



# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

Visit us at [www.newwellwynd.org.uk](http://www.newwellwynd.org.uk)

## Message from the Vestry

Dear Friends,

*Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do.  
If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven.*

*So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them.  
I assure you; they have already been paid in full.*

*But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.*

Over the past week I have been involved with a number of Remembrance Services and at many there were images of graveyards around the world with thousands upon thousands of names on memorial plaques and gravestones. As I looked at them it reminded me that each name was a precious child of God, made in the image of God and loved enough by God that he would die on a cross for them. Each name was followed by two dates, the date of their birth and the date of their death, but what was most important to their lives was the dash in-between, for that dash represented what they did with their lives between their first and last breaths. The images also reminded me of the above passage from Matthew chapter 6, and that though we remember the date of the sacrifice of our fallen heroes, God remembers every date, and perhaps most importantly the dates we are not in the spotlight, the dates when no one else is watching what we do.

This reminded me of the following story of a man I'm sure most of you will know of, but did you know what he did in secret?

In a quiet paediatric wing of a San Francisco hospital in the late 1990s, a nurse paused outside a room, blinking back tears. Inside, a small boy with terminal cancer was doubled over in laughter. Dressed in scrubs three sizes too big, with a stethoscope around his neck and a ridiculous red nose, Robin Williams had the child laughing so hard he momentarily forgot the pain. No cameras, no press, no entourage. Only Robin, doing voices, pulling faces, imitating cartoon characters, making joy out of thin air.

These visits were never scheduled through Hollywood. They were arranged privately through hospital staff who had quietly come to know him as more than an actor or comedian. He would often call ahead anonymously, asking if there were any children who might benefit from a visit. Many times, he arrived alone, sometimes with a bag of puppets, or dressed in character, even slipping into his iconic "Mrs. Doubtfire" voice. The children, some too weak to sit up, would smile, giggle, or whisper a joke back. Parents watched in awe as their child, often in the final days of life, laughed again. Sometimes for the first time in weeks.

One nurse recalled a 2003 visit when Robin spent over an hour with a ten-year-old leukaemia patient who had only days left. The boy's father had been stoic for weeks, refusing to cry in front of his son. That day, as Robin pretended to conduct an invisible orchestra of squeaky IV poles and sang a ridiculous operatic ballad to the beeping of heart monitors, the man finally wept. Not from grief, but from relief.

Robin never spoke about these visits in interviews. Even those closest to him, including long-time friends and collaborators, learned about them through others. Some families tried to thank him publicly, but he always declined. He believed the experience belonged to the child, not to him, and certainly not to any public narrative. For Robin, the visit wasn't an act of charity or performance. It was a human connection, raw and unfiltered.

It took remarkable emotional strength to step into those rooms. These weren't film sets. There were no rewrites, no retakes. The children were often fading, the air heavy with grief, and yet he found ways to ignite hope, even if only briefly. He never rushed. He sat on floors, shared ice pops and held hands. Afterward, he often sat alone in his car for a long time, sometimes crying, sometimes calling a friend just to hear a familiar voice.

By 2010, hospital staff in several cities had come to know that if Robin was in town, there might be a call. No one ever publicized it, because he didn't want it that way. It wasn't about headlines or accolades. He often told nurses that if he could make one kid forget where they were, even for ten minutes, it was worth everything.

His visits didn't cure illnesses or change medical outcomes. But they did something else. They gave a flicker of joy to the fading. They softened the hardest moments for grieving families. And they reminded everyone in the room, patients, parents, nurses, even Robin himself, that laughter still had power, even at the edge of goodbye.

Sometimes, healing isn't about medicine. It's about making someone feel alive, even for a moment, when the world says they shouldn't.

Your servant in Christ  
**Les (Locum Minister)**

*'But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.'*

### **Deferred Union – Update**

In September, I shared with you a brief update related to the Deferred Union and as we are now a few months further on, I thought it appropriate to provide you with a further update.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025, I received an email from the Revd Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Clerk providing me with a "Notice of Decision of Vacancy Procedure Committee" which instructed me to read the notice on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October and to display prominently around the church for the next 7 days. The Notice was read at the morning service on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October. The Presbytery met on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 and no requests had been received, so we now move on to the next steps.

Following the Presbytery Meeting, a call was arranged with the Presbytery Clerk. The Presbytery Clerk advised that a meeting would be arranged with the Vacancy Advisory Committee to take the Kirk Sessions through the next steps in the process shortly. At this time, a date for this meeting has still to be arranged.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience and prayers as we journey together.

**David Walker (Session Clerk)**

### **Flower Calendar**

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Flower Calendar for 2026 will be ready in the Church. The Calendar is located on the wall on the right hand side of the door as you leave the Church to go into the hall. If you wish to choose a specific Sunday to put flowers in the Church, please write your name against that date. If you are happy for the flower committee to organise and arrange your flowers just give your donation (about £25) to one of the Flower Conveners. Flowers will then be collected from the florist and arranged on your behalf. You may, however, wish to buy and arrange your own choice of flowers. You are very welcome to do so, but please let the Flower Conveners know in advance.

The flower service is very much appreciated – thank you.

**Flower Conveners: Avril Cockburn (769134), Margaret Jack (767898)**

### **Travelling West**



On Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November a group of intrepid pilgrims headed west, braving the intense traffic and torrential rain to the town of Dumbarton! The occasion, the induction of the Revd Eleanor Hamilton into Dumbarton Parish Church.

An excellent service conducted by the Revd Mhairi Breingin, Moderator of the Presbytery of Clyde. The guest preacher was The Very Revd Dr Shaw Paterson. Following the service there was a lovely Tea Fellowship in the Church Halls. Many congratulations to Eleanor in this her first charge and wishing her all the very best for the future.

**Roving Reporter**

## A New Year Dawn

Autumn leaves have come and gone  
Now Christmas closes in  
And as the year roles to an end  
We approach a New Year dawn.

Thinking of loved ones near and far  
And cherished absent friends  
Their memories live within our hearts  
As we approach a New Year dawn.

Calm as the sea in the stillness of night  
A bright new star in the sky  
The chiming bells ring out across the land  
As we approach a New Year dawn.

God is with us everywhere  
No matter where we roam  
Bringing strength hope and love  
As we approach a New Year dawn.

*Gordon Waddell*

## Home Comforts

On behalf of the Board of Home Comforts North Lanarkshire I would like to thank the congregation of New Wellwynd for their great generosity in donating items for our Starter Packs. Such consistent giving over a number of years is the backbone of our work. We simply could not operate without the amazing kindness of congregations and individual members. This generosity is truly humbling. We began issuing Starter Packs in 2011 and became a charity in 2014. We have now issued over 7000 packs to homeless people and others in housing need across North Lanarkshire.

Many thanks again for the critical part the New Wellwynd congregation has played and continues to play in this Christian service to help the poor in our community.

*Maggie Weir*

**Footnote: The Charity are looking for volunteers to help pack the Starter Packs. This happens 4 times a year and usually takes place in the afternoon. Further information is available from Maggie Weir.**

## In Stitches

Since our class resumed on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September we have been knitting and crocheting baby goods for the Mission Group in Ebenezer Evangelical Church and various other charities. My thanks to all the ladies for their lovely work for which the Mission Group are so grateful. The Pocket Prayer Squares have also proved popular and I think we have now given out over 700! In the weeks leading up to Christmas our ladies are producing Christmas goods which will be for sale at the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 12 noon and also after Sunday morning service on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Tea Fellowship. All proceeds will go to the Church. Looking forward to seeing you at these events.

After the Festive Season our class resumes on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 10 - 12 noon in the Session Room. If you are interested, please come along as you will be made most welcome.

The ladies in "In Stitches" wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

*Helen Fettus*

## Some Christmas Crackers!

What do you call a child who doesn't believe in Santa? **A rebel without a Claus!**

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? **Nothing, it was on the house!**

Who is never hungry at Christmas? **The turkey — he's always stuffed!**

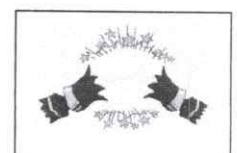
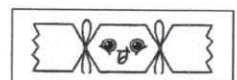
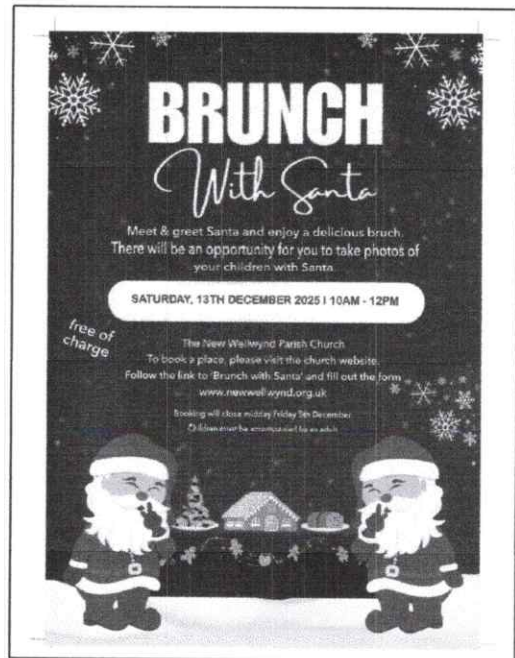
Which of Santa's friends is the most chilled? **Jack Frost!**

How do you get Christmas trees ready for a night out? **They get spruced up!**

How do you know when Santa is in the room? **You can sense his presents!**

How do Christmas angels greet each other? **Halo!**

**Ho! Ho! Ho!**



## A Christmas Tale – Tell the Children!



Some strange goings on in Whinha' .....!

I had just finished my household chores and was getting ready for bed when a noise startled me. I cautiously opened the door to the front room. To my amazement, Santa Claus stepped out from behind the Christmas tree! He placed one finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing here?" I exclaimed. Then I realised that Santa had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone.

The eager boisterous soul we all know was very sad. Santa offered one, simple statement "**Teach the Children!**" I was puzzled what did he mean? Anticipating my question, with one quick movement he brought forth a great big bag from behind the tree. I stood there bewildered. Santa explained, "Teach the Children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. So many people today have forgotten what Christmas is really all about!"

Santa then reached into his bag and pulled out a tiny **Fir Tree**. "Teach the children that the stately Fir Tree remains green all year round, showing the everlasting hope of mankind. The needles point heavenward making it a symbol of our prayers that always reach God."

Santa again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **Star**. "Teach the Children that the Bethlehem Star was the sign of promises long ago. God promised a Saviour to deliver the world. The bright star pointed to the fulfilment of that promise – God's only Son had been born!"

Next, Santa pulled a **Candle** from his bag. "Teach the Children that the Candle symbolises that Jesus, God's son is the light of the world. When we see this light remember the One who overcomes the darkness."

Once again Santa reached into his bag. This time he removed a **Wreath** and placed it on the tree. "Teach the Children that the Wreath reveals the endless nature of God's love. Real love never ceases. Nothing can stop God's amazing love."

Santa then pulled from his bag an ornament of **Himself**. "Teach the Children that Santa Claus symbolises the generosity and goodwill we show to others because God has given us His very special Son. Don't forget to tell the children that St Nicholas was not part of the first Christmas in Bethlehem."

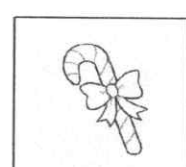
Santa then carefully reached into his bag and placed a **Candy Cane** on the tree. "Teach the Children that the Candy Cane represents the shepherd's staff. The crook on the staff rescues sheep that have strayed from the flock. God never gives up on people who wander from Him."

Next he removed a delicate **Angel** and lifted it to the very top of tree. "Teach the Children that the Angels shouted the glorious news of the Saviour's birth. These heavenly messages sang 'Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill to everyone on earth.'"

Finally, Santa pulled out a beautifully wrapped **Gift**. He said, "Teach the Children that God deeply loves people, so he gave them his most precious gift – Jesus his only Son. When the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem they bowed before the child and presented gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is why we give gifts to others each Christmas."

Then Santa paused. He stared at the tree and seemed to be pleased. I saw that twinkle had returned to his eyes. He turned, looked at me and smiled. Santa offered these final words. "Remember to teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Please do not put me in the centre, for I am but a humble servant. Jesus Christ is the real reason for the Christmas season. I am glad to join all others who bow down and worship Him, our Lord and God. Before I could say anything, he was gone! Merry Christmas to one and all.

*The Editor*



**Glory to God in the highest  
Peace and goodwill to everyone on earth**



## Thank You

**Margaret Jack** would like to thank everyone for the cards, messages of support and good wishes for her ongoing treatment and care at the Beatson Centre in Glasgow.

**Bill Clark** would like to thank everyone for the flowers he received recently. They were a welcome reminder of life outside the limits of his wheelchair's radius of operation.

**Alison Gray** would like to thank the congregation for the lovely church flowers she received. The kind thought was very much appreciated.

**Margaret Matthews** wishes to express her thanks for the beautiful flowers she received. They were very much appreciated.

**Doreen Robertson** would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received from the church.

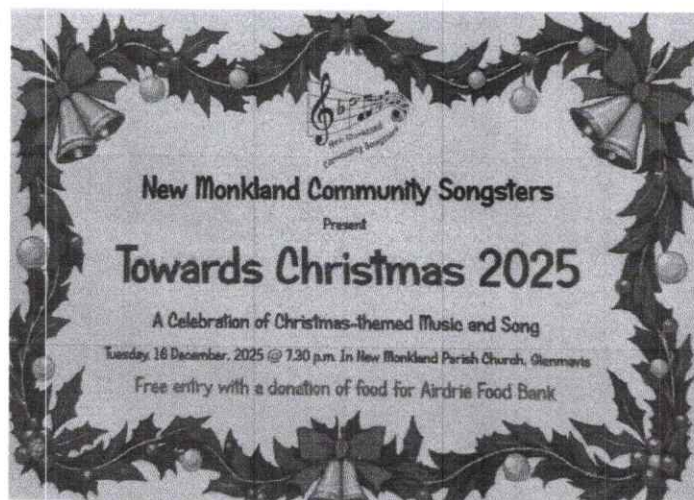
**Helen Smith** would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers sent to her on Harvest Sunday.

**Jackie, Angela, Graeme and family** would like to express their grateful thanks for the kind words, cards and flowers received on the passing of **Anne Wilson**.

**The family of the late Bert Hamilton** would like to thank the church family for the lovely flowers received on the passing of Bert, a devoted husband, doting dad and grandad.

## Harvest Flowers

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the church flowers for Harvest. To everyone who donated flowers, to the arrangers on Saturday and Sunday and to the deliverers. 42 bunches were distributed to the housebound.



## Nearly New - The End of an era

In 2005, a new venture started within the church on a Friday morning - The Nearly New Stall. Having already worked for a number of years serving in the Snack Bar, a certain Liz Hannah decided to change tack and become involved in the Nearly New. Over the years with Liz and her team, the Nearly New has become a valuable outreach to the local community.

Liz advised the Kirk Session recently that because of her ongoing health issues she had decided that after 20 years at the helm, the time has come to "hang up her hat". In that time, under Liz's guidance, the Nearly New has managed to raise some £58,175.50 which has allowed and continues to allow the Congregational Board to fund various projects for the benefit of the Congregation. As a congregation, we are indebted to Liz for all her time and efforts over the last 20 years and also for all the helpers who have been involved in supporting Liz over the last 20 years. As well as Liz retiring, Margaret Markie and Wilma Davidson will also be stepping back.

Whilst Liz has made her announcement to the Kirk Session, Liz and the team will continue in the role until Easter 2026, allowing us time to find a successor. As stated earlier, The Nearly new is a valuable outreach in our community, so if this is an area of service you would like to be involved in, please either speak to Liz Hannah in the first instance or to myself.

*David Walker (Session Clerk)*

## Senior Circle

Since the last issue of the New Wellwynder the group has welcomed a number of speakers presenting on a variety of subjects. We heard about the local charity 'Diamonds in the Community' which many of us had not heard of, but whose work for people in need locally is varied and totally amazing. (Look them up on their website to find out more). Melanie Menzies from NL Active Age put us through our paces with a variety of exercises, which were accompanied by much hilarity. Bill McMullen talked about his varied career since the late fifties, which included having worked at dizzying heights on the TV transmitter! The group then enjoyed pictures and stories from George Randall as he took us on a Mystery Tour to Oberammergau on the trip that was postponed from 2020 to 2022! Lastly, David McDonald from Summerlee took us dancing, with memories of 'Going up the Dancin' in Lanarkshire and Glasgow.

We complete 2025 on **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** when we gather for our Christmas Celebration which will include songs and carols, games and memories of Christmas past, not to mention sandwiches and cake! We begin 2026 on **Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January** with Lesley Aitken and a Games Afternoon. As the January days no doubt grow colder we will welcome a speaker from Eclipse Holidays on **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January** with dreams of warmer days and travel.

We look forward to welcoming **YOU** to our fortnightly Tuesday afternoon meetings. Doors open by 1.30pm for refreshments. Meeting starts at 2pm, close at 3pm.

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas

*Liz Riddell*

## Christmas Smiles

It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures. Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?' Nathan looked up, smiled, and replied, 'I took him from the church.' 'And why did you take him?' With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around in it!'

## Church Notices

### Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

First Sunday in Advent – Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

Brunch with Santa – Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December (10am)

Advent Reflection Service – Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December (6.30pm)

Nativity Service – Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December

Family Service – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December (6.30pm)

Watchnight Service – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December (11.30pm)

Christmas Day Service – Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December (11am)

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.

### Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the winter months with the exception of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December. The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Sacrament of Holy Communion on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.



## Useful Contacts

**Locum Minister:** Les Brunger 07427881877

**Session Clerk:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Treasurer:** David Watt 01698 853921

**Roll Keeper:** Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

**Organist:** John Urquhart 07725832088

**Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale 07512912016

**Gift Aid:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Magazine Editor:** George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

# THE NATIVITY STORY

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace. – Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)



**Colour the picture of baby Jesus in the stable!**

# Complete the Story!

It was a snowy night and I was asleep in my \_\_\_\_\_.  
All of a sudden, I heard a big \_\_\_\_\_! What was it? I had  
to go and see. I \_\_\_\_\_ down the stairs and, believe it or  
not, I saw three \_\_\_\_\_ eating all of my \_\_\_\_\_!  
STOP, I yelled! Then I ran up the stairs to tell my \_\_\_\_\_.  
To my surprise, they were sitting in their bed with Santa  
playing \_\_\_\_\_. What a crazy night!

*The story above has many blank spaces. Fill in the spaces using words from the list below to create your own version of the story!*

BED • FORT • CASTLE  
CLOSET • BOOM  
CRASH • SHRIEK  
NOISE • BANG  
SKIPPED • DANCED  
FLEW • GALLOPED  
ELVES • MICE  
REINDEER  
NUTCRACKERS  
COOKIES • CARROTS  
CANDY • STEAK  
BROTHERS • FRIENDS  
PARENTS • SISTERS  
CARDS • HOPSCOTCH  
JENGA • CHARADES



[www.5minutesformom.com](http://www.5minutesformom.com)

## Merry Christmas to Everyone!