

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.

Winter 2022

Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!

A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

Tesco's (other supermarkets are available) Christmas advert for 2022 begins with the words.

"Britain there is a joy shortage so we at Tesco have formed, The Christmas Party to help." The advert concludes with the statement, *"We stand for joy."*

A clever piece of marketing that caught my attention. But it begs many questions, what is real joy and what is the source of such joy? In Luke's account of the birth of Jesus we read these words.

'But the angel said to them (the shepherds), *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

Turning to the Old Testament in Psalm 43 v 4 we read.

"I will go to God, the source of all my joy"

My prayer as we approach Advent and Christmas 2022 is that we might each find our way to God the source of all joy. Look at the baby in the manger and you will glimpse the face of God.

Included in the 'KP Newsbite' is a booklet called 'Advent - A Calendar of Devotions.' The daily readings begin on Tuesday 29 November and go through to Christmas Day. Each day there is a bible reading, comment and prayer. May these readings, help us to "stand for joy" as we celebrate this Advent and Christmas Season.

Peace and joy be yours

Rev Fiona



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Book Review
- Operation Orange
- Christmas Lunch

KPPC GUILD

Our first meeting was with our Minister and we really enjoyed hearing about the items she treasures. The Rock Choir was a really enjoyable afternoon with everyone singing along and tapping our feet to the songs. Hopefully all our meetings will be equally enjoyable.

The guild is looking forward to a full programme of enjoyable afternoons, including our Christmas lunch (5 courses) at the College which we are all looking forward to.

Jean Herbert

Dates for the diary

22 November - Informal coffee & chat

6 December - Informal coffee & chat

13 December -Christmas Lunch at Salt & Barrel

24 January -Burns "Oor Rabbie" - Janette Steven & Aileen Sansum

7 February -Guild Topic 'Lights & Bushels'

21 February -Second Half Part Two—Rev Scott Rae

7 March - Parkinsons Community Singers

21 March -Guild Topic 'Star Child' - Michaela Foster

18 April -Annual General Meeting

25 April -Spring Lunch at Salt & Barrel 12noon



"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world" C S Lewis

MONDAY BOYS

As the name suggests we meet every Monday afternoon from 12.30 until about 2.30 - 3.00 (Depending on the chat) We were pleased to congratulate one of our team and his better half who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October, best wishes to Gordon and Rene Larmour.

We are always looking for new members and you would be made most welcome if you could spare the time - no skills required.

We are lucky to welcome Bobby Goudie to join our team .

The autumn brings its changes with most of or time spent brushing up leaves .

And with Christmas not too far away - Aileen Sansum will no doubt be looking for our assistance with the Christmas trees and decorations .

John Dyet



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We opened the new session on Thursday October 6th, when we were delighted to welcome our members, both "old" and "new". The Salvation Army entertained us with songs and also spoke about the excellent work they do for our community. They demonstrate Christianity in action.

At the end of October John Goodwin of the Trussell Trust gave us an interesting insight into the marvellous work done by the foodbank adjoining St. Matthews Church. During the session our members give generously to the foodbank by donating much needed toiletries. Like the Salvation Army this organisation provides invaluable assistance in our town.

At the start of November the Reverend George Lind, formerly minister of St. Columba's Church in Stewarton, gave us a most interesting illustrated talk on his recent trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau. It was extremely moving and also very thought provoking. During this season of Remembrance, one of the Shining Lights, Beryl Paterson, has been crocheting poppies, which have been quickly snapped up by the members, with all the proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who wishes to join us on every alternate Thursday afternoon. You'll find us a friendly bunch.

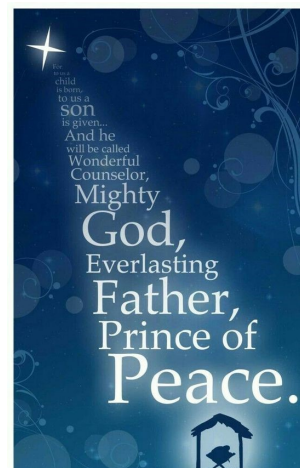
May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2023.

With sincere Blessings from everyone in the Friendship Club.

The Shining Lights.

Dates For The Diary

- 1 December— Ayr & Prestwick Street Pastors
- 15 December—Christmas Lessons & Carols
- 5 January - Music & Songs from That's the Question
- 19 January - David & Joan Lacy
- 2 February - TV and more with Mike Higgins
- 16 February - Music from True Colours
- 2 March - Helping Hands
- 16 March - Daffodil Tea



CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Connections Committee has been set up to examine possible projects/schemes which the church may undertake in order to provide for the needs of groups within our community – all within the “five marks of mission”, the guidelines for all we do as a church.

Current projects/schemes are -

Café, Foodbank, Operation Orange, Christian Aid, Harvest Appeal, Blythwood Shoebox Appeal and Warm Space

If anyone feels they would like to help in any of the above, in any small way, please contact either Jeff Davies 07917360887 or Bill Caldwell 07947128615.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund

September

Mrs Houston
Mrs L Skeoch
Mrs I Aitken
Mrs J Barry
Mrs M Malcolm
Mrs J Inglis

October

Mrs J Mackie
Mr G Thomson

November

Mrs O Caldwell
Mr A Dempster
Mrs M Lapham
Mrs M Malcolm

Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and either put in the offering plate or given to Aileen Sansum.

Cheques should be made payable to Kay Park

STROLLERS & STRIDERS

Our groups have continued their activity with regular walks each month at varying locations. September's Strollers saw a healthy turn out of 18 spend an hour or so walking the paths around Roukenglen with a brief stop for a group photo (see attached) at the waterfall. Their next walk was from Barr Castle in Galston where a smaller turnout walked for an hour or so before heading to the Ayrshire Hub for refreshments.

The Striders started their September walk from the Burns Centre in Alloway and walked, via the cycle path and country roads, to Greenan Foreshore and Doonfoot before returning for coffees etc. The weather for October's walk was not kind, so a reduced number had a briefer than normal walk along the riverside at Galston before, again, heading for the Ayrshire Hub.

New walkers are always welcome. Details from David Miller – 07977050624.

Dates for the remainder of this year are :

Strollers – 3rd Dec.

Striders – 17th Dec.



BOOK REVIEW

Niteblessings – Meditations for the end of the day

By Malcolm Duncan

At the end of a busy day, Niteblessings invites you to a nightly spiritual meditation, nourishing the soul and engaging the spirit.

With a blessing for every day of the year this is the perfect book for those looking to make time to engage with God in the quiet of the evening hours.



OPERATION ORANGE 2022

We have another opportunity to be part of Operation Orange again this year to support the legal Migrants in Calabria in the southern toe of Italy. As you know, Kay Park Parish Church participated in the Programme at the end of 2021 and early 2022 to import a pallet of freshly picked oranges and to distribute them to other Churches, Schools, Salvation Army and homeless Charity groups in our Community. Not only did this help the Migrants who are forced to live in tented villages but it also provided fresh fruit to School children and those unfortunate enough to be homeless in Kilmarnock and surrounding areas.



The one change to this year's programme is that we will need to ask for payment of the fruit in advance before we can place an order. Therefore it is essential that the work is undertaken as soon as possible to ensure funds are available in time. Whilst there were issues at the beginning of the year with import Regulations due to Brexit which caused a delay in delivery, this year there is a confidence that previous experience will stand us in good stead this time. It is our plan to have the oranges delivered before Christmas this year. The cost of a 10 Kg crate of oranges will be £ 26 which represents approximately 40 oranges. Everybody commented last time on the quality of the oranges and how much juice they produced !

Please contact either Jeff Davies at jeffandsheila@talktalk.net [Mo tel 07917 360887] or Bill Caldwell at thecaldwells@talktalk.net [Mo 07947 128615] to place an order and for our banking details.

We thank you in advance for participating in this great programme of outreach. Jeff Davies, Kay Park Parish Church, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7AA

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Church Christmas Lunch is after morning worship on 11 December when all are welcome to gather together in the church hall for a buffet style Christmas Lunch—Sandwiches, sausage rolls, etc followed with mince pies and after dinner mints and tea/coffee. Followed by Christmas carols round the piano led by our choir. Tickets will be available from Sunday 20 November with a suggested donation of £5 to cover the cost.



COMMUNITY HALL LETS

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Mon | Scalliwags | 9.30am |
| | Brownies & Guides | 6.00pm |
| | Parkinson's Community Singers | 6.00pm |
| Tues | Killie Heartmates | 6.00pm |
| Wed | Physio Class | 1.45pm |
| | GA | 7.30pm |
| Thur | Killie Heartmates | 6.30pm |
| | Rock Choir | 7.30pm |

For more information on any of the above groups or information about hiring the halls, please contact the Church Administrator

chrchdmnstr@outlook.com or phone 07394173977

QUOTE

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection"

Winston Churchill

MEDITERRANEAN HOPE

The most up to date newsletter from Fiona Kendall who is the mission partner with Mediterranean Hope can be found if you follow this link or if you prefer a paper copy this can be found at the back of the church, please feel free to take copy.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/101644/october-2022-undaunted-and-determined.pdf

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SCOUTS

The 37th Ayrshire Henderson Scout Group were out again on a wild evening decorating the church railings for Remembrance Sunday. Here are a few photos to show what a fab job they have done.



WEDNESDAY CAFE

The Wednesday cafe continues to be busy and a big thank you to all the volunteers who give their time so willingly.

An especially big thank you to all the visitors from near and far. Without you there would be no Wednesday cafe.

We have had a great mix of people including a gentleman from Pakistan now living in Glasgow.

We had no idea how a cafe would work back in April when we first started but the results are amazing.

Everyone enjoys the chat and it's lovely to have time to speak to our fellow members and our local community.

As we all look forward to Christmas we hope to grow and enjoy each other's company.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Jean Deans



“To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy” Handel H Brown

WELCOME TEAM ROTA

December

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 4th | Gordon Slater | Angela Murray | Maureen Miller |
| 11th | Olive Gow | Jean Deans | Christine Watt |
| 18th | Bobby Biggar | Michael Lacy | Aileen Sansum |
| 24th | Morag Lindsay | Jean Herbert | John Smith |
| 25th | Janette Steven | Alex Steven | |

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN AND AROUND KILMARNOCK

St Kentigern's Christmas Eve services

6.30pm All-Age Celebration

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Hurlford Parish Church

Carol Service is 18th December Carol Service at 7pm in the church, with tea/coffee mince pies at the close of the service.

Christmas Eve: Tea/coffee, mince pies, in the hall from 10.30pm. Carols at 11.15pm in the church followed by the service at 11.30pm.

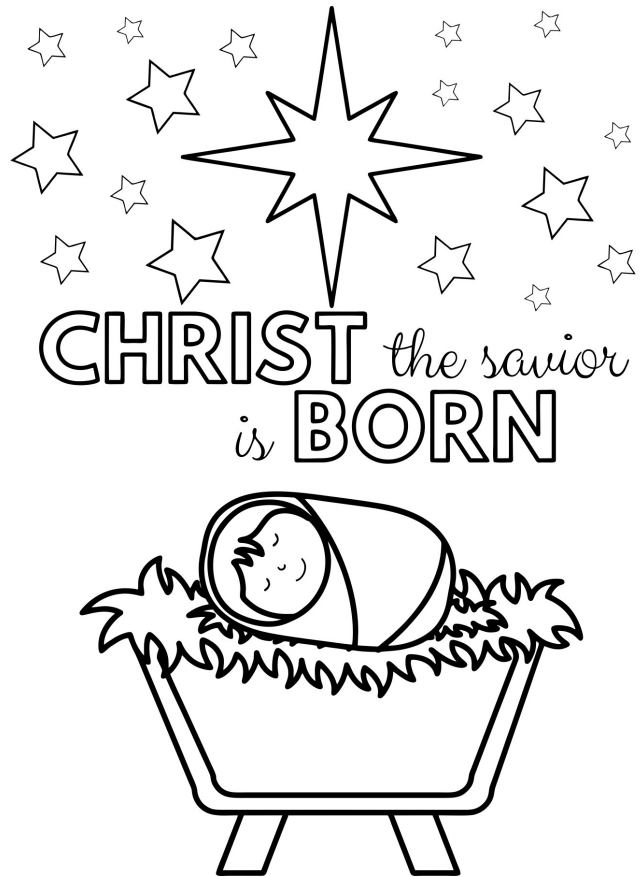
YOUNG CHURCH

Lollipop Christmas Trees

Using 3 lollipop sticks and other craft items design your own Christmas Tree decoration and hang it up somewhere in your house. Make as many as you like and if you want take a photograph of them and send them to the Church Administrator and we'll include them in the next magazine.



Colouring Sheet



Wordsearch

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | N | G | E | L | S | A | B | F | A |
| H | G | L | F | E | H | D | C | I | N |
| I | B | O | R | T | E | V | U | E | I |
| M | A | R | Y | G | P | T | T | L | M |
| J | B | Y | N | S | H | R | S | D | A |
| K | Y | A | M | J | E | S | U | S | L |
| H | L | M | N | O | R | P | H | L | S |
| E | I | E | G | O | D | N | M | R | L |
| R | A | O | I | O | S | T | A | R | S |
| O | M | S | F | U | L | S | W | D | T |
| D | A | L | T | S | D | D | T | R | A |
| C | N | B | S | P | I | R | I | T | B |
| A | G | K | I | N | G | S | S | G | L |
| B | E | T | H | L | E | H | E | M | E |
| E | R | F | H | J | O | S | E | P | H |

Try to find the following words

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Angels | Herod |
| Animals | Jesus |
| Baby | Joseph |
| Bethlehem | Kings |
| East | Manger |
| Fields | Mary |
| Gifts | Shepherds |
| Glory | Spirit |
| God | Stable |
| Gold | Star |

24 things to do in Advent

Decorate your Christmas Tree



Sing and Dance to Christmas songs



Wear new pyjamas



Make salt dough Christmas decorations



Watch a Christmas Film



Read the Christmas Story



Make a Christmas card



Thank Jesus for Christmas



Ring someone you love and tell them



Write a prayer for your family



Smile at everyone today



Have a picnic indoors



Go for a walk on a frosty day



Make someone a present



Pick up someone else's litter



Donate some food to the foodbank



Make some Christmas cookies



Make a Christmas Decoration for your tree



Make a gift for someone



Be extra kind to someone



Make snowflakes



Make a Christmas Star



Make Paperchains and hang them up



Help to do some cleaning



Christmas Prayer

for

CHILDREN!

Dear God,
thank you for Christmas.
Thank you for all the fun and happiness.
It's good to share food, games and presents.
Thank you for special times with family and friends.
But most of all, we want to
thank you for giving us Jesus.
The greatest present ever.
Your Son, part of you, to be with us.
Thank you for loving us that much.
Help us to remember you this Christmas.
Amen.



WARM SPACES

Warm spaces in safe places

As the cost of living crisis bites and winter approaches, churches and charities around the UK are opening venues where people who cannot afford to heat their homes can enjoy warmth, refreshments and friendly conversation. In Kilmarnock and the surrounding area some facilities have been available for years, while new options are being provided in response to the crisis.



Kilmarnock Baptist Church

Renew KBC wellbeing cafe is a warm community space which is open every Thursday from 10.30am till 2pm. The cafe at Old Mill Road is a quiet space where it's ok not to be ok. Refreshments, activities and wi-fi are free and adults can relax, chat, keep warm or just enjoy peace in a quiet area. Activities are based around the 5 ways to wellbeing which promote good mental and emotional health.



Central Evangelical Church

Enjoy a warm welcome at CEC in John Finnie Street on Fridays from 10am to 12.30pm.

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa)

EACHa offers a free lunch, plus food parcels at their Community Friends sessions from 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in New Laigh Kirk's halls in John Finnie Street. Another valuable service offered by EACHa is Friendly Fresh Start, which helps people settle into their new homes. Cleaning packs and small household items are available by referral by Social Services and Women's Aid.



Howard Centre

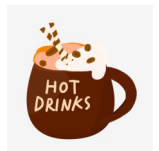
The Well Café at the Howard Centre in Portland Road is a place to see old friends and meet new ones. It serves home cooked food at affordable prices and is staffed by friendly volunteers. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings coffee/tea and home-made scones are served from 11am to 2pm and from 12 to 2pm soup, filled rolls and daily specials are available.

Hurlford Church

Hurlford Church invites you to enjoy a chat over tea and coffee in warm surroundings on Mondays from 12noon to 3.30pm. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Kay Park Church

Kay Park Church in London Road are opening their building on Tuesdays from November from 10am to 1pm as a warm space. Their Wednesday Café is open from 10am till 12 noon. In addition to tasty food, visitors can enjoy music, dominoes, board games and colouring books, catering for all ages.



St Joseph's Church

St Joseph's Church Hall in Hill Street is the venue for Community Lunch on Tuesdays from 11am to 1pm. Visitors can enjoy soup, sandwiches, cakes and chat. On Wednesdays from 11am to 12 noon there is a Foodbank with tea, coffee, biscuits and sandwiches.



St Kentigern's Church

St Kentigern's Community Cafe is open from 10 am till 12 noon every Wednesday in the small hall at Dunbar Drive in New Farm Loch. The café offers a warm space to enjoy a warming cuppa in good company.

WARM SPACES CONT.

St Matthew's Church

St Matthew's Church runs an East Ayrshire Foodbank every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 6pm at Grassyards Road. This operates via vouchers which can be obtained from local agencies, including Citizens Advice Bureau

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army's warm space is open on Mondays from 10.30am to 3pm with free tea and coffee. Soup and sandwiches are served between 11.30am and 1pm for an optional charge of £2. On Thursdays from 11.00am to 12.30pm there is a Community Drop-In with hot rolls and emergency food parcels available.



PRESBYTERY PLAN

'The times they are a-changing' - Presbytery Plan

Background

The Church of Scotland General Assembly made some significant decisions at its gathering in May 2021. This included the passing of a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act. Put simply, church attendance has reduced significantly over the last 50 years, income has dropped, we have too many church buildings (many of which cost a considerable amount to upkeep) and there are not enough ministers.

Each Presbytery was instructed to put in place a Presbytery Plan which would by necessity have to make some difficult decisions. Nearly every congregation in Scotland has been/will be affected with unions, linkages, shared ministry and for many the closure of much-loved buildings. Change has taken place at a Presbytery level too with Irvine and Kilmarnock joining with 5 other Presbyteries to become the Presbytery of the South West on 1 November 2022. A new full time Presbytery Clerk was appointed called Mrs Christine Murray and the current Moderator is the Rev Brian Hendrie.

Kay Park Parish Church

Kay Park is to be part of a three-way Union, with the congregations of St Kentigern's and Hurlford, with one full-time minister of Word and Sacrament. Presbytery will appoint representatives to work with the three congregations to progress towards the implementation of the plan. The process of conferring with local parties will take time. However, no one wishes to rush into any situation of adjustment without due diligence. Over the coming months we will have various opportunities to get to know people in the other congregations which will hopefully build a strong foundation for the future.

The writer of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament writes these words;

'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... but let us encourage one another' (Hebrews chapter 10 v 23-25)

I encourage us all to hold onto these words, remembering God is faithful to all his promises. Each of us has a part to play in 'spurring one another on' in our faith and witness. We are better when we are meeting and sharing together.

Rev Fiona Maxwell

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FUNERALS

'In my Father's house are many mansions; if
it were not so, I would have told you'

Thursday 10 November Mr Joe Meikle

KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7.30 pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 14 December

Wednesday 11 January

Wednesday 8 February

Wednesday 8 March

UPCOMING DATES

Blue Christmas 27 November 2.30pm

Gift Sunday 4 December 11am

Christmas Buffet Lunch 11 December 12.15pm

Nativity 18 December 11am

Christmas Eve Service 24 December 4pm

Christmas Day 25 December 10.30am

