



LAW PARISH CHURCH

WHERE GRACE HAPPENS...

Christmas edition 2021

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter. Inside you will find thoughts for reflection and the latest news in the congregation. There will also be our monthly interview and other bits and pieces.

If there is anything else that you'd like to see included please feel free to let us know as we are open to suggestions.

While Christmas 2021 may not be as restrictive as last Christmas, we are mindful that the Covid virus is far from over and we are adapting our services and being together as best we can.

On behalf of the kirk session can I wish everyone a Christmas where peace and joy are no strangers to your door. And may your heart find unexpected room for the arrival of Christ this Christmas.

what's inside

reflection...
Pastoral care...
Prayer...
A conversation with Margo...
Shaping our space...
December services...
And finally...



"So may the candle light of this Christmas light up your life with fresh recognition, that the real gifts you have already are in those you love, have loved, who love you"

Christmas reflection

for Christmas 2021...

Winter admits the shortest glance of sunlight to touch December's face. Winter reserves its deepest dark for advent days. By the time of December's solstice the day barely opens its eyes from the night's sleep before it closes them again. The natural dark of winter has in its own way been shadowed by the dark of what we've been living through. Against the darkness does Christmas offer a light? Not so much a bright neon as the light of a candle.

Christmas invites us to follow the spread of its gentle light around the shape of our own living.

Maybe this year Christmas invites us to pause over who we are, what we've loved or lost, what we truly hope for, have endured, yet fear.

Christmas can also invites us to take what we find in our lives and shelter it under the light of its story: Of a child in a manger, of a star, shepherds and a stable – a story like a child's whispering in our ear the secret of how the Divine presence is closer to us than we have yet imagined or maybe even care.

So may the candle light of this Christmas illumine your life with fresh recognition, how the you have already real gifts in those you love, have loved, who love you; may this light help you to celebrate their company and cherish their memory: For by your loving and in your remembering Christ waits to be born As gently and unassuming As a child in the manger of a stable.

Merry Christmas
Paul

Perhaps more so than ever



Pastoral care

Written by Rosemary

As Christmas approaches the pastoral care team have been busy delivering a gift to those among us who may be housebound, sick or grieving.

I would like to thank the members of the team for their faithful service throughout this difficult time and I am grateful for your continual service and support in all the pastoral care we offer.

Sadly we have lost two beloved members of our team, Karina Bihet who passed way in November.

Our thoughts and prayers are with David and Karina's family.

Also Mary Slaven who is now in care near her family in Inverness. And we wish Mary peace and good health where she is this Christmas.

Both Karina And Mary are much missed members of our team.

If you would like to join our Pastoral care team then please see me for more details.

May we wish everyone in the congregation peace and joy of the Season as we celebrate God's becoming one with us in Jesus Christ.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Prayer

Before this year is finally over, find a space that is quiet where you won't be disturbed. And from that place why not look over the last year.

Let the events of last year pass over your mind's eye.

- **What stands out for you. What are you grateful for?**
- **What did you have to let go of, or lose?**
- **Whose friendship and care are you thankful for?**
- **Where did God meet you somewhere in your ordinary world?**
- **Where did God meet you in someone?**

Find time and space, maybe with a coffee, maybe out for a walk and offer these things to God.

We live forwards but understand backwards. In other words the meaning and significance of what we live isn't clear sometimes until we make space to look back on it.

So take time and make room to look back on the year you have lived, and allow God to meet you in your remembering and reflection.



in conversation ...

"I came from a church family, my Dad Bill Jenkins was Session Clerk and started the Boys Brigade in Law "

With Margo...

How did you come to find yourself @ Law parish church?

I was born in Law and lived there until 2 years after I got married, moving to Larkhall, but still attending Law Parish Church. I have been involved in church life since birth.

I came from a church family, my Dad Bill Jenkins was Session Clerk and started the Boys Brigade in Law and I was baptised with the Boys Brigade company in attendance. Summer holidays were spent in a caravan at B.B. camp.

I started Sunday School at 3 years of age going on to become a Sunday School teacher at 13.

I also attended Summer Mission in my teens with a group from the church

What are some of the things you do at church here?

At present I am an elder in law Parish Church. Last year attending regular Board and Kirk Session meetings via zoom. Now we are able to meet in person.

I am a Sunday Club leader, in Dorcas group, where we are responsible for decorating the church windows for Easter and Christmas.

I help at fetes, teas and after church cafes , and wherever I can offer help.

Why is being a Christian important to you?

Being a Christian is important to me as I know that God will always love me, forgive and support me no matter what difficulties life throws at me He always hears my prayers and has seen me through difficult times in my life.



in conversation cont...

*I am assured
that God loves
me and he
grants me
peace, courage
and strength to
help me in my
situation and
no matter what
I do or say he is
willing to
forgive me...*

**What do you love about
belonging to LPC?**

I love belonging to Law Parish Church as I have made many friends there. We always support and help each other. You feel a sense of belonging to a family.

**Why would you invite
someone to come along to
LPC?**

I would invite someone to come along to Law Parish Church, to experience God's love for us, to experience the support and friendship our church gives.

**What do you think the
challenges are for church in
these times?**

The challenges for the church at this moment is to move forward with the times. Last year we relied on online services. Technology has been great, moving services online, where people are still unsure about coming back to in person services. Also recording the live services for DVD for those without technology at home.

We need to reach out to young families and encourage them to join us in church, they are the future of the church. The plans for re-shaping the church building are forward thinking and could allow the building to be used more

**What is your favorite
Christmas Hymn**

My favourite Christmas hymn is Joy to the world



*Unless the Lord
builds the house,
the builders
labor in vain*

psalm 127.

Shaping our space

an update on our building renovation

In November the General Trustees granted the congregation permission to reshape the sanctuary and entrance of the church.

What changes are coming? next year the sanctuary will have:

- replacement windows
- new lighting
- replacement seating
- new flooring
- new audio/visuals
- repositioning the entrance to where the door that's blocked now is.
- a new vestibule.
- redecoration

We have quotations for pretty much all the work and will be seeking to try and find grants/match funding in the near future too.

With the radical changes that are coming to the church of Scotland nationally, churches will have to show that they are the right kind of space in the right place if the buildings are to have a future.

The steps we are making to modernize the sanctuary will ensure that LPC is in the best position to remain a worshipping congregation serving its community.

if you would like more details of the the reshaping then please feel free to speak to Paul or any of the Elders.

worship for late December & early January



worship @ LPC

up and coming services

- **Friday 24th**
December:
Christmas eve
Service @ 7pm.
- **Sunday 2nd**
January:
Morning
worship @ 11
am.
- **Sunday 26th**
December:
Virtual worship

(no in person worship on
boxing day)

"as well as in person, our Services are available live @ 11 am each Sunday on Facebook and available to watch at any time after. They are also available on YouTube and the web page thereafter".



and finally...

A few last words from Paul

The presbytery of Lanark comes to an end as of 1 January 2022 after over 460 odd years. At that point I will also cease to be the depute clerk for the presbytery (phew).

The new presbytery will be made up from Hamilton, Falkirk and Lanark presbyteries. I am one of the 3 people from Lanark presbytery making up a quorum of 9, forming the mission planning group. The task of this group is to bring a new presbytery plan together by December 2022.

This will be a huge undertaking given there are something like 106 congregations to work with. There will be much more information on this to follow, not least what it will mean for us.

As of the end of January I will be stepping down as interim Moderator of Douglas parish church, and no longer covering their pastoral care.

Once again as a Kirk session we would like to thank everyone who has been helping the church to retain a space here in the village where grace can happen in worship and care.

Thankyou to everyone who keeps the church in prayer - its much needed and much appreciated.

Thankyou to everyone who is contributing financially to help keep our church here, your contributions help the care of the congregation and village to continue.

if there is anything you would like to see in future editions then just let us know.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas in the midst of whatever restrictions we need to follow.

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