

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Winter 2019



Castlehill Church

Editorial

It seems each year that Christmas arrives so quickly. Perhaps it is because in early autumn we start to see its approach in the shops all around us. Does it mean as much as it used to?. Do we still find happiness and joy in celebrating the birth of Jesus?

In a recent survey a group of young people were asked what was the best thing about Christmas. Some of the answers were, presents, food, entertainment and parties. A further question about why it was a holiday resulted in many not knowing that it was to celebrate Christ's birth nor was the story around it known by many. It is perhaps up to us to spread the Good News, and start this Christmas.

In an article in November's Life and Work a young ministry student tells of her trip to Zambia to visit the Church there. Theirs is not a religion of going to Church each Sunday for an hour or so, but using every hour of every day to praise and thank God for his goodness to them, even though by our standards they sometimes have little to be thankful for.

We have commented in the magazine on so many things that have been happening in our Church in recent months, and have asked the question "were you involved?"

So many of our congregation work so hard and continuously to run organisations, entertain and provide help and friendship in so many ways. Do we take it all too much for granted? One or two questions we should think about and give thanks to God for those who make Castlehill Church what it is and perhaps think of how we, as individuals, could do a little more.

Wellwood Grierson Editor



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Have your say

If you have any comments to make on the Magazine, please feel free to do so by letter or email to herald@castlehillchurch.org We are always pleased to consider any articles for the Magazine from members of the congregation, These can also be sent to the same email address.



Dear Friends,

I write this on the edge of Advent: one of my favourite times of reflection and worship in Church life but one which can cause consternation and confusion in our communities and country.

It's the December pre-occupation:

To persevere with the preparations of getting what we perceive is needed for us to celebrate Christmas.

To join traffic jams of cars queuing to find a place in over-filled car parks, to push for a place in packed shops to purchase the necessary presents,

To ensure our data base of Christmas card recipients is up-to-date and that all the cards needed are duly sent timeously,

To survive the supermarkets to amass the mountains of food essential for entertaining in the festive season, And after completing all the ordinary activity of December, to arrive intact at Christmas Eve ready to wrap up the necessary gifts, gathered for all who might give us gifts.

In the run-up to Christmas, even our Church preparations, our worship can be as frenetic as our fringe activities. So as a minister, I have always liked to add to the worship of Advent an element which allows us to step aside from all the hustle and bustle of Church and community and reflect on what is really needed for Christmas – we call it a “Quiet Christmas” meditation — an amalgam, I suppose, from other traditions of Blue Christmas or Longest Night Services. It allows us to recognise that in all Christmases some of the time, and in some Christmases all of the time, we don't feel we have anything to give to what can be a distinctly superficial celebration of Christmas – truth be told, we may not have it in us to give at all. And we don't know what's needed. It is then we might discover that Advent is precisely the time to address issues like grief, like loss, like financial struggles, like dreams being shattered, like hopes being ground into the dust by the world in which we live — those issues that seem from the outside so very distant from everybody else's December but which can be so very present in my life. It is for such situations, and such people, that Jesus came.

Perhaps what we need in our preparations for Christmas lies in such a service. For in it we can learn that what is really needed in Christmas and in life is NOT that we have to be galvanised to give, give, and give more or that we have to be able to excel in exchange. Rather we have to be ready and willing to receive with grace. In a few weeks we may hear the nativity story from one of the Gospels, demonstrating through a strange story of a baby's birth to a peasant couple in Judea a long time ago that the solution to what we need has very little to do with us. After having tried for generations to cure what ails us, God reached for something strange, radical, and inconceivable. God put in the backwater of Bethlehem a solution so radical that many missed it then and it's even easier to miss now. God gave us what we need in love. It's tough to be on the receiving end of love, God's or anybody else's. It requires that we see our lives not as our possessions, but as gifts. "Nothing is more repugnant to capable, reasonable people than grace," wrote John Wesley long ago.

But this is the way God loves us: God surprises us with gifts we thought we didn't need, which transform us into people we don't necessarily look to be. Then this stranger comes to us, and calls us to see ourselves as we are -- empty-handed recipients of a gracious God who, rather than leave us to our own devices, gave us a baby.

Who would think that what was needed

To transform and save the earth

Might not be a plan or army

Proud in purpose, proved in worth?

Who would think, despite derision,

That a child should lead the way?

God surprises earth with heaven

Coming here on Christmas Day!

Words from a hymn by John Bell and Graham Maule.

Be ready to receive this Christmas and may God bring blessings on your life and the lives of those who matter to you this festive season, however it is. We hope that Christmas at Castlehill 2019 will be open, welcoming, infused with hope and joy, a celebration with which our community will choose to identify. May our experience of Christmas together lead us into a new shared exploration of Peace in Castlehill in 2020, one that embraces all, accepts all, welcomes all and that all will come to understand.

I look forward with enthusiasm to my first full year at Castlehill: my prayer is that together under God we can all share that enthusiasm and gain a sense of anticipation for all that 2020 may hold for us in our community. Let us look forward with faith to an exciting journey ahead.

Paul



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Christmas Past and Present



On the First day of Christmas
"A Partridge in a Pear Tree"



On the Second Day of Christmas
"Two Turtle Doves"



Third Day of Christmas
"Three French Hens"



Fourth Day of Christmas
"Four Calling Birds"



On the Fifth Day of Christmas
"Five Gold rings"



On the sixth Day of Christmas
"Six Geese a Laying"



On the seventh day of Christmas
"Seven Swans a swimming"



Eighth Day of Christmas
"Eight Maids Milking"



On the Ninth Day of Christmas
"Nine ladies dancing"



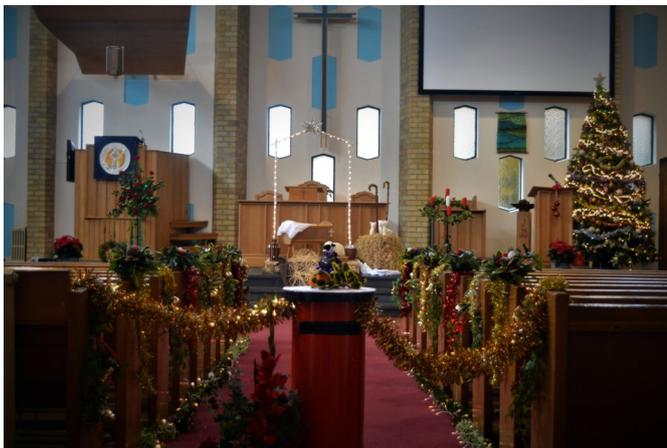
On the tenth Day of Christmas
"Ten Lords Leaping"





The Photographs do not bring out the work and imagination of the ladies who brought the whole display to life and accompanied by lighting and the lay out ,created a memorable visit for the many who came along and enjoyed the two days. Their efforts resulted in making an amazing £1,000 for Church Funds. Well done!!

To add to the scenes of the twelve days of Christmas there were additional items relating to Christmas some of which are shown below and enhancing the creativity of the team.



A First Glance on the Way in

Waiting for Santa



Asleep in the Stable

And Who Made it Happen? Stella and her Team

Give back, We're the reason for the season

"Jesus is the reason for the season" are words we've heard many times during Christmas but I have come to understand that, "We are the reason for the season" and that when we know who we are, it's easier for us to know what we should do to help make a positive contribution to the world. First Kings chapter nineteen verse twelve says, "And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice" reminding us that all it takes is a few quiet words of encouragement from our family and friends to make us come out from the cave of fear and speak up in support of causes and principles that are important to us.

The "red tape" that is around religion should be removed, because spiritual life should not be confined in any way and should always be growing. We should get back to the essence of what the baby Jesus represents and that's love, kindness and doing good things. When you think back to Christmases past, what, if anything, made them special, and looking towards the future, what would your perfect Christmas be? What would you change?

Everyone's answer is different but it's so important to remember that not everyone will have the same Christmas experience. We must do what we can to help, to show love and support to those who don't have as much and therefore capture the true Christmas spirit, focusing on what is important in life rather all the commercialism.

I would like to encourage everyone to be more like the three kings in scripture and think about three selfless gifts you could give to someone this Christmas. One way to offer support is by donating to food banks, as many people will be struggling to even get a good Christmas dinner and your donations whatever size will be of great help, by finding your nearest food bank in and around town, finding a collection point in the supermarkets and churches, of which Castlehill is one, and even by hosting fundraising events. I was shocked to learn that 12,888 people in South Ayrshire are living in a state of poverty and I think it's time to change that statistic for the better.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to effectively make the world a better place in which to live. With my Gran passing this year, I've been reminded that life is too short to not live in a world full of kindness, happiness and hope with the people I love the most. In other words, we should be the change we want to see this Christmas and all year round.

Kirsty Wyllie

Coming soon to Castlehill Church

Discovering Community Led Support

At its core Community Led Support is about enabling people to 'live their lives, their way' and to start their support with a conversation about what matters to them? Hundreds of health and care staff have been undertaking 'effective conversations' training and have been joined by colleagues from South Ayrshire Council, third and independent sectors and lots of community representatives. We are also developing new hubs across our communities, where people can have conversations that might identify ways that they can be supported without automatically going through formal health and care assessments.

These pop up spaces will be in a range of places across South Ayrshire and will be branded 'South Ayrshire Connect'. The first space we have developed has been within the South Ayrshire Life shop in Ayr. In this informal setting, social work, occupational health and other staff have given useful advice to people with all sorts of needs. Most people can be given information, guidance and support straight away or access signposting to other local services, projects and resources. Other people will go on to have a full assessment and will need statutory services.

We are calling these spaces 'Connect Hubs' as we see them as another, alternative portal to explore support available to keep people healthy, active and safe. South Ayrshire Connect hubs will be being developed over the next 6 months in Castlehill Church and Ayr North Health Centre.

It is anticipated that the hub will open on Tuesday 21st January between 9.30am and 11.30 am. Look out for more information nearer the time.

You can find out more information on South Ayrshire Connect by going to the Community Led Support section of the Health & Social Care Partnership website or by visiting the South Ayrshire Life web-site or by phoning the South Ayrshire Life number on 0800 432 0510. www.southayrshirlife.org



The Guild



The new session has got off to a great start with both musical entertainment and interesting talks on Ethiopia, New York and China. On 9th October Stewart Veitch and Andrew Miller, from the Boys Brigade, gave a detailed talk on their visit to Romania. We have five (5) new members but that doesn't mean our membership list is full. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us on a Wednesday evening - but you have missed the Ice Cream!!!

Apart from visiting the Pantomime and our Christmas Night Out, the syllabus continues with talks on topics both local and international. We also have speakers on serious issues.

On behalf of all the committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

Nursing Home Visits

Currently there are 12 members of our Church being cared for in nine Nursing Homes. It has been a great privilege to have visited them over the past 15 months. The fundamental principle with which I approached the visits, is that each person is a unique individual who is not forgotten by the members of Castlehill Church.

I have thoroughly enjoyed each visit as no two have been the same. Some have been a quiet visit with a chat concerning common every day topics. Whilst others have included other residents, resulting in very interesting stories of life events, including their occupation, family and sometimes service for their Country in the armed forces. Some individuals have memory problems with varying severity and just being there visiting was enough.

As I can no longer give the time necessary for further visits, I hope that those who may follow, will derive the pleasure and enjoyment that I have.

Gordon Reid

Seniors Afternoons

In October we had excellent entertainment from Hugh and Friends from Maybole. Despite the absence of some of our members through illness and other reasons, we still a very good attendance. The collection raised for the entertainers' charity, Ayrshire Dementia, allowed us to hand over £100 and we thank everyone for their generosity. It was also a pleasure to welcome a few new faces and we hope they will come back another time. Our meeting, the Christmas party, on 10th December was well attended and the carols from the pupils of Forehill School were of the usual high standard. Everyone entering the Christmas spirit and enjoying themselves.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th February and we hope to see you there. All are welcome, be they Church members or not and should you require transport we will endeavour to provide that. Please contact the Church Office or phone me on 01292 737459

Wellwood Grierson



Rainbow Services offers more than simply the delivery of Care Services. If you are looking for a service that lets you or loved one keep on enjoying life at home why not look at our website:- www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk or give us a call on T:-01292 294180.



Were you there ?

Many events happened in our Church over the past few weeks.

The harvest festival when many gifts of flowers and food were handed in , as well as money, amounting to £313, which was sent to the Bahamas disaster .The flowers were handed out to members of the congregation and the food was handed to the Salvation Army for their Food Bank



A Musical evening by the Aeolian Male Voice

Choir an excellent evening of music to suit all tastes. It was well attended. It was enhanced by some solos by a local Kilmarnock girl Jennifer Pryce. A total of £314.70 was raised for the Fabric Fund. An excellent tea was provided afterwards in the main hall when the winner of the Quiz , Mr Tom Farrel was announced



The Dedication Service of The Boys Brigade

to which their Romanian friends were invited. This was a moving service with overhead Photos of the Boys' trip to Romania and excellent explanations of their visit given by Andrew Miller and Stewart Veitch. A short talk was given by Ibolya Ungur, Director of the Foundation who expressed her thanks to our congregation for their support and also to the boys on their visits which were a source of joy to the children there.



The Anchor Boys entertained us with some singing and afterwards a large crowd went to the main hall to enjoy a soup and sweet lunch. The sum of £680 was raised [25% of which goes to the Romanian Fund for future visits]



The Remembrance Day Service attended by the Youth Organisations of the Church and pupils representing the three schools in our Parish, Belmont Academy, Forehill School and Kincaidston School, accompanied by teachers and parents, joining with our Congregation on Sunday 10th November for a memorable service.



2019 Colour Party for Remembrance Sunday with Junior and Anchor section boys. Taylor-James, leading boy in Anchor Section was the wreath bearer.



A poignant moment as the pupils of Forehill School knelt at the wreaths, laid in remembrance



St. Andrews Breakfast

Almost Fifty brave souls came out on 30th November at 9.30 in the morning to enjoy a short service held by Tom McLeod and Paul Russell to commemorate St. Andrews Day. The service in the main hall, made the connection between Scotland's patron saint and the appropriate Bible readings.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed a bacon/sausage roll and a cup of tea or coffee. The sum of £165 was raised, brilliant!

Will you be there?

Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm. The last of the Advent Services

Tuesday 24th December at 7.00pm. Christmas Eve Family Service.

Tuesday 24th December at 11.30pm. Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25th December at 10.30am. Christmas Day informal Communion Service

Sunday 29th December at 9.45am. Wholeness and Healing Service

Saturday 25th January at 9.30 a.m. A Robert Burns Breakfast.



Christmas Around the World

It is not surprising that most people think that the Christmas celebrations they have every year is how everyone around the world celebrates. Why wouldn't they, especially when the cheesy 'Christmas Films' on TV reinforce that view? I have celebrated Christmas in many countries and, apart from all (or nearly all) having the story of the Christ Child at its core, the surrounding festivities vary. So, let's have a tour.

South Africa

We know Christmas is in the dark days of deep winter. Probably that is the reason we need the twinkling street lights with those on all our trees to brighten up the long nights.

However, Christmas in South Africa is in the middle of summer and the summers there are a lot warmer than our summers, never mind our winters. People are not wrapped up, they're more liable to head for the beach than the shopping malls and our traditional heavy meals (Christmas cake, turkey and trimmings, mince pies) are more likely to be replaced by salads, outside barbeques/braais and pool parties. But Christmas trees, lights and tinsel were still evident.

That doesn't mean that the meaning of Christmas is lost. Church services are held (in stifling heat) and the season is one for holidays. In fact, the longer holidays are held over Christmas and New Year while the up-country cities such as Johannesburg are almost emptied as holidaymakers head for the coast.

Singapore

Singapore is pretty close to the Equator, so temperatures don't vary all that much through the year. Christmas is nominally in the winter, but it is really the rainy season. Afternoon thunderstorms are the norm.

The population is a mixture of ethnic Chinese, Malays, Indians, Sri Lankans and Westerners from Australia, UK and Europe with a smattering of North Americans. Not all of them are from a Christian background so Christmas, although celebrated, is not the main religious holiday season. That belongs to the Chinese New Year which lasts at least for a week.

That doesn't stop Christmas celebrations so, inside the malls, one is greeted by all the usual displays. Church services are just what you would expect, but the import in the general populace that one would expect is lacking. I can't remember any Christmas Street Lights but individual stores and restaurants would put in an effort to entice customers. The day itself is a holiday as is New Year's Day but any other days are from one's yearly allowance. That didn't stop people from enjoying themselves, though!

Saudi Arabia

When I was in Saudi, the only recognised religion was Islam. In light of recent 'reforms', the absolute ban on any other religious practices may have been relaxed. I don't know if that's true but what follows is from my time there.

December is winter in Saudi, so it is relatively cool. In fact, snow has been known to fall in the north of the country. No overt Christian practices, so no Christmas (or New Year) holidays. In fact, I've worked on both days feeling very strange. If one can, one flies somewhere/anywhere/home to celebrate Christmas.

But some folk didn't have any holidays left or wouldn't pay the extortionate plane fares/hotel costs that appeared out of nowhere. What did they do? There were ways and means. Western embassies and consulates held 'church' services within their compounds getting around the ban. They even held carol singing events some of which I compered in the UK Consulate in Jeddah.

In private homes, there were regular prayer meetings but in secrecy. No-one talked about them except in private.

There was an exception. The huge oil company, Aramco, had its own town called Dhahran. Inside its fence, life was like Middle Town America. In fact, in those days it was the only place that women could drive cars. There was a large contingent of workers from the Philippines all of whom were Roman Catholic. Aramco employed both RC and Anglican priests (one of each) to cater for the souls of the Christians, something that had been a part of the town since the beginning. At Christmas, there was always a large service at which others from outside the town were welcome. The attendances were so large that extra priests were flown in.



Western compounds did put up lights, nothing extrovert, but inside the villas and flats, it was a different story. Lights, trees and parties were everywhere within the compounds and that all lasted for several weeks. One of the most popular assets wanted when folk left the country for good were Xmas trees. No shops in Saudi sold them.

The rest of the Middle East was/is not so strict; hence some flew to Dubai or Bahrain to celebrate the holidays. There is a bridge from the eastern province of Saudi to Bahrain where the strictest Customs Officers I've ever known work on the vehicles coming back into Saudi. Many is the time when Xmas trees have been confiscated and dumped in rubbish bins with the words, 'No English Christmas for you!!'.

Kazakhstan

This is one country where winter is NEVER confused with any other season. It gets COLD! Winds from the east come from Siberia across the flat plains which means that the first thing they hit over 5ft tall is you!! I was in Atyrau which is at the north end of the Caspian Sea and lies on the delta of the Ural River. Incidentally the border between Europe and Asia is marked by that river.

Kazakhstan is one of the territories created by the break-up of the Soviet Union but many of the restraints from those times still existed when I was there. Religious festivals were frowned upon but not banned and the population had not yet got used to having any religious freedom. No doubt the Russian Orthodox Church had some sway, but I didn't even see a place of worship.

No fancy street lights, no office party, no Christmas trees, no cards. The time of the year went by with no discernible differences. I left a few days before the 25th as I wanted to be home here for Christmas, but it looked to me that there were no preparations in the pipeline.

I may be feeling generous if I suggest that Christmas is celebrated, if at all, as a low-key family affair.

There you have it. Four different ways that I've experienced Christmas time around the world. The best thing about those times was the determination and resolution of church folk to celebrate the Great Festival and whatever else anybody thought had no effect on them.

Allan Jack

Finance

Our financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December and we currently have a deficit which means our expenditure is more than our income.

Each year we have to make a Ministries & Mission contribution to Church of Scotland headquarters and for 2019 we paid £51,316. The Presbytery of Ayr levies an amount for Presbytery Dues and Property Levy and this was £1609.

The cost of insuring the church buildings and the manse was £2,435.61 and to the end of October heating and lighting the church and halls has cost £7,008. Maintenance and repair of the buildings cost £7,780.97 to the end of October.

The Annual Fabric Appeal saw 72 envelopes returned which raised £2,922.78 and we received £638.75 in Gift Aid claims.

If you are a tax payer and make offerings by standing order or the Free Will Envelopes we could claim back the amount of tax you paid via the Gift Aid Scheme. We can claim 25 pence for every £1 you donate and we received £10,573 to end of October from HMRC in claims under the scheme. There are Gift Aid Declaration forms in the vestibule and they are also available from the office or on the church website

www.castlehillchurch.org under the Publications heading. Completed forms can be returned via the office or given to Margaret Devlin.

Margaret Devlin

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We left Castlehill Church on Friday at 16:30 and headed to Dumfries House which is situated on the outskirts of Cumnock and is owned by Prince Charles. We arrived at 17:00. On arrival we were allocated our rooms and the first task was to claim our beds and unpack our bags. At 18:00 the company all came together in the dining room and had dinner. Dinner was pizza and chips for our main course and for dessert we had chocolate cake and cream. Following dinner, it was some free time for us to spend with our friends and play some board games. Lights out was anytime that suited us.

On the Saturday morning approximately at 07:50 Sharon came to all of our rooms and woke us up ready for our breakfast. Breakfast was a choice of hot filled rolls with the options being bacon, egg, sliced sausage. Cereal was also available as was fresh fruit and yogurt. Breakfast was only served after we were showered and dressed.

After breakfast, it was time for us to start our activities for the day. We split into two groups with one group doing archery first and the other going to do the adventure assault course which was very good fun. At the archery we faced a challenge where we had to attempt to shoot an arrow and attempt to burst the balloon that was taped to the centre of the target. A few of us managed to burst the balloon.



The adventure assault course is outside and we faced a number of challenges. We had to move tyres from one post to another and ensure they stayed in the same numbered order from one post to the next, we had to build a bridge out of wooden planks which had to be strong enough to walk over, we also had to move a bucket with rubber ducks in it using only some ropes underneath it. To complete these tasks, we had to work as a team and listen to each other's ideas as to which would work best.

After we done our first activities it was then time for us to swap over and go and do the other activity.



After the activities it was time for our lunch. Lunch on Saturday was baked potatoes with a choice of toppings, the toppings on offer were cheese, beans, salad or coleslaw.

After lunch it was time for us to go and do more activities which included shelter building and the big climbing wall which was 18m tall.

For the shelter building we again worked as a team to build a shelter using logs, string and tarpaulin. We managed to ensure the shelters remained standing and managed to fit the 10 people in our group within our shelter.



At the climbing wall we were fitted with our safety harnesses and helmets by the instructors and then spent the afternoon seeing who could climb the highest up the wall. Numerous boys managed to reach the top of the wall.

Once we had exhausted ourselves with the various activities it was then time for dinner. Dinner was cheese burgers and chips for our main course and for dessert it was jelly and ice cream.

In the evening we split into our teams and took part in the Saturday night quiz we always have at camp. There were five rounds, General Knowledge, Sport, Memory, Music and a quiz about our time at Dumfries House. Ben's group won.

Sunday morning breakfast was cereal or yoghurt followed by Danish pastries.

Our activity for Sunday morning was a football tournament in the sports hall where we had been using the climbing wall the day before. We had four teams plus the officers, the officers won! Mr Queen scored a hat trick.

Lunch was soup and a variety of sandwiches. All the food we had all weekend was excellent, prepared by a chef from Dumfries House. After lunch we explored the grounds of Dumfries House and spent time experiencing the Harmony play area which is a scientific based play, we really enjoyed this.

We headed back to the centre for two o'clock, packed up and headed back to the church where our parents were waiting. Another great weekend

Callum Smith and Cameron Frame

Attending the Dedication service was not a first visit, the Romanian guests had of course been before. As you may remember some years ago a banner was given to the Church and presented by two of the children of the foundation. That banner hangs above the chancel below the screen as a reminder of our continued association with them.



The banner gifted to the Church



The ladies in the photo are, Cath Marr, my colleague Charlie's wife, and Romanians, Ibi, Dana, Melinda and Mona



Congratulations to Gavin Drysdale, Gold in Dubai 2019 World Para Athletics. Invited back to show the boys his medal. We are so proud.

Ian Queen

The anchor boys have also been busy. A visit by Specsavers was enjoyed by all and they were given Hi Viz Vests, which were much appreciated. The photo shows they are ready for anything. "Let's go down to the woods....."

Margaret Graham





WEE KIRKS

Just to thank everyone who is an owner of one of our Wee Kirks for your contribution this year. Our Collectors have been round to see you in April and October and you have generously given just over £2000. We will be able to claim Gift Aid on some of that, probably around another £200. This is an amazing amount due to small change being popped into the Wee Kirk, and in these days of contact payments much of the loose cash has disappeared.

We still have a few spare Wee Kirks available and we will be delighted to deliver one to you. Thank you all once more.

Wellwood Grierson Co-ordinator.

Fabric Report

This year we have had a few repairs to do also we did maintenance on the roof on the left hand side. We have had a problem with the drains which we hope has been successfully sorted. Over the summer months there were a few broken windows but we have not had that problem lately.

The grass cutting season is finished and we have had a clean-up day and hopefully the gardens will look good till next March. The North hall had a few small repairs done and some decorating was done and this will be followed up by more painting in the Spring. We had a good clean up in our storage areas and filled a big skip. This will be monitored so that we do not get into such a mess again. The manse has had a few repairs attended to and decoration done in the last few months and the front garden trees trimmed. Only a few small things are left to be sorted out. The outstanding work to be done on the underside boards of the Church roof on the pulpit side outside and this should be done by the time you read this.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Fabric Team. **Liz Reid**

Social Committee

The only event we have organised is the tea for the floral display. We raised £156 from the raffle for our hampers and we thank you for your support. We hope we will have a few events next year and we will

keep you informed nearer the time so watch out for things on the Notice Boards.

Liz Reid

Girl—Guiding

Girlguiding have again been very active.



We were really pleased to have been asked to take part in the All Age Remembrance service, where Baden Powell awards were awarded to Cara Cassidy, Olivia Duff and Ellie McElwee. These are the last Baden Powell awards to be awarded at Castlehill, as with the introduction of our new programme, the girls work towards the Gold Award, which consists of interest badges, unit activities and Theme Awards in as they go along. Barbara Morrison and Aimee McKie were awarded the first Gold Awards at the service also.

Monday night Brownies had a Pack Holiday at the end of October which was Halloween/space themed and the girls had a good weekend, making space crafts, had a Halloween party, had a torch walk and learned how to make a campfire.

Tuesday night units had a sponsored singalong for Children in Need and the sum of £249.50 was raised.

They decorated the Christmas Tree in the fellowship area.

Tuesday Brownies have been awarded 8 places at "Camp Brave" next year. This is an international camp which is being held at Dalkeith and some of the older Brownies will be given an opportunity to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for the girls who get the spaces.

Monday night Guides went pool fishing at Dunure and continued to collect for the charity "Smalls for All".

Sarah's has 18 Rainbows doing their promise on 10th December.

All units will be having their Christmas outing to the cinema in December to a special Girlguiding showing of Frozen 2. As you will see Girlguiding is still very active in Castlehill. If you would like to, register an interest, please go onto girlguiding.co.uk

Happy Christmas to everyone from all units

Linda McClurkin



Baptism

29/9/19
Jack William Thomson Alderbank
Wedding

November
Johnny Lawrence and Nicola McLean

Funerals

September
Agnes Jackson Afton Court
Yvonne Yates Cornhill

October
May Thomson Glendale Place
Nancy Bell Souter Place
Albany McKay Armour Drive
Janet Gourlay Castlehill Road

November
Esther Tedford Holmston Crescent



*By knowing that when we truly love,
it is never lost.*

*It is only after death
the depth of the bond is truly felt
and our loved one becomes
more of a part of us
than was possible in life.*

*After sorrow, heartache pain
will you ever laugh again.
Will the skies be blue once more
Or life be as it was before
Will there ever come a day
When that sorrow fades away
Yes sorrow dies, and when it's gone
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