

Castle Hill Parish

Church

The Herald



GODS
SON

Editorial

The front cover of this edition of The Herald was designed by Grace of P6 at Forehill Primary School. We once again ran a competition with all the entries of a very high standard, we would like to thank Forehill Primary for all their submissions.

The Publicity Committee are looking for more members to help with ideas for future magazines. If you would like to become involved please contact myself or Margaret Graham.

On behalf of the Publicity Committee I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes!

Rachel Queen, Editor

Castlehill Parish Church, 1, Old Hillfoot Road, Ayr KA7 3LW

Minister	Rev. Paul Russell Tel. 01292 261464
Secretary	Mr Alfred Reid, Office Tel. 01292 431143 E-mail castlehillchurch44@gmail.com
Session Clerk	Mr. Douglas Owens, Tel. 442062
Church Website:	www.castlehillchurch.org
Charity Number	SC001792

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.

From The Manse



Dear Friends,

This magazine marks the start of Advent 2024. Advent literally means, 'coming'. The few verses from Matthew's Gospel below – that snippet of conversation between Jesus and his disciples – talks of us needing constantly, to be in that state of waiting without any idea at all about when the waiting might end! Is that even possible? As was suggested earlier, this is perhaps where the Advent period which begins today, comes in and has something to teach us. It too though, has the advantage of an end date. Advent is about watching and waiting for a coming we know happens on Christmas day – so the waiting is only for the 4 Sundays and however many days until Christmas comes, but even so, I think Advent has a message we need to hear about how to wait. We tend to think of waiting as something passive. When we wait, in our heads, we're in a kind of limbo, until the next thing happens. So... when we wait, we're 'stuck' until the bus comes, or the dentist calls us in – or the exam results arrive. For us, waiting is seen as a not-very-productive time. Perhaps even frustrating.

When it comes to Advent however, the first thing that strikes you about the days of waiting leading up to Christmas – is that it's far from passive... This is not a time when there's nothing to do – and I'm not talking about all the busy-ness of buying presents or planning the Christmas dinner – I mean spiritually it's a busy time because Advent's job is to invite us to prepare for – and to get ready to hear once more – the stunning story of how God became a real, live human baby. In these coming weeks we are encouraged not simply to sit back and wait – we are encouraged to wait with purpose: we are encouraged actively to wait. That probably sounds a bit strange to our ears. How can we wait actively? It means that instead of sitting back doing nothing, we are, for example, to make a point of keeping our ears open to listen for all the voices of those who, centuries before Jesus ever arrived, talked of his coming. People like Isaiah and Micah and Hosea. And as the weeks continue to unfold, there are ever more voices to listen out for - from angel voices to those of various all too human, human beings... But that's not all. We're also encouraged to keep our eyes open too. We are to look for, all the various threads of the story as they are gathered together from down throughout the ages. And we're to look out for 'things' too – which point to the significance of the baby... surprising things sometimes, such as the star in the sky that led men from the east to where the Christ child lay. But not just the star. We are to look for and to find, God at work in all sorts of surprising people and places and times – over and over again. On top of all that though... in our Advent waiting, we are to live with every fibre of our being open not just to seeing and hearing, but with hearts, souls and minds, we are to live and feel what we hear and see, so that, all these centuries later, we grasp the fact that the one who came at Christmas, actually came for us... And he comes still. And will come again. For us.

That should send a shiver down our spines – because this is Advent showing us how to be, like the batteries and as Jesus asked, ever ready. Our waiting for God is an active waiting, where everything is open to experiencing the living God who is already among us and who appears even yet, in unexpected people, places and situations – in fact not just in unexpected people, places and situations, the truth is God is here and already at work in what seems like impossible people, places and situations. And that active, ever-ready kind of waiting is something we should do eagerly... With a sense of excitement and anticipation; as well as with every one of our senses alert – Knowing we are not going to be disappointed. God will continue to do amazing things and to be amazing. Hallelujah!

The Advent Greeting is "Peace be with you." With each us of us, with all in our community, in our nation and around the world where sadly wars continue to be wielded. Let our prayers this Advent be for peace, that, come Christmas, we together may experience joy.

Every blessing to you and yours
Paul

Matthew 24:36-44

36 "No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. 37 The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. 38 In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; 39 yet they did not realise what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes. 40 At that time two men will be working in a field: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. 41 Two women will be at a mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. 42 Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. 43 If the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house. 44 So then, you also must always be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.

SERVICES AHEAD

ADVENT 1 COMMUNION

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT SERVICES 6PM

SUNDAYS 1ST – 22ND DECEMBER

These will be brief, reflective services to which all are invited.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM 24TH DECEMBER.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10.30am – BRIEF SERVICE.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT ALL OF THESE SERVICES.

UKRAINE JOINT SERVICES

These will continue on a monthly basis as long as the war continues but they have now moved inside again and each month the Intimations will mention which congregation is the host church. They are short services: if you can join them, please do.

SCHOOLS' CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

This December we shall not only host the Belmont Academy Christmas concert on 9th December but also the Kyle Cluster Christmas concert the following Thursday. We look forward to welcoming many of the young people from our community to entertain us with their music. Please support these concerts if you can.

WEE KIRKS

We would like to thank all holders of wee kirks for their donations. We would also like to thank all the collectors who give up their time going round and emptying the same

The total collected for the year is £1741.49 for which we are very grateful for given the hard times with rising costs.

If anyone is interested in taking on a Wee Kirk, please let us know.



Jim and Linda McClurkin

Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is now up and running again, every Tuesday at 10am running till 12noon. I would like to encourage as many as possible to support your Coffee Shop by coming along to enjoy a chat and a cuppa.

Linda Telfer

Finance

Our financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

The Giving to Grow payment to the Church of Scotland was £51,729 to be paid over 12 months. It was agreed we could reduce this to £2,000 each month and we have paid the shortfall every 3 months and will pay the full amount by the end of December. The Presbytery of the South West dues were £1,289. We continue to get income from outside groups which use the halls and this is a welcome addition to our finances.

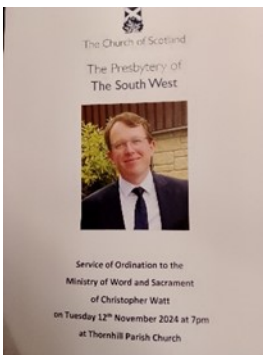
To the end of October income from FWO envelopes was £5,315, Standing Order income was £34,954 and Open Plate income was £5,506. During this period gas and electricity costs for the church and halls came to £10,824. Insurance costs were £2,177 and cleaning the church and halls cost £7,371.

We claim Gift Aid each month and to the end of October we received £11,603 of refunded tax. Under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme we claimed a refund of £514 on VAT for eligible work done on the church and halls.

There have not been any major repairs or maintenance to the church, halls or manse but smaller repairs have been ongoing and cost £7,498.17 to the end of October.

Margaret Devlin

Christopher Watt



I am sure many of you will remember Christopher as our organist for many years. He will also be fondly remembered for baking a variety of cakes and sponges for various events. On 12th November 18 members of our congregation went by bus to Thornhill for his Ordination. It was a memorable occasion with a packed Church. Sadly, as we had to go for our bus we did not get to speak to Christopher and we missed our cup of tea as well. It was a memorable occasion and a fitting beginning to his new vocation. All our thoughts and prayers are with him for his future.

Wellwood Grierson

Winter Activities Afternoons

Our Warm Space meet every Thursday afternoon. There is a relaxed atmosphere and people attending enjoy the chat and the activities. On average we have over 30 people attending each week. A special thank you to the members who support this afternoon in any way. It is greatly appreciated.

We have been delighted to welcome Forehill nursery along on occasions as we support their intergenerational activities. Bringing people of all ages in our community together. Come along on a Thursday afternoon to enjoy the chat over a cup of tea and coffee

We hope to see you soon!

Liz Hardie, Lead

All units started up again after the Summer holidays with steady numbers and we are pleased to welcome a few new volunteers.

Our main concern at the moment is our unit in Dalrymple, we are struggling for volunteers and relying on parent help each week. If you know of anyone who lives in the Dalrymple area or anyone willing to travel up to Dalrymple who would be able to help or be a volunteer please speak to one of us or register an interest on the Girlguiding website.

The activities which the girls have been doing have included visiting the Alpacas, doing a mobile escape room, going on a spooky walk through Rozelle at Halloween, Halloween parties, craft nights, icing biscuits, working on unit meeting activities which go towards their badge work. Units attended the Remembrance Service at the Church and four units attended a Taylor Swift Tribute Act on Saturday 23rd November at the Walker Halls in Troon. In the lead up to Christmas we will be decorating the Christmas Tree in the fellowship area and we are having our usual chocolate stall at the Christmas Fayre for which we have asked the units to donate chocolate for this purpose.



The Rainbows have been working on Unit Meeting activities including Be Well and Building Skills for the future. They are having a Christmas trip to Heads of Ayr Farm Park to take a trip on the express and a visit to Santa with the hope that Mrs Clause will present awards.

These are only a few of the things the girls have been up to but they continue to be busy in their units every week and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers for giving up their time to allow activities to happen and for keeping their qualifications up to date in the background.

On behalf of Girlguiding, we wish you a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Linda McClurkin & Rachel Richmond
Joint District Commissioners



Congratulations to Prime Cuts Butchers for winning two gold awards for their square sausage and stuffed pork tenderloin

	<p>Prime Cuts Butcher Unit 2 49 Maybole Road Ayr KA7 4SF 01292 443445</p>
--	---

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 10th November we held our annual remembrance service with wreaths laid by representatives from local schools and organisations within the church. Below are some pictures from the day.



We are coming to the end of another year our Foodbank has been providing much needed assistance to families of all sizes as well as some people on their own. The gratitude we receive makes it all worthwhile.

As well as helping on a Friday morning some of our volunteers were at Asda on the 11th October and 11th November and Tesco from Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th November helping to highlight the needs of the South Ayrshire Foodbank by giving out leaflets with the list of items needed. The food collected at these drives will ensure food boxes can be filled for another week or so especially with Christmas and New Year always being a very busy time.

I would like to thank everyone who donates to the Foodbank in any way and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret Gerrard

Social Report

We have had great feedback from the quiz, everyone has enjoyed it. The winner will be announced at the Christmas fayre and the answers will be put on the notice board.

The Christmas Fayre is on the 7th of December 10-12 we hope you can make it and stop to have a cup of tea/coffee and a mincemeat pie/shortbread and have a chat. We have a lucky ticket sale to win a hamper, tickets are available on a Sunday morning.

Thankyou for your support and we hope you have a lovely Christmas.

The Social Committee

**M L Williams
Funeral Directors**

We create every funeral individually, just for you.

M L Williams are here to support and guide you, offering a friendly and professional service.

Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit.
We are here to help 24 hours a day.

Ayr

01292 262 277

1b Falkland Park Road,
KA8 8LL
www.mlwilliams.co.uk



It's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of our session. We enrolled on Friday 30th August with our annual enrolment barbecue where we fed lots of hungry boys and their parents.



We have had a fairly busy session so far and we're not finished yet. The junior Section had a very interesting visit to the Troon life boat station. They also visited the fire station where the fire fighters always make the boys feel very welcome.

In September the Junior Section held a sleepover in the Main Hall. This is the second time they have done this. The idea behind it is to let those boys who have not stayed away from their parents before experience a night away in the hope they will attend the annual camp in November. The sleepover was held on Friday 13th – Saturday 14th September. On Friday night the boys and staff had a chippy dinner then played some Gladiator themed games. They watched a film before turning in for the night. On Saturday morning, after breakfast the boys went into Castlehill woods to do some shelter building. After lunch some more games and a team building exercise, the challenge was to see which team could build the tallest structure using spaghetti and marshmallows, the sleepover was a great success.

The Company Section have been taking part in National competitions. The first competition was the FIFA competition. In the first round three of our boys took on three boys from 4th/5th Kilmarnock. FIFA is a video game where two boys play a virtual football match against each other. We lost 5-4 to the Kilmarnock company. Our next competition was the Masterteam Quiz. This was held in Dregghorn where we were up against five other companies. We came a very credible third with a team of three, the rest had four. With only the top two going through we narrowly missed out. The last competition we took part in was the five-a-side football competition. We hosted this at Belmont Academy, we were up against teams from Glasgow, Gourock, Irvine and Kilmarnock. Unfortunately, again, we failed to progress to the next round.



In October we were happy to accept an invitation from the Guild to present to them on our Summer trip to Romania. Colin Reid, Sharon Reid and Matthew Doolan joined me for a Power Point presentation on the trip. The talk seemed to go down well and we were happy to accept some refreshments after the presentation.



We were able to parade our Company Colours three Sundays in a row. We had a very well attended dedication service on Sunday 28th October. Following the service we had our annual Soup and Sweet lunch, thanks to all who supported this. On Sunday 3rd November we hosted the Ayr Battalion annual church service. For this service we paraded our own Colours and those of the Battalion. Caleb Black and Matthew Doolan carried the Company Colours, Margaret Graham and Sharon Reid carried the Battalion Colours. It is worth noting that this was the first time a mother and son, Sharon and Matthew, have been in the same Colour party at Castlehill church. Then on Sunday 10th of November we were back in church for Remembrance Sunday, this time we paraded our Colours along with the Girl Guides. At this service, on behalf of the Boys' Brigade, Bradley and Jacob of the Junior Section laid our wreath.

The Junior Section and the Company Section were treated to an evening of Taekwondo. Mr Sawyer from Ayr Taekwondo Club came and gave us a taster session, even the officers joined in. It was very energetic, everyone enjoyed the experience.



At the end of November the Junior Section and the Company Section are going to the Well Road youth hostel in Moffat for our annual weekend away. This is the fourth time we have been here, it is one of our favourite venues, a full report will be in the next edition of the Herald.

Focus now turns to Christmas and all the excitement which this brings. We are looking forward to a break to spend time with family and friends. Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your support throughout his year, it is very much appreciated. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ian Queen, Captain

What's on in Castlehill Church?

For further information on any activities please contact the church office.

Sunday

Morning Worship
Youth Church

Monday

Body Tone Pilates
Bowling Club
Highland Dancing
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Men's Support Group

Tuesday

Cardiobox/Pilates
Coffee Shop
BBs Anchor Boys
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Ayr Choral Union

Wednesday

Zumba/Easy Movers Zumba
D.A. Dance
W.W.
The Guild
Musichoir

Thursday

O.I.R Craft Group
Cosy Space
Fellowship Meeting

Friday

Foodbank Hub
Mother & Toddler Group
Zumba/Easy Movers Zumba/
Stretch Pilates
BBs Junior & Company Section

Saturday

Men's Breakfast

Boys Brigade 70 Years ago

It was 1953 and having finished my 2 years National Service our Minister Rev David Johnstone decided he would start a B.B Company in Whithorn. He had decided that I would be an officer. I said I knew nothing about the BB, I had been in the Scouts. "Yes" he said, "but you know all about marching". And so, with two others we started the Company. Soon we had about twenty boys and the same number of Life Boys.



The uniform was a bit different as you can see with this smart lad. A white Blanco cross band and a polished belt with a brass buckle." The hats were not over liked but pill box it was.

Attendance at Church was recorded by stamping a card and having too few stamps meant that you were not in the football team. Blackmail perhaps? But the boys enjoyed the services. [well, they said that]

Highlights were weekend summer camps at Garlieston, [a wee village down the coast from Whithorn.] Two officers and about ten boys, a small tent for the officers and a Bell tent for the boys. Often on the Friday night after arrival, there was a trek along the beach to the phone box to phone the minister to contact a wee lad's parents as he did not want to stay. "Come and take me home". No mobile phones in those days. Generally everything went according to plan, and they enjoyed the escapades along the beaches.

One of the big camping highlights was a weekend at Balig Farm, outside Ayr, with a visit to Butlins a must.



Perhaps the biggest event was the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Whithorn in 1955 where we formed a guard of honour. The picture sadly shows only me, the Girl Guides on my right and the boys were lined up to my left. We were all enormously proud of that historical occasion.

Yes, there have been changes but somethings never change. The Display night which has altered little. Always a boy whose left arm and left leg move together and the wee lad who turns the wrong way, possibly as he looks to see where his parents are. But the enthusiasm of the boys and the Officers has never diminished.

I was only in the Boys Brigade for about four years but I have never lost my enthusiasm for the organisation, which continues to this day and I am the proud owner of a "Friend of the Boys Brigade badge."

Wellwood Grierson



You will never be asked
for any monies to watch
the stream of any
service at Castlehill
Church.

**If you are asked it will be a
SCAM.**



Fabric Report

We have been checking all around the church and making sure everything is ok for the winter months. All the outside lights are working and only one light in north hall is out this is being replaced shortly.

When you're in the building and notice something not working or not right please report it in one of the blue diaries which are in each of the halls. The issue will be dealt with promptly.

Have a very Merry Christmas

The Fabric Committee

THOUGHT AND PRAYER

What should we pray about?

I was out for a walk in my local area recently and saw and reflected on many things: houses containing people and families each with their own history, people passing by each with a story to tell, of their friends and family, living near them or far away, people who passed the time of day with me by a few words such as "Hello, bit colder today" as they walked by ... but perhaps needing help by speaking to someone about life issues. I saw cars, vehicles with people going to different places. Trees shedding leaves that crush underfoot as I walk. The airplane engine in the sky out of sight, all going on around me.

So here is a prayer based on my observations and reflections during my walk:

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us this world, and the many things in it we enjoy such as:
our lives, our families near or far, homes in which we live, Skills each one has for work, using our talents in what ever way you guide us. We are also grateful for different means of transport which let us get about; visiting friends, neighbours, family and those in hospitals, care homes, and hospices.*

Help us to take time to enjoy every thing you give us each new day, to show your love to one another, by helping others as best we can, small things such as making a cup of tea for someone or spending time listening to someone, who wants to talk through their thoughts.

The chorus of the hymn CH4 No 298 "We plough the fields and scatter....."

"All good gifts around us, are sent from Heaven above. Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord . For all his love".

Amen

Encouraging people to go forward in faith giving your message of Good News.

Let me also remind you that there are a group in the church who if you want extra or special prayer to help are available by speaking to or contacting me. There is also the Prayer box in the vestibule for prayer request can go into with or without names.

Andrew Graham: 01292 261486.

Christmas Musings

Christmas is, without doubt, the most widely observed religious festival in the modern world. Easter may be the most important time in the Christian Church, while other festivals such as Diwali, Ramadan, Chinese New Year and Passover may be important to other religions, but Christmas tops them all. However, much as we may think that our modern-day Christmas is set in stone, it hasn't always been this way. It has evolved.

For instance, Americans have no idea what Boxing Day is or what it represents. If Christmas Day is on a Wednesday, folk go back to work on the Thursday (or they would if they didn't take extra days off to give them a long weekend). No second Bank Holiday. There is no two-week shutdown while mince pies, crackers and pantomimes are virtually unknown.

There was a time when Christmas nearly disappeared altogether. During Oliver Cromwell's Republic (1649 -1660), the Puritans were in power and Christmas was banned. The festival had lost its true meaning, and the Puritans regarded the dancing, revelry, murder, mayhem and robbery as 'beyond the pale'. So, they put severe restrictions on revelry such as dancing.

As an aside, although we now accept carol singers in the street, the originals were demanding (not just having buckets for money). Words of the carol 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' with 'bring us some figgy pudding' is a hangover from those days. Oh, and singing carols was associated with witches!

The Puritans rejected 25th Dec as Christmas Day as it was associated with Catholic hypocrisy and corruption. There was no day off for apprentices which led to rioting. In addition, Easter and Whitsun were also banned.

After the Restoration (of Charles II) in 1660, Christmas was back but it was much subdued. According to the diarist, Samuel Pepys, Christmas Day was much like any other Sunday although there was a big party on Twelfth Night. This carried on till the 18th Century with no difference in the day except for food. The cookery books of the day made no mention of Christmas – compare today's cookbooks! By then, it was most heartily celebrated by servants and lower classes.

Then, on the 19th December, 1843 came the spark point to modern day Christmases. Charles Dickens published 'A Christmas Carol' which, although the story included aspects well known to Victorians, exaggerated much of them. 6000 copies were sold out in a week, and it is still in print. Christmas exploded because many more people were prosperous, and middle-class families grew as more and more children and mothers survived infancy and childbirth.

An aspect of life which is overlooked is that houses now had better artificial light as candles were replaced, first by whale oil lamps, and then by gas. So, the dark evenings of the winter were no longer. Parties could be held for longer hours and people could read books. Lucky for Charles Dickens!

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert embraced a family Christmas and brought the Christmas Tree to popular attention. Greenery at Christmas had been around in northern Europe (especially Germany) since 1800 when Queen Charlotte promoted it in the UK.

Believe it or not, REAL candles were used to illuminate trees, and many homes were damaged by fires due to them. By 1882, electric lights were available but they were very expensive. Toys and decorations were also hung on trees with gilt apples and fruits which morphed into baubles. Tinsel was made of real silver, but it tarnished fairly quickly.

In 1843, (three years after the Penny Black) the first Christmas card arrived, much like a post card – the folded card came much later. The invention of cheap colour printing gave us pictures and scenes on the cards. The ha'penny stamp's invention increased cards' popularity. Even then, there was a severe lack of religious content on the cards.

1843 also saw the first ever Pantomime, uniquely and quintessentially British, while the Christmas Cracker appeared in 1847 invented by a man called Tom Smith.

But what of that ubiquitous symbol of the modern secular Christmas – Santa Claus? Derived from St

Nicholas, he first appeared under different guises after the Reformation. The Protestants stopped the veneration of (Catholic) saints but realised that there had to be something to replace St Nicholas. Martin Luther introduced the figure of Kris Kringle - still seen in Hollywood Christmas movies to this day. The transformation into the Santa Claus whom we all know was to take centuries. By now St Nicholas had been relegated to being a helper and most of Northern Europe adopted a Winter/Frost King. Britain introduced Father Christmas (in 1646) as a representative of winter and was depicted as having ragged clothes and holly in his hair. The connection with a religious Christmas was being lost. Another personification was Old Man Winter who was both wild and unnerving. He was NOT plump and jolly. In 1809 in New York, the Dutch St Nicholas Church introduced the concept of a guardian angel which, on feast days dropped presents down chimneys after landing on roofs on a wagon pulled by horses. The poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' gave us the idea of the modern Santa Claus we know today. He had become a jovial round fellow but there was one big difference – he was only the size of an ELF! In 1847, he appeared as a visibly intoxicated Father Christmas and the magazine 'Punch' had him as a Wild Man of the Woods.

So how did he become the image we all have. We must give thanks (?) to the magazine 'Harper's Weekly' whose illustrator Thomas Nast drew Santa Claus on its cover for two decades. Here he was plump, merry and full-sized. Drawn in monochrome with a white belt and furry boots and a home at the North Pole, it took the advertisements for Coca Cola to give him a red outfit (If Pepsi had been in the advertisements, he would have been blue!)

Now the names Santa Claus/Father Christmas/Kris Kringle have amalgamated and are interchangeable, but they started in different ways.

And to finish, Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer appeared first in a department store advert in 1939, All these disparate strands have come together to give us our 'traditional' Christmas.

Allan Jack

The Guild

"Whose we are and Whom we Serve"

Acts 27 verse 23



The new session of the Guild was delayed by a week due to heating problems, but we were fortunate that the Maybole Concert Party was available to come the following week. We were all glad to be back and had a fantastic night of entertainment.

We have had many enthusiastic and interesting speakers who spoke on Curling Stones, Street Pastors, Dumfries House Gardens, Antarctica and Spontaneous Events. Without these people giving up their time and sharing their knowledge, our evenings would not be as fascinating.

The Boys Brigade brought us up-to-date on their recent trip to the Rhema Foundation in Romania whom they have been supporting for a number of years, while Paul Russell gave us an interesting talk on eradicating poverty and the Poverty Stone which lies within George Square.

We have two outings planned for December. The first one being a visit to the Pantomime to see Mother Goose and the second, an evening meal at the Chestnuts Hotel. This allows us to support the local economy.

Our meetings restart on 8th January and new faces will be made most welcome. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

Bowling Club

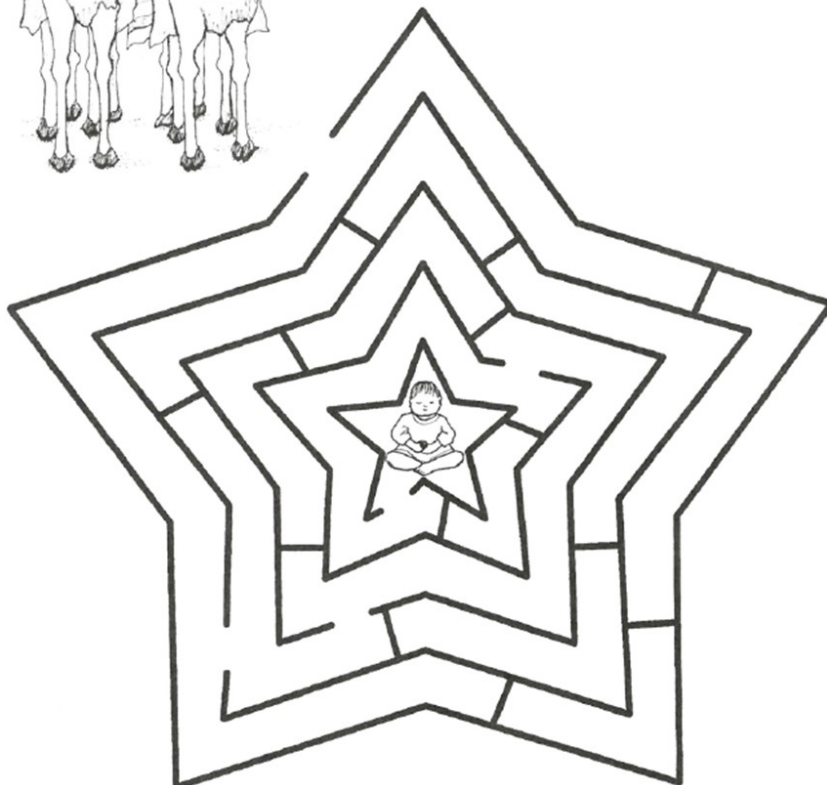


Another successful start to our year. We welcomed five new members, and we have had good attendances each week despite some illness. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on 9th December and we will be presenting the prizes for last session as this was not completed. The prize winners were as follows:

- Gents' Singles Winner: John McDermott Runner up: Harry Lorimer
Ladies Singles Winner: Rita Macey Lilley Runner up: Annette Reddicks
Gents Pairs Winners: John McDermott / Wellwood Grierson
 Runners Up George Johnstone / Jim Ferguson
Ladies Pairs Winners: Rita Macey Lilley / Annette Reddicks
 Runners Up. Moira Alexander / Christien Telfer
Mixed Pairs Winners: George Johnstone / Pat Colquhoun
 Runners Up: John McDermott / Rita Macey Lilley
Champion of Champions Winner: Rita Macey Lilley Runner Up: John McDermott.
Congratulations to all and it is nice to see some new names on the trophies.

Wellwood Grierson

Help the wise men get through the maze to the young child, Jesus.



Funerals

October

Grace Brady Redford Nursing Home

November

Elizabeth Spence Airlie House Care Home

Baptisms

Oscar William D'Angelo 29 September 2024

Tyson Stanley D'Angelo 29 September 2024

Our thanks goes to the following people for donating flowers to the church between September and December:

Sheena Gray, Marion Rae, May Harris, Stella Nixon, Janette McFarlane, Pat Colquhoun, Nettie Bell, Wilma Thomson, Anne Massie, Elizabeth Graham, Shirley Russell, Margaret Grierson, Brian Christie, Jackie Christie, Janice Blair, Linda Telfer, Rita Walker and Marion Reid,

Thanks also to the flower arranging team and delivery team:

Frances Russell, Stella Nixon, Catherine Holland, Allison Smith, Margaret Gerrard, Lyn McDermott, May Harris, Margaret Grierson, Margaret Devlin, Liz Hunter, Moira Alexander and Elizabeth Reid.

There are still a few spaces available for anyone looking to donate flowers, please contact Stella Nixon for further information.



The Cooperative funeral care

Our caring staff are here to listen and advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ayr 7 Crown Street

01292 264 149



Prestwick 1 St

Quivox Road

01292 476 604



Maybole 39

Cassillis Road

01655 882 127

FLOWER MINISTRY

Sincere thanks to all who take part in gifting money, buying and arranging flowers, and delivering the flowers each week. This is an incredibly important part of our caring ministry and is much appreciated by the recipients who frequently express that appreciation in very moving ways.

If you can help in any way – taking one of the “empty” Sundays that occasionally crop up or assisting with delivery on a rota, please speak to one of the Flower Team.

PRINTING THAT MAKES A SPLASH



MP Minuteman Press Ayr
 WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!

Minuteman Press Ayr, 61 Kyle Street, Ayr, KA7 1RS
 www.ayr.minutemanpress.com
 Tel: 01292 269 288
 e-mail: ayr@minutemanpress.com

SOME OF THE PRODUCTS WE PRINT

- Orders of Service
- Wedding invitations
- Letterheads
- Tickets and Invites
- Black & White Copy
- Full Colour copy
- Business Cards
- Notepads
- Flyers and Leaflets
- Posters
- Calendars
- Carbonless Forms
- Brochures
- Postcards
- Thesis Binding
- And Much More...

Free Collection & Delivery
 Minuteman Press Ayr is situated near Ayr Central
 (just up from the main entrance in Kyle Street)

Reliable Electricians



Quote "Castlehill" for discount

admin@testmyhouse.co.uk
 www.testmyhouse.co.uk

07488 306 165

BARRY WHALEN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



A Privately Owned Company -
 Offering A 24 Hour, Genuine,
 Caring & Professional Service.

Tel: (01292) 611-148
 River Terrace, Ayr, KA8 0BJ

We appreciate support from all our advertisers and hope that you will support them too. Please mention "The Herald", when using any of their services.

LOXX HAIR SALON

FOR EVERYTHING HAIR AND MORE

HAIR EXTENSIONS,
 WIGS, PLEATING, PERMS
 LITTLE PRINCESS STYLES,
 HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

20% OFF GHDS WITH THIS AD

11 SANDGATE, AYR
 01292 263018



gordon Shanks

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- >Grass cutting
- >Trimming bushes & hedges
- >Tidying borders
- >Weedkilling hard standing areas
- >Turfing
- >Pruning & Planting shrubs & trees
- >Pressure washing
- >Supplying chips and bark

T: 01563 884206
 M: 07765 805383
 E: enquiries@gordonshanks.com

Harkness Tree Services

All Kinds of Tree Work Undertaken
 Removal/Reductions/Pruning/Thinning
 Fully Insured
 City and Guilds Qualified
 Free Estimates
 Phone: Archie on 07816146974

Mary's Flowers

...the specialists at delivering your feelings!

54 Holmston Road Ayr KA7 3BE
 Tel 01292 268512 Fax 01292 268512
sales@marysflowers.co.uk www.marysflowers.co.uk

