker is Michelle Candlish who will be talking about her work with the charity "Linking Lives".

They aim to help people understand how bad loneliness is, and how to change it. By reducing loneliness and isolation especially among older people, many of whom have little or no contact with other people during the week, Linking Lives hopes to reduce the negative impact of loneliness on people's health and well being. They work with churches or Christian organisations in local communities and Michelle was recently involved with the Dementia project that was run at Kessington church. She describes her role to establish new befriending schemes across Scotland and enable churches to receive training for their volunteers who give their time to informal community-based social groups. Also, to link volunteers with our 'Good Conversations' training framework. It promises to be a very interesting talk and we will have tickets (£8.00) available in December.

Celia and Penny

## AN APPOINTMENT TO THE EAST END EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Tessa Louise (Tess) Lowe as Priest-in-Charge of the East End Episcopal Churches (EEEC). Her licensing will be on **Tuesday, 30 January 2024** at 7pm in St Serf's, Shettleston.

Tess comes to the Diocese from the Canterbury Province in the Church of England, where she has been serving in All Saints, Biddenden and St Michael's, Smarden in the Diocese of Canterbury.





# BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW

## BRIEF SUMMARY

William Henry Davies

1871-1940

Leisure

WHAT is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

At the service on Remembrance Sunday the Minister asked us if we had ever stood and looked at the Bearsden War Memorial. I certainly hadn't, and it reminded me of this much-loved poem.

William Davies was a Welsh poet who described himself as a 'super tramp'. This is fair comment as he spent much of his life wandering homeless in the United States and in England, being, as he says, a hobo in the U.S. and a tramp at home! When he left school, he had trained as a picture-framer which he disliked, and so began his travels.



### SPIRITUAL REALITY

The responses discussed the varied ways in which our church communities interact with the Divine. Churches employ creativity in marking seasons & festivals, emphasising the role of art and music in enhancing spirituality. Effective communication methods, both digital and traditional, are highlighted, as is technology's role in making worship accessible. The responses explored how church activities foster spiritual growth and formation. Ecumenical relations & outreach efforts are showcased, along with reflections on the balance between private spirituality and corporate worship and the church's role in providing a space for peace, prayer, & gentle holiness.

### MISSIONAL REALITY

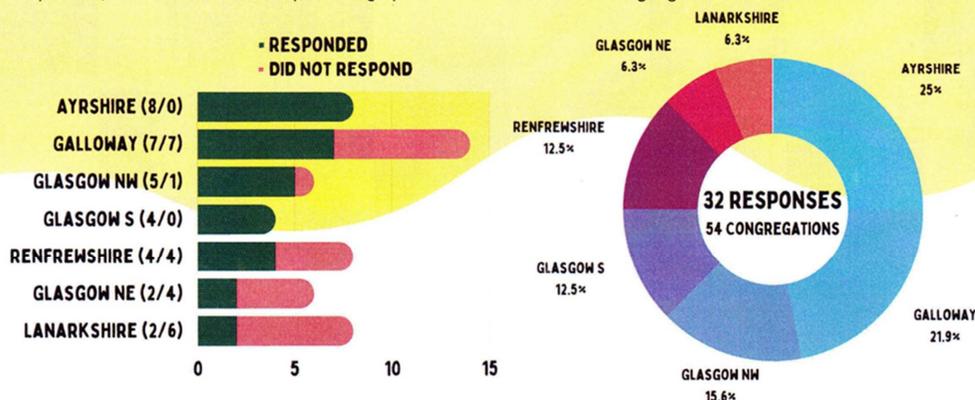
Our churches exhibit a multifaceted approach to mission through engagement and outreach, focusing on issues such as cost of living crisis, poverty, addiction, and social isolation. Church buildings are used to create welcoming hubs, sustaining the work of allied local groups & charities. Churches actively participate in ecumenical & interfaith collaboration, showcasing various joint initiatives. Often, missional intentionality emerges supported by our common call to share and live out the Good News.

### FINANCIAL REALITY

The responses delve into the financial sustainability of churches, addressing common issues such as deficits and expensive repairs. The need for new financial management approaches is brought up. Responders also mention church members' concerns about finances, highlighting the need for clearer communication with the wider church community on financial matters such as income sources, investments, & expenditure. The survey results show a consideration of exploring various income sources within and outwith the congregation and sharing past stewardship campaigns' successes. The churches' budget provision for clergy care and development are explored.

### GOOD NEWS

Even in challenging circumstances, the work of the Holy Spirit is evident across our congregations and the surveys note a variety of ministries, events and developments that we hope to explore together in the coming months, to learn from them and to share them with a wider audience. The survey results have been instrumental in identifying areas requiring further diocesan support and resources, including: Stewardship/Giving Campaigns and Strategies, need for vestry training & support for understating their role as both a charitable trustee & supporter of the congregation's spiritual/missional direction, providing spiritual nourishment to congregations in search.

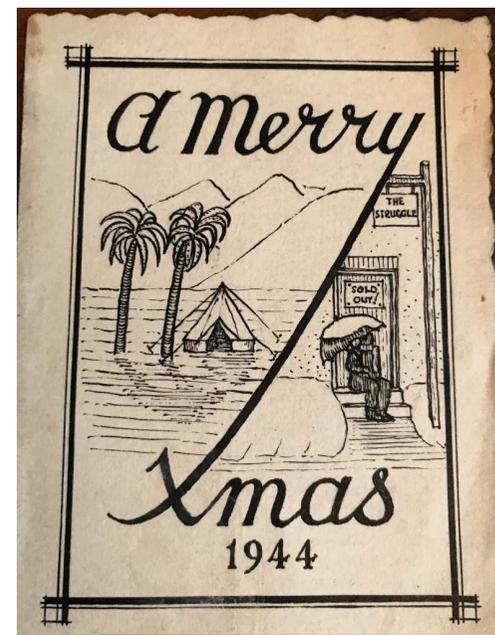


He crossed the Atlantic many times on cattle boats but, while still a young man, lost his leg trying to jump onto a moving train bound for the Klondyke and great wealth. It didn't happen, so he returned home, settled down and became a writer and poet. One of his best-known works is 'The autobiography of a Super-Tramp' which includes his outrageous adventures in the U.S.

But Davies is best known today for his wonderful poem 'Leisure'. The first stanza begins with a rhetorical question to which we all know the answer that life isn't up to much if we are so full of care that we don't stop and look at what is happening in the world. Five rhyming couplets follow which give us a glimpse of what we might be missing: we won't stand beneath the trees looking as long as cattle do, we'll miss the squirrels hiding nuts, we won't see streams of water in daylight sparkling like stars in the night, and we will miss real Beauty, personified as a dancer with a smile spreading from her eyes to her mouth.

In the last stanza Davies answers his own question. Life will indeed be poor if we don't take the time to stand still and look at the world about us.

Brenda Hadcroft



**A Christmas Card** sent from Rawalpindi by John Brooker's father to his mother during WWII, containing the touching poem below. Something to treasure for John, who is proof of his Father's safe return!

1915958  
S/SGT BROOKER, J.E.  
501 COMMAND WORKSHOPS  
I. E. M. E. (ARMAMENT WING).  
RAWALPINDI  
INDIA COMMAND

## BETTY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



What a joy it was for us all to be able to share Betty's 85th birthday on Sunday 29th October! It was made even more special when Revd. David gave her a beautiful birthday blessing during the morning service.

In the afternoon she had arranged a birthday party with a scrumptious tea and a gorgeous birthday cake at which we all sang Happy Birthday to our very special friend.

Well done, Betty, and many, many happy returns!

Brenda

NEVER DOUBT.  
Never doubt, my dearest love.....  
But keep your brightest hopes in view.  
Never doubt, that I am faithful,.....  
Thinking all the time of you.....  
Never doubt, that skies will clear,.....  
And life be happy once again.....  
Know that there must be an end.....  
To separation, strife and pain.....  
Never doubt my hearts devotion,..  
Steadfast through the changing  
years.....  
I am yours, for joy or sorrow,.....  
Sharing all your hopes and fears...  
Never doubt that I'll be waiting-....  
Waiting patiently for you.....  
Trust, believe, and never doubt.....  
The best of life is yet to be.....

## A VISIT TO THE FAROES AND A RESCUE FROM THE SEA

told by Mary Stott

These islands lie roughly half way between Scotland and Iceland in an area where warm and cold currents at sea mix and so they are frequently fog bound. They are all composed of basalt, which is the rock expelled from volcanoes and which cools to form hexagonal columns as seen at the Giant's causeway in Ulster and on a number of the Scottish islands such as Mull.

The islands are virtually without trees as there is very little depth of soil and the grass is kept short by the grazing of large numbers of sheep which in contrast to the short grass have an extremely long fleece. The sheep are unusual not only in this long staple but also in the black and white markings (some resembled a belted Galloway cow). The farmers slaughter their own sheep and preserve them by drying them in specially constructed wooden sheds. When Denmark joined the common market, the self-governing Faroese decided not to join as they said they couldn't cope with the bureaucracy of ear-tags and the visits of vets.

All the houses and churches are built of wood, as in Norway, but from where do they acquire it? The answer is from the sea. Over the centuries driftwood has been harvested from the sea and frequently is brought to shore by the currents from shipwrecks and the lost cargoes of ships in the stormy waters of the Atlantic. Recycling at its best.

We visited a very ancient farmhouse at Roykstoran, where 17 generations of the same family have lived, and the spacious interior was packed with items which had all arrived from other parts of the world, such as an enormous coconut from the Caribbean which I spotted on a high shelf.

At one side of the room was a very long table which was made from a large plank which had been found at sea by a fishing boat. This had been towed ashore one stormy, cold night and in the fading light an unconscious man was seen clinging to it. One of the men said to the others "take off your coat and clasp the man to your own body to warm him". Once they were at the farmhouse the man slowly revived. He was a very tall man and with his long arms he had been able to hold on to each side of the wide piece of wood. He spoke in a language which none could understand but with food and drink he recovered and he stayed at the house until someone was able to identify him as a German. He had been on a ship which was wrecked and, when he lost consciousness, there had been two others with him on the plank. Later he was able to return to his home.

Several years passed and one day the door opened and in he walked, before he greeted the family he went straight up to the long table, threw himself across it and embraced it and he sobbed. It had saved his life.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



### **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King:**

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church (followed by Christmas Fair Trade stall in hall)

### **Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Noon, Lunch Group in hall

### **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>:**

3.00pm, Advent Course, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, in choir vestry

### **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Advent Sunday:**

9.00am, Said Eucharist in church

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

5.00pm, Advent carol service in church, with St Andrew's, Milngavie

### **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:**

7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

### **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>:**

11.30am, Said Eucharist in church

Noon, Lunch Group in hall, plus chance to make Christmas table decorations

7.30pm, Vestry meeting

### **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>:**

3.00pm, Advent Course, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, in choir vestry

### **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Advent 2:**

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

### **Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>:**

7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

### **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:**

Noon, Lunch Group in hall – Christmas party

### **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>:**

3.00pm, Advent Course, 4<sup>th</sup> session, in choir vestry

### **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:**

11.00am, carol singing at Asda

### **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - Advent 3:**

9.00am, Said Eucharist in church

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

4.30pm, shared service of Christmas carols and readings, at New Kilpatrick

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:**

7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve:** see page 8 for more details of Christmas Services

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

4.00pm, Crib Service and carols in church

11.30pm, shared Watchnight Service, at New Kilpatrick

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

10.30am, All Age Eucharist in church – please bring presents along to show

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve:**

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>:**

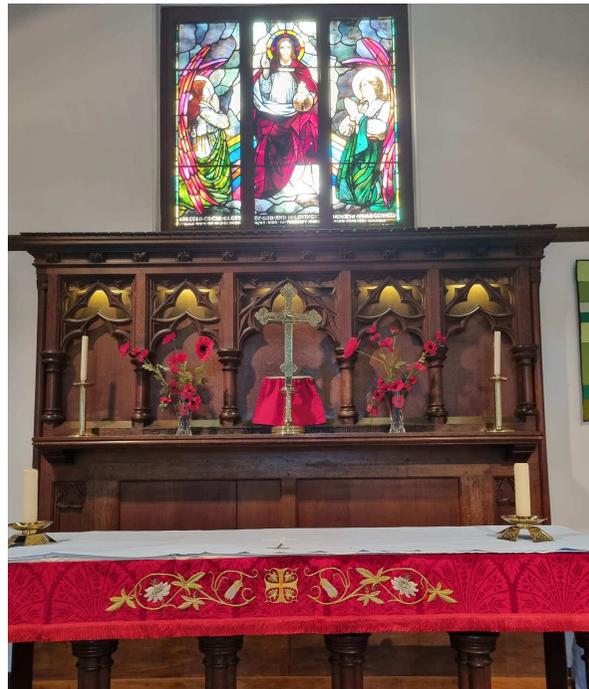
7.30pm, North West Regional Council annual meeting, in church

**Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>**

12 noon ABC Lunch Baljaffray Church Hall

January services as listed on the back cover.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



The church was beautifully decorated with poppies by Susan and Pauline .



## FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### Nativity Word Scramble

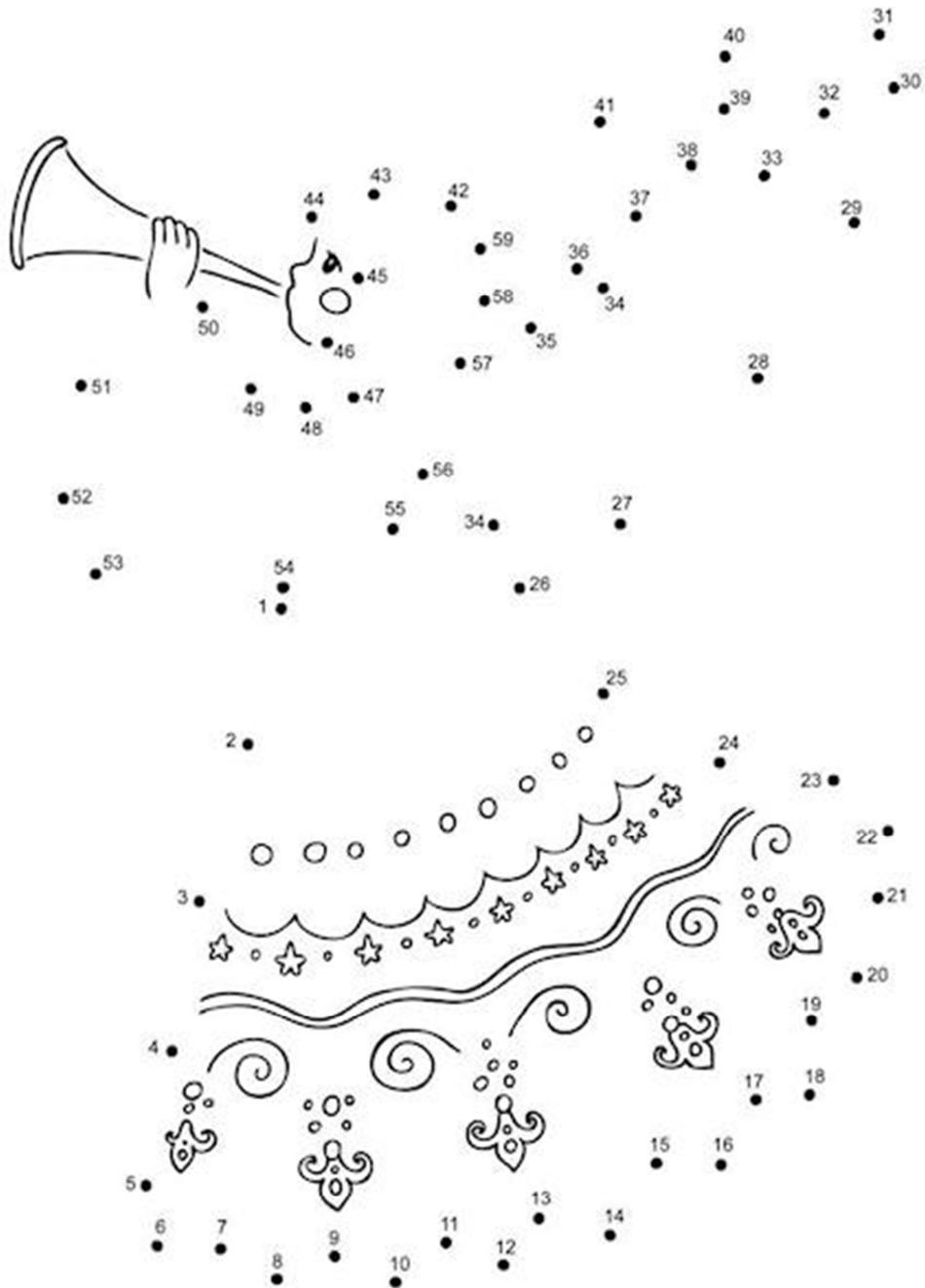
All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA      \_ \_ \_ \_
2. MAGREN    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. MYAR      \_ \_ \_ \_
4. SEPHE     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. DOEYKN    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. AEGLN     \_ \_ \_ \_
7. JPHOES    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. JSSEU     \_ \_ \_ \_
9. KIGSN     \_ \_ \_ \_
10. STBALE    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy

And you could colour the crib scene above and after joining the dots on the next page try colouring the decoration



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



**A CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGNED BY SUSAN GRAY**

Wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas  
and best wishes for the New Year



## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30 am  
Andrew Long will provide the log in details on request.  
Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	3 December Advent Sunday (Purple)	10 December Advent 2 (Purple)	17 December Advent 3 (Purple/Rose)	24 December Advent 4 /Christmas Eve (Purple)	25 December Christmas Day (White)	31 December Christmas 1 (White)
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
<b>9.00am Service</b>	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)			
<b>10.30am Service</b>	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
<b>Other services</b>	<b>5.00pm</b> Joint Advent Carol Service with St Andrew's, Milngavie		<b>4.30pm</b> Joint Service of Carols and Readings at New Kilpatrick	<b>4.00pm</b> Crib Service <b>11.30pm</b> Joint Watchnight Service at New Kilpatrick		
<b>Stewards</b>	Kate Ross	Pauline Waugh	Andrew Long	Janet Stack		Brenda Hadcroft
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Hanan	Jenny	Celia	Graham	Louise	Graham
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37	Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
<b>Reader</b>	David Simmons	Mary Stott	Andrew Long	David Hamblen	TBA	Bryan Stack
<b>Intercessor</b>	David Simmons	Louise Benson	Andrew Long	Celia Fisher	TBA	David Hamblen
<b>After-service Coffee</b>	<b>Janet</b> Gioia	<b>Pauline</b> Anne	<b>Gillian</b> Fiona	<b>Sheena</b> Kate		<b>Mairi</b> Elaine
<b>Other events</b>	A 9.00am Said Eucharist will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. There will be an 11.30am Said Eucharist on the 1st Wednesday of the month. All of these services use the 1970 liturgy. <b>Christmas Day will be an All-Age service. See p8</b>					

## SERVICES IN JANUARY

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30 am  
Andrew Long will provide the log in details on request.  
Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	7 January The Epiphany (White)	14 January Epiphany 2 (White)	21 January Epiphany 3 (White)	28 January Epiphany 4 (White)
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev David Guest	TBA	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
<b>9.00am Service</b>	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
<b>10.30am Service</b>	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
<b>Stewards</b>	Joyce James	David Hamblen	Tracey Conway	Celia Fisher
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Celia	Graham	Jenny	Hanan
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	1 Samuel 3:1-10; Revelation 5:1-10; John 1:43-51	Genesis 14:17-20; Revelation 19:6-10; John 2:1-11	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Revelation 12:1-5a; Mark 1:21-28
<b>Reader</b>	Sheena MacDonald	Gillian Kingslake	Gill Hamblen	Richard Kingslake
<b>Intercessor</b>	Sheena MacDonald	David Simmons	Louise Benson	Andrew Long
<b>After-service Coffee</b>	<b>Brenda</b> Jane	<b>John</b> Joyce	<b>Gioia</b> Janet	<b>Anne</b> Pauline
<b>Other events</b>	A 9.00am Said Eucharist will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. <b>There will be an 11.30am Said Eucharist in January on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (10th).</b> All of these services use the 1970 liturgy.			

The Editor for the February edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to [janet.stack@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.stack@btinternet.com) by **Sunday, 21st January 2024.**