

# Christ's Kirk Chronicle

## Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

## December 2021



### Prayer Call from Rev McNaught

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
until the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.  
Then in your mercy,  
grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest,  
and peace at last.  
Amen.

It was composed by Cardinal John Henry Newman. (1801 - 1890)

He was an Anglican priest who converted to Roman Catholicism, and composed beautiful prayers.

Gracious God,  
We thank You for the gift of Your beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ;  
in whom we live and move and have our being.  
For the gift of life, of family, of friends,  
for our church community,  
and the many ways we connect  
with one another,  
we give You thanks.

Thank You

### Flowers

We are now into Autumn and what a joy it has been coming to church on a Sunday morning and seeing all the wonderful colours in the garden. The trees are now beginning to shed their leaves and we are left with bare branches. Take a moment to study all the wonderful shapes the branches have formed; they are truly a work of art. It's a nice feeling to look around and admire what God has created.

I would like to give a special thanks to Jenny who purchases the flowers for me to arrange in church on a Sunday morning. The variety of blooms and colours are magnificent.

I appreciate the help from the Pastoral Care Group on delivering the flowers after the service. I have had reports back saying how much people are happy for the cards enclosed with the flowers and it was so nice to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Should anyone know of anybody who needs flowers sent to them, please give me their name and address and I will add them to my list.

The new flower list for next year will be available soon for those who would like a special date to contribute flowers in church. I am looking forward to Christmas when the scene will change with all the Christmas decorations.

God's blessing be with you all.

*Anne Crombie* (Flower Convenor)

## Update from Rev Mateos

Dear Friends

As we approach Christmas 2021 what will it be like? Last year we were preparing to lock down again on Boxing Day. This year we are looking forward with more optimism. Yes, the pandemic is still with us, and yes, we still have some restrictions. But we are moving forward, we are being offered our booster vaccination against COVID 19, we are worshipping in church and hopefully will be meeting for tea and coffee.

Christmas is a time for giving so is there a special gift you would like to receive? There is something exciting when given a brightly wrapped gift. What will it be? Sometimes the gift is not what you want but is what you need. I remember as a child being disappointed when a Christmas present turned out to be clothes because that was not what I wanted but as my parents knew what I needed, they would tell relatives to give certain things as gifts. The gift was what I needed.

God knows what we need. It may not be what we want but it is what we need. The Church of Scotland and many other denominations are struggling through change and finding ways to be meaningful and missional in an ever-changing world. Let us pray for those having to make difficult decisions and that God will give them wisdom. The gift the people of Bethlehem were given that first Christmas was not what they expected but it was what they needed. It is what the world needs. The gift of Jesus. The hope he gives us and if there is one thing, we need this year is hope. We need to put our trust and faith in Jesus to see us through the difficult and uncertain times.

Remembering that God knows what we need. Let us open the channels and listen to what he is saying to us through our prayers and our time spent together as a congregation.

May we go forward this Christmas in the faith that God knows what we need.

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

God Bless

Margaret

Interim Moderator



## Guild

We held our first meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> in church. It was lovely to meet everyone face to face instead of small pictures on a computer screen.



We have had wonderful speakers of many different topics such as the one about the making of the Great Scottish Tapestry. Sadly some more about the horrific things that are happening in this world, but as one speaker said - there is always Hope.

We had our Guild outing (October 27<sup>th</sup>) to Calder's Garden Centre in Cupar. Calder's is not just a garden centre but a super restaurant and shop. We all enjoyed a very tasty meal. The food was good, the service was good and most of all the company was good. We finished the afternoon with a browse round the shop.

The Guild meeting on November 23rd was a meeting open to all about eating disorders and we welcomed non-Guild members to it. The last meeting of the year on December 7<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas celebration with music from an ukelele group.

The Guild re-convenes on January 25<sup>th</sup> with a Burns celebration.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022.

*Madeline Berry*

*See last page for future Guild meetings.*

## Finance

Well it is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of yet another year which has seen our normal lives impacted by covid. We are gradually starting to see a return to some sort of normality with more people attending worship in-person and “singing”.

The work of the church has continued and I have produced a 3-year comparison of our income and expenditure over the first 10 months of each year. On first sight it gives the impression that we have built up our income to pre-pandemic levels but the 2021 figures for both income and expenditure include the insurance monies for the hall which were £10,000. If we deduct this from the 2021 figures it shows that our income is in fact on par with last year at this time but that our expenses have gone up by £5,000.

The increase in expenditure is mainly down to the extra Ministries and Mission contributions that we are making towards the error in our previous years calculations.

Our bank balances at end of October were General Account £25,674.01, Cafe Account £8000 and Fabric/future fund £1493.51.

Income and Expenditure for first 10 months of the year comparison:

	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Income	£43,374.19	£33,761.32	£42,651.44
Expenditure	£45,046.04	£30,696.18	£30,437.14

The good news is that the hall and kitchen now have a new floor which means that the user groups are able to return, and it is hoped to resume Sunday coffee and Time for a Cuppa as soon as we can. This will be fantastic as I think we have all missed having the opportunity to have a wee blether after the service and in-person on a Monday at Time for a Cuppa. Although these are seen as social gatherings they are also a valuable revenue stream which we have missed.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September we held our Harvest Thanksgiving service combined with a National Giving Day and I am pleased to advise that we raised the sum of £1627.

These monies are retained by ourselves for use within our congregation.

If anyone currently contributes by FWO envelopes but are unable to attend church please continue to fill your envelopes and we can either arrange to collect them from you or you can hand them into the church. Alternatively I can send out standing order mandates to anyone wishing to pay by this method.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy 2022

*Rose*

### **CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ**

*Answers on last page.*

- 1 - In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
- 2 - Which ocean can Christmas Island be found in?
- 3 - Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the God of Love?
- 4 - Which plant, beginning with P is associated with Christmas?
- 5 - What is the name of the shortest day of the year?
- 6 - Which famous scientist was born on Christmas day in 1642?
- 7 - In which country did Eggnog originate?
- 8 - In Japan, which takeaway food is traditionally eaten at Christmas?
- 9 - There are more than 110 different varieties of which popular vegetable?
- 10 - What is 'The Bûche De Noël' better known as?
- 11 - Which relatively new Christmas tradition was created by stay-at-home mum Carol Albersold?
- 12 - In what year was The Queens Speech first televised?
- 13 - What type of food did Christmas crackers originally contain?
- 14 - Which band sings the iconic Christmas song 'Mary's Boy Child'?
- 15 - According to the song, what did My True Love give to me on the ninth day of Christmas?

## A message from our Locum

Dear Friends,

November is an historically eventful month. 1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints Day, a 4<sup>th</sup> century celebration that's hardly recognised these days. Moving on to 5<sup>th</sup> November and the notorious 'Gunpowder Plot'. Its aim - to destroy the houses of parliament. This year's 'Guy Fawkes' celebrations were somewhat muted because of covid. Or perhaps some people were regretting that the plot failed. Moving on to a more serious form of remembrance, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. It's a call to remember all known and unknown to us who lost their lives in, or had their lives radically changed by, conflicts – people both in and out of uniform. We give thanks for those who gave their lives. We pray for courage and comfort for the surviving wounded.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> we celebrate St. Andrew's Day or **do we?**

In Angus it **is or was** a school holiday. It's viewed as a Nationalistic celebration rather than a religious one. And some would argue that St. Columba would be a better choice. When we lived in the middle-east we had some wonderful St. Andrew's Day dinner dances!

USA's Thanksgiving Day happens almost un-noticed in the UK. It's a recognition of God's many blessings. After suffering and deprivation the Pilgrim Fathers established a colony in Massachusetts and in 1621 a bountiful corn harvest led to the creation of new kind of bread - cornbread. President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November a day of thanksgiving. *'We Americans gather together and say grace, thanking God for his bounty and for the promise of continued blessings'*.

Now in Advent, a time for reflection, waiting and preparation for Christmas. We look forward to a season of loving encounters and joyful sharing. The giving and receiving of gifts in celebration of our Lord's birth.

God bless you,

*Willie McCulloch*

## Pastoral Care

As the pandemic spread over our nation and beyond, we all had to learn how to adapt and face the constraints and challenges it brought. Life changed for all of us and we had to live with new restrictions to our daily lives.

The Pastoral Care Group had to reach out to people by telephone or by sending cards, no longer able to indulge in the personal visit to hospital or home.

During this time our Interim Minister, Rev Andrew Gardner kept in touch with Kirk members. A much appreciated commitment! When he left he asked Rev Sam McNaught and the Pastoral Care Group to continue this contact during the vacancy. Sam and three members of our group enthusiastically rose to the challenge.

When our Locum Minister, Rev Willie McCullough was appointed, he gladly took over the list extending it to a review of the roll of the Kirk and started his now legendary visiting, so much appreciated. The Pastoral Care team is delighted to have his support.

A new Pastoral Care booklet will be brought out as soon as restrictions on such work are lifted. Sadly, the names of two totally faithful members, the late Barbara Walker and Amy Burns will not be included, but we will endeavour to follow their fine example.

In the meantime, we enjoy supporting Anne in her flower initiative and are pleased to announce that Rev McCullough and Rev McNaught have recommenced the monthly services at Inchkeith Court, when members no longer able to attend Sunday worship are brought along by dedicated drivers to join the residents. These services are, indeed, heart-warming.

If you know of anyone needing our help, please contact Rev McCullough, Rev McNaught or a member of the Pastoral Care Group. Pastoral Care members have had to obey restrictions imposed on them but we remain resolute in our commitment to caring. Please help us in this work by letting us know of anyone needing our help.

Evlyn

## Zoom

For the time being Sunday services, Time for a Cuppa and the monthly coffee mornings will continue to be streamed on Zoom. However, once the church hall and kitchen is set up for food, Time for a Cuppa and the Coffee mornings will revert back to in-person meetings.

## Covenanted partnership

A few from Christ's Kirk attended in-person and others joined the service on Zoom held on 31<sup>st</sup> October to witness the signing of the covenant. Part of the service included a wee craft session which signified the bonding together. Copy the link to your browser and it will take you to YouTube, then fast forward to 33mins you will get the instructions on how to make the cross.



This is the link for the service <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owHNz8rpaMg>

### Prayer Group meeting

This began on the 28th October and will continue every Thursday night at 7pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 317 522 8773

Passcode: PRAYERROOM

### Advent Bible studies on Zoom

The first one took place at 6.30pm on the 28th November and will continue at the same time on the Sunday evenings of 5th, 12th and 19th December on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 879 6667 4608

Passcode: 098315

There are also plans for a new weekly Bible study starting in the New Year.

### **Church family news**

Olive Anderson                      died    15/11/2021

Bella Brown                            died    18/11/2021

### **Fabric Committee Report.**

A green light is now shining as the **church hall new floor** has been completed and the kitchen furniture has all been majorly cleaned along the rules relating to the coronavirus. Not only business as usual then, but the hope for a much greater use of the hall and facilities. The fabric committee would call on every church member to consider using the hall, as well as encouraging non-church people to use it. This is indeed a needed revenue.



Hopefully everyone is aware of the **new Government legislation regarding home safety**. By the end of February, every household in Scotland should be fitted with interlinked fire and safety alarms. The fabric committee is attending to this for our manse. All landlords are responsible for this new law in their houses - e.g. Fife Council for all its rented houses. i.e. a smoke alarms in the living room and hallway, a heat alarm in the kitchen and a carbon monoxide detector where there is a boiler, fire, etc.

Finally, your fabric committee is nearing the completion of a mammoth task of outlining all church and manse fabric. An annual report is normal, and a quinquennial report was recently submitted to the presbytery - and now we have a different one for the Church of Scotland, which is reviewing all churches and church properties throughout Scotland, and this via the internet.

These tasks above are "willingly" completed by a very few volunteers. I am certain most of you know them. On behalf of the committee, however, I write to thank them for their invaluable service to their church and their faith.

*Ron*

## Dates for your diary

Christmas Eve service	7pm		
Guild meetings in 2022	Jan. 25th	2.00 p.m.	Burns Celebration
	Feb. 8th	2.00 p.m.	Vine Trust - Robert Alexander - Kazununu Village of Hope, Tanzania (Project open)
	Feb. 22nd	2.00 p.m.	African Food - Tasting
	Mar. 8th	2.00 p.m.	Guild Convenor or Speaker from 121
	Mar. 22nd	2.00 p.m.	Catherine McDougall - Talk on China
Communion	Apr. 12th	7.00 p.m.	Holy Week
	February 27th 2022		
Time for a Cuppa	Every Monday morning	at 10am	
Coffee morning	2nd Saturday of each month	from 10am	

## Stamp Appeal for World Mission

The 2021 World Mission Stamp Appeal aims to support The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The centre supports women and girls who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection, returning them to education or learning skills that will allow them to make a living.

Please cut out the stamps received on your Christmas cards (6mm border) and bring them along to the church and place them in the container in the church vestibule.

## Answers to Quiz

- 1 - 1843 2 - Indian Ocean 3 - Cupid 4 - Poinsettia 5 - Winter Solstice 6 - Isaac Newton 7 - Britain 8 - KFC  
9 - Brussel Sprouts 10 - Yule Log 11 - The Elf On The Shelf 12 - 1957 13 - Sugar Coated Almonds 14 - Boney M  
15 - Nine Ladies Dancing

## Newsletter by email

If you know of anyone who would like to receive future publications of the church newsletter electronically, please ask them to send an email with their name (their email address will be at the head of their email) along with a short notification to the newsletter editor at [christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com](mailto:christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com) and we will send it to them.

## Contacts

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Facebook			Christ's Kirk

\* In following Church of Scotland guidelines, the church office is not in use. If you need to contact us please use one of the alternative methods above.

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk, Pitcoudie Avenue, Glenrothes KY7 6SU.

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk (Church of Scotland) is a registered charity SC007397