



Rutherglen
West and
Wardlawhill

*At the heart of
OUR community*

NOVEMBER 2023

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

*(Written during WW1 on 3rd May 1915 by
Lt Col John McCrae after presiding over the funeral
of his friend Alex Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres.)*




*Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Parish Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland and a
Charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SCO 07585*

www.westandwardlawhill.org

Hello from the Manse,

How did you cope with Storm Babet? It hit the east coast of Britain on Thursday, 16 October, this year, during the school holiday week. My wife and I had our train tickets to go to Manchester to see our son – *on the Friday!* Every Manchester train was cancelled. So, Avanti Trains put us, and all their other south-bound customers, into black cabs and we drove, uncomfortably, to Manchester! Bad start; but it was a good weekend ... eventually.

One of the things we had planned to do together was go to an exhibition of printed drawings (woodcuts) by Albrecht Dürer at the Whitworth Museum – he's a brilliant artist and producer of woodcuts from the German Renaissance. It's a great exhibition – if you like that sort of thing – and it's worth going. It also put me in mind of another Dürer piece of art that hit the headlines recently – 'The Virgin and Child', completed in 1503.

American art collector Clifford Schorer was on his way to a party in Massachusetts in 2019. He had forgotten to bring a gift to the party and so took a detour to a bookstore, which sold collectables. The bookseller told him his friend had a Dürer drawing and asked if he would take a look at it. Schorer agreed, but held out little hope, given that the last time an unknown genuine drawing by the artist was discovered was more than 100 years ago. It was probably just another fake artist, there were many, copying Dürer's style and famous signature: . The artwork had been purchased by the bookseller for \$30 at a yard sale at the home of an architect who had been gifted the piece from his art dealer father. But when Schorer arrived to examine the artwork, he was taken aback by its quality. He said he told the owner, who wished to remain anonymous: "I think it's either the greatest forgery I've ever seen or a masterpiece." It was later valued in The Agnews Gallery, London as an original drawing by Albrecht Dürer and has now been evaluated at, conservatively, \$10 million.

The events of the first Christmas often receive similar treatment from the world we now live in. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people had walked past this drawing of Jesus and his mother completely unaware of its true worth artistically and financially. For so many Scots today, Christmas has already started and truly is just about the excitement and anticipation of Santa and the presents, the turkey and the Christmas tree lights, time off work and family rows and not forgetting the TV Christmas specials. We need to be the people, like the art collector, who see the true worth but not just of a famous piece of art – we need to see the true worth of who the art is focusing on.

"... as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said ... Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew who wrote these words recording the events of the first Christmas, understood the true value of the baby who had been born. Matthew looked past the austere setting and saw the true eternal significance of what had taken place. Jesus saves us from the reality of our sins and brings us back to God – the best present of all. That can't wait for the December magazine. The supermarket shelves tell you we're already into Christmas preparation season. We need to invite people, share with people, and tell people that Jesus really is the reason for the season. Hope you have a Christ-focused run-up to Christmas and have a great time when it comes.



Yours sincerely
Ian Cathcart

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERAL *(Denotes Church Member)

17th October Ella Clark *

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2023 –
10.45am

**Join us to remember those who gave
their lives for our freedom.**

Congratulation

Very best wishes to Jean & George Aslett on your Sapphire Anniversary. Married in Wardlawhill Parish Church on 8th November 1958.

Love from all the family and the
Congregation at West & Wardlawhill.

65 YEARS

Married

23,740 days

568,778 hours

34,186,680 minutes



Once again on Remembrance Sunday (12th November), we are having a ‘Soup and Roll Sunday’ to raise funds for Erskine. This fundraising project to remember our ex-service veterans was started by members of our Guild many years ago and continued despite the closure of our church Guild.

Thank you to the members of our congregation who have offered to make a variety of soups, prepare rolls with butter and/or cheese, and fill your cup with tea or coffee. We will begin serving after the church service and continue to offer this light lunch to those who attend the War Memorial Service at the Cenotaph.

Below you will read the testimony of one of the ex-servicemen who has been given a new life by Erskine and only one of the many your voluntary donation will help.

Greenock born Bill followed in his father’s footsteps and joined the Army aged 16 on 14th June 1977. After a year of training with the Scots Guards in Surrey, Bill was still too young to join his Battalion in Germany. Initially, he spent five months recruiting at Edinburgh Castle. Over the next three years, Bill completed tours of duty in Germany and Northern Ireland, before being deployed as part of the Queen’s Guard on ceremonial duties at Buckingham Palace.

In 1982, the Scots and Welsh Guards together with The Gurkhas, as part of the 5 Infantry Brigade, were sent to the Falkland Islands. On 18th May they sailed from Southampton on The Queen Elizabeth II, a cruise liner kitted out with machine guns and helipads. After a long arduous journey, around 5th June they reached the Falkland Islands in pitch-black horrendous conditions. The days that followed are forever etched on Bill’s mind. On 13th June 1982, the Battalion was involved in the most notorious assault of the war – the Battle for Mount Tumbledown. He lost nine comrades that night. Early August 1982 the Battalion returned to the UK.

We heard all the explosions as the Sir Galahad and the Sir Tristian got bombed. It became apparent that our mates were still on the ship. Some of the sites coming off the boats were horrific.

Four years later, in 1986, Bill was medically discharged from the Army. This was the start of an incredibly challenging time, for not only Bill but his family too. Suffering from ill health and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) it was only in 1996 after a visit to the Erskine Hospital that his life started to change. Bill and his family moved into one of the Veterans’ Cottages on the Erskine Estate. He was encouraged to undertake light work, which eventually led to him reaching the position he holds today as Erskine IT Manager. “When I came to Erskine I felt a weight had been taken off me. Erskine has not only saved my life, it’s given me back my life.”

Please give generously, remembering the sacrifice made by so many.

Isabelle Tennent



The Inquisitive Mind of a Child

“Why are they selling poppies, Mummy? Selling poppies in town today?
The poppies, child, are flowers of love, for the men who marched away.
But, why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy? Why not a beautiful rose?
Because, my child, men fought and died in the fields where the poppies grow.
But why are the poppies so red, Mummy? Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood my child, the blood our soldiers shed.
The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy, why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief for the men who never came back.
But, why Mummy, are you crying so? Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child, for the world is **FORGETTING AGAIN!!**



It was, to say the least, overwhelming to witness so many coming to our hall to support our local Christian Aid fundraising event and also to experience the union of the members, family, and friends of 6 churches, being the 6 churches represented by our committee. To hear the laughter, the chat, and just a wonderful feeling of togetherness made this project so worthwhile. The total raised at the time of writing is (*drum roll*) £1,410.00.

This sum would not have been possible without the teamwork of all our volunteers, to whom we give our heartfelt thanks. Of course to all who purchased tickets, bought baking and prize draw tickets, and also guessed the weight of the cake, thank you!!

We count our blessings, and we remember that C.A. committees fundraise to help those in crisis and share hope with people in need. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope. Continue to pray therefore for the work of Christian Aid worldwide.

Richest Blessings to all.

Isabelle Tennent

(W & W representative for Christian Aid)



FABRIC CONVENERS
HAMILTON ROAD/WESTERN AVENUE
(see Alistair McInnes for more information)



HEALTH & HYGIENE REPRESENTATIVE
(see Kim Jackson or Morag Smith for more information)

These posts are essential for the effective running of the church and its activities.
Please give this matter prayer and consideration.

The following is taken from the Church of Scotland's Facebook Page:

A minister who was discouraged from going to university and told that his Lanarkshire accent would hamper his life prospects has been announced as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson will take up the role on Saturday 18 May 2024 and spend a year as the Kirk's ambassador.

Serving since 1991, as minister at Strathaven Trinity Parish Church in Lanarkshire, he was expected to become a bricklayer like other family members before him, but took a different path and he went on to complete four degrees at Glasgow University, including a doctorate.

The father of three, who is originally from Holytown, was told by teachers that there was no point continuing his studies but was encouraged to do so at home.

"My father recognised something in me and I got in to study biology at Glasgow University," he explains. "He pushed me in a gentle and encouraging way. "That moment when they shout Moderator – it will be for my Dad."

During his time at Glasgow University, he supported himself by working various jobs, including as a tiler. "I still do some tiling for folk and I'm hands-on with property in my church," he says.

Straight after finishing his undergraduate degree, Dr Paterson married Christine at the University of Glasgow Memorial Chapel. She is now a senior member of the community nursing team.

Immediately thereafter he began a degree in divinity.

"They talk about a calling – it was this sense that God was chipping away and chipping away. I did not want to be a minister and I felt a bit like Jonah – I thought 'go away', I want to do my career in science!

"Eventually I had a torturous night and I thought of Isaiah 6: 'whom shall I send...send me'. "I basically woke up and said 'OK God you win; send me I'll do it'. Having made the decision, I then knew it was the right one."

Dr Paterson's placement as a probationer was with Very Rev Dr Hugh Wyllie, who he says "showed me how to be a minister".

Reflecting on more than 30 years in a parish, including 10 years also working as a Presbytery Clerk, he says he "thrives" on pastoral work, albeit there have been some very tough moments.

"Undoubtedly the most challenging point of my ministry has been supporting people around child death," he says. "How do you deal with it and stay above your own tears?"

The wish to support people as best he can eventually lead to his doctorate in practical theology, which looks at ministering to those who have experienced early miscarriage. Dr Paterson believes listening to people is at the heart of supporting people who are going through a difficult time for any reason.

"It means you can try and begin to understand what people have got going on, and convey that their story is important."

He plans to spend next year “listening to as many people as possible”.

“If you asked me for three words to describe what’s important to me as a minister – and indeed as a Moderator – it would be people, people, people,” he says. “People in the pews, in the parish. People of all ages from pupils to pensioners and every stage in between. I love connecting with people, hearing their stories, and reminding them that I care, the Church cares, God cares.”

Acknowledging that “there is a lot of upset” currently across the Church of Scotland, particularly due to the planned closure of Kirk buildings in order to safeguard the future of the organisation, Dr Paterson says that “one of the themes I’d like to have for my year as Moderator is building together – it goes back to my roots”.

“As a Church, we have strong foundations and it might not be my building or your building that’s kept, but our foundations are in Christ. We need to build together and we need to come together – we need to realise almost everyone is losing something. We have to try and get over any sense of animosity. We’re a Church together and we need to go forward together to build on the foundations of all our forebears.”

Other hopes that Dr Paterson has for his time representing the Church include highlighting the work of NHS staff, particularly due to family connections and his regular visits to hospitals.

He also looks forward to “hopefully bringing a bit of levity to proceedings”, although he describes his style as traditional, as well as preaching in different parts of the country.

Over 30 years Dr Paterson’s interests have included supporting Loaves and Fishes a charity in East Kilbride, which distributes food, toiletries, and clothing to people in need locally.

Seventeen years ago he opened up the church halls to secondary school children at lunchtime two days each week providing a warm space, hot chocolate and toasties. “It’s not doing church – it’s being church,” Dr Paterson says.

He also set up Strathaven Memory Group for those with memory issues and their carers, is involved with youth musical theatre, and is currently a lay advisor within the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow).

Despite all of these achievements, most of all he says he has aimed to serve the church.

“I have served the wider Church through committees, convenerships, supervising the next generation for the ministries of the Church, and as co-moderator of a newly formed presbytery”.

“I also have experience of union negotiations – successfully bringing together four Kirk Sessions and congregations, while sharing in the hurt of a lost building”.



“I have sought to be a faithful and loyal parish minister, which has been a tremendous privilege and honour.”

*Sadly Rev Dr Hugh Wyllie passed away recently.



**HARVEST COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
AMOUNT RAISED - £524.95**

Well, what a wonderful total from our Coffee Morning. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great result, bearing in mind the terrible weather we experienced that day. Despite the weather, THANK YOU - to so many of you for your presence sitting at the tables in our Black Hall, chatting and enjoying your cuppa and cake - for your donations whether monetary, baking, gifts for our Raffle and our 'corner shop' and of course your generous purchase of raffle tickets - Congratulations to all our winners.

As always, thank you to my Committee for their baking and all their work during the event and on the day beforehand.

**YOUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
11am till 2pm**

FOUR weeks to go as this magazine goes to print-off - YES the Fair takes place THIS month. One minute it was September and now here we are in November, preparing everything needed for your church Fair.

So, what's happening first, well we have our **FAIR COMPETITIONS**, available for YOU in our T-Bar on Sundays 5th, 12th, and 19th November.

OUR HAMPERS - £2.00 a ticket

We have two Christmas Hampers, one as the 'first prize' containing many of your favourite Christmas goodies and a smaller hamper as the 'runner up' prize, filled totally with chocolate surprises.

GUESS SANTA'S LUCKY NUMBER - Fill a box of your choice with your name and phone number for £2.00 and **YOU** could be the winner of a **£50** cash prize to spend on one or more of the many things needed at Christmas time. Yes, Santa has a lucky number, can YOU place your name on that number? Come and have a guess. Both Competitions will also be available to take part in on the day of the Fair.

NEXT, a reminder of 'KAREN'S CHRISTMAS TREATS' (Karen Johnston)

As part of the Christmas Fair fundraiser, Karen is once again all set to take pre-orders for your Christmas Day celebrations. All orders from the list below to be placed **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE please, with a CLOSING date of Thursday 30th November**, allowing Karen as much time as possible to prepare all your orders.

Items ordered will be available for pick-up from Karen on Sunday 17th December, after the morning service. If, for any reason, you are unable to collect your order that day, please make sure to ask someone else to do this for you. Please choose from the following -

CHRISTMAS CAKES - 6inch rich fruit cake, marzipan top, covered in fondant icing and packaged in a decorative Christmas box. (Can be made without the marzipan, upon request) Cost - £6.00



SNOWFLAKES - Decorative bags of tablet snowflakes (8 snowflakes per bag). Cost - £3.00

*Contact Karen on -
Mobile 07584 127516, voice mail, text message, or have a word with Karen on a
Sunday morning at church.*

AND NOW YOUR 'FAIR' QUESTIONS ANSWERED (any other questions, please have a word with me)

WHAT HELP IS NEEDED? If you feel you are able to, then help is needed any evening in the week running up to the Fair (Monday 20th - Friday 24th November) when donation bags will be emptied, placed on stalls, and priced where needed, 7pm onwards. Your help is needed at the Fair itself to serve behind our stalls, to help at Santa's Grotto, to help in Aladdin's Cave, and to help in our T-Room. If helping all day at the Fair would be too much, then of course whatever time you **CAN** give would be so much appreciated.

Please have a word with Lesley Fletcher (T-Room), Andy Scott (Aladdin's Cave), or myself regarding Stalls, or any other feature mentioned which you would like to help with. I promise we **WILL** find something that will suit YOU during the Fair week and especially at the Fair itself. **WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE JUST WON'T MANAGE - WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.** If you **ARE** able to help, please let us know as soon as possible, thank you. Please note that help is not restricted to church members – all help gratefully received! Our thanks to those out with the church who have already volunteered to help.

WHEN CAN I BRING MY DONATIONS TO THE HALLS? Donations towards any of our stalls and features (Gifts - Bottles & Sweets - Soft Goods - Christmas themed gifts and toys - Nearly new goods for Aladdin's Cave) can be handed into the halls any evening of Fair week, 7pm till 8.30pm. If you cannot come down on an evening, then someone will be in the halls Monday 20th 10am till 3pm or on Friday 24th November 11am till 1pm. **Please note NO GROCERIES required for our stalls.**

What can I hand in for Aladdin's Cave? All sorts of nearly new goods (**not jumble**) and **NO** large furniture, e.g. ornaments, china goods, lamps, pictures, nearly new toys, mirrors, books, hand bags. If you are not sure whether something would be suitable, please speak to Andy Scott on [REDACTED] who will be able to help. (Donations of baking can be handed in either on Friday 24th November 11am till 1pm, Friday evening 7 till 8.30pm or, if not down early on Saturday because you are working at the Fair, then baking can of course be handed in when you arrive for the opening at 11am.



WILL THERE BE A FURTHER FAIR SHOP AFTER SATURDAY'S FAIR? Yes, there will, but this year this will only happen once - our shop will be open the morning after the fair - Sunday 26th November after the church service with a **ONE OFF SALE** which will include some of the items left over from the day before - and thenour

shutters will come down and everything cleared away. Please note that this is a change from prior years when our shop opened for the three Sundays following the fair.

WHEN DOES THE FAIR OPEN? At 11am when everyone working at the Fair will be inside the halls waiting to greet and serve you all from behind the stalls, from within Aladdin's Cave, at the Cub Corner where the Cubs will have a few surprises for us all and our T-Room staff ready to take your orders. **PLEASE, PLEASE** do come.

WHERE IS THE FAIR? In your church halls in Western Avenue. Please come and support this special West End Church Fair. We are sure you will manage to tick off many presents needed from that Christmas shopping list with some super bargains waiting for you in Aladdin's Cave. **ITS ALL HERE FOR YOU, DON'T MISS OUT!**

WHEN WILL WE HEAR HOW MUCH THIS EVENT HAS RAISED FOR THE CHURCH? The first total will be announced in church on Sunday morning 26th November and, after our Sunday shop sales, an update on that first total will appear as a **NEWS FLASH** in your December magazine. The **FINAL** total raised, together with a breakdown, will appear in the February edition of your church magazine (we do not have a January edition).

Finally, the Committee, together with all those who will offer their help, look forward to welcoming YOU, your family and friends with lots of people from the community, near and far, to **WEST & WARDLAWHILL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday 14th November 2023
7.30pm in the Baker Hall

Morag Smith
Ways & Means Convener

USEFUL INFORMATION

MINISTER

Vacancy

All enquiries regarding pastoral care, weddings, baptisms, funerals, illness etc., in the first instance contact the Session Clerk

SESSION CLERK - Alistair McInnes

[REDACTED]

TREASURER - Kim Jackson

[REDACTED]

MAGAZINE EDITOR - Margaret Feeney

[REDACTED]

FUTURE MAGAZINE DATES

December Issue - Items to be in for Sunday 26th November Pick Up Sunday 3rd December

There will be no magazine issue in January 2024

**ROTAS
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

DOOR, OFFERING AND COUNTING DUTIES

5th November, 3rd and 31st December

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

Beadle: C-T McEwan

+12th November & *10th December

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

+Remembrance Sunday

***Communion**

Beadle: C-D Smith

19th November and 17th December

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

26th November and 24th December

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

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE READERS

NOVEMBER

5th M McInnes

12th* M Ross

19th I Tennent

26th T McEwan

*Remembrance Sunday

DECEMBER

3rd M Smith

10th* D Aitken

17th S Rowan

24th A McInnes

31st M Grieve

*Communion

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk



We would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls when Frank was in hospital. Also, Morag and her lovely team for the beautiful flowers. You are all so kind.

Liz and Frank McMillan



T-Bar

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

5th & *12th November, 17th & 24th December

S Blakeley, E Reid, S Kerr, J Brown, M Ross
*Remembrance Sunday – No normal T-Bar
We have a 'soup and roll' lunch in Black Hall

19th & 26th November, 31st December & 7th January

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

3rd & *10th December

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

Morag Smith

T-Bar

CHURCH FLOWERS

NOVEMBER

5th M Smith
*12th M Smith
19th J Doherty
26th M Feeney
*Remembrance

DECEMBER

**No fresh flowers during
December - Church will
be decorated for
Christmas-time**

Morag Smith

Church Flowers

DEDICATIONS

In Loving Memory of my Mum, May Brown, who died on 6th November 1997.
From Her Daughter, Rita

David Hay - In memory of a much loved and much missed Son and Brother. Till we meet again.
Mum, Dad and Stuart

Jean Watson - 24th November 2003
In loving memory of my wife Jean Watson. Always remembered.
From Ian, Douglas and Liz

Fred Morton - 4th November 2021

In loving memory of Fred, beloved Husband, Father & Papa, can't believe it's 2 years since you were taken from us. Still loved and miss you every day.

From Joyce and all the family

West & Wardlawhill Parish Church

Western Avenue, Rutherglen



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday

25th November 2023

11 am - 2pm

Featuring

(NO GROCERY)

Christmas Gifts, Bottles & Sweets

Santa's Grotto, Cub Corner

Soft Goods, Alladin's Cave

Snack & Lunch T-Room

Prize Winning Competitions



Entry
20p

