

Blackbraes and Shieldhill
Parish Church
linked with
Muiravonside Parish Church
Winter 2018



www.bsandm-church.org.uk

Locum Minister: Rev Marion Perry BD

Registered Charity

Blackbraes and Shieldhill SC 002512

Muiravonside SC 007571

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

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SC002512

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of the Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish Church linked with Muiravonside Parish Church Magazine.

The response this time, as ever, has been great, with lots of fantastic articles that you have kindly sent. In this edition, we have recipes that will tantalise your taste buds and a quiz to test your knowledge of the Christmas Story, as well as all our usual articles such as stories, poems and upcoming events.

So please just sit back and enjoy all the articles as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a great Christmas when it comes and all the best for 2019.

With Best Wishes and Blessings
from Drew.



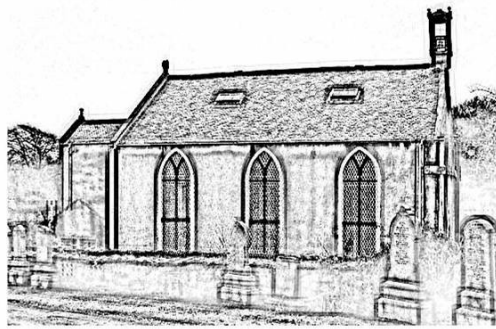
Muiravonside Choral Society

Muiravonside Choral Society will be holding their Christmas concert in Muiravonside Church on Sunday 9th December at 3.30pm. Please come along and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas Carols and songs.

Tea and coffee will be served after the concert.

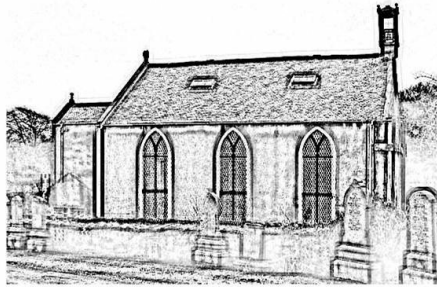
Hope to see you there!!

June de Angelis, Secretary.



Wedding

*'Meanwhile these three remain -
faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.'*



Muiravonside Parish

Jennifer Tod to Darren Miller
at Muiravonside Parish Church
on 17th November 2018

Funerals

'The Lord will protect you as you come and go, both now and forevermore'.



Muiravonside Parish

John Harvey

Roy Thompson

James Rennie

Elisabeth Ramage

Nominating Committee News

At this time, no further applicants have applied for our vacancy. We keep seeking a new Minister via the Website and by e-mail or postcards.

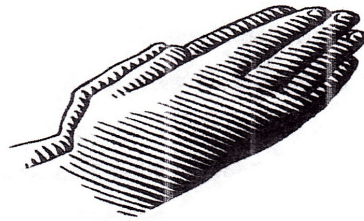
Congregational Prayer

Dear Lord,

We search for new hope and encouragement within our Parishes
over this winter period .

May you walk beside us, comfort and guide our congregation during
the continued quest in finding a new Minister.

Amen.



Recently, I bought a little book called "God's Little Book of Hope."

Words of inspiration and encouragement include further reflection by quoting chapter and verses where more in depth reading can be found.

On the next page are two examples.

Learn to Relax

Hope fades when we constantly get up tight about everything : being five minutes late, getting stuck in traffic, waiting in line, overcooking a meal, gaining weight, discovering another grey hair.

Lighten up. Release the tension and let hope soar.

Romans 5:5



Maintain your Friendship

An important factor in inspiring you to be hopeful is the support of old friends. Treasure those associations - it's so easy to be out of sight, out of mind. If you have an old friend, don't let them go.

Proverbs 17:17



Submitted by John Robertson

And now, a poem for Christmas for someone who has lost a loved one.



My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below,
with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular. Please wipe away that tear,
for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas Choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
for it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me dear ones. You know I hold you dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas, with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from the heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, "LOVE" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my father said to do.
For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of you.
So have a merry Christmas and wipe away the tear.
Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Submitted by John Robertson

Muiravonside Treasurer Report

The nights have fair drawn in and 2018 is very quickly coming to a close, I will soon be in the process of completing my end of year accounts, at the moment things seem OK however we cannot sit on our laurels, further work is required in the church and this all costs money, if we wish our church to be here in 20-30 years time we must ask ourselves what can we do to keep this beautiful building warm, comfortable and a pleasure to come into on a Sunday morning.

Behind the scenes there is a dedicated congregation who give of themselves by fund raising in all areas such as Spring Fayres, Christmas Fayres, Table Top Sales and hosts of other fund raising events, however we must look to ourselves in the first instance and if at all possible put that little bit extra in our envelopes each week.

I hope I do not sound like a moaning old woman or tight fisted church treasurer but these concerns have to be relayed to the congregation as a whole.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Moira Sharp - Treasurer Muiravonside

Christmas stuff from Shieldhill Main Street.

I am thinking about beginning to collect stuff that can be used in our Christmas Dinner. This made me think about times gone by and the dinners that my Mum made. My grandparents and an uncle joined us on those occasions and were always very happy affairs. The highlight of these dinners was always the Christmas pudding. Sometimes this was a "clootie dumpling," then it became a steamed pudding in a bowl.

In Medieval Times, the pudding was savoury and probably eaten prior to the Christmas celebrations. This 'fumenty' as it was called was similar to soup and contained currants, raisins, prunes, beef, mutton, wine and spices.

By 1595, this fumenty had changed into a plum pudding when eggs, breadcrumbs and dried fruit were added to give it more flavour. At this time the pudding's name changed to Plum Pudding. However, By 1650 the plum pudding had become part of the Christmas dinner. The Puritans banned the pudding and it was not revived until George 1st reign.

In Scotland, the pudding was cooked in a 'clout' a cotton cloth. It was common to cook food in a cloth, a practice that is rooted in ancient times. Both sweet and savoury food was cooked in that way. It was The Victorians who developed the pudding into the one that we recognise today.

There are traditions that surround the Christmas pudding. Combining thirteen ingredients can make the pudding. In this instant each ingredient stands for one of the disciples and Jesus. The sprig of holly that sometimes decorates the pudding stands for The Three Wise Men. The holly also reminds us of Jesus' crown of thorns.

In the Middle Ages, holly was thought to have healing powers and holly would be planted near to houses because it was believed that this provide protection. The holly trees that are in my garden have been planted in my time. The berries provide food for the birds and we bring sprigs inside at Christmas Time. My first holy tree was bought as a cutting at The Friends of The Smith Museum's plant sale. I don't think there is a plant sale anymore but some of my best plants were bought there. I think that they came from the big gardens in Bridge of Allan.

The wealthy Victorians shaped their puddings by shaping them in moulds, rather like a jelly. The puddings were round in ordinary households.

It was customary to hide charms inside the Christmas pudding. At one time charms would have been put into a twelfth night cake. We had silver three pennies, a five pence piece would do. The finder of this can hope for a prosperous year. A bachelor's button, a bachelor will remain single as will the spinster who finds a thimble. The unmarried person who secures the ring will be married at some point within the next year.

If you have a Christmas pudding this year, enjoy it.

May our dear Lord walk with you throughout the busy weeks ahead.

Rena



Recipes

Here are two recipes. The first is the usual one they my Mum made. Toni Stoppani was the cook who was on Border Television and this is his recipe. It made a rich, moist pudding.

Christmas Pudding.

Ingredients

100g plain flour 200g shredded suet ½ Teaspoon salt

¼ Teaspoon grated nutmeg 200g soft brown sugar

200g each of Raisins, sultanas and currants

100g shredded mixed peel 50g grated raw carrot

bottle of Guinness

3 eggs

Method

1. Mix together flour, sugar, salt and nutmeg
2. Mix in the remainder of the dry ingredients.
3. Beat the eggs and add these along with about ½ bottle of Guinness.

Pour into pudding basins and cover with greaseproof paper and then muslin. Tie this on with string. Put into a saucepan and have water coming half way up the side of the bowl. Simmer for about 4 hours, checking that the pot doesn't boil dry. Once that it is ready, remove the cloth and paper and recover with fresh paper and muslin. The pudding can be kept in a cool place until required.

Xmas Day

Reboil for two to three hours.

Serve with brandy butter or custard.

Microwave Pudding.

Several of the staff at Oxgang Primary School has a copy of his recipe. Mrs Lillian Black, whose children we taught, gave it to us.

Ingredients

145 ml water
80 g of white sugar
1- tablespoon mixed spice
1-tablespoon cinnamon
112g-margarine or butter
112g -mixed fruit
112g -sultanas
1- dessertspoon of treacle
112g- plain flour
1-teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 egg – beaten



Method

Put water, sugar, spice, fruit fat and treacle in a pan bring to the boil and simmer for 1 minute.

Add the soda and leave until it is cool.

Mix in the sieved flour and the beaten eggs

Line a medium sized bowl with cling film and pour the pudding into it.

DO NOT COVER THE PUDDING WITH THE CLING FILM.

My microwave is 1000w and it takes 5 minutes to cook.

If you are not sure, put it in for say 3 minutes and check it.

Keep an eye on it because an over cooked pudding will be tough and dry.

Janet Hunter is our champion pudding maker and seek her advice if you get stuck.

A Recipe for Porridge Oat Biscuits

Ingredients

100g margarine

100g sugar

2 dessertspoons milk

2 dessert spoons flour

1 pinch baking powder. You don't need this if you use self raising flower.

Method

- 1 Cream the fat and sugar until light and fluffy
- 2 Mix in the remainder of the ingredients.
- 3 Roll it out about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick
- 4 I put baking parchment on the trays as the biscuits tend to stick.
- 5 Bake at 160° C for about 20 minutes, until firm a lightly brown



Submitted by Rena Moore

Poetry Corner

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star -
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me
Amid the celebrations -
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came
And you'll find Me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.

Love,

Jesus

Submitted by Etta Napier



Christmas Quiz

Part One

Test your Bible skills with this Christmas Story Quiz which was Submitted by Lorna Coulter

1 The Christmas Story is told in the Gospels of

A) Matthew and Luke. B) Mark and Luke. C) Matthew, Mark and Luke.

2 The angel who came to Mary was called

A) Michael. B) Lucifer. C) Gabriel.

3) Joseph was told what had happened in a

A) dream. B) vision. C) nightmare.

4) Mary went to share the news with Elizabeth who was her

A) cousin. B) sister. C) friend.

5) After Elizabeth was told the news, Mary responded with what we now call

A) The Hail Mary. B) The Magnificat. C) The Nunc Dimittis.





Part One

6) She stayed with her for about

- A) three months. B) six months. C) nine months.

7) Mary then returned to

- A) Nazareth. B) Bethlehem. C) Jerusalem.

8) When her baby was almost due to be born, she and Joseph had to travel to

- A) Nazareth. B) Bethlehem. C) Jerusalem.

9) This was so they could take part in a

- A) family gathering. B) census. C) religious ceremony.

10) They travelled

- A) on foot. B) on camels. C) on a donkey.

Part Two on page 28



Drew's Hi Everybody,

view

I usually either write a true story or one with fictional characters and have been for some time thinking about writing one which has a bit of both!

Soon after I started writing this story about "The Eternal Flame," I knew that this one would be very suitable for this type of story and have very much enjoyed working on it. The summer memory of my bus journey is absolutely true, together with all the places I passed and things that I saw. Then, come Christmas time, Harry Elliot, a fictional character, takes the same bus journey and although the events all around him are fictitious, as ever, the events described could certainly happen when God's love is involved.

Have a really nice Christmas when it comes.

Blessings from Drew

The Eternal Flame

Ask almost any person to think back to their summer holidays when they were a child and immediately their face will light up. Not only that, but an amazing transformation takes place. There is a sparkle in their eyes which takes on a misty look as they gaze back in time and a gentle warmth seems to envelop them as a memory is evoked.

Sometimes it can be something very simple, such as a snatch of music from the song that seemed to be at the number one spot for the whole of that summer. Perhaps it is the taste of a vanilla ice cream cone melting in the mouth. Or maybe it's the irresistible aroma of fish and chips filling the promenade. If the memory is more recent, it could even be a holiday romance which was all too short.

In some cases, the memory conjured up can be something a little more unusual and I would probably fit into this category.

In my case, it's a bus.

Back in the mid 1970s, I used to go with my mum and dad to Largs each year for our summer holiday in late June. After arriving in Glasgow, we used to catch a bus from Anderston Bus Station in the city centre. The buses that run back and forward to Largs nowadays are excellent and almost brand new. However, it was a different story back then!

In 1974, the buses that traversed this 30 mile route dated back to the

sixties and in many cases, long before that. They looked very quaint, but the better ones were at least fourteen years old (the same age as myself at that time!) When we arrived at the stance for Largs, anticipation was already building up to see which bus would be taking us. Would it make it to Largs? (Which often wasn't the case.) Or would they have to change buses somewhere along the route – probably at Johnstone Bus Depot? (Which happened very frequently!)

Sure enough, we heard the old familiar rumbling sound as one of the oldest examples trundled into the stance and came to a halt complete with a judder, a few splutters, then the engine totally stopped. It had come all the way from Largs which must have seemed like a transatlantic crossing for the poor vehicle. If it had been a person, it would have collapsed in a heap. Instead, being a bus, it uttered what sounded like a long sigh, the door finally opened and some really weary travellers who had probably come all the way, stumbled out, marvelling that they were in Glasgow and had made it once again.

So many journeys must have been made during its lifetime which started before I was even born and it maybe looked like it should have been retired long ago, but I loved this old bus more than anything in the world because it was taking me on my holidays.

The departure was always rather spectacular. The bus had to back out the stance and the conductress used to go outside and guide it out and was issued with a very loud whistle (that I later found out went by the brand name of the “Acme Thunderer.”) She used to blow this with gusto once the bus was clear. It could be heard for miles!

My dad had contacts in the bus company and I managed to get my hands on one of these whistles. With the rashness and bravado that comes with youth, I tried a little experiment with it in the house one day. My parents were out and the next door neighbour was away as well, so I gave it a full blast. It was ear shattering! A few moments later, a remarkable thing happened. People came out of their houses and as I peered surreptitiously from behind the curtains, I noticed they were standing at the end of their driveways and looking in a state of bewilderment along the street. Then it dawned on me that the ice cream man made a similar sound (probably with his own Acme Thunderer) and they thought he had arrived!

When the bus got as far as Johnstone, it could be quite a tense moment because at this place, there was a bus depot that could offer a replacement if required and it would mean having to change buses just after we had all got comfortable during the journey. We used to sit

upstairs on the front seat and just above us up near the ceiling, there was a small advert stuck on above the window which had the bus company logo on it, together with the short but rather desperate plea, "Wanted – Mechanics." Some person with the true wit that you only saw during that era who obviously had travelled regularly on the bus had added ("Dead or Alive!") in felt tip pen.

I remember too that if you made it past Johnstone, the next highlight was a big billboard which was out in the middle of nowhere away past Howwood which had the admirable safety message "A little care gets you there." The only thing is that somebody had blotted out the "e" and it now read, "A little car gets you there," which is actually very true.

Other things tend to stay in my memory forever, such as the trees scraping the roof of the bus with a screech as you neared Lochwinnoch. Last of all, just before descending the Haylie Brae which was very steep, the bus would grind to a complete halt (which gave many an unwary person a shock,) as the driver tested the brakes. Then it would descend into Largs and we had made it again!

We had a wonderful holiday and got back home safely - thanks to that old bus again.

Time passed by quickly that year and as Christmas rapidly approached, I had temporarily forgotten about the old bus and Anderston Bus Station. Someone else though was very much aware about it and even now was standing at the very spot in the stance where we had stood.

Like myself, he knew all about the old bus and was peering out to see which one would trundle in. It was Monday the 23rd of December, 1974 and a cold wind was now blowing through the bus stance, rattling the small adverts that were attached to the walls. The odd drop of sleet would drift in for an amazingly far distance and Harry Elliot watched one fluttering by, temporarily distracted, as the very same old bus that we had travelled in during the summer juddered to a halt and after sounding its long sad sigh, opened its doors.

Harry gratefully got on. Just a few years ago, he had graduated as an accountant and had managed to secure a graduate entry position with quite a prestigious firm in the city centre. He had also been interested in the Stock Market since his University days and dabbled with stocks and shares, becoming quite an expert in them.

Although ten years older than me, we had one thing in common. Harry also loved this old bus more than anything else in the world, but for a different reason. It was taking him to see his girlfriend.

If you were to ask Harry to think about a memory from his summer holidays, not only in childhood but more recently, the sparkle described earlier would be in his eyes and his face would light up even on such a gloomy December day. His memory wouldn't be of ice cream, or fish and chips. It would be of a holiday romance, but this one wasn't all too short.

Seven months before, just a little while before my parents and I were travelling in the old bus, Harry had taken it to Largs and went on to spend a week's holiday at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. He had been looking forward to this trip for ages because during that week, the Cathedral of the Isles was running a three day conference called "The Eternal Flame." This had immediately captured his interest. His favourite piece of Scripture was from Isaiah chapter, 60 verse 19, "I, the Lord, will be your eternal light. The light of my glory will shine on you."

As a child at Sunday school, he had been captivated by the image of the burning bush and later, as a teenager, when he saw the Church of Scotland logo which contains the burning bush, he quickly looked up the Latin words written under the logo - *nec tamen consumebatur* - (yet, it was not consumed.) He found that the wording referred to Exodus Chapter 3, verses 1-4 when Moses came upon the burning bush.

Harry had always been fascinated by the image of an eternal flame which would never be extinguished and it symbolised to him what faith in God was all about. There was a permanence and complete reassurance in the symbolism of an eternal flame and he wanted to find out more.

At the conference he happened to be seated beside a young lady called Sarah Jane who actually lived in Millport with her parents and they got talking about eternal flames. Her fascination was that she had seen a photo of the eternal flame that burns on President Kennedy's grave in Arlington National Cemetery and had been totally moved by this. She told Harry during one of the coffee breaks that if she was asked to describe her faith in God, she would draw an eternal flame, as it just meant everything to her and would describe her faith in a way that words just could not express and never would.

They learned many things over the three days at the conference, such as the fact that a sanctuary lamp shines in front of the altar of the sanctuaries in many Jewish places of worship, as well as other denominations and is never extinguished. They also learnt that many Christian churches often have at least one lamp constantly burning for the purpose of worship.

As the conference progressed, Harry and Sarah Jane began to spend more and more time together. They cycled round the island which is just one of these “Must do Things” for a visitor, (as well as a resident!) On the last night before Harry had to return home, they had dinner together. They stayed on at the restaurant for coffee, then ordered another one, making the coffee last as long as they possibly could. Finally, Harry suggested, “How about if I come down to Largs next Saturday and I’ll meet you in Nardini’s?” Sarah Jane thought it was a wonderful idea.

That was how Harry got to know the old red bus so well. He hadn’t got round to learning how to drive and for some reason, didn’t like travelling on trains – he felt closed in on them, especially if they were crowded. For the next four Saturdays, Harry travelled down to Largs for the day and met Sarah Jane. They would then spend the whole day in Largs and Sarah Jane would go back over to the island at night.

On the fifth Saturday, Sarah Jane looked absolutely over the moon and told Harry, “My parents have said it would be OK for you to stay with us next weekend if you want to!” She added, “They would really like to meet you!” Her face was radiant, “Oh don’t you see? We’ll be able to spend the whole weekend together!”

She had never talked much about her parents before and although she had once or twice mentioned the name of the street where she lived, he hadn’t seen her home yet.

“Do they have a spare room?” Harry asked.

Sarah Jane’s parents actually owned one of the largest villas on the outskirts of Millport, overlooking the small bay that looked over the town. She simply smiled her lovely Sarah Jane smile, took his hand and quietly told him.

“We have seven.”

The next weekend was a great success and as the months passed by, this became a regular feature. Harry got to see Largs and Millport

in winter. He often rode over in the little ferry they had at that time, when the sea was at its roughest and later told Sarah Jane that he thought it was like riding on a carousel that was going in a straight line – not too unpleasant! He got on very well with Sarah Jane's father who also had an interest in the Stock Market and they often had long conversations about this.

As the months passed, Harry and Sarah Jane seriously began to think about a future together, but there was only one thing that came between them in a relationship that was made in heaven. Harry had just assumed all along that if they did get married, Sarah Jane would come and live with him in Glasgow where his career and future was. But she didn't want to ever leave the island. Her parents owned quite a few properties there and ran a small company which let the houses out to holidaymakers and people living on a more long term basis on the island. She was employed by her father as a "sort of estate agent," inspecting the properties which she loved doing and taking care of all the paperwork.

As much as Harry loved the island and longed to live there, he knew there wouldn't be much chance of him getting a job there in his own field. Sarah Jane was absolutely determined and they would sometimes quarrel about this. Many a relationship would have ended because of that. They soon found though that they just couldn't let each other go and come Tuesday or Wednesday, one or the other would phone, much to the joy and relief of the other.

Although Harry didn't know about this, he had an unlikely ally. Usually, fathers of an only daughter guard them against potential suitors with the suspicion, cynicism and determination of a New York City Police detective. Early on though, when Harry had been spending the weekend with them, Sarah Jane's father had got to talking about shares again and Harry offered him some advice which he took. The advice actually ended up in him making a fair amount of money. But it wasn't just the money. He realised that his only daughter had not only met a really nice guy, but a very clever one as well!

After that, Sarah Jane's father became the unlikeliest ally in the world and rooted for Harry. He also became the unlikeliest matchmaker. If he knew they had been quarrelling, after a few days, he would call Harry up and invite him down at the weekend to "discuss shares," but the meeting was always arranged for a time when he knew his daughter would be around and in the house. As the long bus journey progressed, Harry was thinking about all these things that had happened.

They made it past Johnstone Bus Depot. He gazed up at the “Wanted – Mechanics” (Dead or Alive!) and smiled a little. As the bus passed the “Little car(e) gets you there” billboard, he knew they would have Christmas to look forward to and resolved to somehow find a solution that would make both of them happy. He could even commute back and forward, but didn’t know how this would work out if the weather was bad.

Soon there was a loud screeching of trees scraping across the roof and Harry knew that Lochwinnoch was now very near. It was beginning to get dark and the coloured Christmas lights in the village looked beautiful from the top deck of the bus.

Not too far to go now and after passing through Kilbirnie, soon the bus drew to an abrupt halt as the brakes were tested. Before it descended the steep hill, he was greeted with the beautiful sight of the lights of Largs and could even see some over in Cumbrae as well. The bus arrived safely at the bus station, let out its long sigh and Sarah Jane was waiting for him. They only had to look at each other and all their worries were all forgotten.

The next day - Christmas Eve – was wonderful, with last minute shopping over at Largs before the ferry stopped for the holiday.

In the evening, Millport looked beautiful with the coloured fairy lights switched on and many houses were bedecked with lights. After a beautiful and very moving Watchnight Service which Sarah Jane’s parents also attended, it was now Christmas Day!

When they all arrived home, as well as receiving and giving their normal presents, Sarah Jane’s father had another present for them and although he didn’t say anything, he secretly hoped it would become a wedding present. He took them both into his study and told them that he had some good news. He had been toying for a long time about expanding into renting houses further afield in places such as Greenock and Largs. It was now possible to do this and the new offices had already been acquired.

He went on to say that due to the company expanding, he would need a company accountant and told Harry that if he wanted the job, it was his. He would be based in the new Largs office. He added, “I’ll not only match the salary you’re getting in Glasgow, I’ll probably be able to give you a bit more.” He then asked Harry and Sarah Jane to think about it over the holidays, but knew that it wouldn’t take them very long to figure out that their problems had just been solved.

Later that day, as Harry and Sarah Jane walked along the elegant little street, arm in arm, Harry knew he would never return to the city again except for an occasional visit. He had come home. An eternal flame had been lit for both of them. Soon after, the Christmas present did indeed become a wedding present.

Epilogue

Forty four years later, the eternal flame still burns. Harry and Sarah Jane now have a grownup son and daughter and two grandchildren. Sarah Jane's parents although now in their late eighties, still take an active interest in the business which has expanded greatly. Sarah Jane now realises just how much her father did for her with regards to Harry and cannot express in words how grateful she is to him for helping to bring about the best thing that ever happened to her. There is never a day goes by that they both don't think about the conference at the Cathedral of the Isles that brought them together. Harry finally learned how to drive and although he now drives a Lexus when he occasionally goes over to Glasgow, he always drives the same route via Lochwinnoch and Johnstone and just like myself, has never forgotten about the old bus that forty four years ago brought him to a new destiny.



Rendezvous

The Rendezvous group has enjoyed the monthly meetings since the new session started. In September we had a lovely afternoon tea at the West Lothian Golf Club. Thanks to Doug Reid for arranging it for us. It was also good to have Elizabeth Paterson's two cousins from Northern Ireland join us. In October, Eunice and the "Diva Dearies" returned to entertain us and having fitted us all out with a variety of glamorous hats, we had a good sing-song of some old favourites. At our November meeting, Vena Kelly brought along her dancers who performed a variety of tap dances, impressing us with their talent and energy.

Our next Rendezvous will be our Christmas one on Wednesday 19th December and we are delighted that a group of pupils from Braes High School will be coming to entertain us. We will meet at **1p.m.** on that day.

There will be no Rendezvous in January and we'll meet again on 13th February 2019. All are welcome to come to our meetings on Wednesdays at 1.30p.m. in Shieldhill Church Hall.

Marion Zacks



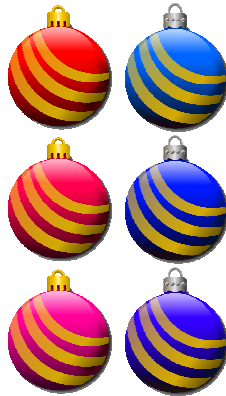
Website

Our magazines are now available on our website :

www.bsandm-church.org.uk.

If anyone would prefer to access them this way, instead of paper format, please let your Church Elder know.

As well as saving paper, and trees, you would receive the magazine in colour. It could also be enlarged if you need to see it in large print.



Muiravonside Church Facebook Page

Muiravonside Parish Church now has a Facebook page which gives all the latest news of events and can be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/muiravonsideparishchurch/>





Part Two

11) Mary and Joseph had to stay in a

- A) stable. B) an inn. C) the fields.

12) When Jesus was born, he was visited first by

- A) prophets. B) kings. C) shepherds.

13) Later he was visited by Wise Men. The Bible says there were

- A) two. B) three. C) doesn't give a number.

14) They were led by a

- A) pillar of cloud. B) fire. C) a star.

15) They brought gifts of

- A) gold, frankincense and myrrh.

B) copper, silver and gold.

C) Gold, diamonds and rubies.

16) The King at that time was

- A) Caesar Augustus. B) Quirinius. C) Herod.

17) When he found that the Wise Men had gone home by another way, he ordered all the baby boys under the age of

- A) a year. B) eighteen months. C) two years
to be killed.

18) Joseph had been warned about this, so they took the young child and journeyed to

- A) Egypt. B) Moab. C) Judea.

19) They were told by God it was safe to return after the

- A) abdication. B) change of heart. C) death
of the king.

20) They went back to

- A) Nazareth.
B) Bethlehem.
C) Jerusalem, where Jesus grew up.

Answers on page 34.



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Have you ever wondered about the origins of the much loved song?



"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was first published in England in 1780 without music as a chant meant for children. Was thought to be French in origin.

Some historians believe that the song was used as a catechism at a time when practising Catholics were persecuted.

12 drummers drumming symbolised the 12 points of the Apostles' Creed.

11 pipers piping stood for the 11 faithful Apostles.

10 lords a leaping are the Ten Commandments.

9 ladies dancing represents the 9 choirs of angels or the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit : Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty and Chastity.

8 maids a milking are the 8 Beatitudes.

7 swans a swimming represent the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy. Some believe they represent the seven Sacraments : Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Confession, Marriage, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the sick.

6 geese a laying stands for the six days of creation.

5 golden rings represent the first 5 books of the Old Testament.

4 calling birds are the 4 Apostles - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

3 French hens stand for the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, or The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2 turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments , or the two natures of Christ - human and divine.

And...what does **1** represent...?

Please turn over to the next page for the answer!

1 The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus Christ .

The pear tree is representative of the cross. Why was a partridge used for this symbolism? Because they demonstrate selflessness and are willing to sacrifice themselves to protect their young, by feigning injury to lure away predators.

Submitted by Norma Jack

The Christmas Mouse

A Christmas mouse
Came to our house
Looking for crumbs
That clumsy thumbs
Had dropped on the floor.
Under the door
He quietly crept
He nibbled and sniffed
!A Christmas gift!
Old mousie thought
And went and brought
His relations and friends
To share the ends
Of our Christmas feast.

Daphne Lister

Submitted by Lorna Coulter

New Year Cake

1. Take 12 months and clean out all bitterness, hate and jealousy.
2. Cut each month into 28 and 31 pieces. (These are to be prepared one day at a time.)
3. Mix each piece with one part faith, one part courage, one part patience and a good dollop of hard work.
4. Sprinkle in a spoonful of honesty, generosity and kindness; and one good deed to each mix.
5. Place them carefully in a vessel called hope and bake gently on a setting of joy.
6. Garnish with a smile and serve with love.

Best of all, it comes with the promise of a Good New Year!

It never gets stale and there are No calories!!

Submitted by Etta Napier

Faith

Hope

Love

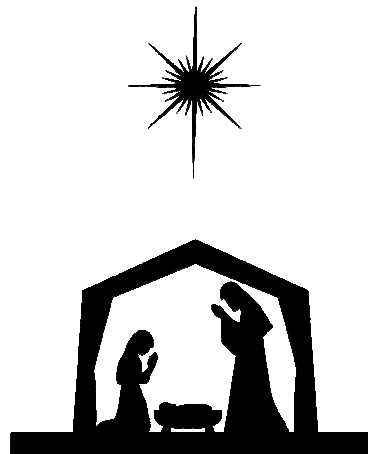


Christmas Quiz

Answers

How did you all fare? I'm sure you got them all right and here are the answers, just as a formality more than anything else!

- 1) A - Matthew and Luke.
- 2) C - Gabriel.
- 3) A - a dream.
- 4) A - cousin.
- 5) B - The Magnificat.
- 6) A - 3 months.
- 7) A - Nazareth.
- 8) B - Bethlehem.
- 9) B - census.
- 10) C - on a donkey.
- 11) A - a stable.
- 12) C - shepherds.
- 13) B - three
- 14) C - a star
- 15) A - gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 16) C - Herod
- 17) C - two years.
- 18) A - Egypt.
- 19) C - death.
- 20) A - Nazareth.





Guild November 2018



“Seeking the Way” is the new three strategy which the Church Guild will follow nationally from 2018 to 2021. It is an exciting time and the Outreach group have chosen six new partnership projects relevant to the theme.

This being the Year of Young People at a recent evening meeting, the Guild welcomed the Scottish Boy’s Brigade (BB) chaplain Rev. Derek Gunn and Josh Heggie a young BB leader. Both of different generations and in a power point and dialogue presentation detailed how the organisation had enriched their lives. We learned that although established in Glasgow in 1883, the BB had evolved over the years to accommodate a changing society and is still relevant today providing a space and place where children and young people can learn grow and discover.

Another chosen project with which we are familiar is Malawi Fruits, a Christian charity supporting small scale farmers in the north of Malawi. These young folk will be taught about better irrigation and crop processing and they will be encouraged to grow cash crops using modern farming methods. They will be helped to access good markets and will not be exploited in any way.

Over the three years we will come to know more about the other four projects. One relevant to Crossreach, the social care department of the Church of Scotland is “Join the Dots”. It acknowledges the problems of isolation and loneliness in Scotland. It is hoped that together with the Guild the problems can be identified and exposed and solutions can be found to make life easier and happier for lonely people.

The Sailors’ Society have volunteer chaplains in the ports of Invergordon, Leith Montrose and Dundee. Theses chaplains help seafarers and their families from all faiths and none in many ways. With the guild partnership, the Sailors’ Society hope to establish chaplains in more Scottish ports bringing hope and comfort to seafarers arriving in Scotland.

Seema’s project began in 2014 inspired by Seema Waghmode, a Christian lady in India. Her aim in the beginning was to rescue and support abandoned children in Pune India. With guild funding, Seema

hopes to build a home for these children and also a rehabilitation centre for rescued victims of human trafficking

Last of the six projects is related to World Mission Council and based in Lusaka in Zambia. Young vulnerable teenage girls are exploited become pregnant and end up with their children in poor conditions with little hope for the future. It is hoped that through this project their lives can be changed when they are taught essential life skills and encouraged to complete their education.

Since 1997 when the project partnership scheme was established, not only has over six million pounds been raised for charities at home and abroad but guild members have become more aware and increased their knowledge of worldwide issues and concerns.

Whose we are and Whom we Serve.

Lorna Coulter

Guild Diary 2019

23 January	Scottish Charity Air Ambulance
6 February	Adventure in India Alma and Margaret
20 February	Theme /topic The Unexpected Journey
6 March	Woodland Trust Laura Gusberti
20 March	AGM Fellowship supper
3 April	Fund Raising TBA

Come along. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in Shieldhill Church hall. All are welcome.

