



Rutherglen
West and
Wardlawhill

*At the heart of
OUR community*

DECEMBER 2023



*A silent night, a star above,
A blessed gift of hope and love*

*May the blessings of Christmas be with you
now and always.*

Hello from the Manse,

There was a time when you had to deal *first* with the necessity of the Christian tightrope walk of opportunities and difficulties which it is our modern ‘celebration’ of Halloween.



Only then, once Halloween was past, could you seriously get on with the business of complaining in church magazines about what our retailers have turned Christmas into. Now I realise things have changed. Now I realise I was wrong – indeed wrong twice over.

You are blessed indeed if you have yet to be visually mugged by the Christmas hype that avalanches us in our society. Halloween is a minor side-show, alongside the commencement of our retailer's Advent season that now appears to begin around the last week in August or the first week in September. But it wasn't just the beginning of retail/shopper Advent ‘hostilities’ that I got wrong. It was the source of the problem about which I was mistaken.

Over the years I have personally held everything from capitalism through to Tesco and Asda as responsible for the loss of Christmas because of the way in which it has been reduced to just an excuse for commerce. I was completely wrong. The reality is, however, much worse. Much, much worse.

You are to blame. I am to blame. If we get to the first week in January and feel *we just haven't had a real Christmas* it will be because our Advent wasn't real.

The heart of the human problem is indeed the problem of the human heart. Now is the time to be googling <https://adventconspiracy.org/> - it's an attempt to get past the good intentions of making this year's Christmas a real Christmas.

The point is simple, however, it does ask us to take seriously the reason why so many of us don't have a fulfilling Noel season – it's because we buy too much, literally, into the retailer's version of what a real Christmas is.

I was profoundly hit by how direct the statement from the 2010 Lausanne Movement was about why we have so completely failed in our care of our planet: *“love for God's creation demands that we repent of our part in the destruction, waste and pollution of the earth's resources and our collusion in the toxic idolatry of consumerism.”*

As we get almost a quarter of the way into the twenty-first century, it's not atheism or Islam that is Christ's primary opposition in the west – it's Christians who won't repent of this ‘toxic idolatry’. It is a blasphemy before God that the



season of His Son's birth has become the time of year when clients of Christians Against Poverty feel most compelled to go into debt to do Christmas *properly*. The occasion when we remember that those who first heard of Christ's birth were shepherds is now the season when the sin of consumerism reaches its height.

We can't just smile at the irony. We can't just complain about supermarkets. We must repent; personally; sincerely; daily; and above all, we must repent in a fashion that shows in our behaviour. We do more than mark Christmas on the calendar and make sure we've got the turkey ordered.

Advent Conspiracy says we need to do four things celebrate Christmas in a genuinely Christian manner: Worship Fully; Spend Less; Give More; Love All.

That's the four points – check out the website to take it further.

If we feel Christmas just isn't the same today as it used to be we must seek to personally change until it is what it's supposed to be. The countdown has already begun.

*Yours sincerely,
Ian Cathcart*

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

19th November Daylin Davis.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 11am

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd Communion
(retiring offering to Daily Bread Ministries)

Sunday 10th Gift Service
(please leave ALL gifts unwrapped)

Sunday 17th Family Service (Inc Nativity)

Sunday 24th Morning Worship

SUNDAY 24th Watchnight Service

Communal Carol Singing 11.15pm
Service 11.30pm leading us into Christmas Day.
Retiring Offering at this service to CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland)

Sunday 31st Morning Worship

JANUARY 2024 SERVICES – 11am each Sunday

NOTE FROM EDITOR

Please note, there will be no January edition of the Newsletter. Articles for inclusion in the February 2024 edition of the Newsletter, to be in the hands of the Editor, Margaret Feeney, by Sunday 28th January 2024, available Sunday 4th February 2024.

On behalf of the Newsletter Team, we would like to thank everyone for the donations received to offset the cost of production – it is very much appreciated.

The Team would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year.





Garden Team

The gardening tools are cleaned and housed over the winter and the team is now concentrating on enjoying garden-free Saturday mornings. What to do???

One thing we are missing is the coffee and chat at the end of what is generally back-breaking work, but, like all gardening chores, you can step back and see how productive this has been. A great feeling of being one with nature.

We are now planning our annual “Carols by Candlelight” evening. This will be held on Friday, 22nd December, meeting at the Cenotaph at 6.30 p.m. to join together to sing some favourite carols, and songs, and hopefully be joined by a few of our neighbours.

We will then continue our programme by walking together to the church halls and only with your support can we let our voices be heard in the quiet of the night.

So, leave the last-minute shopping for pressies, the wrapping, the cooking and all the stress of “what have I forgotten” and for a few hours be still. Remember the true meaning of Christ Mass.

We will provide the candles, the programme and the buffet. Unfortunately, we cannot predict the weather, so please ensure that you wrap up warmly. Although we don't have as many on our team as in previous years, we know you will have an enjoyable evening. A sketch this year? With our decreasing team members, who knows?

As the stairs to the basement are challenging, we are hosting this event in the Black Hall instead of the Basement Hall.

Please come along, enjoy an evening when we can be together and appreciate what this time of the year really means. Friday, 22nd December 2023 – 6.30 p.m at the Cenotaph. 7.00 p.m. Black Hall.

We wish you all the Richest Blessings this Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Isabelle Tennent

on behalf of the Garden Team



CHRISTMAS CONCERT
THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023
7.30PM
RUTHERGLEN URC
JOHNSTONE DRIVE, RUTHERGLEN

With several members of the Congregation in the Chorus, they are rehearsing hard for the above concert. Tickets priced £5 are available from Margaret Feeny or Kim Jackson any Sunday.

There will be a time for fellowship after the concert over a cuppa and a cake/bickie. Also available on the night will be Prize Draw tickets, priced £1 – as always, some great prizes to be had.



WAYS & MEANS

NEWS FLASH JUST IN - before this magazine is run off

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR - Amount raised so far is a wonderful £3,169.65.

The final total, together with the breakdown of all stalls and features, will be included in our February magazine, watch out for that news which will, I can assure you, increase.

COMPETITION WINNERS -

Guess Santa's Lucky Number - The number was 90 and the winner of our £50 cash prize - Sheena Anderson

1st Prize Hamper - The winner, Leah McCunnin (Leah is our church member Ray Brock's grand-daughter)

Runner-up Hamper - The winner, Louise Spring

The winner of the 'Cub Corner' Competition - Scalextric Challenge, was Norma Hay, receiving a £10 Marks & Spencer Voucher
(Distance travelled by the car during the duration of our Fair - 8 Miles)

Congratulations to all four winners

More information on our Fair in the next issue of the magazine, in the meantime, thank you everyone for whatever part you played in such a successful event.

STOP PRESS

KAREN'S TREATS - DON'T FORGET - your orders placed with Karen will be ready for pick-up on Sunday 17th December.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 5th December 2023

7.30pm in the Baker Hall

Morag Smith

Ways & Means Convener



*From the Ways & Means
Committee*



ROTAS
DECEMBER 2023, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

DOOR AND OFFERING PLUS COUNTING DUTIES



DECEMBER

3rd & 31st

L Fotheringham, C-S Blakeley, C-S Kerr, C-A McInnes,
C-M McInnes, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-T McEwan

10th

C-S Harbinson, C-I Tennent, R Tennent, C-L Fletcher, C-K Mann,
C-D Fraser, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-D Smith

17th

C-D Baird, R Brock, C-A Chambers, C-K Johnston, A Kennedy
C-M Feeney, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-J Duncan

24th

C-M Cruthers, C-J Brown, C-E Reid, C- E Ross, C-S McDonald,
C-M Ross, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-A McMillan

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

7th January & 4th February

C-L Fletcher, C-K Mann, C-D Fraser, R Tennent, C-D Smith
C-S Harbinson, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-I Tennent

14th January & 11th February

C-K Johnston, C-M Feeney, C-S Brown, C-J Duncan,
A Kennedy, C-D Baird, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-A Chambers

21st January & 18th February

C-E Ross, C-E Reid, C-S McDonald, C-M Ross,
C-A McMillan, C-M Cruthers, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson
Beadle - C-J Brown

28th January & 25th February

C-M McInnes, C-A McInnes, C-K Jackson, L Fotheringham,
C-T McEwan, C-S Kerr, C-D Smith
Beadle - C-S Blakeley

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE READERS

DECEMBER 23

3rd M Smith
10th D Aitken
17th S Rowan
24th A McInnes
31st M Grieve

JANUARY 24

7th A McMillan
14th K Jackson
21st M McInnes
28th M Ross

FEBRUARY 24

4th I Tennent
11th T McEwan
18th M Smith
25th D Aitken

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk



T-Bar

Every Sunday following morning worship
Enjoy a cuppa and fellowship in the Baker Hall from 12 noon

**3rd & 10th December, 14th & 21st January,
25th February & 3rd March**

I White, N Hay, K Johnston, E McMillan, J Doherty

17th & 24th December, 28th January & 4th February

S Blakeley, E Reid, S Kerr, J Brown, M Ross

31st December & 7th January, 11th & 18th February

L Fletcher, V Rowan, A Chambers, G McMillan, H Mulholland

Morag Smith

T-Bar

CHURCH FLOWERS

DECEMBER 23

No Flowers
Church decorated
for Christmas

JANUARY 24

7th M Smith
14th J Doherty
21st M Feeney
28th M Smith

FEBRUARY 24

4th J Doherty
11th M Feeney
18th M Smith
25th J Doherty

Morag Smith

Church Flowers

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year.

June Doherty



DEDICATIONS:

Ann Woolfe - 07 Jan 2018

In Loving Memory of my beloved mum & best friend. I can't believe it's been 6 years since you were taken from us. Forever in our hearts & thoughts. Miss you every day.
Suzanne & Ian xxx

In loving memory of Robert (Bob) White died December 2015

Missed dearly every day.

Irene, Iain, Robbie, Kirsteen, Mhairi, Robbie, Esme, Rita, Harris and Freya

Margaret Madden - 4th Anniversary 14th January 2020

Precious memories of a loving Mother and Nana:

The years may pass
but still you stay
As near and precious as yesterday
Today and tomorrow, your memory is kept
To love and cherish and never forget.

Your loving daughter Isobel, Grandsons Charles & Stewart

*Thank
you*

Fiona and I would like to thank friends from the church for all Mum's (Sadie Beaton) birthday gifts and wishes. She had a great day and loved seeing everyone. Many thanks.

Lots of love
Elizabeth and Fiona

I would like to thank all my friends in the church for all the lovely Birthday cards, especially Ruby and wee brother Jamie for the lovely Birthday card they made me, and also for all my Get Well cards and lovely gifts given to me, you are all so kind. I am getting there slowly but surely, better each day, still in a lot of pain just now. Hope to see you all again soon.

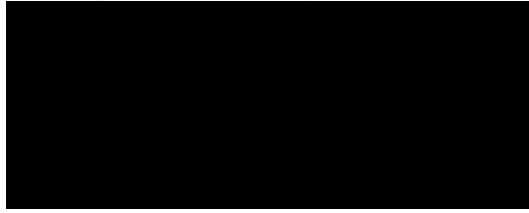
May God keep Blessing you all always, hope you all stay safe
Love Wee Vicky

Jean & George Aslett would like to thank the church flower team for the beautiful flowers delivered to them on the occasion of their 65th Wedding Anniversary.





Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank



Isabelle Tennent,
West and Wardlawhill Church,
1 Western Avenue,
RUTHERGLEN
G73 1JQ

Dear Friends at West and Wardlawhill Church,

Here we are again with Christmas fast approaching and everybody becoming very busy.

None more so than at the Foodbank, where activity continues to rise. From April to September this year, we have provided food for 4361 adults and children. That's a 40% increase from the same period last year.

With Winter weather almost upon us, we are bracing ourselves for growing numbers of people forced to access our help and support.

However, we are very blessed that we have all of you standing beside us in solidarity. We are so grateful for this loyal and compassionate commitment to those in crisis

I wish every one of you and your families, the joy, love and peace of this Christmastide.

Thank you again and God bless,

Warmest wishes,

Sally
Volunteer
November, 2023

Manager: Katharina Nimmo

Rutherglen & Cambuslang foodbank is facilitated by Churches Action Partnership in Rutherglen & Healthy n Happy, a Community Development Trust

Registered charity number SC051085



TREASURER'S REPORT - 2023

	OCTOBER	YEAR TO DATE
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
OFFERINGS	3409	31961
TAX RECOVERED GIFT AID	0	3525
MINIATURE CHURCHES	80	305
CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS	0	0
BANK/DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST	19	182
INVESTMENT INCOME	0	1948
RENTAL OF PREMISES	2977	19057
OTHER RECEIPTS	2601	17365
	<hr/> 9086 <hr/>	<hr/> 74343 <hr/>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
GIVING TO GROW	2947	29471
PRESBYTERY DUES	0	1586
OTHER STAFFING COSTS	917	8296
BUILDING MAINTENANCE COSTS	312	7052
HEATING & LIGHTING	1970	14326
INSURANCE	691	6728
PRINTING & STATIONERY ETC	18	571
OTHER PAYMENTS	1663	13449
IT EQUIPMENT	60	600
	<hr/> 8578 <hr/>	<hr/> 82079 <hr/>
SURPLUS /DEFICIT	+508	-7736

* Included in this Month's other receipts - £1,700.00 from Friendship Cafe (W.A.)
£150.00 from Friendship Group (H.R.) and £500 from Ways & Means

* Included in this Month's other payments - £50.58 Bank Charges
and £988 to Data Development

REDEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT: Balance as at 31st October 2023 = + £ 6839.07

INFORMATION: Please note the church was unable to pay its expected Ministry and Mission Contribution during part of 2020 ,2021 and 2022 due to the impact of the Covid pandemic on its finances.

Total contribution outstanding as at 31st October 2023 = £58,426.00
This is made up of £23,178 outstanding from 2020, £22,594.00 outstanding from 2021 and £12,654 remaining contribution to be paid for 2022
Our Giving to Grow Contribution for 2023 is £ 35,363.00
To date £29,471 has been paid towards this total

