

WALLNEUK NORTH CHURCH

NEWS UPDATE

WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Members friends of Wallneuk North Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus

Let me take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

This will not be a normal Christmas, as this has not been a normal year. And this fact pains me deeply, even our watch night service carols will be sung without candle-lights; but thanks for technology, as we have decided to use the torch on our mobile phones during our watch night carol singing. This year, Christmas will look and feel different for most of us. We should be optimistic that we will hopefully connect with our loved ones. We should look forward to celebrating by making new traditions for our family and church.



For this Christmas, my suggested reading is Luke 2:11, 13-14. The greatest sermon ever preached was delivered by Angels on this historic starry night. It has always been interesting to me that this message was delivered at night. It was night because the world was surrounded in spiritual and moral gloom. Religion had become a device for the rich, in the exploitation of the poor. Men robbed and cheated people under the cloak of religion; they even fought wars in the name of religion. This year, there seems to be dark times settling over our world, the same as it was in the days when Jesus came more than 2,000 years ago.

In 2020 we need Jesus Christ to come into our lives. He will bring the joy, the thrill, the peace and the glory, such as we have never known before.

God made it for us to enjoy the love of God according to (1 Cor 13)! And God has designed it to give us a taste of the greatest love that will ever exist, of which all Christians will experience in Heaven. Love is grounded in God. It comes from God. Because God loved us, we're also called to love one another. We can show that love by caring for others. If we can do this, which sounds so easy but is so hard, the world will be a much better place. We can question ourselves. Do we really love one another? Do we love all people? And if we say yes, do we show it? This is a hard question that as religious communities we need to ask ourselves St Francis of Assisi said, *"It is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in loving that we are loved."*

If anybody would like me to visit or have a chat on the phone, please let your Elder know or contact me directly on 07951764262.

Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a healthy 2020

Rev. Peter Gill

Christmas Services

29th November 11am Service on Zoom
6th December 11am Service on Zoom
13th December 11am Prepare Ye the way of the Lord
20th December 11am Nativity
24th December 11.15pm Christmas Eve Service
27th December 11am Christmas Sunday



Pioneer Minister – Paisley North & Ferguslie Park

I'd like to introduce myself to those whom I haven't met yet. My name is Stuart Davidson, I am the Pioneer Minister for Paisley North and Ferguslie Park. I have been in Paisley since August 2017 and have initiated and been a part of many things since that beginning.



Before coming to Paisley, I was a minister of St Mark's Church, Raploch, Stirling from 2008. Those of you who know these things will be aware that Raploch is a Priority Area. My own background growing up meant that I was also raised in a Priority Area, that of Wester Hailes in Edinburgh. Therefore, it was no surprise to me and my wife Lesley that we've spent a large part of our lives living and working in Priority Areas.

With the recent forming of the new Presbytery of Clyde and the recent closing of St Ninian's Parish Church, myself and the Outreach Worker, Graham McCallum, are now part of the ministry team at Wallneuk North, whilst I still remain under the oversight of the Presbytery.

Personally, I've preached in Wallneuk a few times over the years, been a part of your Summer outreach, Wednesday lunchtime group and Easter Good Friday Walk along with a whole variety of things in Ferguslie Park and Paisley High Street. I've enjoyed working with some of your folks doing Messy Church in the Beechwood Centre and I am sincerely grateful for the welcome and support that people have given me over these years.

This year with its changes are another chapter in my current role and I look forward to the time when things change and we're allowed to get together to encourage one another's faith and reach out to those within our wider parish.

I wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and all God's blessing in these strange days.

Stuart Davidson

Pioneer Minister, 6th November 2020.

Welcome Team



This is a big thank you to all who welcome you on a Sunday, when you come to Church. First, a shout out to the unseen but very necessary voice at the end of the phone, Barbara, who takes our names and numbers. To Rab, who Sunday after Sunday comes along early to open the church and gets everything organised and ready for action. To all who are on duty at the front and back entrances: Margaret, Gordon, Anne, Laraine and Iain, who greet you all with a smile and "a good morning." To Robert, who welcomes us all - via the overheads.

Once again, thank you all - you have made it easy to be as normal as possible during these strange times.

- **Christine.**



Welcome to our two new members Deepak and Kiranjeet Sharma who joined our church



Remembrance Sunday - 8th November

The photo on the left, is the display of poppies that were in the church for the Remembrance Service. The church looked lovely.

The photo on the right, is Harry and Hayden laying the poppy wreath at the war memorial in Elderslie, on behalf of the 1st Elderslie BB Junior Section



Has your world gone wee? - by Sandra McInnes

It's a funny world these days. Very much home based, not needing to go out much so staying in, so as not to catch the Virus nor to spread it. Going out for the occasional bit of shopping is a big event. Going further, one day to Largs on a day of perfect weather (it was a while ago!) I even saw The Waverley passing by (that dates it a bit!), had a quick look around the shops and a picnic on a bench on the sea-front. This was *living*, nearly as it used to be! Then another day I was invited to go for a drive to the Esplanade at Greenock with the promise of an ice-cream. An offer not to be refused, making another lovely day out in our beautiful scenery. Two memorable days. Apart from that, Paisley, Renfrew, Braehead. It's a small world!

The garden is still doing its best to cheer. A cosmos with lots of buds, fuchsias still flowering, a climbing rose with more blooms on it than it had all summer and the big pots of geraniums, especially at the front door, are remarkably good, all in spite of the stormy weather.

Having read myself to a standstill in the spring-time lock down, I was wondering how to pass my time coming into winter with no gardening to do. I was up in the loft one day when I found a knitting bag with the right coloured wools, the pattern and the right size pins to make little Christmas people. At the moment, I have the company of; but not much conversation from: five snowmen, four Santas, three toy soldiers and two and half elves. (That will be three by tomorrow!)

I just keep knitting another one. The big decision is which one to do next! I'll stop when I run out of wool or when Christmas comes. Don't know what I'll do afterwards!

I have been enjoying church on television, earlier with interesting speakers with "Reflections at the Quay" and lately with "The Service" on the BBC Scotland channel at noon on Sundays, or more often on the iPlayer anytime. Over the weeks there have been Catholic Masses, an Episcopal Eucharist, a Harvest Service and various Church of Scotland services. I've "been" twice to the Central Mosque and to one Hindu Diwali celebration. All, of course, were strange as they were done under Covid-19 regulations, so usually no more than two people were involved, often only one. I felt it must be very strange for a preacher to be speaking only to a camera operator but also to the invisible congregation bigger than any that could fit into the building. These buildings were interesting too, ranging from Glasgow Cathedral to a very modern church in Monifieth. I wonder each Sunday where in Scotland I will be going.

No going on holiday, going out for lunch or coffee a few times in the week, no days away to Edinburgh, Troon, Stirling or Millport, to name but a few, not many people to meet in person, appointments cancelled or not made in the first place – a year like no other. But we know *now* that there is a vaccine or two nearly ready for use, so there *is* a new dawn on the horizon. We will hang on for a bit longer in the dark and cold of this winter and look forward to better days, planning our "escape". Keep well, keep cheerful and above all, keep going!

STAR PROJECT - HARVEST DONATION

Thank you so very much again, to all at Wallneuk North Church, for the generous donation towards STAR Project.

This is a very difficult time for everyone and it's donations such as this that is helping us to continue supporting our most vulnerable families. We have utilised your £400 towards our Community Fridge and Pantry service, tackling the worsening food insecurity throughout the area, and I have provided *further information on this, and our other activities, for you to share. Thank you again for helping us to make such a difference.

Kind regard
Sharon McAulay

*If anyone would like to read the further information Sharon sent a copy will be in the church or I could e-mail a copy to you.



Bereavement

Isabel Docherty

GOOD NEWS in 2020



This year I became a Great Gran for the first time. Adam Kerr weighed in at 9lbs 5ozs on the 1st November which would have been his Great Grandpa's birthday. It was great getting some good news after the sadness this year has brought. It was also very emotional for me. Because of restrictions I don't know when I will see him but I am getting photos and videos. I am really looking forward to getting to hold him and giving him a great bit hug. Janet Kerr



Helen Stephen was delighted to meet her Great, Great Nephew Jack Thomas Jamieson who was born on the 30th October

Fraser son of Kathryn and Lewis and grandson of Anne and Gordon Wilson is going to be a big brother



Janette Dowson has become a Great Gran three times during lockdown. Jacob Max Sutherland born on 28th March, Ciara Emily Corr born 27th April and Harry Oliver Auld born 1st August.

Margaret and Bobby Holmes Great Grandson Zachary Finn Holmes born 29th September

All babies are doing well.

Betty Watkins is looking forward to being a Great Great Auntie in April - her Great niece Eilidh is having a baby.

Congratulations to - Elizabeth Hunter who celebrated her 95th birthday Moira Crossley and Jean McCallum who celebrated their 90th birthday. Miriam Gill who was 21



Jemma had a lovely time at her sister Amy's wedding. Amy and David were married on the 11th of October

Only a Number

I have now turned 60,
Really? How can that be?
It doesn't seem so long ago,
That I was only 3.

With family gathered round me,
My special day, complete.
A birthday dinner followed by cake,
It really was a treat.

My grandson Fraser, on my knee,
Helped blow out candles with such glee!
2020, a year not blessed.
My 60th Birthday was the best!

- Anne Wilson

We were lucky to have a great weekend in Portavadie just before lockdown. We were celebrating Christines 60th Birthday, which was last November



Jean and Bill Thornton celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary this year. They were married in Wallneuk church 60years ago. They celebrated with a surprise breakfast and then afternoon tea, in the garden, all arranged by Lucy, Ann and Russell.



A lovely surprise for Janette Gervaise

I was feeling very low during lockdown and did not see anyone out with work for 9 weeks. I came home to find a pamper box that Gemma and Natalie had put together for me. It really lifted my spirits and brought a tear to my eye.



A couple of months ago I graduated with a BSc Honours in Psychology. It was a challenging degree that taught me to read academic literature, analyse data and work effectively with many different kinds of people.

There was no official celebration but luckily my family were all there to have a miniature celebration to mark the milestone. I feel proud and excited to see what I will do next and where life will go.

I have been working with See Me as a youth worker for over a year. It is a rewarding job and offers me many opportunities like creating and running courses. I was given the opportunity to be interviewed on STV News about how to break stigmas and encourage conversations. I have been very blessed to have a meaningful and busy job even during the pandemic.

Much love to everyone in the church 😊.

- **Shahrukh**



The Head Teacher award went to Ruaridh for 'working hard in class and always tries his best. We are all very proud of him. Well done'



Harry was voted Vice Captain of the Yellow House by his classmates. Harry help to cheered the other children up when the schools started back.



Lochlan got the "Star of the Week" award for being kind to his friends and always trying his best



Harry and Hayden were joint winners of the Tastiest Cake competition. They made a Pudsey Bear Crunchie Brownie tray bake. It looks delicious.



What talented children we have in our Young Church

Everyone is invited to join Jemma for a Christmas Sing-a-long on Zoom featuring traditional Carols and greatest Christmas hits from the last century. There might even be a Christmas quiz!! Christmas jumpers, hats etc. are encouraged This will take place on the Thursday 17th December 7 - 8pm. The Zoom information will be put on the Church Group Chat or you could message Jemma on jemmalbrown@gmail.com



Christmas Quiz

1. What is the opening line to '*Let it Snow*'?
2. Which Christmas carol was originally written in Latin as '*Adeste Fideles*'?
3. What type of pudding do the carollers sing about in '*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*'?
4. Which carol includes the lyrics, '*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis*'?
5. How many types of birds are mentioned in '*The Twelve Day of Christmas*' song?
6. In the words of the famous carol '*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*', to whom is glory proclaimed?
7. Which Christmas carol is commonly known by the title '*Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*'?
8. Which famous Christmas song sends '*tidings of comfort and joy*'?
9. Which song repeats the catchy lyrics, '*pa rum pum pum pum*'?
10. The famous song '*White Christmas*' originally featured in which 1942 musical film starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astair and Virginia Dale?





NEWS UPDATE AUTUMN EDITION

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS - 1- Wales, 4 - Legroom, 8 - Longest, 9 - Eilat,
 10 - Nine, 11 - Jamboree, 13 - Bill, 14 - Pram,
 16 - No lights, 17 - Isle, 20 - Radon, 21 Chapati,
 22 - Hygiene, 23 - Kayak.

DOWN - 1- Wallneuk North, 2 - Linen, 3 - Suet, 4 - Lethal,
 5 - Glenburn, 6 - Oil drum, 7 - Methedone Mick,
 12 - Elegance, 13 - Bulldog, 15 - Stacte, 18 - Shady,
 19 - Lark.

Answers to Christmas Quiz

1. Oh the weather outside is frightful
2. O Come, All Ye Faithful
3. Figgy Pudding
4. Ding Dong Merrily on High
5. Six types of birds:- Partridge, Turtle Doves, French Hens, Calling Birds, Geese and Swans.
6. New born King
7. The Christmas Song
8. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. Holiday Inn



A Christmas Prayer

Lord,

You came upon

A Midnight Clear

to bring

Joy to the World

and draw us near.

It was a Holy Night,

when you came from above,

to fill our hearts with hope and love.

Thank you,

Sweet Jesus Boy,

for clothing us with

Comfort and Joy.