

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

December 2018

January 2019

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

from the Manse -

Dear Friends

Carol used to dread going out with me when we were asked out to dine at someone's house because of something that almost invariably happened. Before we went anywhere I was given the same advice. And just what was that advice? "Don't fall asleep!" I'm not as bad as I used to be, but after a sumptuous feast I used to have a terrible habit of settling down on a comfortable armchair and falling asleep. What made it worse is that I almost always snored.

Carol got embarrassed, but I always came up with a good reason for my behaviour to the host or hostess for the evening, and that was very simply that I fell asleep because I felt comfortable in their company and at home in their house. It is good to find a place where we feel very much at home, where we can kick our shoes off and just be ourselves. At this time of year, I think of where Jesus first made his home on earth. This home was a stable and his bed was the feeding stall for cattle, a far cry from the homely comforts that many of us enjoy and perhaps take for granted. In coming into the world Jesus came to turn all expectations upside down, to try and get home to each and every one of us that God cares for us so much that he was prepared to reach into the darkest and dampest and dismal of places.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

When we get back to the basics of what CHRISTmas, not Xmas, is all about, then these words are at the very heart. They teach us that the Word who is Christ made himself at home in our world, in our communities, and wants to do the same in our lives and in our hearts. It means that God can never be accused of standing back uninvolved and disinterested. Nothing could be further from the truth! He stepped in more than two thousand years ago and is continually stepping in, as he steps out with us on our journeys in life. We may not fully understand the 'whys' and 'wherefores', but one truth still stands when all others remain distant memories: God is with us.

This year, New Wellwynd, which is home to all of us, will see a whole number of different approaches to the Christmas story in the worship we share together. Whether you are a regular, or perhaps have not been for a while, please take time to come along and share in all that is

happening that you might not just have a pleasant Xmas but also a life-changing CHRISTmas, as you find yourself at home in the company of good friends and a loving God who so greatly loves each and every one of you.

May joy, wonder and peace be yours now and always.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

December

- 9 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
A Season of Hope: Unpacking Advent.
Advent 2: Hope in God's Love.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion.
3 p.m. - Memorial Service
I am with you always . . .
(With tea/coffee available in the hall beforehand.)
- 16 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
A Season of Hope: Unpacking Advent.
Advent 3: Be Joyful in Hope.
Choir Cantata - "Night of Miracles".
- 23 11 a.m. - Nativity Sunday -
A Season of Hope: Unpacking Advent.
Advent 4: New Birth into a Living Hope.
- 24 10 a.m. - Christingle Factory
in the large hall.
6:30 p.m. - Christingle Service
A Season of Hope: Unpacking Advent.
11:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve
Watchnight Service
Making Room for the Saviour.
(Tea and coffee served beforehand with informal Carol Singing from 11:15 p.m. in the church.)
- 25 10:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Service in
St Columba's Church.
- 30 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
A Season of Hope: Unpacking Christmas.
God is with us.

January 2019

- 6 11 a.m. - Morning Worship for Epiphany
Light comes.
All Age Communion Service.
- 13 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
Baptism of our Lord - John's Testimony.
- 20 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
The Parables: The Wicked Tenants.
Producing the Fruit of the Kingdom.
- 27 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
The Parables: The House Builders.
Lord, Lord!

February

- 4 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
The Parables: Patchwork Parable.
Mixing Old and New.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY

December

- 9 Jim Neilson.
16 Jim and Lynn Dobbie.
23 Bill Clark.
30 Dan Russell.

January 2019

- 6 William Watson.
13 George Lowdon.
20 Allan Gibson,
27 Fraser Gillespie.

February

- 3 Alan Provan.

The car/flower duty rota for January to July 2019 is now on display in the Crush Hall. Please amend any change of driver on this rota if you cannot manage on your allocated date. If you are not able to arrange a change please phone Belle Clark on 01236 754966. A big 'thank you' to all who help with this worthwhile task. All you need is a car, in case anyone takes ill in church, and 30 minutes of your time to deliver the flowers after church.

If you would like to add your name to the list or wish more information, please phone me.

BELLE CLARK

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals : Jennifer Reid; Agnes Roy; Jim Murdoch; Alison Sears; Jason Swindall; Jessie Cunningham; Jean Devine.

FLOWER CALENDAR

December

- 9 Margaret Dalziel, David Walker.
16 Irene Yates, Isobel Paterson.
23 Jean Clark, Sandra Blair.
30 Wilma Bell, Morag Stewart.

On Sunday, 9th December, the **Flower Calendar** for 2019 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 Flowers Conveners know in advance.

The flower service is very much appreciated - thank you. Flower Conveners: Mima Dalziel (752482), Margaret Jack (767898).

Useful Contacts

Minister : Revd Robert A Hamilton 01236763022.
Associate Minister : Revd Maxine Buck 01555 759063.
Session Clerk : T. Fraser Gillespie 01236 604860
Treasurer : David J. Watt 01698 853921.

WELCOME TEAMS

December

- 9 **Team Leader:** Bobby Forrest
Fraser Gillespie, Mairi Mitchell, Jim Thomson,
William Watson, Maggie Weir,
Catherine Whellans.
16 **Team Leader:** Ian Nicol
Alex Anderson, Sandy Black, Wilma Davidson,
John Jarvie, Anne Learmonth, Dan Russell.
23 **Team Leader:** Moira Gartshore
Matt Fleming, Margaret Jarvie, Jean Kinniburgh,
Shona MacDonald, George Randall,
Ronnie Wright.
30 **Team Leader:** David Watt
Morag Donald, Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton, David Walker.

January 2019

- 6 **Team Leader :** Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, George Grant, Janet Nimmo,
Tom Sorbie, Isabel Sorbie, Karen Taylor.

BIBLE READINGS

November

- 4 Isaiah 6 : 1 - 8; Luke 5 : 17 - 26.
11 Isaiah 2 : 1 - 5; Revelation 21 : 1 - 7.
18 Numbers 11 : 16 - 35; Luke 10 : 1 - 17.
25 John 6 : 44 - 51; John 8 : 12.

THANKS

Jessie Boyd wishes to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received recently. Also to everyone for their lovely thoughts and kindness.

Chris Brook and Louise Nimmo and all the family would like to convey their thanks to everyone at New Wellwynd for their thoughts and prayers during Oscar's time in hospital in September and October. Special thanks to Maxine and Robbie for their support always.

George and Janette Clark wish to thank everyone for the lovely flowers received after Janette's recent fall. Thanks also for all your thoughts and prayers.

May Paterson and family would like to thank the congregation, elders and Maxine for the Church service at Tom's funeral. Thanks also to Robbie for his most thoughtful phone call and visit.

Billy & Cath Gillespie would like to thank the congregation for the flowers received. These were much appreciated.

Margaret Eyles extends her thanks to Robbie and the Congregation for the flowers she received and prayers offered following her recent loss.

Laraine Johnston would like to thank the congregation most sincerely for the beautiful arrangement of flowers I received following the death of my Mum Irene Dalziel. They were really appreciated and so unexpected. Also, 'thank you' to Maxine for her compassion and officiating at Mum's funeral service.

LARAINÉ, GAVIN and GRANT JOHNSTON

Organist : David J. Stewart 07774 674345.
Roll Keeper : W. Allister Jack 01236 767898.
Hall Convener : Robert W. Forrest 01236 767210.

Used Postage Stamps

With Christmas fast approaching, please keep saving your stamps for our Church's World Mission. You can pass them to Jennifer Milne or leave at the Church entrance any Sunday with the Welcome Team.

JENNIFER MILNE

SENIORS

Our final meeting of 2018 is on 4th December when we will be having a pre-Christmas musical afternoon in the company of Allan and Anne. We kick off the New Year on the 8th January with a talk on 'Talking Newspapers!' On the 23rd January, we welcome George Randall and 'Robert Burns!' Looking further ahead, on the 5th February, entertainment will be provided by the William Hay Concert Party. All will be made most welcome. Wishing everyone a lovely, restful and peaceful Christmas!

ISABELL GIBSON

CAMEO Burns Supper

Tickets for our Burns Supper on Saturday, 26th January 2019, are now available. Please speak to any member of the CAMEO team.

WILMA DAVIDSON

TRAIIDCRAFT

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.

As previously intimated, Traidcraft is "downsizing" after the Christmas period and we are not yet sure what this will involve, but will keep you posted.

I would also like to thank all who help with the stall in any way, 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 23rd December, but reopens on Sunday 20th January 2019.

Christmas in the Trenches -

The Christmas Truce!

It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternised with "the enemy" along various parts of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas". Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations and even played football. Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more sombre task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow friends who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines. The so-called Christmas

Truce of 1914 was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers with threats of disciplinary action. Nevertheless, it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers essential humanity endured.

The following poem/song was written by a chap called John McCutcheon. It is based on the events outlined above from the front lines of World War 1. Ian Calhoun, a Scot, was the commanding officer of the British forces in one of the areas involved. He was subsequently court-martialed for 'consorting with the enemy' and sentenced to death. Only King George V spared him from that fate.

My name is Francis Toliver, I come from Liverpool
Two years ago the war was waiting,
for me after school.

To Belgium and to Flanders, to Germany to here
I fought for King and country,
the country I love dear.

'Twas Christmas in the trenches,
where the frost so bitter hung
The frozen fields of France were still,
no Christmas song was sung.
Our families back in Britain
were toasting us that day
Their brave and glorious lads,
in a land so far away.

I was lying with my messmate
on the cold and rocky ground
When across the lines of battle,
came a most peculiar sound.
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!
each soldier strained to hear
As one young German voice sang out,
through the air so clear.

"He's singing bloody well, you know!"
my partner says to me
Soon, one by one, each German voice
joined in harmony.
The cannons rested silent,
the gas clouds rolled no more
As Christmas brought us respite,
from this awful bloody war.

As soon as they were finished
and a reverent pause was spent
"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
struck up some lads from Kent.
The next they sang was "Stille Nacht,"
"Tis 'Silent Night,'" says I
And in two tongues one song filled up,
the still and cold night sky.

"There's someone coming towards us!"
the front line sentry cried

All sights were fixed on one lone figure,
trudging from their side.
His truce flag, like a Christmas star,
shone on that plain so bright
As he bravely strode unarmed,
into the night.

Then one by one on either side,
walked into No Man's Land
With neither gun nor bayonet
we met there, hand to hand.
We shared some secret brandy
and wished each other well,
And in a flare lit soccer game,
we gave 'em hell.

We traded chocolates, cigarettes,
and photographs from home.
These sons and fathers far away,
from families of their own.
Young Sanders played his squeezebox
and they had a violin
This curious and unlikely,
band of men.

Soon daylight stole upon us
and France was France once more
With sad farewells we each began
to settle back to war.
But the question haunted every heart
that lived that wondrous night
"Whose family have I fixed,
within my sights?"

'Twas Christmas in the trenches
where the frost so bitter hung
The frozen fields of France were warmed
as songs of peace were sung.
For the walls they'd kept between us,
to exact the work of war
Had been crumbled and were gone,
gone forevermore.

As we approach Christmas 2018 let's hope that songs of peace continue to be sung around our world, particularly in those areas where conflict exists. To all of our lads and lassies wherever they may be, who are serving and striving to bring peace and who are helping and supporting others, we wish them a safe, happy and blessed Christmas.

The Editor

The Whina' Bible – 'Nae Room at the Inn'

Hello, ma name is Tam an a wis the landlord o' the inn that wis fu up oan the night Jesus wis born. Some folk sae a wis gie hertless trying tae turn his Ma' and Da' awa' but it wisnae like that. If it hidnae been for that Ceasar Augustus guy an his census, everythin wid a been fine. Mair tax that's whit it wis a' aboot! Anyhow oan the night in question, Bethlehem wis jumpin as folk fae a' ower the place were in toon. We hid been booked up fur weeks in advance. In fact, the missus an me hid tae sleep in a

single bed in oor wee back room. During the day a managed tae squeeze in a few extra folk, but by the efternoon we were just jam packed an a hid tae start turnin people awa'. A must admit, I tried tae turn Mary and Joseph awa' but he widnae take naw for an answer and a didnae realize at first that she wis pregnant. The only place a hid tae offer, wis the barn. The barn itself wis pretty crowded an a hid tae shoo oot some o the animals tae make some space. Joseph wis so grateful an a felt so guilty, but there wis nothin mair a could dae. Then all o sudden Mary went into labour. As ye can imagine, baith masel an Joseph started tae panic. A ran doon the road tae get Mrs Smith as she wid know whit tae dae. A couple o hours later, wee baby Jesus wis born. A will never forget the sight o the lovely glow from the lantern, the cattle lowing softly an baby Jesus fast asleep in his mammy's airms wae his daddy by her side. We left the happy couple wae their new born son. A wis jist aboot tae get intae ma ain bed when a heard some voices oot at the barn. I thought a hid better go oot an check an make sure everythin wis okay. When a peered through the door, tae ma surprise, a saw shepherds. The auldest wan wis sayin somethin aboot angels an the Messiah! The ithers were knelt doon wae their heids bowed, some wae tears runnin doon their faces. Tae be honest a wis aboot tae hunt them, when Joseph said, "it's okay, they have come to see the Christ baby." At that point, the penny drapped - an a knelt doon tae. We watched, prayed, an listened tae the auld shepherd recount his story o the angels an heavenly glory, an the sign o a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, tae be found in a stable-manger. The shepherds left efter a while. Some o them leaned ower an kissed the sleeping baby before they departed. I know I did. A will always be glad a made room in the barn for that family - that holy family. You see, am no such a hard herted landlord as people make oot. I wis there. I saw him. An, ye know somethin else, years later that boy came back tae Bethlehem, this time tellin aboot the Kingdom o God. A believe in him. An mark ma words, if you hid seen whit a hid seen, you'd believe, too!

Tam (the Innkeeper)

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 so that I can get some dates organised.

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

Give it some thought.....

New Year, New dawn, new hope

Hope forever tells us that tomorrow will be better.
(Further reflection: Lamentations 3:22-23)

Be an encourager

The world is full of discouragers – what we need is more encouragers. Many times a word of praise, thanks or appreciation has kept a person on their feet. Encourage someone today: it will bring healing. (Further reflection: Proverbs 15:23 and Isaiah 52:7)

Do something creative

Develop a hobby. Do something for the sheer joy of it. Those who develop a creative and absorbing interest are better able to stand up to the stresses and strains of life.

(Further reflection: Colossians 3:23)

Let it go

The word 'forgive' literally means 'to give away'. It has very little to do with the other person. It's a decision you make, like exhaling carbon dioxide from your body because you know holding on to it will only harm you. So go ahead, exhale: release forgiveness.

(Further reflection: Matthew 6:12-15)

Trust God

There is only one person who is ultimately faithful, reliable and dependable and in whom we can trust. As the scriptures declare, 'Put not your hope in a man/woman in whom there is no hope, but put your hope in God.' (Further reflection: Psalm 146:3 and Lamentations 3:24)

R. Daly

That is Christmas!

Every time a hand reaches out to help another....that is Christmas!

Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding....that is Christmas!

Every time people forget their differences and realise their love for each other....that is Christmas!

May this Christmas bring each one of us closer to the spirit of human understanding and closer to the blessing of peace!

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and all the very best for 2019!

The Editor

Church Chuckles

The parents began to assemble the special Christmas gift they had for their children. They had ordered a kit for a tree house and received the plans for it. However, the materials they received were for a sailboat. They wrote the company to complain. The company's reply: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, it is nothing compared to that of the man who is out on a lake somewhere trying to sail your tree house.".....

After the Christmas nativity, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humour". We could all use that!.....

IM Jolly

Streaming of Services

Live streaming of our Morning Service started on Sunday 2nd December 2018 – Advent 1.

This is a new service offered to our housebound members or anyone who may not be able to attend Morning Service.

On our website, www.newwellwynd.org.uk, there will be a link "Watch Live" which you can click to take you to the LIVE page where people can watch our service. You could if you wish, save this as one of your favourites.

The streaming of the service will start around 5 minutes before the service begins, so if you try and access the LIVE webpage, you may see an error message. You should either go back or refresh the web page.

If you wish to see the picture in full screen mode, there is an icon at the top right hand side of the viewing screen which will enlarge the picture to the full size of your device's screen.

As part of the Sanctuary project last year, there were 3 cameras installed which will enable us to transmit the service. These cameras will primarily be positioned towards the Chancel area, Lectern etc., but will pan the Congregation at times during the services. There will also be pre-set positions for certain services.

If you, as a member or visitor to the congregation do not wish to be seen during morning worship, then, we have a designated area where we would ask you to sit as the cameras will not pan to that area.

The Designated Area is under the Gallery on the Pulpit side of the church.

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 might what and who is at the heart of this season.
- 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.
- Pray for Glasgow City Mission whose work we are supporting this Christmas.