

# Reflections

The magazine of Kay Park Parish Church Kilmarnock  
..... *a welcoming church in the heart of the community*

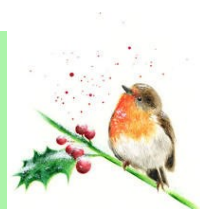
## From the Minister, November/December 2020

Sunday past, 8 November, I had cause to walk down the back stairs to the elders' room about half an hour before Remembrance Day worship at 10.30. As I moved around the church building I was struck by the silence. No chatting voices, no laughter, no music from the choir room, just quiet. These are indeed strange times. There continues to be much we miss, and it is easy to 'lose heart'. We have been told to prepare for a different kind of Christmas. There is news of a vaccine, encouraging indeed but tempered by words of caution. We are all growing weary of this 'new normal' which feels like anything but normal. People are fractious, tired, irritable (or is that just me)? As a community, the togetherness we knew during the first lockdown period is now somewhat fractured. As so often is the case, the hardships of this pandemic weigh more heavily on some than on others. There is a trap, that we can easily fall into, of resting in our own relative comfort, whilst others are drowning around us. The Christian faith is not about 'me', it is about 'us', it is not about 'I', but rather it is 'we'.

On Sunday 29 November, we will share a hymn, 'When out of poverty is born' which was written for Christian Aid by the Rev Kathy Galloway. Congregations across the country are being encouraged to use this hymn on the 29<sup>th</sup> which will be the first Sunday in Advent. The first verse of the hymn reads,



*When out of poverty is **born a dream that will not die**, a landless,  
weary folk find strength to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait to **greet the promised day**:  
**'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart, Be blest, prepare the way!'**  
**'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart Be blest: prepare the way!'***



The words in bold, are the ones that jump out for me and are bringing me comfort in these days. Our faith speaks of a hope that will not die, of strength to the weary and the promise of the coming of the Saviour, I need to hear those words, 'don't lose heart', we all do. When was the last time someone or something brought you encouragement? Then ask yourself, when was the last time I encouraged someone?

We need one another, more now than ever. The church family is scattered, but we are still 'family'. Can we pledge to be faithful in holding others in our prayers this Advent and Christmas Season? Will we choose to reach out with cards and phone calls bringing words of encouragement?

We need to know we are not forgotten, a truth I have certainly sought to communicate in the words I have been sharing in our worship online, by telephone and since we have been able to meet again for worship in church. And if we need to know we are not forgotten, then that is true of others in our families, community and wider world. As people of faith, how will we play our part in making sure that no one is forgotten?

Perhaps more than ever this Advent/Christmas we need to re-discover the real story of the birth of Jesus. If we do, we will find that it chimes with our lives and times more than we ever have realised before. All human life is there.

The celebration of Advent and Christmas is going to be different this year, but I pray we might all 'Be Blest' and prepare the way for the Newborn King.

May you know 'God with you' this Christmas and always

**Rev Fiona**

**The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.**

## KPPC – 'AT HOME THIS CHRISTMAS'



### At-Home Christmas Worship

Within your Reflections magazine this month you will find an A5 envelope. It includes a bookmark, Advent At Home worship sheet and a booklet called '*Comfort and Joy*' which has a reading, reflection, and prayer for each of the 12 days of Christmas, beginning on Christmas Eve.

#### Sunday 20 December (Online and by Telephone)

On Sunday 20 December we will be having a 'Christingle' Service. There are some bits and pieces you will need if you would like to take part. For those who listen on the telephone I would suggest listening and then making your Christingle afterwards.



## Christingle



#### You will need:

- 1) An orange
- 2) A Birthday Cake candle
- 3) Piece of red ribbon or red tape
- 4) Cocktail sticks
- 5) Sweets (jelly or dolly mixtures) or use sultanas or raisins

#### Christmas Eve

Church building closed. Christmas Eve worship will be online and by telephone.

#### Sunday 27 December

Church building closed. Worship online and by telephone, with a special service being led by the current Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Right Rev Dr Martin Fair.





## Kindness to Strangers Part One

If the Christmas message this year is about anything, then surely it's about kindness to strangers. That's the message that our First Minister has sent out hundreds of times when she reminds us about wearing face masks, washing our hands and keeping our distance from each other.

Kindness to strangers was shown again in our gifts to Blythwood Care, which are to be sent to countries where children live in great poverty and where kindness is in short supply. Although our church has been closed for most of the year, 52 boxes were handed in, beautifully wrapped, and filled almost to overflowing.

The photographs at the side show only a few of the shoeboxes. Behind them you will see over 70 beautiful hats and little baby jackets, lovingly knitted by three ladies from St John's Onthank knitting group, two of whom, Nan Head and Marjorie McConnell, have worshipped with us regularly over the past few years. Along with Fiona Peebles, they have donated their efforts every year to Blythwood Care

Nan Head and her daughter Mhairi also collected two large carrier bags of toiletries, socks and sweets over the year. I am delighted to say that Nan and Mhairi have become our newest members, as you will see on page 7.



## Kindness to Strangers Part Two

Every year at this time we support the Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal. We ask that you buy a gift for one child and bring it, unwrapped, to one of the addresses below, at any time, by 10 December. Your gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need. The Salvation Army believes that every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal.

Here are some suggestions for suitable gifts:

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles
- **3-5:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12:** games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16:** books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers



Over the years, millions of children and young people have benefited from gifts donated to The Salvation Army. By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas.

**Please bring your gifts to: Janette Steven, 12 De Walden Terrace Moira Graham, 4 Braehead Court**

**Eleanor Hamilton 58 Glasgow Road**



# Kay Park Parish Church Response to



The Kirk Session set up a group named, the Church Re-opening Group, with the following members: Moira Graham, Janet Grant, Aileen McPhee, Andrew Robinson, Vanessa Twomey, and the Minister. This group has met using 'Zoom' an online platform to work towards safely re-opening the church building. As the Scottish Government advice has changed the Church of Scotland has continued to support congregations by updating their guidance. It is not easy to navigate all the changes and their implications for use of the building.

The Sanctuary has now re-opened and we welcome up to 28 people each Sunday at 10.30. The limited number is due to the 2- metre social distancing that must be in place. In addition, we are not allowed to use the balcony area.

The hall has been used for some months now by Stagecoach as an overflow mess room for their drivers which has been greatly appreciated. Moira Graham and a band of volunteers have provided baking for the drivers on a Monday and Friday. The drivers themselves decided to have a donation plate and they have now raised over £200 for Christian Aid.

As the restrictions change, we will be overseeing the safe return of both church and community groups who use the church halls. This will involve each group producing a Risk Assessment Document and signing a new contract in agreement with the new COVID-19 Guidelines.

The church is not primarily a building it is a community of God's people. We are better when we are together. We need one another. We need to encourage and support each other in our journey of faith. Whilst online worship is convenient, we can sit at home in our PJ's for example, it is not the same as being together. If you can please consider coming back to worship on a Sunday, you are missed.

## Worship

We appreciate the work done by Alex Ferguson, Allan Hamilton, and Mike Higgins alongside the Minister in putting together the weekly online worship which people have watched on online or listened to on the phone. The weekly editing undertaken by Allan and Mike has taken many hours of patient work. After being fully committed to this work Allan Hamilton has now indicated that he will be stepping back from the online team at

end of December. We are so grateful for everything Allan has contributed giving of his time, energy, commitment, and enthusiasm. THANK YOU, Allan.

The team is now in need of new people to come on board and get involved. We are hoping there will be some of you willing to learn how we do what we do and then willing to work with us. Without more volunteers we cannot continue in the way we have been working.

In the meantime thank you to all who have contributed to our online worship in anyway and particularly to: KPPC Choir, Young Church, Alison Cravens (flute), Roddy Gourlay (guitar), Hannah Howie (Violin and Vocals) Brian Keachie (trumpet), Grant Donald (arrangements and solos). Soloists: Bill Neilson, Rachel Smith, Helen Donald, Alex Wotherspoon, Fiona Gardner, Bill Caldwell and all who have read Scripture.

(21/11/2020)

**UPDATE**

## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT KAY PARK PARISH CHURCH**

As East Ayrshire is now in level 4 the number of those we are allowed to accommodate in the Sanctuary is reduced. For the next three Sundays, 29 November, 6 December and 13 December the number is limited to **20**, including the minister, stewards and media desk. We are of course continuing with worship on the telephone and online. If we then move back to level 3 we will be able to accommodate **28** people plus the minister, stewards and media desk.





## Desperately Seeking Steven Spielberg !

**Do you have a yearning to learn how to produce and edit your own movies?**

The Online Worship Team are looking to recruit new members. To that end we are offering basic video filming and editing training starting in the new year.

First sessions will be based on iOS and Android mobile devices (produce quality videos on your mobile phone).

Thereafter using Avid Media Composer or Black Magic Da Vinci Resolve applications which are available as free downloads onto PC or Mac OS.

A genuine interest but no previous experience is necessary.

You don't have to be called Steven Spielberg to join us - but if you are - it would help!

If interested contact

**Mike on 07403 306938**

**Alex on 07736 347237**



## Stars of Wonder

When the Minister asked if people would be willing to knit or crochet stars to display outside the church for Christmas, the response, from knitters and crocheters, was so amazing that a whole Christmas tree of stars has been created and will be on display at the church doors during Advent.









On the left you will see the top of the tree and, if you look really closely, you will see a background of what could be mistaken for white cotton wool, but in fact is dozens and dozens of white and pale pastel coloured stars. So much love and creativity has gone into the making of these stars, which will endure as a reminder in future of the strange year that was 2020

## Nativity Scene

From the beginning of December, a beautiful illuminated nativity scene will be placed behind the main glass doors and illuminated from 3.00—8.00 pm each day so that passers-by on London Road can share in our Christmas joy. It's worth taking a look.



# 25 Days of Christmas Bible Verses

 <b>JOHN</b> 3:16 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Phillipians</b> 2:8-10 <sup>2</sup>	<b>ISAIAH</b> 7:14 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Zechariah</b> 9:9 <sup>4</sup>	 <b>Isaiah</b> 9:6-7 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Acts</b> 5:31 <sup>6</sup> 	<b>Romans</b> 5:1 <sup>7</sup> 	<b>ISAIAH</b> 40:1-11 <sup>8</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 1:1-17 <sup>9</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 1:18-25 <sup>10</sup> 
<b>Luke</b> 1:26-38 <sup>11</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 1:39-45 <sup>12</sup>	<i>merry</i> <b>Luke</b> 1:46-56 <sup>13</sup>	 <b>LUKE</b> 1:57-66 <sup>14</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 1:67-80 <sup>15</sup>
<b>Luke</b> 2:1-12 <sup>16</sup> 	<b>LUKE</b> 2:13-21 <sup>17</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 2:22-35 <sup>18</sup>	<b>LUKE</b> 2:36-40 <sup>19</sup>	<b>Luke</b> 2:41-51 <sup>20</sup> 
<b>Matthew</b> 1:78-25 <sup>21</sup>	<b>Matthew</b> 2:1-12 <sup>22</sup>	<b>Matthew</b> 2:13-18 <sup>23</sup> 	<b>MATTHEW</b> 2:19-23 <sup>24</sup>	<b>Isaiah</b> 53:5 <sup>25</sup>



To:  
all our readers  
From :  
all who make a contribution to this magazine  
We wish you all

*A peaceful, healthy and hopeful Christmas*

and to all those who have supported

The Guild

The Friendship Club

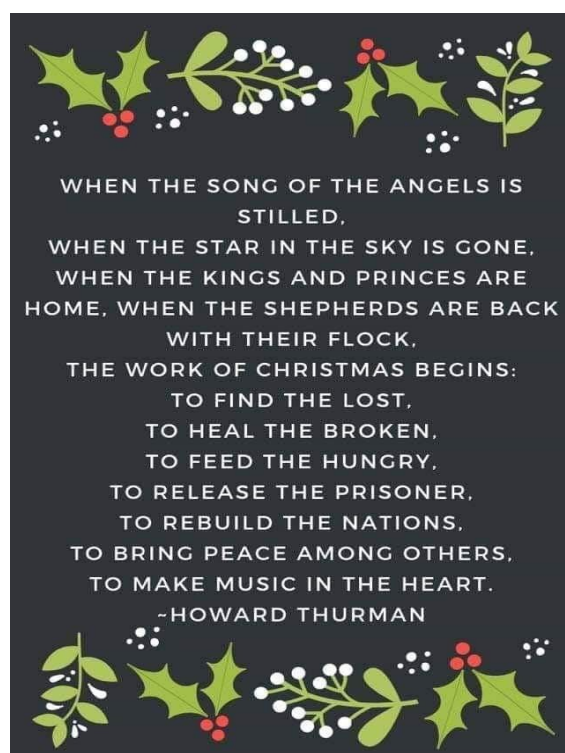
The Strollers

The Monday Boys

The Lunch Club

The Pilgrimage and many more

*We look forward to seeing you again in 2021*





Throughout this pandemic people have continued to donate to the Flower Fund and flowers have continued to be delivered to those who are celebrating times of joy and enduring times of sorrow. At the beginning, when everything and almost everyone was in lockdown, Vanessa Twomey delivered those flowers at the behest of Aileen Sansum, our Flower Con- vener. When it was safe to do so, Aileen and Vanessa shared the deliveries. It is impossible to overestimate the pleasure and comfort that these deliveries brought. Visits with the last two magazines confirmed that.

<i>February—March 2020</i>		<i>April—September</i>	
<i>Mrs McCrone</i>	<i>Mrs Lapham</i>	<i>Mr Dempster</i>	<i>Mrs Sansum</i>
<i>Mrs Wotherspoon</i>	<i>Mrs Raeburn</i>	<i>Mrs Caldwell</i>	<i>Mrs Watson</i>
<i>Mrs Granger</i>	<i>Mrs Aitken</i>	<i>Mrs McKenzie</i>	
<i>Mrs Biggar</i>	<i>Mrs Booker</i>	<i>October</i>	
<i>Mr Cochrane</i>	<i>Mrs Heath</i>	<i>Mrs M Thomson</i>	<i>Mr Robin Dickie</i>
<i>Mrs Hamilton</i>	<i>Mrs McConnell</i>	<i>November</i>	
<i>And 2 Anonymous Donations</i>		<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Watt</i>	<i>Mr Dempster</i>
		<i>Mrs Wilde</i>	

Editor's apology: The above article was prepared for the last magazine and inadvertently missed out when a last-minute reshuffle of the pages was required. It was, in fact, the very first article to be received.

### **Last farewell to dear friends**

*"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" NIV John 14 v2*

**18 September**

*Hugh McKelvie  
6 Thorn Terrace  
Dist 3*

**20 September**

*Margaret Browning  
10 Linfern Avenue West  
Dist 40*

**12 October**

*Elizabeth Knapp  
28 Leadhills Road  
Dist 34*

**18 October**

*John (Jack) Wells  
59 Wilson Avenue  
Dist 48*

**31 October**

*Margaret McFarlane  
Howard House  
Dist 26*

### **Legacy**

The Minister and Kirk Session were grateful to receive a generous legacy of £20,000 from the estate of the late Dr. Alan Orcharton, in memory of his late wife, Margaret, who was a diligent elder for many years and was one of the principal organisers of the annual Kirklandside Fête, which raised many thousands of pounds for the care of the elderly.

### **Greetings to new members:**

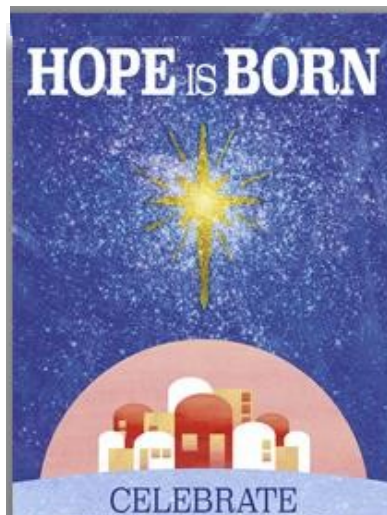
Agnes (Nan) Head, 34 Inchmurrin Drive Dist 2 and her daughter

Mhairi Head, 18 Gleneagles Road Dist 20

A warm Kay Park welcome to them just now and a warmer one when we can all meet together again.







**Worship with us during Advent, on your tablet,  
laptop, computer or phone**

**29 November**

*First Sunday in Advent.* Service in Church at 10.30 am and online on our webpage or on your phone from 9.30 am

**6 December**

*Second Sunday in Advent.* Service in Church at 10.30 am and online on our webpage or on your phone from 9.30 am

**13 December**

*Third Sunday in Advent.* Service in Church at 10.30 am and online on our webpage or on your phone from 9.30 am

**20 December**

*Fourth Sunday in Advent.* Christingle Service in Church at 10.30 am and online on our webpage or on your phone from 9.30 am See more info on page 2

**24 December**

Christmas Eve. Church Closed



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