

Christ's Kirk Chronicle

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU



December 2022

Prayer Call *Submitted by Rev McNaught*

Christ is born, give glory.

Christ comes from heaven, meet him.

Christ is on earth, be exalted.

O all the earth, sing unto the Lord and sing
praises in gladness,

O all you people, for he has been glorified.

Wisdom and Word and Power,

Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness
of the Father;

and unknown to the powers both above and
upon the earth,

he was made man, and so he has won us
back again:

for he has been glorified.

We lift our hearts in worship,
Come O redeemer King.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.
We lift our hearts in worship,
Come O Christ our King.

Kirk Session notification

In an effort to make savings on energy the Kirk Session has agreed that as from Sunday 4th December we will be worshipping in the Jim Cumming hall during the winter months. This area is much easier to heat and will mean substantial savings to our heating bill.

Sadly, the wi-fi connection in the hall isn't too good but we are looking into ways to improve it so those using the Zoom medium can still join in Sunday worship.

Do This in Remembrance of Me

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

will be celebrated here at

Christ's Kirk on

26th February 2023 at 10.30am

Finance

Well it is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of yet another year. It was nice to get back to some normality from Covid but this year has brought its own hardships with financial pressures due to increases in prices for everyone.

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. In 2021 we had the hall floor repairs which increased both income and expenditure by £10k and if we deduct that from that year figures we are slightly up on both our income and expenditure.

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Income	£ 36,592.79	£43,374.19	£33,761.32
Expenditure	£ 37,596.98	£45,046.04	£30,696.18

The good news is that we have made payments amounting to £7,500 so far this year towards the error in our Ministries and Mission contributions and are on target to reduce our carried forward figure for 2023 to £8000 which is a great achievement and we should be very proud of our efforts.

Our bank balances at end of October were General account £19,810, Cafe a/c £8,000 and Fabric/future fund £1,258.76.

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 2023

Rose

Music in Christ's Kirk

A talented pianist, Gordon took up the post as organist in January 2020, but after only 2 months into the position, the country went into lockdown and all the churches were closed. Services were the held on Zoom and he recorded music for the hymns when necessary. Sadly, for Christ's Kirk, he resigned from the position in the Autumn to go to university.

The current supply organist is Christ's Kirk's retired organist Ron, therefore, a vacancy exists NOW for someone - or two - to provide the music for services at our church. If you know of someone who would be interested please urge them to get in touch.

The person or persons could be an organist, pianist or a keyboard player, and would be mentored by our current, and past, supply organist, Ron Page. A rota of players could easily be the way forward.

Our church pays the person(s) according to the C of S recommended scale - good pocket money for any school or university student.

The church organ is a Yamaha Electone, and there is a baby grand piano in the church. A keyboard too.

Perhaps the congregation will become accustomed to being led by a Precentor. Please contact: Margaret Mateos, Willie McCulloch, Ruth Anderson or Ron Page.

Email: christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com

Please search for this at www.christskirk.uk

Interim Moderator's update

Dear Friends

I am writing this just after Remembrance Sunday when we remember the wars past and sadly present. As we turn our focus on Christmas, I was drawn to the Christmas truce of the First World War in 1914 when German and British soldiers crossed the trenches and exchanged Christmas greetings some carol singing and played football. Sadly, this only lasted for Christmas. Peace reigned for a short period amongst the chaos.

As we approach Christmas is it peace or chaos? Let's think about this:

The first Christmas Mary & Joseph had no place to stay and the baby was due and the shepherds were scared to death by the appearance of the angels. Today we try to decorate the house and buy all the presents. We attend the school concerts, parties, and plays. We get too busy "doing" Christmas rather than enjoying and reflecting on the meaning of Christmas.

Is there any calm in your Christmas?

Mary and Joseph found a place to stay and to have the baby. The shepherds rejoiced to find the baby as the angels had described.

We may need to search for the calm of Christmas because the world around us is chaos. The calm can be found, but, sometimes especially at Christmas, we have to search for it. We may need to take a step back from all the trappings we surround ourselves with at Christmas and revisit its real meaning.

We sing peace came down at Christmas. The Peace of God. The angels proclaimed to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:14). God desires to bring us peace through Jesus, not chaos through Christmas.

There is a story about a pastor in America who sent his parents a microwave oven one Christmas. His parents were excited that now they, too, could be a part of the instant generation. When his father unpacked the microwave and plugged it in, literally within seconds, the microwave transformed two smiles into frown! Even after reading the directions, they couldn't make it work. A few days later, his mother was playing bridge with a friend and confessed her inability to get that microwave oven even to boil water. 'To get this thing to work,' she exclaimed, 'I really don't need better directions; I just needed my son to come along with the gift!' When God gave the gift of salvation, he didn't send a booklet of complicated instructions for us to figure out; he sent his Son.

How true is this?

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Christmas Blessings from *Margaret*, Interim Moderator.

Points to Ponder



God says to trust in Him. He knows what you need.

At the right time it will happen.

Guild

The project for this year is "Look Forward in Faith: Little Seeds Big Trees."



The first meeting of the Guild for the year 2022/2023 was held on 10th October. The speaker was our Interim Moderator Rev Margaret Mateos who gave us an inspiring talk on this year's topic "Little seeds big trees"

The speaker on October 24th was a well-known member of the church and Guild. Anne Crombie's 'Reminiscences on Floral Art' told us how she started doing floral art and about all the people she met and the good friends she has made. There was a lot of laughter too as Anne also told us of a few things that didn't go as planned. Thank you Anne, we all enjoyed your talk.

On November 7th, Rev Sam McNaught entertained us with the story about a beggar who sat by the Pool of Shalom where he sold wooden bowls and cloths and one day Jesus was at the pool and used one of the bowls and cloths. This is only a short resumè from the story but he kept us enthralled with his story.

Guild members Sheila and Val were the speakers on 21st November and they spoke about their time in Africa. It was most enjoyable.

There has been a change to the Guild syllabus for December. The last meeting scheduled for the 9th will now take place on 19th December which will be a Christmas lunch. Below you will find the dates of the Guild meetings next year.

2023

Jan. 23rd	A Scottish afternoon
Feb. 6th	Pet therapy dogs
Feb. 20th	Catherine Mills - Crafts demonstration
Mar. 6th	Kerr and Jenny - reminiscences
Mar. 20th	Project Speaker - Home for good
Apr 1st	Daffodil Tea and stall
Apr 3rd	Holy Week
Apr. 17th	AGM

Madeline

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving took place on 25th September and as you can see from the photo Christ's Kirk responded admirably. Ron and Wilma took the food donated to the Foodbank who were absolutely delighted to receive it and gave us a thank you note to say the congregation donated goods to the weight of 79.4 kg or 12st 9lbs.



Letter from the locum

Dear Friends,

November is an historically eventful month. 1st November is All Saints Day, a 4th century celebration that's hardly recognised these days. Moving on *to remember, remember the 5th November* and the notorious 'Gunpowder Plot'. Its aim - to destroy the houses of parliament. I guess some people are mourning the plot's failure.

Moving on to a more serious form of remembrance, on the 11th day of the 11th month. It's a call to remember all those known and unknown, 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 put their lives on the line. We remember that civilians also died. We pray for courage and comfort for the surviving wounded.

On November 30th we celebrated St. Andrew's Day, or **did we?**

At one time in Angus, it **was** a school holiday. It's a Nationalistic celebration rather than a religious one. And some would argue that Columba is a better choice of patron saint. When we lived in the middle-east we had wonderful St. Andrews Day celebrations, with food, speeches and country dancing!

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 establish 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*'. I wish Trump's supporters felt the same.

Now Advent approaches - a time for reflection, waiting and preparation for Christmas. No doubt our spending will have to be more modest this year. Believers will be hoping for a less commercialised time more focussed on the Saviour's birth.

I pray that you will enjoy the season's many blessings.

Willie McCulloch.

Pastoral care

The team is committed to reaching out and offering caring support whenever it is needed. So please let us know when such support is needed. Since Sunday 13th November, Pastoral Care has become the welcoming team so this makes it even easier to mention any concerns to a team member. Rev McCulloch and Rev McNaught lead our team and their commitment to caring is total.

Sincere Christmas Greetings to each and every one of you,

Evelyn

Time for a Cuppa

After Monday December 12th, Time for a Cuppa will be closed for a wee break re-opening on Monday 9th January 2023.

"The team would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year".

Preachers and Pastors

Early one Sunday, a mother went to wake her son.

"Wake up, son. It's time to go to church!"

"No Mum, I don't want to go. The choir don't like me,
the congregation hate me and the sermons are boring!"

Give me two reasons why I should go to church."

"Well son, for one thing you're 55 years old. And for another, you're the minister!"

Stamp Appeal for World Mission

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

In Lebanon, and in response to the financial collapse in the country, the pastors in Syria and Lebanon initiated in 2021, a scheme where they gave half of their salary to establish a relief programme as an expression of support to the neediest families around their congregations.

NESSL is a partner church of the Church of Scotland and has churches in both Lebanon and Syria. The church has been able in the past to support pastors from money raised by running fee paying schools. In the last few years as the economic situation has deteriorated, many families are finding it hard to pay school fees and the knock-on effect on the financial situation in the Synod has affected the ability to pay pastors salaries. Despite the hardships experienced, pastors' are reaching out to the needy in their congregations in a sacrificial way. This has prompted the Synod to reach out to partners around the world to support the various ongoing project work and to include in this the support of pastors.

This year the Stamp Project proceeds aim to raise enough funds to support pastors' salaries.

Kindly bring your used stamps to the church. There is a receptacle in the vestibule.

Jenny

Please be aware that barcodes have been added to regular stamps. After 31st January the regular stamps will no longer be valid. Please use them up before the deadline. Or use the form found at the Post Office to swap them.

Out of the mouth of babes

A Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and immediately turned into a pillar of salt, when one little boy interrupted. "My mummy looked back when she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telegraph pole."

GROW

The work of the GROW Management Committee and Trustees continue to seek to appoint a GROW Worker and we are happy to say that a candidate is to be interviewed very soon. Hopefully by the next issue of the Chronicle we will have some good news to relate. In the meantime a short video of the work of GROW has been produced and will be shown one Sunday before Christmas or at the beginning of the new year.

We hope this may encourage others to join our Management Committee

Wilma



Immanuel, born of Mary,
be with us in our praising and praying
in our living and loving
in our care and concern.

Bless us, we pray,
that we may be a blessing to others. *Amen.*

Covenanted Partnership

Throughout the winter months the churches will be opening their doors to provide a warm space that people can come and escape from the cold. A cuppa and some refreshments will be provided free of charge although a donation would be welcomed.

Here are the "Haven" warm spaces.

Monday	Christ's Kirk	10am - 12noon	closed 19th Dec - 9th Jan
Monday	St. Ninian's	1 pm - 3pm	
Tuesday	Markinch	11am - 2pm	
Wednesday	St. Columba's	11.30 - 3pm	
Friday	St. Margaret's	11am - 3pm	



A service on Christmas Day will be held at Markinch and the service on New Year's day will be held at St. Ninian's.

Concert

St. Ninian's is hosting a Bruce Davies concert on Sunday 4th December at 2.30pm. Tickets priced at £6 are available from Mary Patey or you can just pay at the door.

He is a good entertainer and a nice afternoon is guaranteed.

Out of the mouth of babes

After Sunday School, 4 year old Carlton told his grandma the story of Zacchaeus.

"Do you think he's a nice man?" she asked.

Oh no," he replied. "He stole everyone's taxes."

"And what do you think he did with them?" asked his grandma.

Well I expect he drove them!" said Carlton.

Publication and Communication

Vacancies exist on the Publication and Communication team. The team are responsible for printing the Order of Service, preparing and delivering the presentation on screen on a Sunday morning, the quarterly newsletter and tickets and posters for church events. If you can help please get in touch with Ian.



Christmas is a season of joy and goodwill, of singing and merriment and of generosity.

Christmas is a season of sharing and love.

Christmas is a season of concern for the needs of others - a season for a helping hand.

And that's as it should be - for there is great satisfaction in making others happy.

Salvation Army: War Cry

Dates for your diary

Time for a Cuppa	every Monday from 10am <i>(closed 19th December re-opens 9th January)</i>
Coffee morning	Saturday 10th December from 10am Saturday 14th January from 10am Saturday 11th February from 10am
Guild	Monday 23rd January at 2pm Monday 6th February at 2pm Monday 20th February at 2pm Monday 6th March at 2pm Monday 20th March at 2pm
Communion	Sunday 26th February 2023 at 10.30am



Christmas Services

There will be a Carols and Lessons service at Christ's Kirk on Christmas Eve at 7pm.

A service on Christmas Day will be held at Markinch and the service on New Year's day will be held at St. Ninian's.

There will **not** be a service at Christ's Kirk on any of these days.

St. Ninian's will also have a service on Christmas Day.

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 and we will send it to them.

Printed copies will be available for collection in the vestibule in the church.

Contacts

Interim Moderator	Rev Margaret Mateos	01592 780073	mmateos@churchofscotland.org.uk
Locum	Rev Willie McCulloch		
Church *		01592 745938	christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com
Session Clerk	Ruth Anderson	07970594033	ruthp.anderson@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Rose Bowie		rose.bowie14@gmail.com
Website			www.christskirk.uk
Facebook			Christ's Kirk

* At present 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