

# *December-January 2026*

## *Magazine*



*All Saints Scottish  
Episcopal Church*

*Drymen Road, Bearsden*



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*Please do not contact the Rector in connection with hall bookings – the contact details for Celia, who deals with this, are above.*

Bells ringing at Christmas inside a Ukrainian Church- see Rector's letter
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Dear All,

## **RING IN THE NEW**

*Ring out the old, ring in the new...* Words we often hear at the end of a year and prepare to welcome in whatever the new year may bring.

They are words which, for Christians, can apply to most of this December/January season, which moves through the weeks of Advent, preparations for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ itself, the New Year, and recollection of the baby Jesus being revealed to the world at Epiphany.

For us in the Church, Advent is actually the start of the new liturgical year, marking a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. It reminds us of waiting: the readings and teachings during Advent prepare for the Second Coming while commemorating the First Coming of Christ.

The bells of Christmas Day ring in the birth of our Saviour, a day for rejoicing indeed. Longfellow's magnificent song reminds us:

*I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

However familiar we may be with the Christmas story, let us never forget the new era it heralded, the 'God With Us' changing the course of history.

And of course the New Year itself often makes us think of the future. I rather like a prayer sent to me from St Agnes' Cathedral in New York:

*O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this New Year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to you. Amen.*

"Ring out the old, ring in the new" is also, incidentally, the title of a hymn written by Tennyson, which is probably far too old-fashioned for us to sing these days! It

speaks of putting the past firmly behind us and reaching out to the future positively, ending with the words: ***Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.***

“Ring in the Christ that is yet to be.” Those words echo the spirit of hope, renewal, and the unfolding of divine presence in our world that is at the forefront of our minds in Advent, at Christmas, and at the arrival of a new year. They weave together the longing of Advent, the hope of Christ’s coming, the call to prepare our hearts and world for his arrival and celebrate the joy of Christ’s birth while calling us to live into the promise of his ongoing and future presence. Remember always that Christmas is not just a birth—it is a new beginning.

My prayer for us in this charge is that we will continue to grow, continue to share the love of Christ, continue to enjoy and embrace God’s presence, always be willing to ring in the new. I wish each and every one every blessing for Christmas, and good wishes for a happy and holy 2026.

Rev'd David

## **VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE**

Our livestreaming of services on Facebook continues to be popular, with a usual audience of 70-80 or more for our weekly videos.

Facebook has decided not to “store” the videos in future, so they will only be available on our page for a month. We have decided to try livestreaming on YouTube, where the videos can be saved, we hope can be watched in “landscape” format and can even be uploaded to our Facebook page after the service.

However we need at least 50 subscribers to our YouTube channel before we can do this. So we are asking if you and family/friends would be willing to visit our channel, subscribe and perhaps occasionally view or at least like the videos to allow us to proceed with this idea. The channel is

<http://www.youtube.com/@AllSaintsBearsden>

Rev David

## **Sunshine Bags continued...**

Since the article about Sunshine Bags in the last magazine, we have had an update. Another £220 was donated bringing the total to £510 - a very satisfactory amount. Be prepared for Sunshine Bags to happen again next year. It is a painless way of raising funds for the church.



Thank you all.

Ann Caie

# **EVENSONG AND MEMORIAL SERVICE**

## **on All Saints Day**

On 2nd November Graham and I, with two of our friends from New Kilpatrick were among the congregation at the Evensong and Memorial Service held at All Saints jointly with New Kilpatrick and St Andrew's. The service was conducted by Revd. Kevin Francis with our Rector Revd. David preaching.



The service was the traditional evensong which I was familiar with and really enjoyed the psalms. Susan Harrington was organist and the hymns too were beautiful.

Revd. David was joined by Revd. Roddy Hamilton from New Kilpatrick to read the names of loved ones to be remembered and others. It was quite up lifting to hear our daughter Amy's name, and past members of All Saints'.

We were then invited, those who wished, to light candles in their memory.

Although this was a sad occasion, I was really glad to have been there, and I found it very comforting and meaningful. It was special.

Elaine Perrett

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

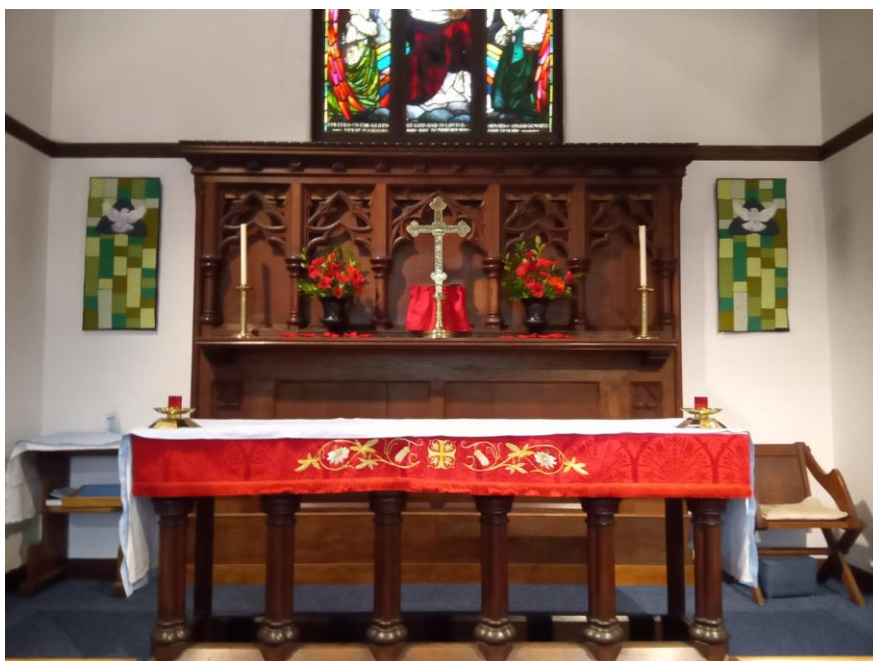
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
we will remember them.



At 10.45 at Bearsden Cross, the community gathered for the annual service of Remembrance, this year led by the Rev. Roddy Hamilton of New Kilpatrick Church.



It is always a very moving service with representatives from East Dunbartonshire civic life, school children representing the local schools and Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs along with the Boys Brigade band leading the way. Two buglers sound the start and end of the two-minute silence and we at All Saints are always proud to see Fergus Hempel performing in that role which he has done for many years now, since as a very young schoolboy and Sunday School member. Roddy spoke very movingly about conflict and the power of love.



After the Cross service we returned to All Saints where Pauline Burns and Janet Shields had decorated the church most beautifully with poppies and remembrance of war. The Rector's sermon told of the importance of remembering, 'Lest we forget'.



## WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

As Christmas gets nearer, the Wednesday Lunch Group comes to the last meeting of the year on 10 December. As always, as far back as we can remember (and that's a long way!), our Wednesday lunches have been well attended even in the coldest weather and against all the odds, and 2025 has been no different. We are always delighted to see our much loved friends, and this year it has been very special to welcome new ones who have recently joined our Church.

As well as our weekly lunch, there has been a number of very enjoyable events:

- Several talks: The island of Sicily, Language and Words, The Tear Fund, The Glasgow Children's Holiday Appeal
- Flowers for Mothering Sunday
- Christmas sales tables in support of the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme
- Donations of bakery from Cafe Creme
- Making Christmas decorations
- Pre-Christmas table top sale

The best event of the year is always the Christmas Party which will be on **10 December** at 12 noon. Everyone, as always, is invited. One of the highlights of the party is the competition for the best Christmas outfit, and the competition is very fierce. So don't forget to look out your finest!

The first lunch of the New Year will be on **Wednesday, 14 January 2026.**

My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped with the WLG during the last year.

Brenda M Long



Edward presented a special birthday cake to Betty at the Wednesday Lunch on October 29th.

## A GAMES NIGHT PARTY

Hallowe'en over, and time for an evening out. Celia and Louise and their band of helpers organised a games night for early Saturday evening on November 1st. With bingo, a beetle drive and pizza promised, a good number of us settled down for the bingo calling. The games were won with cries of 'Bingo' and enthusiastic waving of light sabres !

A break for pizza and salad, and 'do it yourself' ice cream sundaes was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the evening was completed by a beetle drive. ' Why can I never throw a 6?!'



It was lovely to see the hall busy with not only members of the congregation, but a young family from St Andrews, and also some members of Celia's family. The youngest was aged 1, the oldest ????. A fun night with good fellowship, so many thanks to Celia, Louise, Janet Shields, Pauline for organising it - and us !

Kate Ross

## **VESTRY NOTES 17 NOVEMBER, 2025**

- **Church Keys-** since the break-in there have been problems with the number of keys available for the Church and the halls. This has happened because the insurance company has rules about the number of keys we are allowed to have in the Church. It is expected that this will be resolved very soon.
- **Boilers:** the boilers for the Church and the halls have been serviced by Jonathan Sedgwick. The boiler for the Rectory has also been serviced.
- **Bell-Cote Repair:** because of the extra use of the Church during the Christmas period, the repair work has been put back until the New Year.
- **The Scottish Government** has made new laws about burials. The diocese hopes to produce guidance for churches in the near future.
- **The appointment of the new Organist:** the interview panel comprised Revd. David (Chair), Gill Hamblen, Fiona Hempel and Susan Harrington. Two candidates were interviewed and the successful candidate was Elena Smirnova. She will come on three Sundays as cover organist. Her appointment will be announced on Advent Sunday, and she will begin formally on 7 December.
- **Wednesday Lunch Group:** the Lunch Group has so far been very successful and the changes to the original programme seem not to be causing any problems. The Christmas Party will be on 10 December. All welcome.
- **Douglas Wilson** of the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme will be coming to the WLG Christmas party on 10 December. As always he has expressed his gratitude to the members of the Church who contribute so generously to the Christmas gifts for the children. Two years ago we collected bedding for the families the GCHS supports and they were very grateful. The Vestry agreed that we would do the same this year.

BML



# A REMINDER OF SOME EVENTS TO COME

## Association of Bearsden Churches (ABC)

The 2025 ABC **Carol Singing** will be held in **Asda** on **Saturday 13th December** from 11am to 1pm. There doesn't appear to be any limit on the number of singers this year so do please tell Celia or Penny if you are free to sing with us.

The 2026 **Unity Lunch** will be held in **New Kilpatrick Church Halls** on **Saturday 7th February** at **12 noon**. The caterers will be Café Crème. The speaker is still to be confirmed. See Celia or Penny for more information nearer the time.

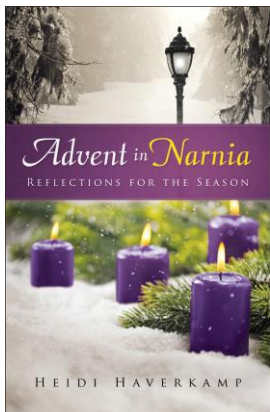
## Candlelight Soirée

Sarah Green, daughter of Susan and John Harrington, has very kindly offered to provide a lovely concert for us on **Thursday 18th December**, **5-7/7.30pm**, in the Drymen Hall.

Sarah's Trio will comprise a soprano, piano and cello. Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided, and the cost of a ticket will be £10.

Please put this date in your diary and join us, with family and friends, for a concert by candlelight and an evening full of Festive cheer.

The Social Group



## Advent Study

**Tuesday afternoons December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 2.00pm in the small hall.**

We are going to use an excellent course by Heidi Haverkamp entitled **Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season**. Not only does the book explore The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, by C.S.Lewis, but also prompts meditation on Advent themes such as grace, love and sacrifice, light and darkness, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope. The book is widely available, and you are likely to find it on Amazon Marketplace.

## Christmas Fair Trade Sale

**December 7th** is the date of our Christmas sale this year - some cards, wrapping paper, gifts and hopefully other sundries. It's all a bit potluck what arrives! We're hoping to pass on any profit this time to the Children's Holiday Scheme, so many thanks as ever for your support.

Pauline Waugh



## Wednesday Lunch Group Christmas Party

**10th December noon**. All very welcome. See p. 5 For details

# CHRISTMAS WORDS

## from your Lay Representative

As Christmas approaches once again, there is not much to report on the Lay Rep front. We have the AGM of the North-West Regional Council (NWRC) at St. Augustine's, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, to look forward to, and that is about it!

However, there is lots going on in other spheres! First, the Christmas concert of the Cathures chamber choir will be on **Saturday, 6th December at 4pm at Kelvinside, Hillhead, Church** in the West End. Highlights of the programme will be the world premiere of a beautiful winter choral sequence by local composer and harpist Ailie Robertson (<https://www.ailierobertson.com/about>) together with an interesting 4-part arrangement (with harp accompaniment) of Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and a fiendish version of "Jingle Bells," alongside some other Christmas favourites. If you can't make this concert, then we are also performing in Eaglesham on the evening of Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, and in Dunlop Parish Church on the afternoon of Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, although the repertoire will be slightly different at each of these concerts. Members of Cathures will also be augmenting our choir for the **Advent Carol Service on 30th November** at All Saints.

Second, as is usual this time of year, Ed, myself and, for the first time, Lou, will be taking part in the Santa Dash on Sunday, 7th December (the day after the concert!). Again, this will be for the local group **The Sporting Aces** and you can donate online here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/the-aces-santa-dash-2025>. Alternatively, the Simmons-Melias will happily take your cash donations if that's easier!

David Simmons

The choir is delighted to welcome Elena Smirnova as organist and choir mistress from December 7th. Elena has a wealth of experience as an accompanist and they look forward to working together.

Our Choir members are busy at this time of year, in church and with other choirs. David sings with **Cathures** choir, mentioned above.

Gill and Susan sing with the **Bearsden Choir**. Their concert, at **7.30pm** in the City Hall, includes Carmina Burana, but unfortunately clashes with the Advent Carol Service at All Saints on **30th November, 5pm**.

Ann, Moira and Bryan sing with the **Kelvin Choir**, whose Christmas Concert will be held in New Kilpatrick Church at **3pm Sunday 7th December**.

For more information and tickets for these concerts, please see choir members.

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## Faifley Christmas Present Collection

**Presents for Babies,  
Children, Teens and  
Elderly**

**Final Hand-In Date:  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**



See Ellen for more details of the Faifley project

## **THE DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

### **Livingstonia, Malawi**

### **Some background and news of the hospital**

The **David Gordon Memorial Hospital** is a Church-run hospital (Church of Central African Presbyterian), which serves an extremely poor rural population of 60,000 people through the hospital in Livingstonia and 4 health Centres along Lake Malawi. It provides both curative and preventative health services to people living in an area of over 500 square miles and aims to improve the health of the population through both healthcare provision and improvements to the local environment, by providing essentials such as clean water and food security.

The Livingstonia Hospital Partnership is a group of people trying to provide financial, practical and prayerful support for the David Gordon Memorial Hospital. The sad news is that the retiring chair of the partnership, Alan Laverock, who was hosting Willan Kalinda on his visit to All Saints in October, died on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Willan was due to speak at the LHP AGM on behalf of the Hospital Board in Northern Ireland on 28th November but is now unable to do so.

The hospital is in the small mission town of Livingstonia in northern Malawi, set on a high plateau overlooking Lake Malawi. Providing health care in the

community is difficult due to the remote location, limited communication services and poor road access.

The Hospital was initially built by a donation of funds in memory of David Gordon, by his two Scottish sisters and was part of the Mission started by the Church of Scotland. It was completed in 1910. The hospital was handed over to the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in the 1980's.

The small central African country of Malawi is known for its friendly people, stunning beauty, and tremendous poverty. Average per capita income is below £150 per year, and it consistently ranks among the world's ten poorest countries. Particularly in rural areas, basic services such as schools, electricity, clean water, and passable roads are unavailable to many families.



Shortage of farmland and lack of money to purchase food lead to chronic malnutrition, and like many other sub-Saharan African countries, Malawi is also facing an HIV/AIDS crisis, compounded by high prevalence of other deadly diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Average life expectancy is only 37 years, among the lowest in the world.

As in the rest of Malawi, malaria remains the highest killer of both children and adults in the hospital catchment area. Maternal mortality is very high, with one mother in every 120 dying during childbirth. Though lower than the national average of 15%, the HIV prevalence rate of 11% is still extremely high.

Opportunities for formal employment are extremely limited, with most families relying on small-scale agricultural production to meet their food needs. Most people have no regular monetary income and exist on less than 16 pence per day. The hospital provides essential services to them.

Although the hospital is owned and run by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Church members are unable to provide the funds necessary to run the hospital and the local community cannot pay the real costs of their care.



The **Livingstonia Hospital Partnership** aims to benefit the local poor community by helping the hospital to continue to function and provide good care by supporting them financially, with equipment and training.

The hospital has 136 beds but often caters for more patients who lie on the floor and their relatives, who come to give them basic care, often also must sleep on the floor or on the veranda. There are 4 main wards, male and female wards, maternity and the Caroline Long Children's ward. There are two theatres and a laboratory.

All Saints have supported the hospital through our Mission Giving since Caroline worked there as a medical student.

Below is an extract from 2025 LHP Partnership Newsletter, written by Alan Laverock in October, a month before his death. Alan headed the Banana Box project in Scotland. He will be a sad loss to LHP.

LHP has come under pressure from funders. UK aid and US aid have cut the amounts which they award as grants and people in the UK feel that they are under pressure from increasing costs. As a result, LHP's traditional sources of funding have come under pressure. We have had to cut the quarterly amount which we send to DGMH. This is with great reluctance, but it is a prudent decision, designed to avoid running out of money altogether.

Another pressure on the hospital is staff housing. In some cases, two and even three families live in the same house. In association with **Bananabox**, a chicken project has started. Eggs are being produced and sold on the plateau. Once that market has been satisfied, then sales off the plateau will start. The hospital share of the profits is committed to building staff houses. This will lead to better staff retention – sadly, it is the more qualified staff who tend to leave.

*See also P8 of November magazine. The full Newsletter is available on the Drymen Hall Notice board. News from the AGM on November 28th will be in the February magazine.*

The collection at All Saints for Banana Box in October raised £159.

# RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

**23/11/25 – Christ the King – sermon at Communion (annual meeting)**

***Readings: Jeremiah 23.1–6, Colossians 1.11–20, Luke 23.33-43***

*May I speak in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen*

Today marks the end of another year's cycle in the Church year – begun last year on Advent Sunday and now finishing on this Feast of Christ the King. The Scottish Episcopal Church doesn't seem to like it but in England we also called today Stir Up Sunday, reflecting the collect for the day and the traditional time for starting to make Christmas puddings.

We're in what I like to call the distinct season of Pre-Advent. You won't find this pre-Advent season on the liturgical calendar other than we occasionally call these weeks Sundays of the Kingdom or an extended season of remembrance. But something's changed from the previous weeks of Sundays in Pentecost. Gone are the nice stories about Jesus healing the blind man or the moral teachings about the wise use of our resources. The feeding of the 5,000 is a distant memory. The tone has changed. We're even thrown back today to the terrible story of the Crucifixion, which somehow seems out of place yet must speak volumes even now.

We tend to hear difficult messages around now about the end times, about the Second Coming of Christ, about the last judgement, and of course about Christ as universal King. And I realise how important all those readings of the past few weeks are at this period in our Church year. Today comes to us saying, "Advent is all about being prepared, looking to the future, having hope – but if you get too busy for all that in the run-up to Christmas, think about it *now* as it's just so important!"

It is a welcome jolt to us on a day on which we are holding our annual church meeting. As I have noted in previous years in England annual meetings are usually just after Easter so we can focus on fresh hope, and the Resurrection gifts of Jesus. Here in Scotland we are encouraged to have annual meetings on this final Sunday of the church year on a day when our hearts and minds are called upwards, to think about Christ the King just a week before we go back to the preparation for the second coming with its themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

And if we dare to be challenged by the idea of Stir Up Sunday then we can consider today a call to be stirred up in our church and personal lives. Yes, we must be ready. We mustn't leave it too late to prepare ourselves. This isn't just

an Advent theme, it's the pre-Advent theme – in fact it's what we should always be thinking about, not just shoving to a few weeks in the year.

The message for us in this brief season of pre-Advent is that we live in an in-between time. Christ has come into the world, but Christ has yet to return. The full glory of Christ has not yet fully been revealed. But if we open our eyes we see glimpses of this fullness in our own lives. When we gather as a community around this altar, we catch a glimpse of God's kingdom. When we feed the hungry or clothe the naked we catch a glimpse of God's kingdom.

When we see the love of God through one another, we catch a glimpse of God's kingdom. But it's all just a glimpse, not the totality of the Kingdom. That's what we all look forward to. That's what we all anticipate with great hope and joy.

It's a perfect time to hold an annual meeting. We can look around us and give thanks for God being at work in our church and wider community. It's a time of thanksgiving for the congregation's faithfulness and God's sustaining grace over the past year. And it's a time to acknowledge all the challenges and victories, recognising as always that God has been present in every season. We give thanks for every person who has contributed in any way to the life of our church – to our Vestry, to all of our congregation, to our choir and organist – Esther for most of the year but we are soon to enter another era when our new organist and choir director begins next month, to Janet for keeping our magazine relevant and interesting, to those who have helped take services, and especially Revd Kevin Francis, for whom we continue to be grateful for all of his practical and prayerful help and support and cover of services.

An annual report is just a black and white consideration of how things have been but all the words and figures don't properly reflect all the hard work done by so many in so many ways – from cleaning brasses, the church and halls to committee work and many meetings, from assisting with services at the front to helping behind the scenes in so many ways, from setting things up to clearing away, from arranging the flowers to maintaining the garden. There's a real danger in leaving people out if you try to name names, so I'd like to cover it all by thanking everyone for helping us to continue our church journey in faith, hope and commitment in this past year.

We have lost some dear friends in this past year and we have welcomed new faces. We have continued in many aspects and grown in some too. We have changed in some of the things we have done, built on successes and reached out to new possibilities. We have every reason to be encouraged today and to be optimistic as we look ahead.

But as we step into another year we need to be realistic about our hopes and expectations. Hopes of reaching out to others or to young people or to increase numbers are not things that can be done by the clergy alone – in fact in many cases they can't be done by the clergy at all. The congregation needs to be aware of its role in welcoming, supporting, praying and encouraging. It is quite shocking that we find it so difficult to find people to take on even small roles and not least serving on our Vestry. There is no lower or upper age limit on offering talents, gifts and abilities to the church. You are all a part of God's ongoing story in this place – clergy come and go but the constant is the congregation who care about this church and its work – at least I hope you do!

We need to care about and be aware of everyone else. We are more than a 10.30 Sunday morning congregation – there are other services and activities during the week and we must not selfishly think the only things that matter are the ones we attend. It's always a privilege to be able to see people who want prayer, or a short memorial service, or want to discuss faith, or talk about baptism or marriage and so much more and they will not feel that welcome and support if the church or hall is cold because someone has fiddled with the heating, or if moments of peace and prayer are disturbed, or if they come in and find a mess. It's all about looking out for others – in the way Christ did in his ministry and even on the Cross.

In Philippians 1.3-6 Paul writes:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

This meeting is a time to look back with gratitude and look forward with hope. The Apostle Paul's words to the Philippians remind us of two truths: God is faithful, and his people are called to be faithful. As we review the past year, we see God's hand at work—in answered prayers, in lives transformed, in ministries that have touched hearts.

And as we look ahead, we do so with confidence, because the same God who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. That's what happens when we pray, **"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as in heaven."** It's not just nice words to invite you to think of the moments this year when God provided—when he opened doors, healed wounds, and gave strength in weakness. Every testimony is a reminder that we serve a living God who is active in our midst. As we plan for the year ahead, let us commit to serving side by side, encouraging one another, and bearing each other's burdens. Our strength is in



our unity. Our strength comes from Christ who is crucified and risen and ascended and who pours out his Spirit to enable his work to be done here.

The danger of an annual meeting is that it can look as though the church is all about reports and programmes and budgets whereas it is actually about faith and vision. It is about seeing with spiritual eyes what God wants to do in and through us.

Our summary of this meeting might be ***For all that has been – thanks. For all that will be – Yes!*** Let All Saints be a church that is truly stirred up week by week, stirred to do God's work, stirred to love and serve and respect each other, stirred to go out from this building and continue to build up and love and support and encourage.

To each and every one of you I say an enormous thank you. And as we stride onwards let us be confident in all we can continue to do in the name of Christ our Lord and King. Don't be a pudding - instead, let the promise of his glory, the person of Christ, the vision of the gospel, and the Spirit of the Lord change your life, stirring up your wills, your minds, and your hearts.

So I urge you to pause on the cusp of this great season of expectation. Listen, watch, and pray. For the kingdom of God is at hand.

*Let us pray: Lord, give us wisdom and understanding as we see you at work and grant us joy, love, and thankfulness as we remember the past, follow you in the present, and anticipate our future with you. Amen.*

David

And very many thanks to David for all his hard work this year.  
So many lovely services, excellent sermons and much more...



## BISHOP GREGOR

I write with the sad news that Bishop Gregor died peacefully in his sleep last night at the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice in Bellahouston. He died in the company of his sister, Morag, and his great friend, Liz Booth, who - along with Verity Brown - have been so attentive to his needs in the latter stages of his illness. Details of his funeral will be available soon,

Let us pray for our brother Gregor, and for all who mourn his death.

*Almighty God,  
we give you thanks for the life and ministry of Bishop Gregor,  
for his service in this diocese,  
and for all in whom he awakened faith, hope and love.  
Receive him into your everlasting arms,  
comfort all who grieve  
and grant us grace to follow in the way of Christ,  
in whose name we pray.*

*Amen.*

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

+Nick

## A Christmas Star

embroidered by Susan Gray



# STAMPS

## BONE CANCER RESEARCH TRUST

I am still collecting used stamps, sending them to BCR TRUST where they are sold by an agency for funding for research into the above.

It is this time of the year where we may be getting a little more postal mail.

So just a reminder that if you can save them for me that would be appreciated.

Stamps can be left at back of church for me to collect or just give them to me.

Many thanks in advance.

Elaine Perrett

## BOOK CHOICE

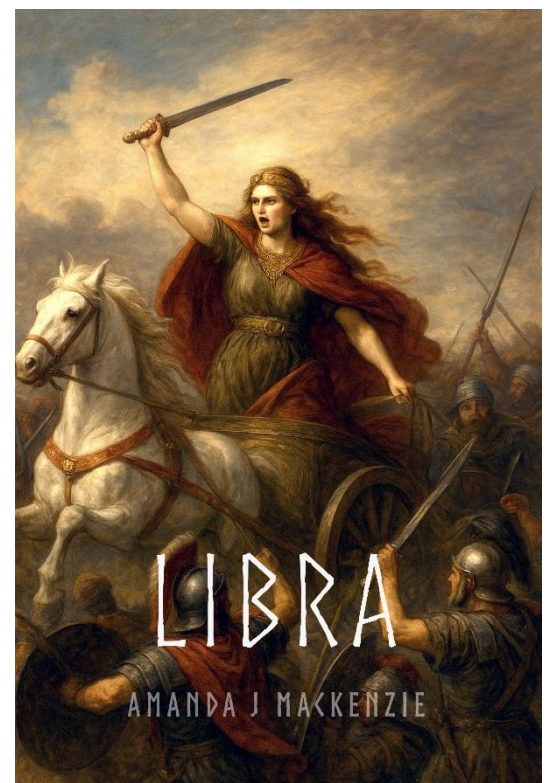
Amanda Mackenzie, another of our multi-talented choir members, is also an author.

Her latest book is **Libra** which is the sixth book in her Zodiac series, following on from Scorpio. Gemini, Taurus, Aries, and Virgo. It is available from Amazon and all good book shops.

ISBN NUMBER :- 978-1-9997160, *or a signed copy from the author.*

‘Loyalty, vengeance and courage collide on the blood-soaked soil of ancient Britannia. Boudicca’s desperate and heroic struggles to prevent her violent forced marriage shock Prince Prasutagus of the Iceni tribe.

At the same time in Gaul, a tiny Roman child is torn from his family. As his life hangs in the balance his fate rests on a chance meeting with the Roman Army, whose eyes are set on conquering Britannia. Vicious invaders come to rule the land but as Rome’s iron fist tightens around the Iceni, will Boudicca be forced into rebellion? *Two lives at the mercy of the might of Rome. Will they survive or will they be crushed as so many before them?’*





# COMMUNITY NATIVITY MONDAY 15 DECEMBER



We're joining with New Kilpatrick Parish church to present a Community Nativity this Christmas.

On **Monday December 15th** from **6pm** visitors will be invited to experience the Christmas story in a fresh way as they join a seasonal trail in the grounds of New Kilpatrick Church.

*We need people to help with readings, singing or just showing folk the way. Or just come along on the night and enjoy it - with a chance for warming refreshments at the end. If you fancy helping please contact Revd David.*

The event promises to be fun and festive as people hear the story of the first Christmas once again in the outdoors.

Rev David

The picture above is of a 'non-traditional Nativity' scene embroidered by Susan Gray



Wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas  
and  
a good New Year



Painted by Christine Keen. "A very cold robin one snowy day in our garden"



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



**Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>:** Noon, Wednesday Lunch Group in hall

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> - Advent Sunday:**

10.30am, Sung Eucharist in church

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

**Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 2.00pm, Advent Course, 1<sup>st</sup> session, in hall

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>:** 2.00pm, Advent Course, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, in hall



**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Noon, Lunch Group Christmas Party in hall

7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

**Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>:** 1.45p.m., Maxholme nursery school Nativity in church

**Saturday 13th December:**

Carol Singing at Asda in aid of local charities. Our singing slot is 11.00- 12.00, and we need three or four singers. Please contact Celia/Penny if you can come.

**Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December:**

6.30pm (tbc), Community Outdoor Nativity

**Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:** 2.00pm, Advent Course, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, in hall

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** 7.00pm, Advent Compline in church

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - Advent 4:**

4.30pm(tbc), Christmas Carol Service, shared with New Kilpatrick at New Kilpatrick church

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

4.00pm, Crib Service in church

11.30pm, shared Watchnight Service, New Kilpatrick church

**Christmas Day, Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

10.30am, All Age Sung Communion in church

*Other services as normal*



# SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Services will be held both in Church and on Facebook at 10.30 am  
It is also possible to watch services on our Facebook page  
and You Tube channel afterwards.

<b>Date Sunday</b>	<b>7 December Advent 2 (Purple)</b>	<b>14 December Advent 3 (Purple/Rose)</b>	<b>21 December Advent 4 (Purple)</b>	<b>24 December Christmas Eve (Purple)</b>	<b>25 December Christmas Day (White)</b>	<b>28 December Christmas 1 (White)</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	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	Said Eucharist	All Age Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
<b>Other services</b>			<b>4.30pm</b> Joint Service of Carols and Readings at <b>New Kilpatrick</b>	<b>4.00pm</b> Crib Service  <b>11.30pm</b> Joint Watchnight Service at <b>New Kilpatrick</b>		
<b>Stewards</b>	Celia	Kate	Pauline	Janet	John	Janet
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Jenny	Jenny	Louise		Celia	Graham
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25	<b>10.30am:</b> Acts 13:16-26; Luke 1:67-79	Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; John 1:1-14	Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
<b>Reader</b>	Graham Caie	David Simmons	Mary Stott		David Hamblen	Bryan Stack
<b>Intercessor</b>	Louise Benson	Mary Stott	Celia Fisher		David Hamblen	Sheena MacDonald
<b>After- service Coffee</b>	<b>Gillian</b> Fiona	<b>Kate</b> Susan	<b>Mairi</b> Elaine			<b>Daphne</b> Jane
<b>Other events</b>	A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy. There is a 10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings, preceded by a prayer group at 10.00am. This includes Christmas Eve for any who wish to come. No service on December 31 <sup>st</sup> .					

# SERVICES IN JANUARY

Services will be held both in Church and on Facebook at 10.30 am  
It is also possible to watch services on our Facebook page  
and You Tube channel afterwards.

<b>Date Sunday</b>	<b>4 January The Epiphany (White)</b>	<b>11 January Baptism of Christ (White)</b>	<b>18 January Epiphany 2 (White)</b>	<b>25 January Epiphany 3 (White)</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	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
<b>Stewards</b>	Brenda	John	Dolina	David
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Celia	Jenny	Graham	Louise
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
<b>Reader</b>	Gillian Kingslake	Gill Hamblen	Richard Kingslake	Janet Stack
<b>Intercessor</b>	David Simmons	Louise Benson	Mary Stott	Celia Fisher
<b>After-service Coffee</b>	<b>Brenda</b> Dolina	<b>John</b> Joyce	<b>Gioia</b> Janet	<b>Anne</b> Pauline
<b>Other events</b>	A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy. There is a 10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings, preceded by a prayer group at 10.00am.			

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, 18 January 2026**.

The Rector's usual days off each week are **Thursdays and Fridays**. One of these may occasionally change depending on other work demands.