



# Chrystal Chronicle

February 2012



## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

**February 27 to March 11 Page 5**

**St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church**

Interim Minister: Reverend Dr Gordon A McCracken

The Manse, 4 Georgetown Crescent, Dumfries

Tel 01387 253877

[www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)



# Church register

## Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

November 4: Mr D Murray, 6 Marchhill Drive  
December 6: Mrs J Young, Lochduhar  
December 10: Mr R K Brown, 5 Hillview Avenue  
December 10: Mr A Doyle, 9 Gilloch Crescent  
December 18: Miss B Gerdes, 18 Ardwall Road

Please let me know of any changes of address.

**Marion Bennett,**  
2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY.  
Tel: 263106.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to the magazine for 2012! We're now back to monthly publication for the next few months.

If you have anything for inclusion in our next issue, please pass it on through the church by Sunday February 19.

The deadline for the March edition is **Tuesday February 21 at 3pm.**

Thanks as always.

If you have any articles, please contact me:

- Address: 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY
- Telephone: **263106**
- E-mail: [magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)

David Bennett, Editor

## Useful phone numbers

Session Clerk – David Matheson, 252042

Treasurer – Stewart Williamson, 261257

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes – Billy Simpson, 252278



# From the Interim Minister

Dear friends,

I trust you all had a peaceful Christmas, and that the New Year has brought you renewed hope even if you had to face some adversity.

The year ahead is an important one for the church as a new phase in your life begins. I do not know as yet how much longer I will have the privilege of ministering to you and leading you through a time of transformation, but I am hopeful that by April the search for your next minister will be under way.

Can I remind you of, and stress the importance of, the forthcoming Transition Support Group Meeting (with representatives of the Presbytery and the Ministries Council). Their support for an approach to Presbytery to grant permission to call will be vital, and a good attendance at the meeting will go some way to convince them. I can confirm the date as St Valentine's Day – February 14 – at 7.30pm in the church hall.

The second of our Big Blethers on the way ahead took place on Saturday January 21. Only 36 members out of several hundred attended, but we were happily joined by a few friends from Caerlaverock to think about the future vision of the church – one based on values we hold dear.

We took time to think about the Bible stories that inspire us, and the values that they teach us and relate this to the previously agreed Mission Promise. We then sought to articulate this in a Vision and Values statement, which is still to be fully prepared.

We did, however, agree this (although it's still to go before the Kirk Session for approval):

*To Care in Christ*

*To Serve in Christ*

*To grow in Christ*

*This is our Vision and Purpose.*

If approved by the Session, this along with the Mission Promise and the values expressed will subsequently appear in any parish profile we draw up, as well as featuring on the church's website. We will also apply ourselves to thinking through other ways to embed these principles in our consciousness so that they inform everything we do – know our 'purpose'.

So, if you have any good ideas, please convey them to myself, the Session Clerk or the communications and outreach convener, Tom Evans.

Finally, can I say what a good response there was to the first of our "third Sunday" services in the church hall. It was good to see such a gathering – and the worshipful atmosphere was excellent and greatly enhanced by the contribution of our children. Look forward to seeing you at the next one if not before.

Yours in Christ

Gordon



# Social update

## Beetle drive

We are holding a beetle drive on Wednesday February 15 from 6.30-8.30pm. An invitation is extended to all members of the church – age does not matter, friends and family to come along for an evening of fun and fellowship if not hilarity and noise to join in a beetle drive. Refreshments will be provided. Suggested donation is 50p per person. Fantastic prizes!

## Volunteers

Please help us to help the church with its fundraising activities – although we have just had the Stewardship campaign and we are beginning to use those volunteers who put forward their details at that time, if you find that you can now volunteer please contact any member of the social and fundraising committee. We need volunteers to assist with the service and soup services on the last Thursday of the month by preparing soup or assisting with the preparation of the lunch. Can you help at the monthly coffee mornings or do you have any ideas?! Please let us know.

Janet McSherry

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## Dick Hardie

Some of you may remember Dick and Carolyn Hardie from Little Rock in Arkansas. They came to Dumfries for 6 months in 1991 where Dick was a volunteer Associate Minister here at St Mary's Parish Church when Graham Deans was the minister. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves in Dumfries and made many friends both in St Mary's and outwith the church.

Sadly Dick passed away at the end of November last year. He had been in a nursing home for a while and had Alzheimer's disease. Over the years they have kept up with the goings on at St Mary's as they have received a Chrystal Chronicle every month and will continue to do so. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn and family at this sad time.

Margaret Williamson

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## For reflection

Lord, what have I gained if I eat wisely and well but neglect to dine at Your table;  
if I work out faithfully while failing to exercise love;  
if I give myself to the pursuit of fitness yet am not fit for Your kingdom?

Earthly disciplines fortify the body for a lifetime.  
Heavenly disciplines strengthen the soul for an eternity.

Susan Lenzkes CCL No 102598



# Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from February 27 to March 11 – watch intimations sheet for details.

This year we will be holding our Fairtrade Breakfast in the Church hall on Sunday March 11 from 9.30am onwards. Once again it will be a self-service buffet meal. The range of rolls provided will be from a local bakery.

Fairtrade jams, honey, fresh fruit, muesli, chocolate bars, cereal bars etc, fruit juice, tea, coffee, sugar and hot chocolate will be Fairtrade products according to availability. Plain cornflakes will be provided for people who are not keen on muesli.

You are invited to join us in supporting and promoting Fairtrade through this fellowship meal for the price of £2 per adult and 50p per child. Profits will go to the Fairtrade Foundation.

Please sign up on the list in the church vestibule no later than Sunday March 4 so that catering can be arranged accordingly.

Thank you.

Alan Franks, 265989

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## Christian Aid

Soup 'n' roll lunches commence in St John's Church hall on Friday February 24, 12 noon to 1.30pm and will run for the six weeks of Lent. Churches from Dumfries and district, including our own, organise and run these fellowship and fund raising events. Home-made soup, cheese or plain roll, tea and coffee – adults £2.80 children £1.50, also sales table and a Fairtrade gifts stall.

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## Decoration thanks

Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas, and dismantled it all again at the beginning of January. Thank you too to everyone who delivers flowers throughout the year to those members who are housebound, ill or bereaved. The gift is much appreciated by the recipient. Offers of help to arrange or deliver flowers would be most welcome. Volunteers please contact any member of the flower team.

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## Buzz update

On November 21 we were invited to join the Guild in their 125th birthday celebrations and had a lovely afternoon with music from the accordion and fiddle and singing from the compere. The afternoon was very busy with visiting Guilds. Thanks to the Guild for inviting us.

We had our Christmas party on December 19, when John Robison provided the music and entertainment. Afternoon tea was served, finishing with a visit from Santa.

After a break for Christmas and New Year we restarted on January 30. On February 13 we have Love in the Afternoon with Bette and Liz and on February 27 A Floral Show with Isobel.

# From the treasurer

## November 2011 (4 Sundays)

Open plate	£	341
Weekly freewill offerings	£	1771
Banker's orders/cheques	£	1782
Collection boxes	£	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3975</b>

## December 2011 (4 Sundays)

Open plate	£	368
Weekly freewill offerings	£	2161
Banker's orders/cheques	£	1537
Collection boxes	£	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4107</b>

2011 total (52 Sundays)	£52,632	
2010 total (52 Sundays)	£51,073	Increase £1559 (3.06%)

Stewart Williamson, Treasurer



## In the garden

The church Gardening Club have an early “spring into action” as I write on January 25, and as we are progressing through winter, the planned programme will be disparate as we are of course governed by the weather. We have a number of features lined up, including a visit to the newly refurbished Primrose Bank Nursery in Maxwelltown. Our convener Les Charters extends a warm welcome to all to join us in the church hall on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. You will enjoy the company!

## FLOWER THANKS

Audry Rodger says thank you for the lovely flowers received, which were very much appreciated.

Peggy Doyle sends her thanks for the lovely flowers, cards and help she received on Allan's death.



# Flower rota

Feb 12 L Bell  
Feb 19 C Proudfoot  
Feb 26 L White  
Mar 4 E Sutherland

Anyone wishing to donate flowers please contact:

Norna Francis 250199  
Moira Cannon 720394  
Betty Jardine 257691  
Margaret McCafferty 268673  
Margaret Thomson 253484



We would be most grateful if you could let us know of anyone who is ill, at home or in hospital. The list for 2012 is now displayed in the vestibule.

## FLOWER THANKS

Mrs Jean Butter of Annan Road wishes to thank the church for the lovely bunch of tulips received to mark the celebration of her 101st birthday.

Thanks from Ronald and Helen McEwan to everyone for cards and flowers received on the occasion of their golden wedding.

Betty Thompson of Gillbrae Court sends thanks very much for the flowers on Sunday January 8.

Mrs Laird would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers she received on the death of her mother, Mrs Jenny Young.

Miss Mae Morrison would like to say thank you to members and friends for flowers and cards received on her 90th birthday.

I have been asked to pass on thanks from Essie McCleary for the beautiful flowers she received during her stay in hospital.

Ethel Allan sends thanks for the bouquet of flowers received following her accident.

Nancy McKay send grateful thanks to everyone who gave her flowers and cards, and for all the kind enquiries.

Thanks for flowers from Mrs Keiller, Mr Potts and Ursula Beattie.

June Taylor expresses grateful thanks for the beautiful flowers received on Sunday January 8 after her husband George passed away and sends thanks to everyone for their kindness, caring and support during George's illness.

# PS ...

Loving Heavenly Father –

You are Lord of every day. Daily You offer us Your love and Your compassion.

As we live out our lives from day to day, You offer us peace, comfort, and hope for the future.

We ask that You will lay Your loving hands on all who have experienced any kind of trouble or bereavement this past month.

May our prayers bring peace and a sense of calm into their lives at this difficult time.

Loving Heavenly Father –

As we move forward in the life and work of our Church, grant us Your blessing as we work together to achieve Your Purpose for us in the future.

Help us to respond to Your guidance, with love, faith, praise, vision and action.

May the power of Your Holy Spirit guide us all, and prompt us to see Your purpose for each one of us.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **February**

Tuesday 7 – Guild, Jane Haining: Christine Sime and Pam Mitchell

Wednesday 8 – Garden Club

Monday 13 – Buzz, Love In The Afternoon: Bette and Liz

Wednesday 15 – Beetle Drive, 6.30pm

Tuesday 21 – Guild, Making Quilts for Alzheimer's: Anne Hill

Wednesday 22 – Garden Club

Thursday 23 – Service and soup, 12.15pm

Monday 27 – Buzz, A Floral Show: Isobel

### **March**

Saturday 3 – Guild Coffee Morning

Wednesday 7 – Garden Club

Monday 12 – Buzz, Loch Arthur Trust: Speaker to be arranged

**Date to add? Get in touch – details on page two.**