

Hello from the Manse,

Welcome to this new edition of the church magazine. And I know the front cover isn't particularly Christmasy at all. And of course, that's the point. We still have one of the most important Christian festivals on the calendar before Christmas. We just don't really take it seriously anymore as a real Christian festival – it's just that insanely busy time of preparations before Christmas. Stress has eclipsed the importance of Advent.

So, now you hopefully see that's the connection for those three symbols on the front cover: waiting. That's what Advent focuses on waiting! A more countercultural festival in the Christian calendar you will be hard pushed to find. Wait ... for anything – are you kidding. What's the point of that?

To answer the question, let's cut to Boxing Day or maybe even the last Sunday of the year and you will hear the same refrain from many folks; and many committed Christians too: was that it? Christmas isn't what it used to be! Ministers aren't supposed to resort to sarcasm in church magazine letters – it just doesn't sound right – so forgive me.

We can end up spending minimal time on daily devotions, and get lost in all the buying of everything, the big meal and the presents, and wrap and cook everything to perfection; and then find Jesus on Christmas day possibly having spent almost no time focused on Him through Advent?

Advent is a time of waiting but it's not without purpose. It's getting ready for the birth of Jesus; it's preparing your heart for Jesus to be born afresh into your soul; it's about finding the newborn baby again for yourself. Jesus is not served up to you like turkey with gravy and sprouts.

It's just like the story: those who find him – the shepherds and the Magi – they are the ones who actively went looking for Him. The ones who search for Him are the ones who find Him and go home rejoicing. Nothing's changed. It's hard to hear but it's often true: if you get to Boxing Day and say, "Was that it?" it's usually because you didn't go looking for Jesus – you didn't prepare. You thought you could have Christmas without observing Advent – you can't.

Matthew Dickerson is a Christian writer who lives in Maine, on the eastern coast of America and who goes fishing regularly in rivers across the state. Reflecting on Advent and his hobby, he puts it like this: "Though waiting may require patience and even stillness, it is not passive. Rather, like many modern-day celebrations of Christmas, it is supposed to entail preparations.

The Saviour entered the world to bring peace and justice for the oppressed, the poor, the stranger and the refugee (which may be why he chose to be born to a family living in oppression). If we want to welcome that arrival, a good place to start our preparation is by practicing the same sort of peace, hospitality and compassion. In these ways, as we are out in the world, we find Jesus – the very one we are waiting for – already present." Go looking for Jesus each day through Advent – that's how to enjoy Christmas – by finding Jesus afresh.

Yours sincerely, Ian Cathcart



FUTURE SERVICES

3rd November 10th November	Morning service led by Megan Ross (Worship Leader) Remembrance Sunday starting at 10.45am led by
	Rev Gary Caldwell (Prison Chaplain)
10th November	Divine Service for Local Masonic Lodges starting at 6.30pm
	All welcome. This will be led by Rev Jack Drummond
17th November	Presentation of Long Service Certificates at morning service.
24th November	Morning service led by Barbara Drummond (Worship Leader)

1st December	Communion service led by Rev Ian Cathcart, Interim Moderator
8th December	Morning service led by Megan Ross (Worship Leader) Christmas Gift Service – please DO NOT WRAP presents
15th December	Service led by Ruth Forsythe
22nd December	Christmas Nativity Service starting at 11.00am
24th December	Watchnight Service starting at 11.30pm led by Megan Ross
29th December	TBĂ



TUESDAY 24th Watchnight Service

Communal Carol Singing 11.45pm Service 11.30pm leading us into Christmas Day. Retiring Offering at this service (recipient to be confirmed)



PASTORAL CARE

Are you in need of some pastoral care? Or do you know of someone who may need some pastoral care?

Pastoral care comes in many different shapes and forms. It may just be the occasional phone call, or a regular visit.

As we come into the colder, darker months some of us may welcome a wee chat or visit from someone in the church.

If you know of anyone who, you think, could do with some pastoral care or if you would like to have someone call or visit you, please let me know.

Also, if you would like to get involved in providing some pastoral care, please let me know.

Alístaír McInnes

Session Clerk

Editor's Note

Items for inclusion in the January/February 2025 magazine should be in my hands by tea-time Sunday 29th December 2024.

The magazine will be available Sunday 5th January 2025

On behalf of the magazine team, we would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025.

Margaret Feeney Editor

USEFUL CONTACT 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



MAGAZINE EDITOR - Margaret Feeney



Erskine Soup and Roll Sunday

Erskine Motto - "Futures for the Brave"

Each year Erskine cares for ex-Servicemen and women from all backgrounds, offering Veterans, through the optimum care & community support, the best possible future, and we at 'W & W' wish to continue contributing financially and through our prayers, to make a difference to the lives of our country's Veterans who have sacrificed so much.

Erskine provides unrivalled support to "Veterans in Scotland", supporting nearly 800 residents each year, through care homes and a Veteran's Village, comprising 44 cottages, an Activities Centre, 5 Assisted Living Apartments and 23 Transitional Supported Apartments.

However, £10m is the amount needed each year to support our veterans at Erskine. 87P of every pound donated goes direct to their support. Simple things like specialist cutlery, supplies for art and craft sessions, physiotherapy sessions to help veterans stay active are but a few of the day-to-day necessities.

Erskine's vision is a Scotland where Veterans and their families thrive.

Once again, we will be holding a Soup and Roll Lunch. This will take place on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November after the Church Service and will also be available to those from the organisations who will be attending the service at the Cenotaph. A donation plate will be placed at each serving station for your contribution to the work of Erskine.

Together we can support Veterans of all ages begin the next chapter of their lives. Should you wish further information, please speak to Isabelle Tennent.

Distribution of Christmas Cards:

In sending our best wishes for Christmas to our neighbours, we will once again be distributing Christmas cards in the Parish. This will not be possible without volunteers, and if you can help with this project, please add your name to the sheet of Street Names which will be placed in the Baker Hall, week beginning 8th December.

If we can share the story of Jesus Love and Hope, to even one person in the community, it will bring much joy.

Blessings to all. Isabelle Tennent



The Magic of

is not in the presents but in His

presence

Discover The Nurturing Nook: A Place of Warmth, Friendship, and Support

The Nurturing Nook is a community-driven initiative focused on bringing people together through connection, warmth, and friendship. This season, we're running two vibrant projects: the Parent Café and the Community Café, each designed to be a welcoming space where everyone in the community can find support, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

Parent Café

Held every Thursday from 12:30pm to 2pm, the Parent Café is a space dedicated to parents, guardians, and their young children. Here, little ones can safely play, explore, and socialise, while parents and guardians take a moment to unwind, connect with others, and enjoy the companionship of those who understand the joys and challenges of raising children. Whether you're a parent in search of a support network or just need a break, the Parent Café offers the perfect blend of laughter, understanding, and community.

Community Café

Re-opening Monday 4th November, the Community Café runs every Monday from 11am to 2pm. Designed to embrace the whole community, this cosy gathering offers everyone a free, wholesome lunch in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. With the winter months upon us, the café provides a haven from the chill – a place to enjoy soup n sandwich, reconnect with familiar faces, and even make new friends. It's an opportunity for all members of our community to come together and share in the warmth of food and fellowship.

At The Nurturing Nook, we believe deeply in the power of community spirit and are committed to creating a place where everyone feels valued, welcomed, and supported. Our dedicated team has a mission to empower people to get involved and to foster lasting friendships within our community.

So, whether you're a regular attendee or considering joining us for the first time, we extend a warm invitation to come and experience what The Nurturing Nook has to offer. It's a place built with love, sustained by kindness, and enriched by each person who walks through its doors.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission, from our volunteers to our guests. Join us in celebrating the beautiful bonds of community – where kindness, support, and friendship thrive!

Consider following us on Facebook (The Nurturing Nook) to keep up to date with the exciting things we have going on!

Megan Ross Volunteer

Garden Team

The days are shorter, and autumn is certainly here. This means that the garden tools have been stored away and as we stand back and see a carpet of leaves over the ground, we think of the effort of sweeping them away. However, on mentally complaining about this, I recalled a poem my Dad loved.

Count your garden by the flowers, never by the leaves that fall Count your days by golden hours, don't remember clouds at all Count the nights by stars, not shadows, count your life by smiles, not tears And with joy on every birthday, count your life by friends not years

It seems such a short time ago since we began work in the garden and enjoyed seeing the fruits of our labour. Unfortunately, I was a part time volunteer due to my hip op and I can only give my thanks to our team who worked effortlessly during the "dry" Saturdays to maintain our church garden.

So, until Spring, and God willing, we look forward to being your Garden Team again. We will miss our Saturday cuppa and chat.

God Bless, *Isabelle Tennent,* for the Garden Team



FABRIC CONVENERS

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



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

GIFT AID - Are you a Taxpayer? If so, your **offerings** and any **other donations** you make to Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill Parish Church, could have 25p per pound added to them. For more information, please speak to Sandra Blakeley (Gift Aid Convener) or Kim Jackson (Treasurer)

Do you shop online? Did you know by registering with easyfundraising.org.uk you could help raise funds for Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill!

It's easy to register, will cost you nothing and you can help raise funds when you shop at more than 3,300 retailers by just going through the easyfundraising website.





FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024

As we start to compile a programme for our forthcoming Carol Evening, we are amazed that it is almost a year since we shared the real message of Christmas, celebrating that Jesus is the Greatest Gift on offer. Jesus, the Hope of the World, the Light of the World is emblazoned on the front of cards and posters, but do we really see the message?

In our wee corner of Rutherglen, let us, like the words of the children's hymn, "in this world of darkness, so we must shine" let us shine as we sing our carols, telling our neighbours that Love Came Down at Christmas, bringing Hope and Joy to all.

Let us remember that Christmas is about more than the presents, the turkey and mulled wine and let us come together, inviting our neighbours to join us on Friday, 20th December, carolling at the Cenotaph at 6.30 p,m, (weather dependent) and then in the Baker Hall at 7.00 p.m to continue our programme.

A light supper will be served and a West & Wardlawhill welcome will be offered to all.

Isabelle Tennent on behalf of the Garden Team



The committee take this opportunity to thank everyone who donates to the foodbank, helping those in the community who come to us for help.

The continuous support from our congregation enables the foodbank to help those in crisis and whose income is still failing to cover the essentials of food, energy, and other necessary expenses.

We can only pray for things to get better but, as we have entered our tenth year, it does not seem that things will improve in the near future. That is why the committee and those in need are so appreciative of you, our church family's continuous and never-failing collaboration and partnership.

Best Wishes to all at West and Wardlawhill from R & C Foodbank Committee.

Isabelle Tennent Duty Manager



We are delighted to offer a welcome to all who come through our doors and we, as a team, continue to enjoy serving our "friends" at the cafe each Tuesday.

We are indeed a Friendship Cafe, a family who come together to share a bite to eat and enjoy a chat. Sharing is our strength, whether it is a roll with sausage and much more, or a friendly ear to share a problem with or mostly to listen to a story of a happy event. Everyone has a story to tell, and we appreciate the lively chat and warmth which emanates from the Baker Hall.

So, be part of the Friendship Family and join us any Tuesday from 10.00 a.m until midday.

We hope to see you soon.

Isabelle Tennent

on behalf of the Friendship Team



As the name of our group suggests, we come together, with "busy" fingers, knitting, crocheting and of course chatting each Friday in the Baker Hall from 2.00 until 4.00 p.m

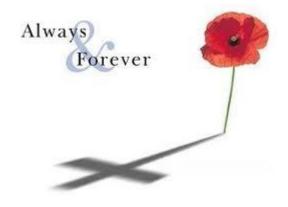
We welcome new members to join us, ensuring good banter and good fun as we

carry out crafts for charitable projects and share patterns for personal items.

Can't knit, sew or crochet? Come and learn, or just join us for tea and coffee and a chat. We look forward to seeing you at W & W Busy Fingers.

For further information please speak to any of our group.

Isabelle Tennent for the B.F.





The members of Christian Aid Committee thank everyone who supported their coffee morning fundraising event held in the Old Parish Church Hall on Saturday, 26th October.

This was a great success, raising an amazing total of £1,200.00 for Christian Aid Projects.

This would not have been possible without the efforts of those who baked, sold tickets and served tables.

The Committee's next fund-raising event will be a Quiz and will be held in March 2025.

Further information will be available nearer the time.

Isabelle Tennent Christian Aid Representative



This year the BB's Panto experience is going to be different! Oh no it's not! Oh YES it is!

On Thursday 12th December, 2024 a Theatre Group will be coming along to entertain us all. We have extended an invitation to the boys and girls of the 38th Glasgow Scout Group and we look forward to having a great time.

Merry Christmas from all at the 195.

Alístaír McInnes BB Captain





AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING Saturday 21st September Amount raised - £608.00



I am sure you will all agree, what a wonderful amount. Thank you - To everyone who attended - For the lovely donations of baking, goods for sale at our Corner Shop and gifts for our Prize Draw. Lovely to see everyone coming together at this event.

ROBYN TAYLOR CONCERT Friday 18th October Amount raised - £231.00

Great performance by Robyn, everyone present enjoyed the Concert very much with her selection of well-known country and western songs, finishing the evening with the audience taking part in a marvellous sing-a-long of well-known hits from our past - I am sure people in the surrounding homes were singing along with us! Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for our Prize Draw at the interval.

Last, but not least, thank you to my committee and other helpers for all the work and time put in on the above two fundraising events.

YOUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

IT'S THIS MONTH - IT'S SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

With your September/October magazine we enclosed a Fair Information sheet detailing what would be available, and not available, at this year's event. Sunday 1st September, when that particular magazine came out, now seems a long time ago. For that reason, you will find inside THIS magazine the very same 'Fair sheet' with its important information listed, just in case over the last two months you have mislaid the original one and are trying hard to remember what it contained.

However, as well as sending you another, we are now 4 weeks away from the Fair and would like to highlight the following information. Please do have a word with me any Sunday morning from now on if you have any questions at all -

OUR FAIR COMPETITIONS - Our Competitions for you to take part in will be available in the T-Bar on Sunday mornings 10th, 17th and 24th November. We have Santa's Lucky Number, with a fabulous £50 cash prize for the winner, to spend on whatever you wish on the run up to Christmas. Our second competition is our well-known HUGE family Hamper with a slightly smaller one, as runner-up prize, filled with Christmas chocolate goodies. Our winners will be drawn on the evening of the Fair and contacted to let them know.

HELP NEEDED DURING FAIR WEEK AND ESPECIALLY ON DAY OF THE FAIR -We need help at the Fair for our busy T-Room and to serve behind the upstairs stalls. **PLEASE, PLEASE** have a word from now on with either Lesley Fletcher (T Room) or myself (other stalls and features) if **YOU** feel you are able and happy to help in any way. Lesley and I need to bring a team of willing helpers together over the next few weeks. During Fair week - Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th - we start work on the set up in our halls, T-Room and displaying your many donations, 7pm till 8.30pm. Hope too, to have some extra help to do this.

YOUR PERSONAL DONATIONS TO THE FAIR - Apart from being in the halls on the 3 nights just mentioned, someone will be there on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th from 11am till 1pm if day-time hours are more suitable to you. As regards your donations, **DO REMEMBER** we will **NOT** have an **ALADDIN'S CAVE, SOFT GOODS** or **GROCERY STALLS** at THIS year's event as mentioned in the enclosed Fair sheet.

BOTTLE AND SWEET STALL DONATIONS - Please remember we need lots and lots of bottles and jars for **THIS** stall **(NO ALCOHOL please)**, eg shampoos, jams, marmalades, pickles, sauces, washing liquids, juice, ANYTHING in a bottle or JAR will be great

One last thing to remind you of -

"KAREN'S CAKES" - details once again mentioned on the enclosed Fair sheet. Orders required - to be in by Sunday 24th November at the latest. Karen is ready with her notebook,

Thank you for taking the time to read, once again, the enclosed Fair sheet, along with information being high-lighted above. Any questions please speak to myself, Lesley or any other Committee member. We look forward to a wonderful turn-out on 30th November which we have become used to over so many years from our church members, your families and friends and of course our neighbours in the community which surrounds our church. The total raised from the Fair will be announced on Sunday morning 1st December along with the winners of our Competitions. This information will also appear in the January/February issue of your church magazine.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 19th November 2024 - 7.30pm

Morag Smith

Ways and Means Convener

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To enable the Congregation Roll to be kept, up to date, would members who have recently or are about to, change their address, please either complete the form below and forward it to our Roll Keeper, Mrs Jean Duncan,

RUTHERGLEN WEST & WARDLAWHILL PARISH CHURCH

Name	Date
Is moving from	Post Code
То	
	Tel No

ROTAS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

DOOR, OFFERING AND COUNTING DUTIES

3rd November, *1st & 29th December

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

10th November & 8th December

C-L Fletcher, C-K Mann, C-D Fraser, R Tennent, C-D Smith, C-K Jackson, C-M Feeney <u>Beadle - C-I Tennent</u>

17th November & 15th December

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

24th November & 22nd December

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

Alístaír McInnes

Session Clerk

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE READERS

November

December

3rdM Grieve10thA McMillan17thK Jackson24thM McInnes

*1st M Ross 8th I Tennent 15th T McEwan 22nd M Smith 29th D Aitken *COMMUNION



Alístaír McInnes Session Clerk



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

*10th November, 15th & 22nd December

I White, N Hay, K Johnston, Elizabeth McMillan, June Doherty * No normal T-Bar as it's Erskine Soup and Roll Lunch Sunday

17th & 24th November, 29th December & 5th January S Blakeley, B Reid, S Kerr, J Brown, M Ross

*1st & 8th December

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

Morag Smíth <u>T-Bar</u>



CHURCH FLOWERS

Our church will be decorated for Christmas during the month of December through to early January with the absence of fresh flowers on our Chancel.

Morag Smith

Church Flowers

DEDICATIONS

In memory of a much-loved son and brother, David Hay. Our life is not the same without you, till we meet again. Mum Dad and brother Stuart

In Loving Memory of Annie Dunsmuir much loved and sadly missed. <u>Lesley & James Masterson</u> In loving memory of loving husband Fred Morton, father and papa passed away 4/11/21 missed each day very much. Joyce, Lorna, Freda, Chloe, Rachel, Megan & Morgan

In loving memory of my Mum MAY BROWN who died on the 6th November 1997. From her loving daughter Rita

In Loving Memory of my wife, Jean Watson. Died on 24th November 2003. Always in our thoughts - Always in our hearts. lan, Douglas and Liz

In Loving Memory of Robert (Bob) White. Died 8th December 2015 Missed every day. Loving Husband, Dad, Grandad and great Grandad Iain, Robbie, Kirsteen, Mhari, Robbie, Esme, Rita, Harris and Freya



I would like to say thanks for the lovely flowers I received from the Thank You church after my recent operation. It was a lovely surprise, and I really appreciated them. Thanks

Patricia Delarge

CHURCH FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 2024	AMOUNT	YEAR TO DATE
Receipts Payments	£12,733 £7,244	£71,432 £76,143
Surplus/Deficit	$+ \pm 5489$	<u>- £4711</u>

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

we will remember them.

We will remember them.



CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IT WILL COST YOU FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME?

Over the past decade Freemasons all over Scotland have done a fantastic job in contributing, raising funds through friends and family and supporting Prostate Scotland in their objective to raise awareness of prostate disease and develop support services for men with Prostate Cancer. We now have over sixty brethren trained as Prostate Champions throughout Scotland talking to all types of events and assemblies of men and women to assist in raising awareness in our communities. All men are potentially vulnerable!

More men are now aware and talking openly about prostate disease, but men are still dying unnecessarily, and you can help just by completing an anonymous, five-minute online survey which will help guide and structure the way ahead. The link to the survey is: -

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYXG89J

Prostate Scotland is currently working on a new five-year plan to develop ideas about how best to inform and support men with prostate disease and how they can best advocate for improved health services with GPs, Health Boards, NHS Scotland and ultimately government. For any plan to be successful you need to know where you are at present, where you want to be in the future and how you are going to get there. You can help to inform the future direction by sharing your experiences and opinions and completing the survey. We are hoping to encourage 20,000 responses to the survey.

I ask everyone receiving this appeal to consider themselves as part of the solution to collecting the best quality information. This appeal is being sent out initially though masonic communication circles but if you are also a member of a Church Group, Bowling Club, Golf Club, Men's Shed or other group please speak to the Secretary and ask if they would circulate it to their members electronically and encourage them to participate. Remember prostate disease physically affects men but wives, partners and families also live with the consequences.

Tom Davídson Grand Almoner



October 2024



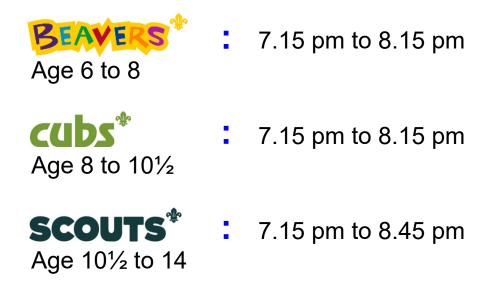
38th Glasgow/1st Rutherglen Scout Group

Come along and join the Scouting adventure - all welcome!

Our Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop meet

on Wednesday evenings (from September to end of May)

in **Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill Parish Church Halls** 3 Western Avenue Rutherglen G73 1JQ



Please note – our start/finish times for all sections will be subject to change.

To find out more about Scouts, check out

For more information about our Scout Group, please contact

you are invited to our

ristmas FAIR

Saturday 30th November 11:00am - 2:00pm

Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill Parish Church



New Gifts! Tea Room! Santa's Grotto! Bottle Stall! Cake & Candy!



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Competitions to win: Giant Christmas Hamper! £50 Cash Prize!