

# Christ's Kirk Chronicle

## Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

## December 2023



### 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 has won us back  
again: for he has been glorified.

Eastern Orthodox



Almighty God, grant me Your light perpetually.  
When I cannot see the way before me,  
may I continue to put my trust in You;  
so that, guided and guarded by Your love, I may be kept from  
falling, this day and all my days, through Jesus Christ my Lord.



**Do This in Remembrance of Me**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

will be celebrated here at

Christ's Kirk on

**25th February 2024 at 10.30am**



## **Interim Moderator's update**

Hi Friends

I hope you are all organised and ready for Christmas. It is a time to reflect and share the joy and peace of the birth of Christ. Although I am sure his birth was anything but peaceful. This year I think we are aware of so much turmoil in the world and pray for peace to return to all war-torn countries.

I thought I would use this letter to update you as to where we are with Christ's Kirk as a congregation and the progress with the Presbytery Mission Plan.

The national Church of Scotland as you know has allocated 44.5 ministries (ministers, deacons, local mission development staff e.g., youth and children's workers) to Fife. This means a significant reduction from previous numbers. The Fife Presbytery Mission Plan was agreed in November 2022.

We were asked to consider how we can work together. To consider Team Ministry and a union of all Glenrothes town churches, that could be linked with Leslie: Trinity and/or Markinch and Thornton and to report to Presbytery before 2023 Presbytery Mission Plan review. The Glenrothes church buildings would remain open.

That was where we were a year ago.

One year on the progress that has been made is that the Kirk Sessions from all the congregations have met together and as individual Kirk Sessions, to discuss becoming a Union of all the congregations. After discussion at our last Kirk Session meeting, it was agreed that the best way forward for Christ's Kirk was to form a union with the other congregations within the Glenrothes Partnership.

As you are aware it is hard for most congregations on their own to manage all the work that congregations are required to do especially as the focus is on being missional and reaching out to our communities. Christ's Kirk is no different. Working together with other congregations makes us stronger by sharing the workload and expertise. This is not just happening in Glenrothes but throughout Scotland. At Presbytery this month we learned of a number of church groupings which have or are becoming united congregations throughout Fife.

There is still work to be done especially as to how Team Ministry will be worked out within a united congregation. I know some folks will be apprehensive and saddened by the changes. Especially if you have only known Christ's Kirk from a young age. Change is never easy but the Church is constantly having to change and adapt to meet the needs of the people it serves as it has done through the centuries. Let us keep focussed on Jesus and ask ourselves what would He do. What would He want us to do? What is important to Him? How does He want us to show his love in Glenrothes?

As we approach this season of Advent and Christmas may it be with Hope and Expectation.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

God Bless

Margaret

Interim Moderator

## Guild news

The first meeting for the year 2023/2024 was on the 9th October. The speaker was our locum minister Reverend Willie McCulloch. Willie told us about his life as a young man and then going on to be a minister, Willie went to Bahrain and Rome and now Glenrothes.



Thank you Willie

**23rd October** The speaker was Wilma from street Pastors. Street Pastors were first started in London and is now in many towns and cities. Wilma operates in Dunfermline where the Street Pastors take a small bag out with them and in it has all sorts of things from plasters to pain killers etc and slippers and they give them to girls who have sore feet from wearing high-heeled shoes. They go out in all weathers and help anyone who needs it.

**6th November** We enjoyed a talk from Dave Cooper and saw some wonderful pictures of Riverside Park, Glenrothes and two other gardens - Cluny House Gardens (this is near Aberfeldy) and also Branklyn Gardens (Perth) Dave is a member of Friends of the Riverside Park, and they have been given a fantastic grant of £4million pounds to upgrade lots of things in the park, a new adventure play area, toilets and lots more.

**20th November** We had two wonderful speakers, Evlyn Allsop and Rev Sam McNaught. Evlyn started by telling us about living and going to school in North Berwick, then on to further education in Edinburgh to become a teacher. Her first school was in Edinburgh, and then a few years on Evlyn was Deputy Head at North school in Kirkcaldy, and it was there that she met Sam as he was the school pastor.

Sam lived in Glasgow and did not like school but loved the University. Sam went on to become a minister at Portpatrick and after a few years he became the minister at St. John's church in Kirkcaldy, which sadly was burnt down in 1975.

Evlyn and Sam worked together on several events with the children of North School. One they both talked about was after the church was rebuilt (1977) the BBC came to film them. However, they wanted a children's choir so the children from North School with the help of Evlyn and the teachers formed a children's choir. This was a great success and many of the children remembered it and ask Sam when they meet him "do you remember me from the choir?" This is only a very short summary of the afternoon's event. I have to say, on a personal note, it is one of the best afternoons I have had at the Guild.

We welcomed Wilma back to the Guild after her accident. It was lovely to see you with us again, you have been sorely missed.

**4th December** This will be last meeting for 2023 and it will be our Christmas Lunch held in the Jim Cumming hall at 12noon for 12.30

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year  
Madeline

### Forthcoming meetings

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch – 12.30
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Scottish Music – Accordion music and ukulele
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	School memories – Fay Smith
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Recycling – Jan Winceck (Ffe Council)

### Pastoral Care

Christian caring is at the heart of all we try to do in our Pastoral Care group. We are due to have a meeting before the end of the year to review what we do at present and other avenues of care we can consider.

Please help us by telling a member of the group your ideas for an extension of our commitment to caring.

It is with sadness that I tell you that Anne Crombie is resigning from her post as Flower Convener due to health concerns. Anne's love of flowers and her love of her Kirk have over many years been bound together and we have enjoyed her expertise and flair in floral arrangements. Thank you Anne.

I would also like to pay a heartfelt tribute to Jenny who has with total dedication taken over the role of flower provider for our services. Again thank you Jenny

Festive Greetings to all in love.

Evlyn

## Finance

Well, as the festive season nears and another year is coming to an end it is a time to reflect on the past year and the impact on our financial position.

The accounts are showing a deficit in our income and expenditure for the months January to October of £1,060.33. This is not a true reflection as there are locum expenses due for that period of approx. £2,500 which do not show in the figures. That being said it would increase our deficit to £3,600 which in my opinion is not too bad considering the loss of almost 3 months rent income for the manse due to the delay in getting permission to re-let the premises. We now have new tenants so that income should start to show from our November accounts onwards.

Income: Jan – Oct	£36,684.76
Expenditure: Jan – Oct	<u>£37,745.09</u>
Deficit	<u>£ 1,060.33</u>

We are also due to make our final instalment of the Ministries and Mission contribution error this month which means that we will be moving forward into 2024 without this burden hanging over us. Given the current financial pressures on everyone due to increased costs in living expenses, the fact that we have managed to repay almost £8000 this year alone is a great reflection on everyone's willingness to support our church, and I applaud you all.

2024 will be another year of change with more emphasis on partnership working, but having a stable financial footing will hopefully stand us in good stead for the next chapter of our journey.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a healthy happy festive period.

Rose

## Stamp Appeal

World Mission Council Stamp Appeal 2023 -2024.

Thanks to everyone who has handed in their used stamps to the church. This year, the proceeds gained, will go to support a project in Central Africa –“Firmly Planted”. The project run by CCAP, The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, aims to establish self – sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and livelihoods. Youth employment will be created, agricultural productivity and nutrition improved.

Your used stamps do make a difference to the lives of others, so please save them (with a minimum border of 5 mm.) and place them in the receptacle in the church.

Many thanks  
Jenny

## GROW News



Thank you for asking me to join you for your Harvest Service and Lunch at the beginning of October, and for making Wil and I so welcome. It was lovely opportunity to meet you and get to know you a little more.

The Dedication Service on the 29<sup>th</sup> of last month was attended by many and was a very special occasion. As I am settling into my new post, I am starting to build connections with some of the local schools. Making these initial connections is such an important step to building up relationships with the schools. GROW has restarted a Scripture Union group in Glenwood High School, and I am speaking to Auchmuty High School to get a SU Group started there in the coming weeks. I am hopeful that I will be able to recruit volunteers to help run other SU groups in the near future.

I am visiting three primary schools at the moment across the town, taking part in Time for Reflection assemblies and being asked to support schools as they deliver reflection time in their classes.

I have been greatly encouraged to have folks from Glenrothes and further afield subscribe to our monthly prayer letter, it is key to the work of GROW to have a team behind us praying. If you would like to receive our prayer letter please do email me at [youthworker@grow-trust.co.uk](mailto:youthworker@grow-trust.co.uk) or if you like to find out more about volunteering to help run an SU group in one of our local schools, do let me know.

Fiona Tucker

## Glenrothes & District Churches Together

**Carol singing** – 16<sup>th</sup> December from 12 noon to 1pm at the steps outside the Rothes Halls at the top end of the Kingdom Centre. The charity collection is to be for Love Oliver. George Carratt and Sally McElroy are to lead the singing. Festive garb to be encouraged. Carol sheets will be provided.

**Friendship Meal** – The proposed date is Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January. St Paul's was suggested as the venue...TBC. The meal would be a buffet with soup, and we would require help to set up/clear up. If you can help please speak to Ian, Ruth or Wilma and we will pass on your offer of help.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – It is proposed that a service can be held on Wednesday 17th January 2024. The venue has still to be decided.

## Alternative Christmas Card

As in previous years there will be a card available to the congregation. Instead of giving Christmas cards to those at the church, write a message on the card and donate the money you would have spent into the box. This year the donations will go to the Guild Projects. This card will be available throughout the whole of December.

## Musical misquotes!

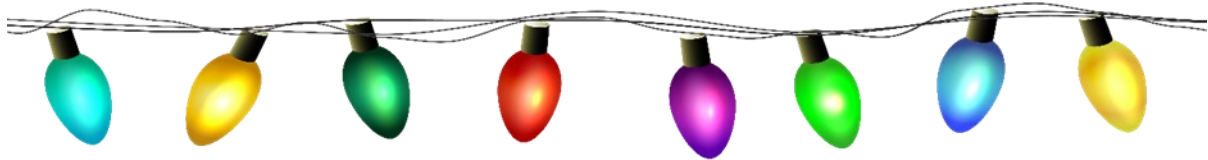
Please pay attention to the words of the carols sung during Advent and don't sing the words sung below by children.

Hark, the hairy angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn thing...  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners wreck a child  
With the jelly toast proclaim  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

O Come All Ye Faithful...  
O come let us ignore him, O come let us ignore him,  
O come let us ignore him, Christ the Lord.







## Christmas Events and Services 2023

8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> December: St Margaret's Christmas Tree Festival (Friday-Saturday 10am until 4pm. Sunday 2-4pm Christmas Sing-a-Long 6.30pm)

17<sup>th</sup> December: St Columba's: Nativity Service 11am: Reflective service at 6pm

17<sup>th</sup> December: Markinch: Carols with Markinch Community Choir 10.30am

17<sup>th</sup> December: Leslie Trinity Ecumenical Service 6:30pm

19<sup>th</sup> December: Leslie Trinity: Carol Service 2pm

21<sup>st</sup> December: Markinch Hall: Carols and Mulled Wine 7pm

22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December: Markinch Hall: Christmas Kid's Club

Christmas Eve

Leslie Trinity	10:30am	Christ's Kirk	10.30am
St Ninian's	10.30am	Christingle Service	6pm
St Columba's	11.00am	St Margaret's	10.00am All age Service
Thornton	9.45am	Markinch	11.15am 5pm All age service

Watchnight Services 11.30pm Markinch and St Columba's (refreshments 10.45pm)

Christmas Day Worship at St Ninian's 10:30am

Meal at St Columba's 12:30

### Hogmanay Services

Thornton 10.30am Lessons and Carols Leslie Trinity 10.30am

St Columba's 11.00am Carols and Communion Christ Kirk 10.30am

**New Year Service 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am** Shared Worship at St Ninian's.

### Footprints in the sand

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with God and across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and the other to God. When the last scene of my life flashed before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at times along the path of life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of my life. This really bothered me and I questioned God about it.

"God, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way; but I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times I needed you most, you would leave me."

God replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you during your times of trials and suffering. When you see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you."

Anon

## Dates for your diary

Carol Concert                      Wednesday 6th December at 2pm                      (Lounge at Inchkeith Court)

Guild                                      Monday 4th December at 12.30pm

### 2024

Guild                                      Monday 22nd January at 2pm

Monday 5th February at 2pm

Monday 19th February at 2pm

Communion                      Sunday 25th February at 10.30am



### Church Family News

Mabel Henderson                      died 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Jim Stevenson                      died 19th November 2023

Thelma Dickie                      died 27th November 2023

### Hymnal Plus

If you have a favourite hymn you would like to be played before or after a service please let Rose or Ian know and we can arrange it.

### Peace Walk

Sadly due to prospective strikes at the schools the decision was taken to cancel the Peace Walk. A gathering did take place at 11am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November with representatives from the schools, the Rotary Club and from our local MP Peter Grant's office all showing their respects.

**There will be a Carol Concert in the lounge at Inchkeith Court on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2 pm. All are welcome.**

### 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.

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

### Contacts

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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