

The New Wellwynder

December 2017

January 2018

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

It is getting more and more difficult talking to a real person these days. Call any number of big businesses or services and we are met with “for sales press one, for refunds press two, for refunds press three, for complaints press four and to hear the options again press zero.” If this isn’t bad enough what is sometimes thrown in for good measure (or to really irritate) are phrases along the lines of “please say your name”. “Robert!” “I’m sorry but did you say ‘Robot’” I could do a Victor Meldrew on this subject until the cows come home, but hopefully now you’ll get the picture that I sometimes get frustrated.

I get frustrated not because I am by any manner of means a technophobe, but because it is easy to get caught in a loop when it comes to these type of phone calls or, after holding on for some time, the phone goes dead and you are cut off. I see the good that technology can offer, something that we are embracing at the NWPC with the additional technical support we have installed. I am excited about how we can use this technology in worship to enhance what we can do. I am excited at the prospect of live streaming the services sometime in the early part of 2018. Although, I am not sure that I will be able to watch myself. I can see new opportunities of reaching out to those in our community and beyond, as well as including our own members who are unable to attend.

But whatever we do and however we do it, we must never lose sight of the incarnational nature of who we are as we follow that great example of Jesus who “became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” The Incarnation, although complex in many ways, in its simplest of definitions is about the personal touch, the personal touch of God. At the heart of the Gospel is the amazing news that God himself came to us in his son making himself one with us. He took on flesh and bone. He took on all human experiences. In all of this, he came to show us the extent of his love, a love that nothing can take away or destroy.

So, here’s a thought and a challenge. As we come to experience Christ anew as our personal Lord and Saviour, companion and friend, let us take the opportunity to bring this alive to those around us. Is there someone you could encourage to bring with you to one of our Christmas Services? Is there someone you can pass your Christmas Card to by way of invitation? Or perhaps you yourself could accept my personal invitation to join us at one of the services, if you haven’t been recently or perhaps for some time. The journey for you, or for anyone, to come for the first time, or after a period of time, can be difficult but my desire and prayer is that what we enjoy in worship

and share in fellowship with Christ at the very heart might be enjoyed and shared by more and more.

May Christ be born anew in all of our hearts as we experience his love coming down to us and into our lives this Christmas and beyond.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

December

- 10 11 a.m. - Second Sunday in Advent.
What kind of Christmas?
A Joy filled Christmas.
Lessons, Reflections with Music
from the Choir.
3:00 p.m. - Memorial Service.
Patiently Waiting - are we nearly there yet?
(With tea/coffee available in the hall beforehand.)
- 17 11 a.m. - Third Sunday in Advent.
What kind of Christmas?
A Peace filled Christmas.
- 24 11 a.m. - Fourth Sunday in Advent.
What kind of Christmas?
A Love filled Christmas.
Nativity Sunday.
6:30 p.m. - Christingle Service.
A Catchphrase Christmas.
11:30 p.m. - Watchnight Service.
What kind of Christmas are you?
(Tea and coffee served beforehand with informal Carol singing from 11:15 p.m. in the church.)
- 25 Christmas Day Service at 11:00 a.m. in St. Columba's.
- 31 11 a.m. - Morning Worship.
Out with the old, in with the new!

January 2018

- 7 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
A new way, a new road.
All Age Communion Service.
- 14 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
Word of Abundance.
- 21 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
Word of Zealousness.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
- 28 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
Word of Wisdom.

February

- 4 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
Word of Wellspring.

NEARLY NEW

All at the ‘Nearly New’ would like to extend our thanks for all the donations made throughout the year. The total raised from the sale of a wide range of goods was £3819. The ‘Nearly New’ is now closed until Friday, 2nd February, 2018. We would like to wish everyone a peaceful and merry Christmas.

LIZ HANNAH and THE TEAM

FLOWER CALENDAR

December

- 10 Irene Yates; Mattie Leckie.
17 Isobel Paterson; Jean Clark.

On Sunday, 10th December, the **Flower Calendar** for 2018 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. There is room on the calendar for two separate donations of flowers each Sunday.

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: Mima Dalziel (752482),
Margaret Jack (767898).

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY

December

- 10 Alister Weighton.
17 Irene Yates.
24 George & Una Lawson.
31 Belle Clark

January 2018

- 7 Shona MacDonald.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Welcomed into Membership :

Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Edwards (D.49).
Miss Jaime Jack (D.64), Mr. Kevin Daly (D.64).

Funerals : Jim Watson, Ray Dobson,
Donald Campbell (D.18). Margaret Armstrong (D.14);
Jenny Lawson; Robert Grant;
Ronald W. G. Young (D.24); Jim Gibb; May Brown.

BIBLE READINGS

November

- 5 1 Kings 19 : 1 - 18; Matthew 14 : 13 - 21.
12 Amos 1 : 1 - 2; 5 : 14 - 15. 21 - 24;
John 7 : 37 - 38.
19 Acts 2 : 1 - 7, 12 - 13, 46 - 47;
Matthew 28 : 16 - 20.
26 Acts 2 : 17; Jeremiah 29 : 1, 4 - 14;
Revelation 22 : 1 - 7.

THANKS

Mattie Leckie would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers sent recently. Thanks also to Robbie and Isabel for their visits which were very much appreciated.

Irene Docherty and Gordon wish to thank the congregation for the harvest flowers received and also for the lovely flowers received on Sunday, 15th October. Thank you to the flower ladies for all their hard work. Thanks also to Robbie and Maxine for their visits and prayers at a difficult time. Much appreciated.

Rebe Liddell wishes to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, and for all the cards, 'phone calls and visits I have received during my spell of illness. Special thanks go to Robbie and Maxine for their many visits and prayerful support.

Joyce Campbell would like to thank Robbie and Maxine for their visits and support at the passing of Donald. Many thanks, also, for the bouquet of flowers from the congregation.

The **Armstrong and Hamilton** family, would like to thank the congregation of New Wellwynd for the flowers, cards and support received on the sad passing of much loved Margaret Armstrong.

Also special thanks to Robbie, for the support, lovely service and visits during this sad time. Many Thanks.

May and Bert Wallace would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

Betty and George Thomson would like to thank Robbie and Maxine for their visits to Monklands hospital and the sharing of prayers and the gift of beautiful flowers received on behalf of the congregation.

Avril and Stephen McKane and family would like to thank Robbie, Maxine and the congregation for the gift of flowers at a difficult time.

SENIORS

Our final meeting of 2017 is on 5th December, when we will be having a pre-Christmas musical afternoon in the company of Margaret, Eileen and Bobby. We kick off the New Year on the 9th January with some 'Travel Information' provided courtesy of Glenton Travel. On the 23rd January, we once again welcome the Glenboig Singers for an afternoon of music and song. Looking further ahead on the 16th February, Revd Ian McDonald, minister of the High Church here in Airdrie, will be our guest. All will be made most welcome. Wishing everyone a lovely, restful and peaceful Christmas!

ISABELL GIBSON

EXPLORING FAITH

Exploring Faith is a course exploring the Christian Faith published by the Church of Scotland. It is designed for those who want a refresher or for those exploring for the first time perhaps with a view to becoming full members. If you are interested in coming along, or know someone who is interested in membership, please let me know.

The course kicks off on Sunday, 7th January in the Blue Room at 2:30 p.m. and will continue on Sundays 28th January, 4th and 11th February at the same time.

Contact the minister, Robbie on 763022 or email him - rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

Messy Church

Messy Church continues in December and will take place on Sundays 3rd December, 4th February and 4th March doors opening at 3 p.m. finishing off with a shared meal at 5 p.m..

This is an opportunity to bring families and individuals together for a new and fresh expression of Church and to build on links made through the Holiday Club. It's different, it's messy, but it still has at its heart worship. But what is it? It is a time together to enjoy making a craft, playing a game, learning about the God who loves us and enjoying a meal! It is based on the following principles –

- o To provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together:
- o To help people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other:
- o To help people have fun together:
- o To give people a chance to express their God-given creativity:
- o To invite people into an experience of Christian community:
- o To introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship:

Please do come along and give it a go, starting Sunday, 3rd December, doors opening at 3 p.m.

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TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I have been in many places, but I've never been in **Cahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in **Cognito**. I hear no one recognises you there.

I have, however, been in **Sane**. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to **Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in **Doubt**. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in **Flexible**, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in **Capable**, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in **Suspense**! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in **Continent**, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there! What are your travel plans for the New Year?

THOMAS COOK

WELCOME TEAMS

December

10 Team Leader: Bobby Forrest
Fraser Gillespie, Mairi Mitchell, William Watson, Catherine Whellans.

17 Team Leader: Ian Nicol
Alex Anderson, Sandy Black, Wilma Davidson, John Jarvie, Mark Millar, Dan Russell.

24 Team Leader: Jack Milne
William Dalling, Matt Fleming, Margaret Jarvie, Jean Kinniburgh, George Randall, Ronnie Wright.

31 Team Leader: David Watt
Morag Donald, Linda Francis, Margaret Jack, Allister Jack, Alison Sefton, David Walker.

January 2018

7 Team Leader: Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, Moira Gartshore, Janet Nimmo, Tom Sorbie, Isabel Sorbie, Karen Taylor.

14 Team Leader: Alistair Murray
Lesley Aitken, Irene Bremner, Carol Hamilton, Gordon Lind, Liz Riddell, Alister Weighton.

21 Team Leader: Irene Yates
Avril Cockburn, Alan Cox, Alison Gray, Beatrice Holden, George Lowdon, Julie Pardoe.

28 Team Leader: David Gillespie
Christine Cassells, Matt Fleming, Christine Gibb, Anne Grainge, Billy Grainge, Jim Nimmo.

February

4 Team Leader: Jerry Ferguson
Anne Learmonth, Shona MacDonald, Jim Neilson, Margaret Reid, Jim Thomson, Maggie Weir.

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HELLO FROM IRAQ! – November 2017

Hi everyone!

I think an update is probably long overdue, right?! We've had an independence referendum, troops advancing, closed airspace, evacuations, and, to be honest, a thousand other events that merge into one crazy month! Pretty much every worst case scenario I planned for happened in October. So let me get you up to speed...

Iraq has a Kurdish Region in the north east of the country that has always sought independence from the rest of Iraq. On the 25th September Kurdistan held an independence referendum in its territory and the disputed territory along its border with Iraq proper. This angered the Iraqi government who deemed it illegal. In the days following the 'yes' vote, the Iraqi government closed Kurdish airspace to international flights, and sent Iraqi troops to regain full control of the disputed territories and their oil fields. This meant a complete loss of access to many of our project sites. While we are once again able to access some areas there is one vital location, Haj Ali, that remains inaccessible due to a closed checkpoint. We were supposed to do a large clothing distribution there two weeks ago, but can't get through. Please pray with us for the checkpoint to reopen and for us to be able to distribute clothing in the next week.

These developments have meant the focus of my work has changed. I'm currently trying to anticipate further troop advances and possible border closures. I've been assessing new routes to reach our project locations. The first was on Thursday - a nice nine hour round trip from Erbil through Mosul, through Hamam Alil, across two pontoon bridges and clearing a mere 58 checkpoints. It was the first time I've driven through central Mosul and it was really interesting to see all that is going on. The east side of the city has little damage and got back on its feet pretty quickly after liberation. Roads were busy, shops were open, and everyone was out and about. The west side, however, saw heavy fighting and is badly damaged. What was once the beautiful Old City is now rubble. In larger buildings you can see where bombs hit and everything is covered in bullet holes. ISIS would often place explosives within rubble meaning that it is too dangerous for local people to clear. They did the same with infrastructure meaning that local people cannot repair

water and electrical systems – the de-mining NGOs really have their work cut out! Being in this part of the city really made me realise the urgent need for humanitarian assistance in the area...we're working on it!

But I must admit, I can't complain about the craziness as I'm only three weeks back from almost a month off. While I was at home, I was given the chance to speak at my childhood church about what Tearfund is doing in Iraq. I have to say a massive thank you to New Wellwynd for their kind offering that will bless so many in Mosul. I also had the privilege of praying for children affected by conflict with Riverside Church in Portugal. I got to witness the inauguration of 'The Lisbon Project', an organisation created by Riverside to support migrants in Lisbon. In Iraq I constantly meet displaced people and it was so cool to see how a completely different organisation, in another part of the world, is helping people to deal with very similar struggles. You guys are doing great things!

In a time like this, as we face an increasingly difficult context, I appreciate your prayers so much. Our team are working around the clock to continue to deliver aid so please pray for them – for their energy, strength, wisdom, patience and protection. Please pray for access – for checkpoints, borders and airports to reopen. Let's pray for political leaders here in Erbil and in Baghdad that they can come to an agreement and avoid further conflict.

In my very first email I talked about a visit to Laylan 3 Camp where we still work regularly. I asked you to pray for the people in the camp and that one day they'd be able to return to their homes. I'm so happy to report that with their home towns now liberated and secured, they have slowly, but surely, begun to trickle out of the camp and return home. So good! Let's keep believing for more of the same! Lots of love. *FIONA*

Home Comforts & Food Bank

For the past few years members of our congregation have been donating items on a monthly basis to these 2 local and very worthwhile charities.

The total number of items given last year was 1430 to Home Comforts & 1155 to Food Bank, (approx.) a fantastic amount from one church!

As New Wellwynd is one of the main contributors to the charities, we feel it's time to have a wee break, so allowing other congregations to donate.

Any appeal which is announced at the church receives tremendous support, no matter what time of year, and I want to thank every person who has donated at any time to HC and/or FB. cAll the items have been given to the bases where willing volunteers sort and distribute them. It is hoped to re-start the appeal, in 2019. In the meantime, there are new Little Giving Boxes located on the table at the organ and at the front door of the church. These are new tins, which will be opened when full, coins and folded notes can be inserted and the monies will be split between the two charities. We have been amazed at the amount of items brought each month and the overwhelming response to help people less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you all so much for your generosity. *MAGGIE WEIR*

Warm Winter Clothes

In the month of January ONLY we are looking for adult and children's COATS, JACKETS, GLOVES, SCARVES, HATS. These items MUST be winter clothes, as they are going to Lanarkshire and Glasgow people to keep them warm through the winter. Please leave any items in the cloakroom/toilet under the stairs to the right after entering the church. Thank you.

MAGGIE WEIR

TRAIDCRAFT

Once again, my sincere thanks to all who have supported Traidcraft by purchasing Christmas Cards and other goods using the current catalogue. Your support is greatly appreciated as this helps the suppliers receive a fair wage for their Products.

Traidcraft is one of many organisations in the UK which promote fairly traded goods from many different parts of the world. In New Wellwynd, we stock the fairly traded teas and coffee, sweets, biscuits and other goodies, as well as having their catalogues to allow members who are interested to purchase any of the other fairly traded and sourced products. If you are interested to see the full range of products – pick up a catalogue from the stall on Sunday.

I would also like to thank all who help with the stall in anyway, particularly the volunteers who staff the stall each Sunday after the morning service, giving their time to help with this method of outreach within the congregation.

The Traidcraft stall will not be available for 3 Sundays after 24th December, but reopens on Sunday 21st January, 2018.

DAVID WALKER

The Christmas Story – Does it still matter?

What does Christmas mean to you? Time with family and friends, perhaps carols, cards, television specials, maybe hectic shopping, parties and of course eating too much! All of these and more are part of today's Christmas. But do you still think about the first Christmas? Why is the original story—the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels—important, if at all?

I believe the original story still matters because.....

- It is a story that was foretold.
- It is a story that has endured.
- It is a story that has substantial support.
- It is a story of hope and survival.
- It is a story of peace and goodwill.
- It is a story of family.
- It is a story of humility.
- But most important of all it is a story of Love!

You may not agree with all of the above, but perhaps some of the points will stimulate your thinking and kindle some feelings that resonate with that famous story. Happy Christmas to one and all and best wishes for the year ahead!

THE EDITOR

Rudolph the Red

A Russian couple was walking down the street in St. Petersburg the other night, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said to his wife. "No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said." Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether

Rudolf the Red (cont'd.)

it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it," the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing." As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining, of course," he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" To which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!" Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas Music

This year, there are again opportunities to be involved with, or listen to, some Christmas Music –

Sunday 10th December 2017 – In St. Columba's, where Souls & Singers are holding a "Sing your favourite Christmas Carols" – carols old and new. The cost is £5.00 per person (including refreshments) and you can again pay at the door on the evening. Come along and have some fun and bring a friend as well. All proceeds are for Church Funds.

Sunday 17th December 2017 – Joint Carol Service in St. Margaret's R.C. Church at 7:30 p.m.. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Some Christmas Reminders

- May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the World".
- May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer".
- May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life".
- May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!".
- May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King! R. EVEREND

Three ways to feel amazing in the New Year!

- Stay Forever Young

We can enjoy the freedom of adulthood and the pleasures of childhood if we remain young at heart. Fun people can be any age. Staying young is an attitude, it is nothing to do with how old we are. Get in touch with some of the childhood memories which link you to your past. These may be rekindled by any sense experience, the touch of velvet, the taste of an acid drop, the smell of the sea, the sound of a church bell, a ride on a swing..... Recreate some childhood experiences to stay forever young. You will feel amazing!

- Search for the Hero Inside Yourself

Who do you most admire? Who are your personal heroes and heroines? Make a list of your heroes and write down exactly why you admire them. Think carefully about the qualities that you most admire in these people. And now think about yourself. At some level you already have these qualities. If you can recognise certain strengths in others then you must also be aware of the capacity for these same strengths in yourself (otherwise you would never have recognised them). Search for the hero inside

yourself who is able to use these gifts to create a full and incredible life. You will feel amazing!

- Just Do It

What is it you would most love to do but are afraid to do because of the consequences?

Ø Name three things that you would love to do but are afraid to try.

Ø Ask yourself, "What would be the best and worst possible outcomes of doing each of these things?"

Ø Ask yourself, "What are my fears and anxieties?" and write them down.

How realistic are your fears? Usually fears are irrational and groundless. Our longing by far outweighs the reality of fear itself. Go ahead – just do it! You will feel fantastic and truly amazing!

PHIL OSOPHER

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all who will be taking part in services over Advent and Christmas: the Minister, the Organist and Choir, readers, participants, Sunday Club and Bible Class that they might do so in a way that not only is a blessing to them but also many others.
- Pray for all visitors who come and join us that all of us will find a way to welcome them and share something of our faith for them that as they come they might keep on coming.
- Pray for the school services taking place at the Church and in the schools that all involved might bring to mind what and who is at the heart of this season.
- Pray for all who find this time of year difficult – those ill at home or in hospital, those recently bereaved and those still finding it hard to pick up the pieces after bereavement.
- Pray for those who will not get a break at this time of year – those in our armed forces, those in caring professions, those many folk working to keep necessary services going.
- Pray for yourself and those closest to you that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Give thanks for the completion of the Sanctuary renovation and pray for greater opportunities to open the doors of the Kirk to offer a welcome and an acceptance to all.

We, "The New Wellwynd", aim to be a vibrant, caring, worshipping community of faith, which relates well to God, involving all members, with significant outreach to the wider community. (The New Wellwynd Parish Church of Scotland, Airdrie, is a registered Scottish charity allocated the Scottish Charity No. SC012944.)

Useful Contacts

Minister	: Revd Robert A Hamilton	01236 763022.
Associate Minister	: Revd Maxine Buck	01555 759063.
Session Clerk	: T. Fraser Gillespie	01236 604860.
Treasurer	: David J. Watt	01698 853921.
Organist	: David J. Stewart	01357 520555.
Roll Keeper	: W. Allister Jack	01236 767898.
Hall Convener	: Robert W. Forrest	01236 767210.