

CONCORD

Winter 2017

The Magazine of St Andrew's Erskine Church of Scotland, Dunfermline, where we welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, as we celebrate and share the love of God within the community which we serve.

*Sacrament of Holy Communion
10 December*

Minister: The Rev Muriel Willoughby



The Church at the Heart of our Community

DEADLINES

All intimations for inclusion in the Sunday Order of Service should be handed into, or emailed to, the church office by 9.15am on Tuesday mornings.

Church email address: staechurch@standrewserskine.org.uk

Items for the Spring edition of 'Concord' should be with the Editor by Sunday 4 February 2018 for distribution from 18 February 2018. Articles for inclusion in the magazine should be sent to the Editor at eunice135@talktalk.net

Alternatively, you may hand them directly to Eunice or telephone her on 01383 745828.

MESSY CHURCH

We held our first Messy Church on Saturday 26 August, and we were delighted with the number of children and adults who attended.



Our theme was "*Messy Church at the Seaside*", and all activities had a fishy/watery feel. Crafts included fish mosaics, painting sand pictures and turtle making. A frieze was also painted and embellished to form part of the seaside setting prepared for the final session of singing and celebration. Fishy napkins adorned the tables in the café for the refreshments, where everyone tucked into sandwiches, sausage rolls, fruit and juice (tea and coffee for the adults!).

The afternoon was rounded off with singing and storytelling in the church. We heard about the wise and foolish men - built houses from shoe boxes - and gave a lusty rendition of "*The wise man built his house upon the rock*" and "*This little light of mine.*"

Building on the success of our first event, Messy Christmas will take place in the church from 3.30pm to 5pm on Saturday 9 December.

Hilary Arneil

November 2017

From the Minister



Dear Friends

As I write, the clocks have just changed so that we had an extra hour today. In her reflection on Ephesians 5:15-20 today, Margaret was challenging us to think what we would do with our extra hour – use it for ourselves or to benefit other people?

In our Stewardship Season during October we have been thinking about our use of time and many of us have risen to the challenge of spending time reading Mark's gospel. We have found things that have surprised and puzzled us, things that were included by the writer and were then used in other gospel accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It has been good to take that time to get back to the basics of our faith, to remember our promises made when we joined the church to give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money to serve God. Sometimes 'time' is the hardest to give as many of us now seem to have little time to spare over and above our daily commitments.

Many of us have enjoyed using the month of October to rise to the challenge of reading God's Word and perhaps that has given us a taste of delving further into the bible and our Church seasons and traditions.

Margaret and I are starting to prepare for the season of Advent which is all included in December the year. Four Sundays to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world. Four Sundays to help us concentrate on the 'real meaning' of Christmas amid the hustle and bustle of other preparations and commitments.

This year I pray that we will take all the opportunities God gives us to touch people from the nursery and school children to visitors who attend our Community Nativity and Christmas services, with the hope, joy, peace and love that Christ brings us.

When we take time to be well prepared for the festivities, we will hopefully appreciate it and be able to celebrate with all the more energy and enthusiasm.

I am looking forward to spending time with you and many others preparing and celebrating the best present of all time – Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour in this Advent and Christmas season. Please look out for the different opportunities there will be to join in the preparations and celebrations.

With my love and prayers

Muriel

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CRAFT GROUP

We were delighted to be asked to have a table at the recent Coffee Morning and we raised over £70, which will be donated to church funds. Thanks to all who made this possible



If you would like to see what we do on a weekly basis, why not pop in one Thursday afternoon. We meet at 2.30pm in the church hall and finish between 4pm and 4.30pm with a cuppa and a chat. If transport is a problem, please let us know, and we'll see what we can do to help.

For further information, please contact Eunice Lacey on 01383 745828.

Eunice Lacey

SERVICES

All services at 10.30am unless otherwise stated

3 December	Reader:	Louis Douglas
10 December	Reader:	Christine Mitchell
17 December	Reader:	Eunice Lacey
24 December	Reader:	Jim Welsh
31 December	Reader:	Elizabeth McCallum
7 January	Reader:	Sheila Robinson
14 January	Reader:	Linda Russell
21 January	Reader:	Carolyn Simpson
28 January	Reader:	Lorraine Brown
4 February	Reader:	Ian Mitchell
11 February	Reader:	Isobel Walker
18 February	Reader:	Alasdair McCallum
25 February	Reader:	Elaine Shorthouse
4 March	Reader:	Hilary Arneil
11 March	Reader:	Louis Douglas
18 March	Reader:	Christine Mitchell
25 March	Reader:	Eunice Lacey

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CHRISTIAN AID

Join our annual sponsored walk on Saturday 21 April 2018 at 3.00pm, as we raise money and admire the new Queensferry Crossing.



Isobel Walker

WELCOME TEAMS

17 & 24 December, 11 & 18 February (Team 4)

Banking	Margaret Young	Sandra Stenhouse
FWO	Dave Young	Jim Welsh
Others	Hilary Arneil	Margo Kindness
Laptop	Kirsten Russell	
Sound	Lorraine Brown	

31 December & 7 January, 25 February & 4 March (Team 1)

Banking	Jane Blackie	Eunice Lacey
FWO	Ian Mitchell	Carolyn Simpson
Others	Elizabeth McCallum	Alasdair McCallum
Laptop	Judith Dennis	
Sound	Keith Lacey	

14 & 21 January, (Team 2)

Banking	Louis Douglas	Esther Monro
FWO	Isobel Walker	Sheila Robinson
Others	Mary McCormack	Joyce Bain
Laptop	Margaret Harding	
Sound	Alex Twaddle	

28 January & 4 February (Team 3)

Banking	Alex Twaddle	Myra Knust
FWO	Maureen Smith	Judith Dennis
Others	Margaret Harding	Linda Russell
Laptop	Alan Willoughby	
Sound	Ian Mitchell	

Preparation and Serving Communion Elements

Would the person marked with an asterisk please supply the bread.

Eunice Lacey	Carolyn Simpson*
Louis Douglas	Rikky MacPhee



PARISH REGISTER

Deaths

“Jesus said ‘I am the Resurrection and the life. Those who live and believe in me will never die.’” John 11: 25, 26.

We record, with sympathy to their families and friends, the deaths of the following members of our community.

Alexander Brown	Queen Margaret Fauld 19 September
Margaret Macfarlane	Beck Crescent 20 September (Memorial Service)

* Means that this person was a member of the congregation

New Members

Mrs Elizabeth Beveridge	18 Lundin Road, Crossford Admitted by Resolution of the Kirk Session
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COMMUNITY NATIVITY

Once again we hope to welcome folk who live in our local area and some of the people who use our buildings to a Community Nativity on Sunday 17 December at 4pm. We are delighted that the Town Band will be joining us again for some Carol singing.



This has proved to be very popular, as well as the traditional Christmas Eve service, so we hope that all members of the congregation will support this by inviting family, friends and neighbours to come and prepare for Christmas with us.

Stewardship Team

LIFE AND WORK

Copies of “*Life and Work*” are on the display stand in the church foyer. Subscriptions by post are available – please see the magazine for details.



Dear Friends



I find it hard to believe I have been with you all now three months. I am gradually getting to know a few of you and hope over the next few months to meet more of the congregation.

I enjoy the changing of the seasons, seeing the trees change from green to red and gold. I also enjoy watching the snow fall in winter, as long as I don't have to drive in it. That is probably me being a bit selfish.

The changing of the clocks and the start of winter tells me Advent and Christmas is approaching, although Christmas cards have been in the shops for weeks.

I would like to share some of my memories of Christmas. As a child I was always so excited about Christmas. Mum made caramel shortcake, the only time of the year she made it. Christmas decorations were hung up, and dad had to use a stepladder to reach the high ceiling, as the paper chains were hung from each corner. It was fun to see the decorations again, which had been packed away since the year before, each decoration holding a memory, be it because it was handmade by myself or my sister, or when and where we bought it. Dad also had to sweep the chimney, so that Santa didn't get dirty when he delivered the presents!! Those were the days.

I am grateful for my childhood memories of Christmas and, in amongst the festivities, the true meaning of Christmas was always present.

The Christmases I spent in Malawi were different, as there was not the commercialism from October onwards. Celebrations started on Christmas Day. The local MP visited the hospital that day, and the treat for patients was that they were provided with one meal of meat, vegetables and rice. This allowed their relatives to have the day off from cooking. When I finished work at the hospital I would meet up with friends for Christmas dinner, which was whatever we had available - a team effort. Those times were simple when we came together to share friendship and celebrate the birth of Christ.

So here we are as the Advent season is almost upon us, when we begin our preparation, the waiting and the anticipation, the journeying towards the joy of the birth of Jesus. It is a time to be still amongst all the business and focus our minds on what Christmas means to us, looking forward to hearing again the familiar story, with its humble beginnings, its wonder and its joy, but listening with fresh ears to hear what God is saying to us now.

I hope you all have a peaceful and joyous Christmas

God bless

Margaret

WORDS OF THANKS



With apologies from the Editor for the omission of the following message in the last Concord:

“Please include a thank you in next concord from Ann Russell for flowers she received - they really cheered her up.”

Grace McGinness writes ... *“Thank you very much for the lovely flowers and birthday card I recently received. They were very much appreciated.”*

Nancy Dunlop writes ... *“Jim and I would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers. Jim continues to make progress in his recovery. We appreciate your kind thoughts.”*

Jane and Alex Blackie write ... *“Just to say thank you for the lovely flowers we received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Also for the many cards and good wishes sent to us. Many thanks.”*

Barbara Reid writes ... *“Many thanks for the lovely roses delivered on Sunday by Charlie Downie. They are beautiful - thank you so much - and they really lifted my spirits. Best wishes to you all.”*

Sandra and George Stenhouse would like to thank the Church for the flowers received following their recent bereavements. *“They were a great comfort and much appreciated.”*

Sandra Twaddle writes to say thank you for the lovely flowers received recently – *“much appreciated and cheered me up”*.

Isobel Ross writes ... *“I would like to thank Muriel for coming to the Abbeyfield in Park Avenue to hold an informal communion service for me and a group of my friends. It was much appreciated by all of us, as we found it very uplifting. We also enjoyed the cup of tea and the chat afterwards! It was lovely to meet Margaret too, as I've heard so much about her from my visitors.”*

Thanks for flowers have also been received from Lilian Campbell and Ruth MacNeil.

LADIES GROUP

Our opening night in September was a Beetle Drive, which was enjoyed by all.



Due to illness, the talk by Dr Dunn of Lemon Aid has had to be postponed until 13 November.

With only 24 hours' notice, Alan Willoughby gave us a talk on his life through Scouting, which was very enjoyable, and we were grateful to him for stepping in at the last minute.

Our Christmas meal is at The Elizabethan on 11 December.

Linda Russell

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

The Coffee Morning in August raised £383.

The *Hillfoot Harmony* concert was enjoyed by all and raised £372.

The Coffee Morning in October raised £505.20.

All money raised at these events are for church funds.

We appreciate the hard work put into organising and making them so successful.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way and, of course, to all of you who attended the events. Well done all!

After the morning service on 26 November, a soup lunch will be provided for those in church before the showing of "*White Christmas*". We are extending an open invitation for people not attending the church service to come along for the film at 1pm.



Esther Monro

NEW CLUBS AND CLASSES IN THE CHURCH



Lately we have had a few new clubs start in the building – these include Young Engineers, a Lego Club that takes place on Tuesday nights (aimed at two different age levels). Big Builders (Ages 4 to 6) meet at 3.45pm and Bricks Challenge (Ages 7 to 10) at 4.45pm.

On Monday afternoons a new Meditation Class has begun from 1pm to 2pm in the hall. In November, we have another Meditation Class coming from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on a Wednesday and then a new Hatha Yoga class from 8pm to 9pm, also on Wednesdays.

All clubs are looking to get the word out, so please pass this information on to those who might be interested, as we are pleased to have them on board.

Judith Dennis (Letting Convenor)

THET SOE AUNG

A boy from Myanmar when we met and now a young man, Thet Soe was seven years old, when we were first introduced to him. We have been his friend and sponsor for over 10 years, but, as he is now almost 18, and no longer attends school, our sponsorship has come to an end.



We received annual updates and news of all Thet Soe's achievements. Many of these were made possible by the kindness and generosity of our Church and Sunday School. I remember we all got excited when we received his letters.

Some of our money was used to purchase a bike, rice, a bed and clothes for him and his brothers and school uniform, allowing him to attend school - lots of things that our young people take for granted.

The best letter we got told us that our money had been used to give him and his family two pigs and pig food. The pictures sent showed such a happy and proud boy showing off his pigs.

We will always remember Thet Soe Aung in our thoughts and our prayers.

Thank you all for making this possible.

Fiona Todd

STAMP APPEAL

Please keep your used stamps coming, especially with Christmas coming up, when we all get a lot more.



This year the money made from the stamps is going to the Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan and Kenya.

It is important to leave a reasonable border around the stamps and, please, no damaged ones.

There is a basket for you to leave your stamps at the church front door.

Linda Russell

KIRK SESSION NEWS

October was our Stewardship Season with the theme of Time - time-based reflections in our worship and the challenge for all of us to make time to read the Gospel of Mark.



At the October Kirk Session meeting we reflected on what's going well in our church and congregation, one thing being new people joining in our worship. We can all take time to chat and make everyone feel welcome.

Future Focus discussions are for all as we take time to learn more about the needs of our parish.

The Eatery team volunteers give their time to run the café on Thursdays and Fridays. Please make time to support their efforts.

Alzheimers Scotland recently came to give a talk about their work. Please take time to read their leaflets on the church notice board.

The Church of Scotland as a national church has designated 25 November as a National Day of Prayer. We are all asked to give more time to prayer.

Many thanks for taking time to give so generously to Presbytery's Project "A Place at the Table". Total donations received - £ 255.00.

Please take time to pray that we find someone with the expertise and time to commit to taking on the role of Named Treasurer for our church.

Lorraine Brown

FORWARD WITH FUTURE FOCUS



You may be wondering what has happened to our focus on Future Focus.

A lot of time and effort has been put into following this up and soon all will be revealed. By the end of November we hope to have a display in the corridor space showing our interpretation of the 'Caring Kilometre'. It will show all the caring establishments and some of the connections between them and ourselves as the local parish church. It will be the start of our visual reminder of those current connections and will hopefully spur us on to developing our relationships with other carers in our local community.

We are still hoping to do some sort of video presentation but need some people with the interest and time to do this. If you have a video camera gathering dust and are missing the opportunities to use it, then why not speak to one of the team and find out what we'd like to do. We've got a camera that can be used, and we're not expecting a Hollywood epic, so why not give it a go? You may know someone in the community or a family member or friend who could help – please give this your consideration.

Another of our Future Focus aims was to develop a more participative element in worship. On Sunday 29 October, the last of our Stewardship season, we gathered in groups to discuss our experiences of reading Mark's gospel and then took part in a quiz on that and the subject of time that had been our Stewardship focus this year. From the front it seemed that a good time was had by all and, while we won't be doing this on a weekly basis, it was good to see folk talking and participating in a new way.

We may be using part of the time at our Kirk Session conference in February/March 2018 to follow up on this work and will be issuing an open invitation to the congregation to join us (and hopefully Rob Rawson from Mission & Discipleship). Watch this space!

Thanks to all who have been using their time and talents to develop this work which is vital for the life and future of the congregation.

For more information please ask Lorraine, Carolyn, Grace, Eunice, Betsy, Maureen, Christine M, Judith, Alan, Linda or Muriel or come along to one of the meetings which will be publicised in the weekly sheet.

Muriel

THE GUILD

Our session ends with our Christmas Lunch at the Pitbauchlie House Hotel.



The programme for next year is as follows

- 6 February Guild Project and “*Touch and Go*”
- 20 February ‘999’ – Lorraine Robinson
- 6 March World Day of Prayer
- 20 March *Working on the Wild Side* – Ian Mitchell
- 3 April Spring Lunch with AGM
- 17 April “*The Golden Age*” – Sheila Robinson
- 1 May “*Over by Christmas*” – Christine Mitchell

A warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join us.

Elizabeth McCallum

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Dates for Christmas services at St Andrew’s Erskine

Sunday 3 December	Advent 1	10.30 am	
Sunday 10 December	Advent 2	10.30 am	Communion
		2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion service

(Refreshments after the service.

Please let your elder know if you require transport.)

Sunday 17 December	Advent 3	10.30 am	
		4.00 pm	Community Nativity
Sunday 24 December	Advent 4	10.30 am	
		11.00 pm	Carols and Watchnight service
Monday 25 December		10.30 am	Christmas Day service
Sunday 31 December		10.30 am	Christmas season service
Sunday 7 January		10.30 am	Epiphany service

All services are open to all ages and to all members of our community and friends.

FLOWER CIRCLE

3 December	Mrs E Lacey
10 December	The Guild
17 December	Men's Group
24 December	Mrs M Harding
31 December	Vacant



December Distribution: Isobel Walker

7 January	Vacant
14 January	Mrs R MacPhee
21 January	Mrs I Walker
28 January	Mrs M Knust

January Distribution: Volunteers

4 February	The Guild
11 February	Mr J Lyell
18 February	Mrs C McWilliam
25 February	Mr W Stark

February Distribution: Margaret Young

If you would be willing to help occasionally with the distribution of flowers after the service or to donate flowers on a particular Sunday, please add your name to the Flower Rota on the notice board or speak to Rikky MacPhee. You can see her in church or give her a call on 01383 722544.

'THE EATERY'

The café will close for the Christmas holidays after business on Friday 22 December and will reopen on Thursday 11 January 2018.



The café also needs a new convenor to take over from Hilary from June 2018. If you think you would like to take on this job or would like more information please speak to Hilary or anyone on the café team.

We wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hilary Arneil

DIRECTORY

Minister	The Rev Muriel Willoughby 71a Townhill Road email: MWilloughby@churchofscotland.org.uk	01383 738487
Session Clerk	Lorraine Brown 91 Garvock Hill	01383 723002
Deputy Session Clerk	Carolyn Simpson 93 Urquhart Crescent	01383 720651
Treasurer		
Roll Keeper	Gail Anderson 10 Daviot Road	01383 731614
Lettings Convenor	Judith Dennis email: lettingsconvenor@standrewserskine.org.uk	01383 728570
Organist	Elaine Shorthouse	01383 242848
Church Administrator	Sonya Russell	01383 841660
Email address	staechurch@standrewserskine.org.uk	
Fabric	Jim Welsh	01383 853103
Communication (Editor)	Eunice Lacey	01383 745828
Sunday School	Fiona Todd	01383 728057
The Guild	Elizabeth McCallum	01383 726095
Pastoral Care	Mary McCormack	01383 625198
Hospitality	Hilary Arneil	01383 852317
Social and Fund Raising	Esther Monro	01383 300079
Gift Aid	George Walker	01383 720637
Partner Plan Correspondent and Stewardship	Carolyn Simpson	01383 720651
Christian Aid	Isobel Walker	01383 720637
Flower Convenor	Rikky MacPhee	01383 722544
Safeguarding	Sandra Stenhouse	01383 728116
Brownies	Erin Fulton	07710 636797
Rainbows	Sonya Russell	01383 725313
Bellyeoman Toddlers	Jamie Irvine	07792 319232
Ladies Group	Linda Russell	01383 732295
Men's Group	Alex Twaddle	01383 737478
Craft Group	Eunice Lacey	01383 745828
Walking Group	Charlie Downie	01383 724728