

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

December 2021 / January 2022

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

We don't seem to hear so much these days about New Year resolutions. These resolutions were very often promises made to ourselves to do something that we have in the past have neglected or to abstain from some habit we are determined to kick. Quite often they followed the excesses of the festive season!

Promises are a big part of our life. In childhood there are promises such as "I promise to be your best friend for the rest of my life if you give me a shot of your bike," or a promise to behave and not to do anything wrong ever again! As we grow up and reach the years of adulthood, we continue to make promises - to each other within relationships, to friends and our employers, on behalf of our children, and so on. I am sure that we can all think of the promises we have made, and also the ones we made but found so difficult to keep - "I will keep in touch."

We need promises - we need to make them and we need to hear them for ourselves. We need them because we need commitment from each other to help us and sustain us. Sadly, such commitment seems to be on the decrease and that is why the theme of promises is such a good one for Christmas and New Year. We are reminded of God's promise about the first Christmas in Isaiah - "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name him Immanuel." Seven hundred and forty years later this promise came true in the person of Jesus Christ, born at Bethlehem. As the Lord made that promise a reality, so he will be true to all the promises that he has made. He promises to stay with us and has much planned for us if we go to him and are faithful to him in the promises that we ourselves have made. The test of his faithfulness has been seen in many ways through the pandemic - his presence in our lives and his working in and through the lives of each other.

As you celebrate Christmas and bring in another New Year, remember the promises that you have made. The ones on behalf of your children at their Baptism, the ones you made when you became members in being faithful in duties as a Christian and in being faithful in your support of the church. Please do come and join us over Christmas and into another new year as together in our worship, our work and our witness we celebrate the past in the gifts you offer to the church and our Lord, resolved to build on them in the time that lies ahead.

May you have a Christmas enriched by the love of Christ, and a New Year blessed with the Spirit of God.

Your friend and minister



FUNERAL SERVICES

5th November Mary Smith

8th November Belle Clark

15th November Ellen Lindsay

Baptism

Sunday, 28th November Ari J Kerr

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

There is a slow but steady flow of people coming back to in person worship both on a Sunday and a Wednesday and we hope, now that things are getting easier, that we see more faces back. It is such a great encouragement to be worshipping together again and enjoying times of friendship and fellowship.

Just a reminder that there is now no longer any need to book for Sunday morning worship. You are now free to come along but still encouraged to keep a comfortable space between individuals and bubbles. We are still doing track and trace and so you will be asked to write down your details if we haven't already got them or you can scan the QR code on the way in. We also have started the tea fellowship on a Sunday. This went well the first Sunday it was held.

We are still singing with masks but, at least we are singing. The national Covid Task Group continues to be in discussions with the Scottish Government.

THANK YOU

May and Jim Mezzetti would like to express their thanks to Robbie for his visit and to the congregation for the lovely flowers.

Your kindness and prayers are very much appreciated.

George and Una Lawson wish to say a sincere 'thank you' for the lovely flowers we received recently.

The love and support of our Church Family are always greatly appreciated.

George Thomson would like to thank the congregation for the plant received from the harvest service.

Exploring the Faith . . .

Refreshing the Faith

Interested in a "back to basics" course exploring the foundations of our faith? Well, get in touch. I will be running a course January/February for those who are new to the faith and are considering membership and those who are up for a bit of a refresher. The course will be in two parts -

Part 1 will explore what we believe about God. What it means to say "I believe". Part 2 will explore our response to faith. What promises do we make when we become "members" of the church?

This is an opportunity to explore for the first time or take the opportunity to re-engage with faith and the church.

Do get in touch if you are interested or you want to know more.

Robbie

Happy Christmas Memories

Dae ye mind o' Christmas lang ago

When we wir only wee

There wurnae phones nur laptops

In the presents neath the tree

We wir happy wi a jigsaw

An annual or a game

A dolly fur the lassies

And fur the lads a train

And then if we wir lucky

A big selection box

Then sometimes, no sae lucky

Yer granny's knitted socks!

Anon

Church Flowers

We are planning to re-introduce the Flower Calendar in February. If you have a special date, please put your name against that date and hand in your money either at the front door or to one of the Flower Conveners. Thank you for your support.

Avril Cockburn (769134)

Margaret Jack (767898)

LIST OF SERVICES

Sunday, 12th December

11 a.m. Third Sunday in Advent
Music from the Choir with readings and reflections.

3 p.m. Memorial Service
A Service of Lament and Remembrance

Sunday, 19th December

11 a.m. Morning Worship
Making time to remember : the story unfolds
Nativity Service - *The Star of Bethlehem*

Friday, 24th December 6.30 p.m.
All Age Service — *A Service of Light*

Friday, 24th December 11.30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Unlocking the Mystery:
Setting God's People Free

(tea, coffee and mincemeat pies served in the large hall from 10.45 p.m. and community carol singing in the church from 11.15 p.m.)

Saturday, 25th December
11 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Sunday, 26th December
11 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday, 2nd January
11 a.m. Morning Worship *No going back.*
The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sunday, 9th January
11 a.m. Morning Worship
Re-sourced by God.

Sunday, 16th January
11 a.m. Morning Worship - *All in God's time*

Sunday, 23rd January
11 a.m. Morning Worship - *Set free to serve.*

Sunday, 30th January
11 a.m. Morning Worship - *Dare to speak*
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday, 6th February
11 a.m. Morning Worship - *Out of our depth?*

*Delve in at 12 continues on a Wednesday
at 12 noon.

**You are welcome to join us
at any of these services.

Christmas Love Poem

Ye're the ribbon oan ma present
Ye're the mincemeat in ma pie
Ye're the sixpence in ma puddin
An the star up in ma sky
Ye're ma cosy winter slippers
Ye're the blanket oan ma bed
Ye're the scarf tae keep ma neck warm
An the hat apon ma head
Ye're the snowflakes at ma windae
Ye're the log that's in ma grate
Ye're ma candle shining brightly
An the turkey oan ma plate
Ye're a' they things an mair dear
And when all is said and done
O a' the Christmas goodies
You are number one!

Merry Christmas

Breaking News..... A Saviour is born!

On the windswept hillsides outside of town, shepherds were huddling from the cold. All of a sudden the sky lit up and an angel proclaimed: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

The shepherds' fear was turned to joy as they heard the news that a Saviour was born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David himself! And so they run down the hillsides into the town and hurried from stable to stable until they found the Child in the manger, just as they had been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, was the Saviour himself.

Roving Reporter

Time for New Beginnings

"The end of a year is a time for reflection as well as celebration. As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life, remember each experience for the good that has come of it and for the knowledge you have gained. Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached. Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought. Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears. And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come.

Because most importantly, this is a time of new beginnings and the celebration of life."

Taylor Addison

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time. Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavour of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humour.

B A Ker

Christmas Carol Quiz – From which Christmas carols do these lines come?

1. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep..."
 2. "Come and behold him, born the king of angels..."
 3. "Fill the medcup, drain the barrel..."
 4. "Hither, page, and stand by me..."
 5. "The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay..."
 6. "Joyful, all ye nations rise..."
 7. "Cast out our sin and enter in..."
 8. "Westward leading, still proceeding..."
 9. "The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing."
 10. "Let steeple bells be swungen..."
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A Genius for Giving

As a child I had a very serious bone disease that settled in my spine. The only cure was rest -- I had to keep my back immobile, strapped on a board. My case was considered hopeless. But I was eight years old and all I thought about was being well again. Out running, jumping, playing like the rest of the kids. At Christmas everyone was especially kind and generous to me. I had a Christmas tree in my room, my family heaped presents on my bed. I was being treated like a condemned man who can have anything he wants for his last meal. The presents had been carefully selected -- gifts for a sick boy tied in bed. Checker games, stuffed animals, books. I had an Uncle Bob who was considered the black sheep of the family. He drank, he gambled -- he always seemed to do the outrageous things. But I'll never forget the present Uncle Bob gave me that Christmas. A pair of roller skates! You can imagine what my parents thought. How inappropriate! How sad! A present our son will never use. But you know what I thought? That was the greatest present of all! The only present for when I got well!

Joseph Lahey

Christian Aid Charity Gifts

Don't know what to buy someone for Christmas? Why not purchase them a charity gift from Christian Aid! There are lots to choose from! Great for stocking fillers, Secret Santa, or a meaningful Christmas gift.

When you buy a virtual gift from Christian Aid Charity Gifts, you or your lucky recipient(s) don't get an actual goat or a pair of chickens (although we know it would be pretty cool if you did). What you do get for each gift is a physical card. Each card explains a bit more about the gift, and tells a story about someone – a real person – who benefited from a similar contribution.

How does buying a gift work?

1. Choose and buy gift(s) for your loved one(s).
2. Your money acts as a donation; it goes into a fund for each area of [Christian Aid's work](#). So if you buy the gift of a goat, your money goes into our Agriculture & Livestock fund, and so on.
3. Every gift is represented by a card. You can write a personal message inside it. Then you can arrange to either have it sent to you, or to whoever you've bought the gift for.
4. The gift delights them and everybody feels good.
5. Our local partner uses the money you've donated to work on a particular programme or project – like supplying goats to families in Ethiopia. Where does Gift Aid fit in?

Because your purchase of a virtual gift is actually a donation, you can opt in for Gift Aid (if you're a UK taxpayer). There's no VAT due.

Further Information can be found at

charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk

Christmas Massacre - Four-year-old Kieran ran into his mother's room in a panic. "Mum, you need to get Duke out of here." Confused, his mum looked at him curiously. "Why?" "Duke ate Ellie the Elf, and Santa's probably going to call the cops," Kieran said frantically. At just that moment, an overweight bulldog came sauntering into the room merrily with a Santa ornament hanging out of his mouth. Kieran put his hand on his forehead and sighed.

"Well, there's no hope for him now!"

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas Carol Quiz Answers

1. The First Noel
 2. O Come, All Ye Faithful
 3. Deck the Halls
 4. Good King Wenceslas
 5. Away in a Manger
 6. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
 7. O Little Town of Bethlehem
 8. We Three Kings
 9. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
 10. Ding Dong Merrily on High
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Useful Contacts

Minister	: Revd Robert A Hamilton	01236 763022.
Session Clerk	T. Fraser Gillespie	01236 604860.
Treasurer	David J. Watt	01698 853921.
Organist	David J. Stewart	07774 674345.
Roll Keeper	W. Allister Jack	01236 767898.
Hall Convener	Robert W. Forrest	01236 767210.
Gift Aid	David Walker	01236 747075.