

Kilsyth Anderson Parish Church News

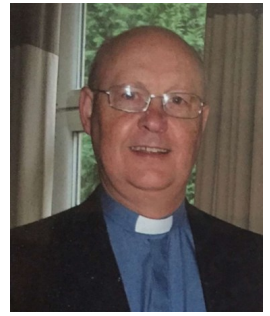
December 22—January 23





Dear Friends,

Christina Rossetti, was born in 1830, when summers were sunny and warm and winters, frosty and cold, (long before 'global warming' or 'the greenhouse effect' entered our vocabulary) hence the opening lines of a well known and loved carol.



"In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago."

It is obvious that Christina Rossetti who wrote the above carol, employed a measure of poetic license in her attempt to describe winter in Bethlehem, some two thousand years ago. It's likely that the climate in Bethlehem was akin to the summers we used to enjoy in this country years ago. Nevertheless, the opening words of the carol succeed in conveying a sense of the 'cool' reception given to the Son of God at His birth.

Joseph had to convey his heavenly pregnant wife Mary, all the way from Nazareth in the North, to Bethlehem in the South; Joseph's ancestral home. On arrival, the weary couple discovered that all available accommodation had been taken - there was no delivery suite for poor Mary and her unborn child; they had to make do with a cold, draughty barn.

It wasn't that the good folk of Bethlehem gave the couple the 'cold shoulder,' they were simply too busy - 'first come, first served' was their policy. And no sooner had the helpless child been born that King Herod gave strict orders to have him put to death, perceiving him to be a threat to his despotic rule.

Jesus was born into the world, history did not produce him; He came rather into history from the outside. The apostle Paul reminds his young pastor friend of this essential truth, ***"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*** 1 Timothy 1:15. He is not simply the best human being who ever lived, He is God incarnate; Emmanuel, God with us. His birth into the world is not the end of the story, but only the beginning.

As Jesus was born into the world, so must He come into your life and my life from the outside. This is the very thing that Nicodemus struggled

with, when Jesus told him that '**You must be born again**' John 3:1-7.

Though he was a learned and pietistic religious leader, he was unable at the time, to grasp the nature and necessity of the second birth. Jesus must come into our lives from the outside; we must allow our hearts to become a 'Bethlehem' for the Son of God.

It is no surprise that Mary was confused when the angel Gabriel revealed to her that she would give birth to God's anointed, "***How will this be, Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'***" (Luke 1:34, 35 NIVUK)

One of the indispensable characteristics of this new birth is that a person yields themselves so completely to God, that Christ Jesus is formed in them. From that moment onwards, the gracious power of God's Spirit, whose primary task is to make the believer more like Jesus, begins to work in, and through that individual. This is clearly taught in the response Mary gave to the angelic visitor, "***I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'*** Then the angel left her." (Luke 1:38 NIVUK)

Has your life become a 'Bethlehem' for the Son of God? Maybe He's been knocking at the door of your heart for many a long year, and so far, you have not invited Him in. Why not make this Christmas ultra-special by

opening the door and inviting Him in, you'll certainly not be disappointed.

It was Daniel W. Whittle, (born in 1840,) who penned the following,

"Have you any room for Jesus?
He who bore your load of sin;
as he knocks and asks admission,
sinner will you let him in?"

Room for pleasure, room for business,
but for Christ the crucified,
not a place that he can enter,
in your heart for which he died."

Many people are like the good folk of Bethlehem, that have nothing against this Jesus, it's just that life is lived at such a hectic pace, and they have hardly time to draw breath before they realise what is happening, the true meaning of Christmas has passed them by yet again.

I leave you with the last verse of Philip Brooks' (1835 vintage) carol,

"O little town of Bethlehem,
descend on us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide in us,
Our Lord Immanuel."

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a truly peaceful and Christ centred Christmas and a blessed New Year,

Your friend, Kenneth.

Tea & Tunes :

This group is aimed at older adults, those living with dementia & their carers.

We enjoyed a few sessions last year – lots of chat, tea & biscuits and a sing-a-long to a wide variety of different styles of music.



Our next session will be from 1.30 until 3pm in the Wyper Hall on 15th December.

Please come along & invite friends and neighbours who may enjoy some company.

Glasgow Cathedral Choral Society's Christmas Concert is this year selected movements from JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols, as well as a traditional selection of carols for all.

Sat 17th December

7-9pm

£12 adult / £10 concession / £8 student

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-at-glasgow-cathedral-2022-tickets>



Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was held on **Saturday 26th November**. At the time of printing over £2800 has been raised and it is expected that more money will still come in.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this such a great success—loads of people gave up time, used their skills to make and bake or simply came along and spent their money on the day. Thanks for playing your part.

Elizabeth Strang.

The Guild

It has been lovely to welcome new members to the Guild while we have settled into our new starting time of 7pm.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Social where we will enjoy a special meal and be entertained by Euan Russell.

The second half of our programme begins on 9th January with Margaret Wadsley leading us in Chair Yoga.

It is never too late to join us on a Monday evening. We will make you most welcome.

Meanwhile on behalf of the Guild members can I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Margaret Brown, Convener.

Advent Season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas.




Each Sunday has a different spiritual theme and often involves the ceremonial lighting of an Advent candle.

The four traditional advent themes for the four advent Sundays are:

- God's people -The Candle of Hope. Hope is like a light shining in a

Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
As we hear of war and invasion,
We pray to you for peace.
In a world of conflict and violence,
We pray for all who live in fear,
Especially today the people of Ukraine.
We lament with you,
And pray for peace.
Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
Show me how to pray for peace today.

Amen

The logo consists of the words "ALL WE CAN" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically on a bright yellow rectangular background.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/>

All We Can is an international development and relief organisation, working to see every person's potential fulfilled. Focussed on serving the world's most marginalised communities, All We Can is rooted in the Christian faith. The prayer above is from their website and reminds us to keep praying for peace in Ukraine.

Reflective Service

Sunday 11th December 2022 at 3pm

Burns & Old Church invite you to join them as they travel the Road to Bethlehem.

Reflecting in word, images and uplifting music



Also available on Conferoo

Dial 0345 388 7442 and enter the pin number 462 824 (please dial in before 3pm)

Tips on Saving on your Energy Bills

- 1) Boiling a kettle – only boil enough for what you need. Put the excess into a flask
- 2) Swap a bath for a shower & limit to 4 minutes – save £95 a year
- 3) Washing machine – wash at 30° & reduce to once a week.
- 4) Avoid using tumble dryers – saving around £70 year
- 5) Turn off lights in rooms not in use – save around £25 year.
- 6) Dishwashers – cutting use by 1 cycle a week saves £17 a year.
- 7) Don't leave devices on standby

Rebates / Assistance on their way :

- Reduction for Council Tax Payers in Scotland in Band A – D of £150 a year
- Every Household connected to the National Grid will receive £400 from the UK Government towards their Energy Costs
- Those receiving a State Pension will receive a 'Winter Fuel Allowance'

If you are on certain benefits (Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Pension Credit, Income Support) and have children under 16 years of age, you can apply for the **Scottish Child Payment** of £25/week for each child.

You can apply: ·

- online - by completing an online application form on mygov.scot ·
- by post - you can get a paper form on mygov.scot or ask for one with a prepaid envelope by phone
- by phone - by calling Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222, Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

Help is available :

- Get in touch with your energy supplier if you are struggling
- Visit Citizen's Advice Scotland who have experts on hand – free to use
- Contact your Council who have Benefit Advisers - free to use
- Visit your local Library to access internet if you have not got one.

Assistance with food supplies at Kilsyth Food Bank - Monday and Wednesday's 12 noon – 2pm (you can also drop off donations) unit 1, Parkfoot St, Kilsyth, Glasgow G65 0SW Tel: 01236 829872

Visit your local library, it is warm and you can read a book and meet others.

Visit the Church Drop – in : Friday Morning 10am-12noon, Warm, Hot Cuppa and Cake, no charge, donation if you can afford it. This year the drop in will continue during December and January so we'll be here during the colder months.

Other Churches in the town have drop-ins - mornings / afternoons, warm places, hot drinks, so take yourself along and enjoy the company.

Please don't sit home alone and cold this winter and let's watch out for our friends and neighbours.

Thanks to Catriona Clark for all this information.



Home Comforts North Lanarkshire is a Christian charity which makes and distributes starter packs for homeless people or other people in crisis or severe need.

The packs contain basic cleaning materials, toiletries, hand towels, tea towels, face cloths, spongers, washing up liquid, shower gel, deodorant, soap, toothbrushes & paste, dustpans and brushes – all sorts of things of this nature.

We are seeking volunteers to join the team

- A Treasurer to deal with day to day financial matters and to present accounts at the AGM
- An auditor for the accounts (some payment will be made for this)
- Board members to attend around 5 evening meetings a year
- Volunteers to make up packs (currently on Tuesday afternoons) and
- Drivers who have their own vehicle and could deliver packs to partner organisations (fuel costs can be reclaimed).

We are also seeking donations of the items mentioned above, or financial donations.

If you think you could help in any of these ways (or to find out more) contact board member Mrs Maggie Weir on 07541140050 or maggie.weir@hotmail.co.uk

Find the organisation at <https://facebook.com/homecomfortnorthlanark>

May God bless your congregation and community

St Patrick's RC church are hosting a concert at

8.00pm on Saturday, 10th December.

The name of the concert is called **Light from Light**, and the cathedral choir will sing some of the Church's most beautiful Advent music for just one hour. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

Tickets on the door.



Church Diary

Sunday	11am	Morning worship (fellowship in the hall after)
Monday	7.00pm	The Guild
Tuesday		Girls' Brigade
	6pm	Explorers (P1-3)
	7pm	Juniors and Brigaders (P4+)
Wednesday		Boys' Brigade
	5.45pm	Anchor Boys (P1-3)
	6.30pm	Junior Section (P4-6)
	7.30pm	Company Section (P7 & Secondary)
Thursday	1.30pm	Tea and Tunes (every 2nd Thurs)
	7.30pm	Midweek fellowship via zoom
Friday	10am	Drop in Café - Wyper Hall

Praise Group

It was good to have the Praise Group restart after a long absence.

We would be happy to welcome any new members who just enjoy singing. We meet every 4 weeks when we practise the introits for the next month.

If you enjoy singing please come along and join us.



Aig àm Nollaig 's na bliadhna ùr, tha e na chleachdadh againn a bhi fàil-teachadh ur càirdean 's ur caraidean le na facail a leanas,

.... ***“Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile.”***

Tha sinn uille a chur feum air misneachd 's togail nuair a tha sinn air ur chuirteachadh le fuachd 's dorchadais meadhon a gheamhraidh.

.... ***“Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile.”***

At Christmas and New Year, we are in the habit of greeting our relations and friends with the following words;

.... *“Merry (hearty) Christmas and a Good New Year to you all.”*

We all need a bit of encouragement and a ‘lift’ when we find ourselves surrounded by the cold and darkness of mid-winter.

.... *“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, to you all.”*

A short meditation for Advent

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” [Matthew 4:18–19](#)

Andrew and his brother Peter were fishermen who would soon take on a new form of fishing. They would soon become “fishers of men,” as Jesus said. But prior to being sent on this mission by our Lord, they had to become His followers. And this happened as our Lord was first the fisher of these men.

Notice that in this Gospel, Jesus was simply walking by and “saw” these two brothers working hard at their occupation. First, Jesus “saw” them, and then He called them. This gaze of our Lord is worth pondering.

Imagine the profound truth that our Lord is continually gazing at you with divine love, looking for the moment that you turn your attention to Him. His gaze is perpetual and deep. His gaze is one that yearns for you to follow Him, to abandon all else so as to hear His gentle invitation not only to follow Him but to then go forth and invite others on the journey of faith.

As we begin this Advent season, we must allow the call of Andrew and Peter also to become our own calling. We must allow ourselves to notice Jesus as He looks at us, sees who we are, is aware of everything about us, and then speaks a word of invitation. He says to you, “Come after me...” This is an invitation that must permeate every aspect of your life. To “come after” Jesus is to leave all else behind and to make the act of following our Lord the single purpose of your life.

The cost of living has reached a crisis point. But our faith compels us to trust God in the face of fear.

Written by Tarryn Pegna

Published in full on the Tearfund website <https://www.tearfund.org/> and permission was sought to reproduce it.

Inflation rates are high everywhere. Disturbing price increases on basic items are impacting all of us.

In Scotland, food banks are short of food, inflation is over 10%, and energy bills are soaring. Across the board and around the world, the effects of the cost of living crisis are being felt.

At the time of writing, Tearfund's Ethiopia team reported that the inflation rate there had hit over 30 per cent. In just two months, the cost of staple food items, such as rice and potatoes, had gone up by more than a quarter. This means that those who were teetering on the brink of poverty will now be pushed firmly into it.

2 Corinthians ch 8 brings us evidence of a community in Macedonia living in 'extreme poverty'. It doesn't talk about the worry they must have felt though – about how they might feed their children, about what the next day's expenses might be and how they would meet them.

It doesn't tell us about these things. It does tell us what they did.

'In the midst of a very severe trial,' Paul writes, acknowledging their stressful context, 'their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity!' he says. 'For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.' (2 Corinthians 8:2–3)

They gave. Generously. Beyond what they were able.

How, and why, were these people able to respond like this? Paul tells us in verse 5. 'They gave themselves first of all to the Lord,' he writes, 'and then by the will of God also to us.'

The answer is simple. They trusted God first. Then they gave to the need.

We are still the church. We are millennia later, but our God is the same. And our call to action is the same. It is to love our God and to love one another. And his love and provision for us teaches us how to do the same. It teaches us where to focus our attention. On him – our provider – and then on the needs of those around us.

Double your donation this Christmas

Your gift to Tearfund's Christmas Appeal will be doubled until

I would like to thank Allan and Elizabeth Strang for the church flowers. The roses were beautiful, such lovely colours. They cheered me up.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas

Elizabeth Anderson

Thank you all for the caring thoughts and beautiful flowers sent to us when Willie fell. Thanks also to Margaret Martin for delivering them.

God bless,

Cathie and Willie McIlwain

Thank you for the church flowers which I received earlier in the year – I was so surprised and delighted to receive them.

Elizabeth McLachlan

Thank you for the lovely flowers sent to us from the church on Sunday 13th November. This was unexpected and a delightful surprise. Thanks also to Margaret for delivering them

Sincerely **Mae and David Shaw.**

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from our own church.

With grateful thanks,

Isobel Tennant.

Thanks to Helen Provan for the flowers we received from the Guild for our Diamond Wedding and to Margaret Martin for delivering them, and staying for a visit as well which was much appreciated.

Babs Taggart.

Thank you for the lovely flowers you so kindly sent to me – it's nice to know that you are all thinking of me. I was sorry that Twechar church has closed – it was a lovely church, however I'm pleased to know that some of the Twechar members have come to worship at the Anderson church.

I have a soft spot for Twechar as my husband, whom I sadly lost last year was a Twechar man.

I wish you all season's greetings,

Audrey Glover.

Many thanks for the church flowers which were delivered to me. They were beautiful and greatly appreciated.

Christine Thornton.

It only takes moment to say

Thank You ---But your thoughtfulness will be remembered for a long time.

Thank you for flowers, prayers and support

Jim and Sheena

Auchenstarry Farm

I would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers which were very much appreciated.

Thank you also to Christine for delivering them and the Rev Kenneth McLeod for a lovely visit.

Sheena Muir

Berta Kennedy would like to say thank you for the beautiful flowers she received. They were much appreciated.

Thank
you

Girls Brigade

23 filled shoeboxes were handed into Blythwood to be distributed in Eastern Europe to people who are unlikely to receive any other Christmas gifts.



The Juniors worked enthusiastically, in pairs, and filled 18 shoe boxes altogether, using items they had bought at Home Bargains and the many items kindly donated by members of Kilsyth Anderson Church this year. Five full boxes were also donated. A big thank you to all who donated gifts.

Jean's friend Nan, who, before lockdown, had actually been involved in handing out the shoe boxes in an Eastern European country, came to speak to the girls explaining how excited everyone is to receive these Christmas shoeboxes.

We are very much enjoying having increased numbers this year.

We have wonderful photo of girls cheerful faces but sadly are unable to print as these days permission from everyone is required.

Jean Ewen

Holiday Club Event

During the school October week, we welcomed 26 amazing children to our mini holiday club. The theme was "Go Overboard."

Everyone had a great time, enjoying stories about Jonah, crafts, games and snacks..... Then there was the famous messy challenge!

Thank you to the children who were all enthusiastic, polite & well behaved. The adult helpers (from local churches) weren't too bad either!

The Holiday Club team are planning another event around Easter. Please prayerfully consider if you could help with this exciting outreach project in any way.



Contact Jean (jean.ewen@icloud.com) or Hazel (aranthrue@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.



We need you !

Willing volunteers are required to set up a **Property Group** for the **Church & Manse**.

You don't have to be handy with a hammer or practical with a paintbrush – just willing to be part of the team who keep our buildings in good order.

Could you keep an eye out for any cosmetic or structural requirements? Could you source quotes from the relevant tradespeople? Could you provide access to the property when the work is being done? Could you liaise with the Kirk Session?

1 Corinthians 12:14 says, "For the body is not one member, but many."

Please speak to Christine or Hazel if you are able to share the load.

Manse

Thanks to everyone who has been helping get the manse ready for renting out.

Scott & Hazel Gordon, John Brown and Olivia all helped in various ways with receiving, fitting and cleaning the new carpet.

Kilsyth and District Churches

Connecting Together

Although many churches, we are one in Christ.

This group meets just four times each year, to organise joint events such as the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, the summer Big Picnic, presentation of the Bibles at Civic Week and the Remembrance Sunday parade.

Would you be able to represent Kilsyth Anderson church? Please contact Christine for more information.

Flowers

The flower list for 2023 is now available on the Vestibule table if anyone would like to donate flowers please fill your name in on the list. Members who are unable to attend get great pleasure from receiving these.



Last deadline for February edition will be Sunday 29th January for publishing on Sun 5th February.

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona Dawson on a Sunday. This edition will feel like it's come round really quickly—so please be aware!

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flower donations
11 Dec	B & B Smith	George Ewen	Team 5 (Thur)	May Hamilton
18 Dec	C McIlwain	Jean Chalmers	Team 1 (Sat)	Girls' Brigade
25 Dec	I & K Ross	Olivia Brittain	Team 2 (Thur)	Margaret Brown
1 Jan	J Gordon J Miller	Margaret Brown	Team 3 (Thur)	
8 Jan	B Smith B Smith	Anne Sneddon	Team 4 (Sat)	
15 Jan	C McIlwain B Reynolds	Elizabeth Strang	Team 5 (Thur)	
22 Jan	I Ross K Ross	John Gordon	Team 1 (Sat)	Jean Chalmers
29 Jan	A Strang E Strang	Kathleen Ross	Team 2 (Thur)	
5 Feb	E Graham O Brittain	Ian Ross	Team 3 (Thur)	

Deaths

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the Life"

Helen Watson (formerly of Twechar)

Marion Lauder

Roy Hamilton

Lilian Tomson