

Office Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12noon
Tuesday – Thursday 2.00 – 4.00pm
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The Skein Christmas 2016

The newsletter of **West Angus Area Ministry**
www.waam.btck.co.uk



Doing together the things that make common sense

Doing alone the things that make common sense

The Church of Scotland in Angus

Seasonal Foods for December

Vegetables – beetroot, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, chicory, leeks, mushrooms, onions, parsnips, potatoes, squash & turnips



Fruit – apples & pears

Meat – beef, lamb, pork, chicken, partridge, duck, pheasant, hare, Guinea fowl, rabbit, red deer & farmed venison

Seasonal Foods for January

Vegetables –beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, chicory, leeks, mushrooms, parsnips, potatoes & turnips



Fruit – forced rhubarb & pears

Meat – beef, lamb, pork, chicken, partridge, duck, pheasant, hare, Guinea fowl, rabbit, red deer, venison & farmed venison

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal



Christian Care for
Body & Soul

Isla Parishes sent off 60 boxes this year.

GKOPC sent 105 shoeboxes and several bags of handknits and shoeboxes to help make up more boxes at HQ.

St Andrews sent 11 boxes.

Well done and thanks to all involved.

Office

The office will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 20th December and will reopen on Thursday 5th January at 9.30am.

Update for WAAM Knitters

This year we have received around 1000 jumpers from all parts of the country – local area, Airdrie, Ireland, Norfolk, Ilkley, Dorset, Ellesmere Port, Isle of Man, Berkshire and Tenerife!



We are still collecting knitwear for the premature babies in Ninewells and sent another batch to them recently.

The Skein

The angel said to the shepherds: 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'

'This will be a sign for you.' A sign for you who sit huddled together for warmth. A sign for you who scratch out a meagre living tending your sheep. What do you know of signs? Your days are not spent studying the ancient texts, your days are not passed in the temples and the places of learning. You are at the mercy of the elements and the land, they are your masters, they dictate your ability to care for your flocks. They know of the anxiety that comes when one of them goes missing. Shall you brave the cold night to search for it? That's all that's on your mind. What do you know of signs?

Except on this night, just as you were about to leave the others and go and look for the lost sheep, an angel appears and through the fear that you experience tells you of the birth of a special child. Now you and the others must go down to the town and look for this child, this child who is different in some way, in what way though? Will it be clear to you? 'This will be a sign for you.' A stable is what you're looking for, not a palace, not a grand dwelling place, not an inn, but a stable, and in the stable there will be a manger and there will be the child.

The West Angus Area Ministry Newsletter

Did you hesitate? You have been trained to stay with your flock, or to seek out any that are lost. Are you worried that the one that got away is hurt? Is it struggling somewhere, its bleats trying to pierce the wind so you will hear them? Are you able to shut that out of your mind, because the angel spoke so convincingly and was so clear that the time is now, now you must go, you must leave the hillside. And so you follow the others and you try to put that lost sheep to the back of your mind.

And you found Him, the One of whom the angels sang, the One of whom the ancient words spoke. You found Him, and you were the first, not the grand or the famous or the wise, but you, the ordinary ones who are sometimes overlooked, who are not considered of much importance. You found Him and somehow you knew that He would understand about lost sheep. That He would spend His life looking for them and caring for them, just as He had found you.

So you returned to the hills, to your flocks, glorifying and praising God for all you had heard and seen. That's what we're told. But I think you took a detour on the way back and you searched until you found the one that was lost, and you brought it back, safe, secure. And every time since that glorious, frightening, life-changing night, whenever one of your flock went missing, you thought of that child and you smiled.

Carleen



The Anchor Section of the B.B. company has vacancies at the moment. We meet in the Old Parish Church Hall at the following times.

Monday nights 6pm - 7pm
Primary 1 to 3

Why not come along and try it?



A Carol from Flanders

In Flanders on the Christmas morn
The trenched foemen lay,
The German and the Briton born--
And it was Christmas Day.

The red sun rose on fields accurst,
The gray fog fled away;
But neither cared to fire the first,
For it was Christmas Day.

They called from each to each across
The hideous disarray
(For terrible had been their loss):
O, this is Christmas Day!

Their rifles all they set aside,
One impulse to obey;
'Twas just the men on either side,
Just men--and Christmas Day.

They dug the graves for all their dead
And over them did pray;
And Englishman and German said:
How strange a Christmas Day!

Between the trenches then they met,
Shook hands, and e'en did play
At games on which their hearts are set
On happy Christmas Day.

Not all the Emperors and Kings,
Financiers, and they
Who rule us could prevent these things
For it was Christmas Day.

O ye who read this truthful rime
From Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
Shall be as Christmas Day.

- Frederick Niven, 1914

Reminders

I remember the story I heard long ago
In innocent childhood, believing it;
so
Amazingly different; as clear as a bell –
O yes, I remember it well.

I remember the story shared often since then,
Through frequent reminders, again and again;
Those great Bible stories; their meaning so clear –
O yes, I remember each year.

I remember the story - traditional words;
Familiar old carols; I never was bored
With shepherds, and angels who came from above –
O yes, I remember with love.

I remember the story – the manger; the babe;
Three wise-men who travelled; the gifts that they gave;
The wonder enshrined in the Bethlehem boy –
O yes, I remember with joy.

I remember the story – but what does it mean
To me now I'm hearing it over again?
Will it have an impact; a message, or not?
O yes, I remember – so what?

I remember the story – so now I must search
To know it's as fresh as I found it at first;

To feel the excitement, the mystery too.
O yes, I remember – it's new!

I remember the story ... So this is the deal –
Engage with its newness, and know that it's real;
Be changed by the wonder; be moved in the 'now'.
O yes, I remember – and how!

I remember the story – but not from the past; It's modern; still topical; with us to last.
So come now – discover a meaning that's new.
O yes, I remember... Will you?

From "With an open eye" by Tom Gordon, Wild Goose Publications, 2011
©Tom Gordon

This letter was spotted in a newspaper – a sign of the times maybe?

'Whilst shopping in a well-known garden centre last week I noticed a range of dangly things to hang on your Christmas tree. They were emblazoned with various names and since my wife is a Mary I searched the rack – to no avail. Surely Christmas has not evolved into such a commercial venture that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is no longer worthy of a dangly thing for your Christmas tree?'



Post-Truth

I have just been reading a BBC News report that states that ...

“Oxford Dictionaries has declared "post-truth" as its 2016 international word of the year, reflecting what it called a "highly-charged" political 12 months.

It is defined as an adjective relating to circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than emotional appeals.

Its selection follows June's Brexit vote and the US presidential election.

Oxford Dictionaries' Casper Grathwohl said post-truth could become "one of the defining words of our time".

Post-truth, which has become associated with the phrase "post-truth politics", was chosen ahead of other political terms, including "Brexiteer" and "alt-right".

It was chosen from a shortlist selected to reflect the social, cultural, political, economic, and technological trends and events of 2016”.

I found the report an appalling reflection of our times and the integrity of those who make false public claims where the facts fall a poor second to the actual truth.

For example, the claims of those wanting to leave the European Union that the National Health Service would be 350 Million pounds a week better off when we left – now conveniently forgotten.

Not to mention the rhetoric of President Elect Trump whose bottom line seems to have been

“say whatever is necessary, true or untrue, just to win the election”.

We live in challenging times and I believe that the Church has a unique role to play in these times by steering people towards the truth. However that also raises the question of what the Churches view as the truth and that could open a can of worms.

- Is abortion right or wrong?
- What are the Churches views on the people of Islam?
- Is it correct that we are unable to take Communion in a Roman Catholic Church?
- Is it acceptable for people to be in loving same sex relationships?

... and so on?

Indeed is there an official Church View of the Truth?

I believe that the Church View of the Truth is the view that we hold as individual people of God, and that that view should be underpinned by what the Bible says but again that too opens a can of worms.

- The Bible was used to justify slavery
- The Bible was used to justify the persecution of “witches”
- The Bible was used to justify the Spanish atrocities in the Americas

- The Bible is used to justify environmental exploitation

That said I do believe we can identify a set of Biblical values that can help us navigate the mess of a “Post Truth” world.

Firstly there is the Great Commandment that Jesus gave us ...

Matthew 22:36-40 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Secondly St Paul’s Fruits of the Spirit ...

Galatians 5:22-23 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Finally our role as God’s stewards of creation ...

Genesis 1:26 – 28 26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures

that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

I suggest to you that we take these three passage as the core yardstick against which we measure the statements of public figures in these “Post-Truth” times and we shout as loudly as we can when we are faced with lies, deceit and fundamental eroding of the truth and values we hold.

Malcolm Rooney November 2016



WAAM Services at Christmas

EASSIE, NEVAY, NEWTYLE

18th December

10 am Nativity with the Fun Club

24th December

11-30pm Watchnight Service

25th December

10am Worship for Christmas Day
(short service)

GLAMIS, INVERARITY AND KINNETTLES

18th December Inverarity

10am

18th December Glamis

11.30am Family Service

24th December Inverarity

6pm Nativity

24th December Glamis

11.30pm Watchnight Service

25th December

11am – note the time – short
Service for Christmas Day – no
service at Inverarity



GKOPC

4th Dec Cortachy

2.30pm Carols with the NTS

18th Dec Old Parish

11am 'Messy Nativity'

6.00pm – Concert of Christmas
Music with Roger Clegg and the
Strathmore Singers

18th Dec Clova

2.30pm Carols at Clova

24th Dec Cortachy

4pm Cortachy Carol Service

24th Dec Old Parish

6.30pm Family Carol Service

11.15pm Watchnight Service

25th Dec Old Parish

10.30am Christmas Morning Service
– shared with St Andrews Church



The Skein

Old Parish Duty Rota

4th December

Door

9am A. Thomson
11.15am M. Jamieson B. Burness

Communion

9am R. Proctor J. Miller

Reading M' Jamieson

Sound S. Durston

Coffee H. Taylor P. Ritchie

11th December

Door

9am M. Mackie
11.15am S. Walker

Reading Minister

Sound S. Durston

Coffee G. Giles M. Morrice

18th December

Door

9am M. Inglis
11.15am C. Horrocks L. Grant

Reading Minister

Sound S. Durston

Coffee H. Taylor P. Ritchie



The West Angus Area Ministry Newsletter

**For the whole month of December
at 11.15am**

Welcome

G. Clark J. Pattullo

Offering uplift

S. Walker G. Clark

J. Pattullo B.

Donaldson

Offering count

S. Walker G. Clark

B. Donaldson

Team Leader – M. Clark

Cortachy Duty Rota

Door & Lifting Offering

4th M. Henderson

Flowers Old Parish

4th

11th D. Wilson

18th M. Morrice

25th M. Inglis

Flowers Cortachy

4th Christmas Decorations

Flower Rota

Don't forget to add your name to the flower rota if you would like to remember a special date.

The list is in the office and there is no need to be flower arranger – we have a separate team to do that. All we ask is a donation of £10 towards the flowers.

We start afresh every year so don't assume you are on the list!

Worship Diary for December 2016

4th December

- 9.00am** OLD
Communion
- 10.00am** CORTACHY
Communion
- 11.15am** OLD
Communion
Baptism
- 2.30pm** CORTACHY
Carols with the National
Trust for Scotland

11th December

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD
- 2.00pm** LISDEN
- 3.00pm** ABBEY HOUSE
- 3.00pm** STORYVILLE

18th December

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD
- 2.30pm** CLOVA
Carols
- 2.00pm** KIRKTON COURT
- 6.30pm** OLD
Concert – Strathmore Singers

24th December

- 4.00pm** CORTACHY
Carols
- 6.30pm** OLD
Family Carol Service
- 11.15pm** OLD
Watchnight Service

25th December

- 10.30am** OLD
Shared service with St Andrews

Worship Diary for January 2017

1st January

- No service in Kirrie Old**
Shared Service in Kirriemuir St
Andrews Church at 10.30am

8th January

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD
- 2.00pm** LISDEN
- 3.00pm** ABBEY HOUSE
- 3.00pm** STORYVILLE

15th January

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD
- 2.00pm** KIRKTON COURT

22nd January

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD

29th January

- 9.00am** OLD
- 11.15am** OLD

BB Post

The BB post boxes will start on
Wednesday 23rd November and the
last posting day will be Wednesday
16th December.

The cost this year is still 20p per
card!



Daily Bible Readings**December 2016**

- 1st Matthew 24:3-14
 2nd Matthew 24:15-28
 3rd Matthew 24 29-35
 4th Matthew 24:36-44
 5th Matthew 24:45-51
 6th Romans 13:8-14
 7th Isaiah 2:1-5
 8th Matthew 13:53-58
 9th Isaiah 59:12-20
 10th Amos 7:10-17
 11th Jeremiah 1:4-19
 12th Isaiah 49:6-7
 13th Psalm 17
 14th Romans 16:25-27
 15th Judges 13:2-14
 16th Luke 1:5-17
 17th John 1:19-28
 18th John 3:22-30
 19th Matthew 11:2-19
 20th Isaiah 51:7-16
 21st 2 Peter 1:16-21
 22nd Isaiah 9:1-7
 23rd Matthew 1:18-23
 24th Isaiah 7:10-14
 25th Luke 2:1-7
 Micah 5:2-4
 26th Luke 2:8-20
 27th John 1:1-14
 28th Matthew 2:1-12
 29th Isaiah 56:1-8
 30th Ephesians 3:1-12
 31st 1 Peter 2:1-10

Daily Bible Readings**January 2017**

- 1st Isaiah 49:13-23
 2nd Psalm 22:1-13
 3rd Psalm 22:14-24
 4th Psalm 22:25-31
 5th Isaiah 11:1-9
 6th Matthew 2:1-12
 7th Matthew 2:13-15
 8th Matthew 2:16-18
 Jeremiah 31:15-17
 9th Matthew 2:19-23
 10th 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
 11th Romans 12:13-21
 12th Matthew 3:13-17
 13th 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 14th Matthew 4:12-17
 15th Matthew 4:18-22
 16th Joshua 1:1-9
 17th Revelation 10:8-11
 18th Romans 6:12-23
 19th John 17:1-19
 20th John 17:20-26
 21st 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
 22nd 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 23rd 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
 24th Ephesians 4:1-16
 25th John 15:1-17
 26th Genesis 25:21-34
 27th Genesis 27:1-13
 28th Genesis 27:14-29
 29th Genesis 27:30-28:2
 30th Genesis 28:10-22
 31st Genesis 29:1-14a



Old Parish Duty Rota

8th January

Door

9am M. Inglis
 11.15am G. Giles S. Belton

Reading Minister

Bell

Sound J. Pole

Coffee J. France C. Horrocks

15th January

Door

9am J. Dunbar

11.15am J. Murray

Reading F.Havenga

Bell

Sound S. Durston

Coffee A. Pattullo E. Munro

22nd January

Door

9am A. Ramsay

11.15am L. Grant L. Kirkman

Reading J. Murray

Bell

Sound S. Durston

Coffee J. France C. Horrocks

29th January

Door

9am M. Shephard

11.15am R. Stewart C. Horrocks

Reading R. Stewart

Bell

Sound S. Durston

Coffee A. Pattullo E. Munro

Flowers Old Parish

8th

15th F. Havenga

22nd R. Powrie

29th

**For the whole month of January
 at 11.15am**

Welcome

B. Burness F. Havenga

Offering uplift

B. Burness R. Stewart

S. Coombs D. Shearer

Offering count

R. Stewart S. Jamieson

L. Grant

Team Leader –

S. Coombs

Dates for your Diary

5th Dec Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

9th – 11th Dec Thrums Up!
 Old Parish

17th Dec Raffle Draw & Coffee Morning
 Old Parish 10am

18th Dec Strathmore Singers Concert
 Old Parish 6.30pm

19th Dec Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

9th Jan Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

23rd Jan Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

28th – 31st Jan Book Sale
 Old Parish 10am – 4pm

6th Feb Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

18th Feb Coffee Morning – RNLI
 Old Parish 10am

20th Feb Guild
 Old Parish 2pm

4th Mar Coffee Morning – KAOS
 Old Parish 10am

12th Mar Coffee Morning – Fairtrade
 Old Parish 10am

TMSA Concert
 Old Parish 7.30pm

KIRRIEMUIR ST.ANDREW'S

11th December

11.15am Gift service with Forfar Instrumental Band

18th December

11.15am Nativity

24th December

6.30 pm Family Service

11.15pm Watchnight Service at Oathlaw Tannadice

11.30pm Watchnight Service in GKOPC

25th December

10.30am Christmas Day - Shared Service in GKOPC

OATHLAW

TANNADICE

11th December

9.45am Gift service with Brechin City Band

18th December

9.45am Nativity

24th December

6.30pm Family Service in Kirriemuir St Andrew's Church

11.15pm Watchnight Service. Mulled wine and shortbread will be served on completion of the Service.

25th December

10.30am Christmas Day - Shared Service in GKOPC



Isla Parishes

Church open for Christmas Tree Exhibition with Pop-up Cafe in Kilry Hall

Frid 9th Dec 7.00 – 9.00pm

Sat 10th Dec 12.00 – 4.00pm

Sun 11th Dec

10am Gift Giving Service

Wed 14th Dec

Skein Tryst Christmas Lunch

Sat 24th Dec

6.30pm Christmas Eve Carols & Lessons Service

Sat 24th Dec Glenisla Church

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Christmas Day

11am Family Worship

1st Jan

10am New Year's Day Service



My name is Anne Stott and I am a student in training to be an OLM, hoping to finish and be ordained some time in 2018! I am delighted to be with you until the end of April 2017, on placement with Rev. Carleen Robertson at Nevay, Eassie and Newtyle, Glamis, Inverarity and Kettles.

Just as I will be trying to work out what WAAM actually is in practice, it was suggested that many of you may be trying to work out exactly what OLM is in practice! Indeed, I am still trying to work it out myself(!) for it is a very flexible form of ministry which might be useful in many ways to serve local presbyteries and parishes.

What do the letters actually stand for? Overworked, longwinded messenger? Ordinary, level-headed mortal? Optimistic, likeable mystic? Ostentatious, lethal maniac? Perhaps(?) slightly easier to remember than any of those?! ... Ordained Local Ministry!

It is voluntary- no stipend; ordained –and so able to administer the Sacraments; and local – managed by presbytery. An OLM might be in a supporting, missional or pastoral role, depending on the needs or vision of a local presbytery. It is similar to the role already exercised by Auxiliary ministers, who are placed in a particular locality or a specific role.

OLMs might support Parish Ministers in a team, in both urban and rural contexts. They could work

flexibly across parish boundaries to enable the mission aims of several parishes. They might support with Pioneer ministry or emerging ministries, helping to forge new communities of faith where a paid post is not sustainable initially. They might offer key support in Priority Areas to help build capacity for the leadership locally or they might enable ecumenical connections. In addition, rather than being attached to one parish, they might offer special support as required (e.g., during vacancies; illness) or chaplaincy in a wide variety of settings is possible: workplace, hospital, university, schools.

One purpose in me joining you for six months is to allow me to see if rural ministry is the way I am to serve my home presbytery of Dundee.

While I am with you and Carleen most weekends over this winter, I am also studying online at Aberdeen University for a Diploma in Christian and Religious Studies and working three days a week as a teacher of pupils with Additional Support Needs in three Angus primary schools. I still maintain a connection with my home church of Chalmers-Ardler, Dundee, where my husband, Kenny, is minister, by attending Sunday evening services and prayer meetings, and Board and Session if possible!

When I am ordained, I will still be able to continue teaching as my

paid employment, while giving ten hours a week to serve as a minister

in Dundee presbytery. Some OLMs train with a view to serving when they are no longer in paid employment, due to retirement, early or otherwise. I can think of someone in their 30s and someone who is 70 who are currently training alongside me to be OLMs.

I started the journey to Training for ministry three and a half years ago, pushing a door to see if God was really calling me to do this. It has been an interesting and very fulfilling experience which I would heartily recommend to anyone. I have met so many very gifted and committed people, young and old, who are in training for various ministries across the church. In spite of constant tales of woe in the secular media, the Church of Scotland is not on its last legs... as long as we all keep our eyes and ears open to our Lord Jesus and are willing to follow where He leads!



"They say they are three kings."

ADVICE FROM AN OLD FARMER

Life is simpler when you plough around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honourable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around..

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

Most times, it just gets down to common sense.

Discipleship and the Path of Renewal

This time last year I was writing about our first tentative steps into the Path of Renewal Pilot Project. Having put WAAM forward as a possible participant, we were a little unsure how it would work with the team, and what it might look like for the congregations involved. Another year down the line has brought a degree of clarity (although I'm not sure everyone on the team would agree) and a better sense of what it's all about.

Perhaps what needs to be understood is that we are not implementing a programme – we haven't been given "seven steps to become a vibrant church". Rather, we have been encouraged to think of it as a process – a way of changing how we think about church and what it does.

Research has shown consistently that people tend to come to church, and begin to explore issues of faith, because someone has invited them, perhaps to a particular service, or to some other activity. That personal connection mirrors how the earliest followers of Jesus came together. Think of the calling of those four fishermen – Simon, Andrew, James, and John – who came at the invitation of Jesus. Even though that small group soon grew, Jesus tended to spend his 'teaching time' with a small handful of disciples. Even in later years, the early missionaries of the church did the same. Paul, despite addressing

large crowds, typically grew a new church on the back of personal contact with a few people, first teaching them of the Christian faith, then encouraging them to live that faith.

The Path of Renewal is not about propping up the existing structures of the Church – that's maintenance, not renewal. Rather, the Project encourages us to create a 'discipleship culture' – that is, find opportunities for a small group of people to explore questions of faith and begin to think about how that affects the way they live. As understanding grows about the relationship between faith and life, then it is hoped that there will be a growing confidence in sharing that faith with others – that 'invitation' to think about what faith is, and how it can affect the life we live.

This is where it can seem like an enormous task. The ways in which people live out their faith varies enormously. It could be in the voluntary work they do; it could be about how they interact with work colleagues; how they bring up a family; how they react to the political and social challenges of the world. These are things that can really only be tackled with a small group, perhaps even only one-to-one. Of course, that goes right back to the way Jesus worked with his disciples.

Why start from here? I think it's fairly obvious that the majority of people who attend church tend not to be confident about speaking of their faith. Faith has become something

that is very 'personal', and in the worst case, something for a Sunday morning only. If the majority of people who come to church do so because of a personal invitation, then it is clear that that confidence needs to be boosted, for some at least. This is the starting point for the project.

Hand-in-hand with that though, is creating the opportunities to engage with people, and that doesn't mean sitting through a Sunday service. Without the opportunity to ask questions and to explore the "what if..." situations, there will be no impact. So that means meeting in other ways, both as small groups and one-to-one.

None of this is really very radical – it's how Jesus began his ministry. There is a definite sense of needing to 'begin again' with much of the way church is done. This is one possible path to, and through, that 'begin again' point.

It all starts with the personal relationship, and as Christmas approaches, we have the example of God's answer to the issue of a personal relationship - the incarnation, the birth of Jesus.

New birth, and new beginnings are how God has worked in the past. We are trying to grasp something of that in our own work of renewing the Church.

John Orr

Monthly Coffee Time

Toasted fruit loaf, pancakes, scones, tea or coffee await you on a Saturday morning in St Andrew's boardroom once a month from 10.00 am and served always with a smile. At £1.00 it is still the cheapest in town. It is a good time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

Saturday dates for your diary – 14th January, 18th February, and 18th March 2017.



Messy Winter in St Andrew's Church Hall

**Saturday, 28 January 2017
from 10.30 - 12.00**

Lunch Club - St Andrew's Church Hall

Why not give it a try? The last one this year is the 3 course Christmas Lunch on 13th December – delicious food and good company. Lunch Club resumes on Tuesday 10th January 2017.

Film Night at St Andrew's



We meet in the boardroom at 7.00pm and on Thursday 5th January 2017 the film will be "The Lady in the Van" with Maggie Smith. Just a donation on entry is needed so come and enjoy a short cartoon followed by the feature film.



We have a great selection of Christmas cards and gifts in the office. Glittery boxes at £1.50 (lovely for a small gift), embroidered purses, silk scarves and tealight holders. Bamboo socks at £5 a pair – lovely and soft! – great if you are allergic to wool. Or you can buy them in a gift box containing 4 pairs for £20. A great place to come for stocking fillers!

Just in are some very tempting new flavours in Divine chocolate bars – including Dark Chocolate with pink Himalayan salt and Milk Chocolate with spiced cookies!

This year again we have the ‘Real Advent Calendar’ – the same company as the Easter Eggs – with Fairtrade chocolate and a Christmas Story booklet.

There are the usual staples too, coffee – a much bigger range of Café Direct ground coffee now - tea, peanut butter, cocoa, coconut and biscuits.

We have the ‘Clean & Fair’ range of cleaning materials including washing up liquid and soap.

If you would like me to stock anything else let me know.



Isla Parishes Christmas Tree Competition

After the success of last year, we are going to hold a similar event this year and hope that you might be willing to provide entries. This will be held in the Isla Parishes Church, Kilry on Friday 9th December 2016 between 7pm and 9pm and on Saturday, 10th December 2016 between 12 noon and 4pm. The “T Junction” Café will be open in Kilry Hall at the same times as the church is open.

The competition is open to local groups, schools and organisations.

Entrants can display trees (not much more than 3 feet), festive branches or several mini Christmas Trees of any other variations on a Christmas tree theme.

Entries will be displayed on the church window ledges which are 1.5m wide tapering back to 1.05m and 55cm deep they can protrude a bit over the edge but obviously if they are very prickly it might be a bit of a hazard! Battery-powered lights only! Depending on number of displays they may be exhibited in other parts of the church this could be for slightly larger displays.

We propose setting up the exhibits between 2-9pm on Thursday 8th December and between 10-4.30pm on Friday 9th December.

Entries will be judged by ballot taking account of:

Decorative Effect, Originality, Ingenuity and Reflecting the Exhibitor’s Particular Interests

If you can participate please let me know as soon as possible (numbers are limited). Janetta McMicking 01575 560 731 or mcmicking@btinternet.co.uk

Angel Tree Appeal 2016

As our thoughts turn towards Christmas, we are very aware that there are people nearby who will be struggling this year. Through our liaisons with local services we are aware of the needs of many individuals, families and elderly in our community. We would like to bring some joy into these homes this Christmas and so we are giving advance warning of our Angel Tree Appeal.



There will be a special Christmas tree in the Old Parish Church for this purpose on 20th & 27th November and 4th December. It will have labels attached to it. These labels will have a description of someone to whom we would like to donate a gift. It will be anonymous and so the card may read 'boy, age 6' etc. You are invited to take a label home, purchase a suitable modest gift for the recipient, wrap it, attach the label and return it to the foot of the tree.

We are also looking for gifts of ladies toiletries or boxes or tins of biscuits or sweets for families. These gifts will be distributed via local services in time for Christmas.

Angels are messengers – may our gifts be a message of our love in our community this Christmas.



Book Sale

in the Old Parish Halls

from

Saturday

28th January 2017

to

Tuesday

31st January 2017



Saturday 28th January

10am - 4pm

£1.50 entrance

includes tea/coffee & biscuit

Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st

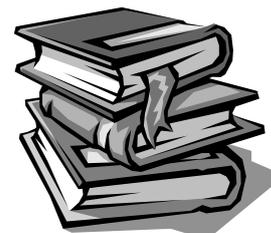
10am - 4pm

Books may be handed in to

the office on

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th

January



This is the lovely card received after the GKOPC Messy Church birthday card was sent to the Queen. We also received a letter from Balmoral Castle.

