

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 2023

# Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!

## A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

Retailers have been rolling out this year's batch of Christmas adverts. Kevin the Carrot returns for Aldi, Amazon has three elderly friends recapturing their childhood by sledging, Asda brings us Michael Buble singing his heart out and John Lewis features a Venus Flytrap Christmas tree! (please note other adverts are available). Marketing Christmas is big business for retailers, who are all keen to catch our attention and draw us in to their stores.

I have mixed thoughts and feelings as I turn my mind to preparing for the Advent and Christmas Season. As war continues to rage in Ukraine and Gaza how in all conscience can we stand and sing, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie'. Indeed, it might be worthwhile remembering that Jesus was born into a country that was occupied by the Romans, who called the census that sent Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem. And, to remember that Joseph, Mary and Jesus themselves became refugees as they fled from Bethlehem to Nazareth.

None of us would (well maybe some) want to be cast as being a Scrooge like, bah humbug character but perhaps we do need to stop and take stock this Advent/Christmas time. Of course, we can enjoy all the trappings of this time of year but maybe this year more than ever we need to stop and take stock.

Our world is weary so how then do these words resonate with people;

*'a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'*

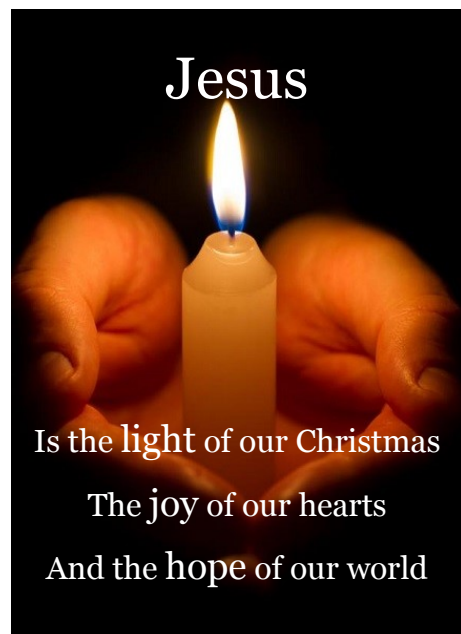
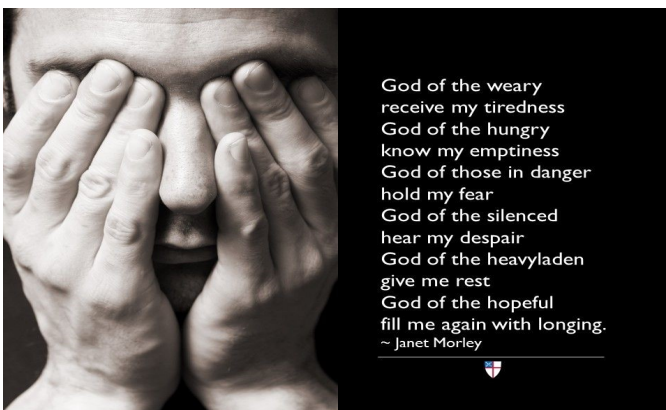
What is this new and glorious morn that the Christ Child brings? The angels will herald that his coming is 'good news for all the people'. But how will the people hear if no one tells them.

As followers of Jesus, we are not marketing a quick or simple solution to the world's woes, rather we are offering Good News of Jesus who came to be 'God with us', bringing good news for the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed.

May we take time to think about the poor, the prisoners, the blind and oppressed in our midst and around our world in this season.

'May you know God with you this Advent/Christmas time and always'

Rev Fiona



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Friendship Club.....	2
Wednesday Café.....	2
KPPC Guild .....	3
Media Team.....	3
Strollers & Striders.	4
Church Flowers .....	4
Monday Boys.....	5
Sacred Islands .....	5
Community Lets.....	6
37th Scouts .....	7
Book Review .....	7
Young Church .....	8
Young Church.....	9
John MacMillan .....	9
Poets Corner .....	10
Harvest .....	10
Christmas Story.....	11
Shoebox Appeal.....	11

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- John MacMillan
- Poets Corner
- Sacred Islands

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We have had a very successful start to our new session. As well as welcoming our regular members we have had a few new ones joining us. The speakers and musical entertainment have been first class including our minister Fiona, who led us on a thought provoking journey based on a Desert Island Discs format. Fiona McKenzie brought along the "Unlikely Lads" from Centre Stage and the singing from us all was fantastic. Our next speaker was the Reverend Jill Clancy, who is the Chaplain Coordinator at HMP Barlinnie. There can be no one more suited to hold that position.

We now look forward to Christmas. At the end of November we will hold our regular Christmas craft stall as well as a quiz produced by our own Olive Caldwell. Finally in December The Shining Lights will be the "main" event at the festivities.

On behalf of everyone in the Friendship Club we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy  
and Peaceful 2024.

With Blessings from the Shining Lights

### Future Date are:

Thursday 11th January—Lynette Russell Cake Decorating  
Thursday 25th January—Ron Swanson His Family Charity  
Thursday 8th February—Fiona Kendall Mediterranean Hope  
Thursday 22nd February —Crossroads Community Choir  
Thursday 7th March—Music with Alex Ferguson  
Thursday 21st March—Rev Bill Jackson  
Thursday 4th April—Daffodil Tea



## WEDNESDAY CAFÉ

Hope you are all looking forward to the Christmas season. I know it's a busy time for everyone but I hope we will still see you at the Wednesday Cafe. We might even have mince pies!

Marlene and myself visited St George's Tron in Glasgow on Monday 9th October to see the Taiwan exhibition and met a lovely lady called Helen.

She was very interested in the connection that Kay Park had with Changchua Christian Hospital and about our Landsborough window. (You can see a picture of Dr and Mrs Landsborough on the window ledge.) After giving her directions and postcode, she visited the cafe. Helen was very impressed with our beautiful church and took lots of photos.

A big thank you to all visitors and volunteers who give their time so willingly.

Hope you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Jean Deans



## KPPC GUILD

It has been a very busy, enjoyable, thought provoking and emotional time at the guild over the last few weeks with our speakers - Rev Fiona, Parkinsons and Starchild. Looking forward we have musical entertainment which I am sure will be uplifting.

Our Christmas lunch at the College will be a memorable afternoon with good food and good company - even though it had to be moved to November due to our increase in the numbers coming to the guild and wishing to attend.

Jean Herbert

### **Future Date are:**

Tuesday 16 January-My Life & Work Rev John Paterson

Tuesday 30 January—Burns Poems & Music John Hodgart

Tuesday 13 February—Ukelele Band—True Colours

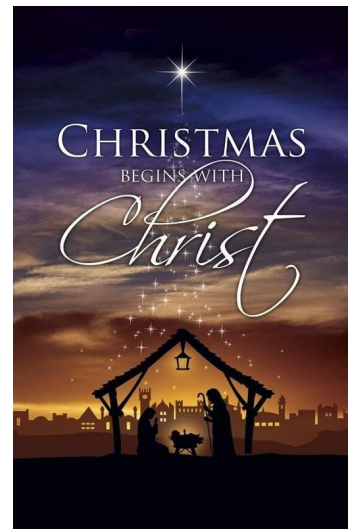
Tuesday 27 February-Guild Project Beat Eating Disorder

Tuesday 12 March-The role of women in Britain WW11 Stuart Wilson

Tuesday 2 April-AGM

Friday 12 April Concert—Jill Clancy Songs for all choir

Tuesday 16 April-Spring Lunch



---

*“This is Christmas : not the presents, not the carols, but the humble heart that receives the wonderful gift of Christ.”*

---

## MEDIA TEAM

The team now has 8 people which includes our two newest members Bobby Goudie & Robbie Herbert, we welcome them to the team and they are already very valuable members.

We are going from strength to strength each week. We have completed the most recent upgrade which is a better amplifier in the Chancel area this was gifted to us from St Johns, Onthank plus new speakers paid for by donations from the Guild & coffee funds, thanks to those for this. This will improve sound greatly in that area.

One other thing which was completed recently using old equipment from when the church first went into Audio Visual was the connection of the praise band instruments & vocals into the main system which we can now control on a Sunday morning.

We are always on the lookout for willing folk to join our team. Full training will be given just speak to Fiona McBride or Paul Scoular. Myself & the team wish to thank you all for your patience & support when we do have a problem on a Sunday believe me it's not intentional it's the techie gremlins as I like to call them.

Thanks Paul Scoular.





## CHURCH FLOWERS

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

### September

Mrs Vanessa Twomey

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Marjorie McConnell

Mrs Maureen Taylor

Mrs Jean Inglis

### October

Mrs Isabel Aitken

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Betty Booker

Mrs Rene Larmour

Mrs Marilyn Malcolm

Mrs Maureen Moore

Mrs Audrey Gray

Mrs Olive Caldwell

### November

Mrs Aileen Sansum

Mrs Alex Dempster

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



## STROLLERS & STRIDERS

The Wednesday Walkers continue to meet each Wednesday at 10am at the car park adjacent to the Burns' Centre in Kay Park, Kilmarnock. From here, the group walk around the perimeter paths of the park, at a gentle pace, with no one left on their own. Up until now, this group usually numbers between 8 – 12 who, following their walk, head for the Church café for refreshments and chat. Like our other groups, newcomers are very welcome.

Since our last edition, the Strollers have had a further two walks. The first on a dry, calm day, left Hurlford Cross and followed the path alongside the River Irvine towards Templetonburn before returning via Crookedholm. Our second walk was along Prestwick shorefront, in light rain, before turning in towards the town for our return.

The Striders have also held two further walks. The first, along Troon shorefront and back via Fullarton Drive enjoyed a dry though windy morning. The second was held in the grounds of Dumfries House with some light rain showers to keep us cool.

All walks, as you would expect, concluded with visits to a variety of establishments for refreshments.

It is now 10 years since the establishment of our first Church walking group and it is heartening to note that their popularity shows little sign of waning. A substantial group of 34 recently attended a social dinner and evening at Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club where an enjoyable evening was spent in each other's company.

Remaining scheduled dates for 2023 are:

**Wednesday Walkers** – each Wednesday at 10am at the Burns' Centre, Kay Park.

New dates for the Strollers & Striders will be advertised in the Order of Service.

Newcomers (and returning walkers) are always welcome. See weekly intimations or phone David Miller on 07977050624 for details.

David Miller

### QUOTE

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men"

Luke 2.14



Dumfries House

## MONDAY BOYS

Well our year is nearly over and as usual the church's multi talented team have been working hard.

The autumn brings its own trials with all the surrounding trees shedding their leaves .

Our team are becoming experts in landscaping first at the manse and then replacing the retaining wall on the lane side

Barrowing two loads of wood chippings onto the area was quite an undertaking , but was achieved with some laughter and a lot of grunting.

As the festive season approaches we will be helping the Flower team with the Christmas trees and decorations under the watchful eye of Aileen Sansum

We all enjoy a sit down with tea coffee and cakes and a blether with Dougie and Jack .

At the end of this month we are looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Salt and Barrel.

John Dyet



### SCOTLANDS SACRED ISLANDS WITH BEN FOGLE

Adventurer Ben Fogle is on a very personal pilgrimage. Travelling across Scotland's remotest islands, he discovers that their spiritual legacy still resonates today.

In the 1st episode of Series 2 Ben travels to Arran and Holy Isle and learns how they are a haven for diverse faiths and beliefs. Episode 2 finds Ben travelling to Islay and Jura and discovering communities going the extra mile to look out for one another. In episode 3 he heads for the Orkney Isles to investigate Norse Christian heritage and how they are a place of modern pilgrimage. Then in episode 4 on the breath-taking Isle of Skye, Ben Fogle investigates how spiritual and religious power still survives in the face of so many visitors and sets off to discover sacred places.

As well as faith and spirituality and the amazing scenery the series has some lovely moments which are all about people helping people such as Men's Shed in Orkney and the quietly wonderful lady on Arran, Fiona, who seems to spend most of her waking life in the service of the community. This series lets you escape from the fast paced life we live here on the mainland and allows you to relax and recharge your batteries.



## COMMUNITY HALL LETS

<b>Mon</b>	Scalliwags	9.30am
	Brownies & Guides	6.00pm
<b>Tues</b>	Killie Heartmates	6.00pm
<b>Wed</b>	Physio Class	1.45pm
	GA	7.30pm
<b>Thur</b>	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.

## GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS SCOTLAND

Gamblers Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have joined together to do something about their own gambling problem and to help other compulsive gamblers do the same.

### Is Gambling causing problems in your life?

If so ..... We can help!

- Website: [www.gascotland.org](http://www.gascotland.org)
- Email: [info@gascotland.org](mailto:info@gascotland.org)
- Helpline: 0370 050 8881 (24 HRS)

## HALL LETS

The Church halls are used on a regular basis but there is still availability for other lets. Over the last few months we have had yoga classes, birthday parties, Anxiety Management classes and concerts. We are a multi purpose building and will try to accommodate most events.

To hire our halls contact the church administrator on

07394 173977 or

[kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com)

## SCALLIWAGS

The Scalliwags meet every Monday morning from 9.30am, the group caters for children under 3 and are usually accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. It is a friendly group and all are made welcome. If you would be interested in joining the group please email

[scalliwags@live.co.uk](mailto:scalliwags@live.co.uk)

## ROCK CHOIR

If you like to sing, you'll Love Rock Choir!

Pop, rock and chart singing for adults and teenagers.

No auditions and no need to read music



## BROWNIES & GUIDES

17th Kilmarnock Brownies and 6th Kilmarnock Guides meet most Mondays at 6pm and 7.30pm

## KILLIE HEARTMATES

Killie Heartmates is an active cardiac exercise group. They meet all year round to offer support and help to improve members health and fitness. The group have fully qualified B.A.C.R. instructors (British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation)

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SCOUTS

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



## CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Victoria Buckell on receiving an award at the NHS Compassion to Action Awards Ceremony on 8th November. This is an award for raising the profile of volunteering Breaking Down Barriers. Victoria volunteers at University Hospital Crosshouse Ward 5D Elderly Care on a Monday and Friday.



*“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflecting”  
Winston Churchill*

## BOOK REVIEW

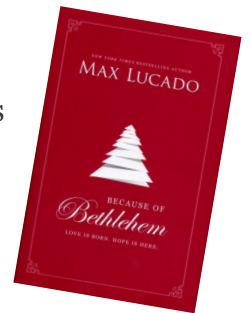
### Because of Bethlehem—Max Lucado

For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and quality time with loved ones. For others, it's full of loneliness, grief, and loss. Join Max Lucado as he unwraps the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope, all because of one baby born in Bethlehem.

It's easy to lose sight of the remarkable story of Christmas. We forget that a king ordered a census, Joseph was forced to travel, Mary bounced on a donkey's back, the hotel was full, the hour was late, and the event was one big hassle. Yet, out of that hassle, hope was born.

In *Because of Bethlehem*, Max invites us to look at the Christmas story from a different perspective. He reminds us that Christmas is about more than a pretty tree with presents piled up underneath it. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the child in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a place on earth and a Saviour in heaven.

As you curl up in a comfortable spot and take a closer look at the wild and wonderful story of Bethlehem, may you find enduring faith for all seasons of your life. No matter what this season holds for you, rest in the truth that the promise of Christmas has the power to bring you a lifetime of hope and healing.



# YOUNG CHURCH

## What you will need:

- A paper plate
- Brown paper/white paper and colour brown
- Things to decorate your tree
- Coloured pens
- Scissors

## What to do:

1. Cut the paper plate in to quarters and colour 3 of the quarters green, then stick them together like the picture.
2. Cut out a rectangle for the trunk and stick to the tree.
3. Decorate the tree with whatever you like.



## Colouring Sheet



## My Refuge

My Refuge is Church  
It is a place where we love  
A place that feels like family  
A place where you can be yourself  
A place to talk to Jesus  
A place where we share together  
A place that shows you kindness  
And a place that gives you friends  
Church is my safe place  
Church is my refuge

Rosa Howie age 8



# first & third Sundays@KPPC

Young Church has now been running since early September and we have had some great sessions, the numbers vary from week to week due to families having other commitments, but each week the children enjoy the fun and friendship that they share with each other and the leaders. My thanks go to Aynsley, Olive, Abby, Gregor and Lyness for supporting the Young Church and giving of their time. We still need more leaders and helpers because the more we have the less you have to do.

We plan to continue running activities on the **1st** and **3rd** Sundays of every month down in the hall.

**Future dates are:** 7 January, 21 January, 4 February, 18 February, 3 March

---

*“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God”*  
*C.S.Lewis*

---

## JOHN MACMILLAN

Many of you will know I spent all my formative years in what was Henderson until I left for Fenwick in 1989 then aged 32 or so. The next 24 years were in Fenwick and the most recent 11 years have been in Wormit Fife. I made my living, like my father Iain, in the law.

Away back in about 1974 or 1975, the Rev John Weir Cook asked me if I felt a Call to ministry. I really did not at that stage. The vocation that did attract me was law and I really enjoyed all of my career.

As that career was winding to a conclusion however, in amongst the aftermath of Iain and Edith's deaths in 2019, and the general consequences of Covid and Presbytery planning in late 2020, there emerged for me a real sense of Call to do something in God's ministry. That all led to a longish path towards Readership which I finally completed in August this year. In short, that involved what is called Discernment and Local Review to test that Call, then two years of University study albeit part time, and two rigorous placements with Ministers, one in Dundee and one in Cupar. I was passed through the University education in June (Certificate in Higher Education) and through the final preaching assessment at the end of August.

On 28/11 I am to be Set Apart as a Reader, as the church describes it. It's like a formal commissioning. It will be in Cupar St John's. Anyone who would like to attend will be welcome of course but it's an awfully long way from Kilmarnock. I recommend the live streaming!

Although the Call emerged in Fife in 2020, be in no doubt that JWC's question never really left me alone over 45 years and that the foundation stones for all this were laid in Henderson on the banks of the Kilmarnock Water a very long time ago. I have much for which to thank the Henderson church community, and latterly the Kay Park church community, which I came to know through my parents' experiences in their latter years.

So my warm thanks to you all and my prayers for continuing blessings to KPPC in the months and years ahead.

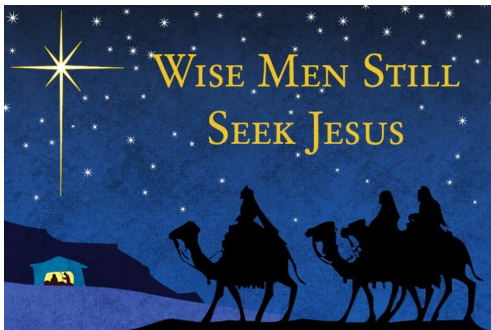
John or Johnny Macmillan.

Live Stream can be accessed through [cuparstjohnsanddairsie.org](https://cuparstjohnsanddairsie.org)

## POETS CORNER

### Is It Me—Andy Raeside

Another day gone, it's in the past  
Why oh why do they go so fast  
I'd like to look back  
On what I did yesterday  
But there's no rewind button  
No action replay  
Only today to try to get things right  
But it sometimes seems like a very hard fight  
To be as good as I ought to be  
Is it like that for everyone  
Or is it just me  
Who wonders if I did all that I could  
Or maybe it's more like, all that I should  
I suppose the answer must lie deep within  
And not on the surface or under the skin  
So I must do what a I think to be right  
Then maybe just maybe  
I'll sleep better at night.

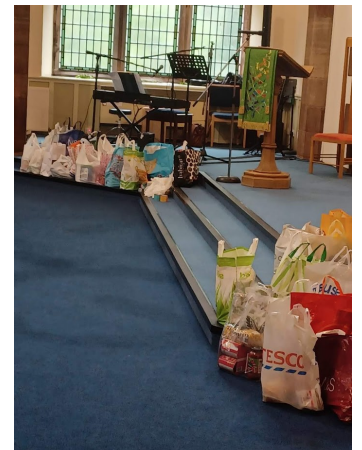


### A Christmas Tale—Anonymous

Away across the ocean over miles of stormy sea,  
Far beyond the range of vision lies a land that's home to me.  
It's just a tiny island washed by angry Northern waves,  
Its coastline wild and rocky,  
Towering cliffs and gloomy caves.  
In these caves I have my workshop and stables for my deer,  
My kitchen and my parlour and my store of Christmas cheer.  
It's here I work all summer, making every kind of toy  
So that I have a present made for every girl and boy.  
You no doubt wonder why I come at Christmas time to you,  
Well listen and I'll tell you an old story ever new.  
Two thousand years ago or so a tiny baby was born.  
Whom angels gladly worshipped that first Christmas morn.  
He was God's Christmas present of peace and love to men.  
The true glad Christmas spirit was born with Jesus then.  
So that is why at Christmas I come with gifts for all,  
To keep you from forgetting that lowly Bethlehem stall,  
To bring you joy and pleasure when days are cold and grey,  
To cheer you with the spirit of that first Christmas Day.

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Harvest thanksgiving was held on Sunday 8th October, the generous donations made by the congregation were donated to the Salvation Army Foodbank for them to distribute. In the hall afterwards we had tea/coffee and homebaking. Judging by the noise everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Dawn, Jean, Maureen, Maureen, Isobel, Marilyn, Moira, Liz & Kathy for their contributions. As I will be making up the new rota for after church coffee, can you please let me know if you wish to continue/join the rota. Moira Graham 07966 452941



## THE CHRISTMAS TABLECLOTH

The new pastor and his wife had been assigned to their first charge, to re open a church in Brooklyn. They arrived early in October and were very excited. When they saw the church it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have all the work done in time to have the first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard repairing pews, plastering walls, painting and so on. On 18th December they were ahead of schedule and nearly finished. Then on 19th a terrible storm hit the area and lasted 2 days.

When it was over the pastor went to the church, his heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked and a chunk of plaster had fallen off the wall, just behind the pulpit. He cleared up as best he could and thinking he would have to cancel the Christmas Eve service he headed home.

On the way he passed a charity sale so he went in. One of the items was a beautifully crocheted tablecloth. It was exquisite work, it was ivory with a cross embroidered right in the centre in beautiful colours. It was just big enough to cover the damage to the wall so he bought it and started to head back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow, he saw an elderly lady hurrying to catch a bus, which she missed. He invited her to come into the church and wait until the next bus was due. She sat quietly in a pew while the pastor got a ladder and put the tablecloth up as a wall hanging. It fitted beautifully and he was feeling very pleased.

He then noticed the woman walking down the aisle, her face was white as a sheet. She asked him where he had got the cloth, when he explained she asked him to look at the bottom right corner to see if the initials EBG were there. They were. She had made this cloth 35 years ago in Austria.

She explained that before the war she and her husband were well to do people in Austria, she was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the cloth but she made him keep it for the church, the least he could do was drive her home.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve, the church was almost full. At the end of the service the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and wished them a Merry Christmas.

One older man was still sitting in the pew staring ahead, he asked the pastor where he had got the tablecloth on the wall because it was identical to one his wife had made many years ago in Austria. He explained how he had forced his wife to flee for her safety and he would follow, but he was arrested and put in prison. He never saw his wife or his home again.

The pastor asked him if he would come with him for a short drive. They drove to the house he had visited earlier in the week, knocked on the door and the pastor saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could have imagined.

### BLYTHESWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the 30th Annual Shoebox Appeal.

Seventy-nine shoeboxes in total were donated along with lots of hand knitted garments and assorted other items. Thanks are also due to Bobby Goudie and Moira Graham who helped in the co-ordination of the Appeal.

All of the above have been taken to Fullerton ConneXions in Irvine which is the hub for this area and the shoeboxes will soon be on their way to Ukraine or Eastern Europe where I am sure they will bring smiles and happiness this Christmas time.

Again many thanks for your generosity.

Janet Grant



## OFFICE BEARERS

### Minister:

Rev Fiona A Maxwell BA BD

Tel: 01563 521762

Mob: 07507 312 123

fmaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

### Session Clerk:

Janette Steven

Tel: 01563 401209

janettesteven12k@gmail.com

### Church Administrator:

Vanessa Twomey

Tel 07394 173977

kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Alex Steven

Tel: 01563 401209

alexsteven21m@gmail.com



Kay Park Parish Church  
London Road  
Kilmarnock  
KA3 7AA  
Tel: 01563 318052  
[www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No: 008154

## FUNERALS

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

Tuesday 12 September

Helen Houston

Thursday 9 November

Grace Scott

## KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 29 November

Wednesday 10 January

Wednesday 21 February

## UPCOMING DATES

- Toy Service Sunday 3 December 11am
- Christmas Lunch Sunday 3 December 12.15am
- Christmas Nativity Sunday 17th December 11am
- Christmas Eve Service Sunday 24 December 11am
- Christmas Eve St Kentigern’s 24 December 6.30pm
- Christmas Eve Hurlford 24 December 10.30pm

