



Chrystal Chronicle

February/March 2018



**A warm welcome ...
whatever the weather!**

St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church
Minister: Rev David Logan

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



Members of the “all ages” nativity play after the service on Christmas Eve.

Rhythm and rhyme

A soiree is planned for Thursday February 22 at 7pm in our church hall. The mixed programme will be comprised of volunteers coming forward with either a CD of your choice or a soliloquy. The totally diverse content of the programme promises a refreshing magic in the evening. Items and CDs will require to be in the hands of either Eunice (263263) or Tommy (257691), with a deadline of February 15. Admission of £3 includes a refreshment break with all funds going to the church.

If you are unable to attend then “Que sera sera”, as the wonderful Doris Day once vocalised so eloquently in a bygone era!

Prayer

Loving Heavenly Father we praise and thank you that you are always with us. In the bad times as well as the good, the difficult times as well as the easy, and the sad times as well as the happy.

Lord, we pray for the sad, lonely and distressed in our world - those who feel powerless in the face of the problems that confront them. Be with them all and show them your love.

We thank you for the year just finished and we ask that you bless us, and our families, in the year ahead. Show us where and how we can help others. Give us the means, the will, the commitment and the love to reach out in the name of Christ, offering something of ourselves to others, as He offered His all for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Saviour. Amen.



From the Interim Moderator

Dear Parishioners,

Let me introduce myself to you, I am Rev Fiona Wilson, minister of Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon lw Urr Parish Churches. I am acting as your Interim Moderator during the time that your own Minister, Rev David Logan, is off with ill health.

Let me explain my role with you. I am here to moderate Session Meetings and to give support to both congregations at this time. I will occasionally conduct worship, and look forward to joining you. You may remember me from David's Induction – I conducted the worship that night.

Please be assured that David and Catriona are in our thoughts and prayers at this time and I know you will also be praying for them both.

In this time of David's absence, I ask that you give each other comfort and encouragement to serve in your parish and I look forward to accompanying you all on your faith journey and also encouraging all you do.

I have known David for a long time, we both trained together, and it was a great pleasure to learn he was coming to this Presbytery and in particular to these parishes.

God will guide you and lead you at this time and I will be there to support you all.

Rev Douglas Irving will also be joining you as your Locum.

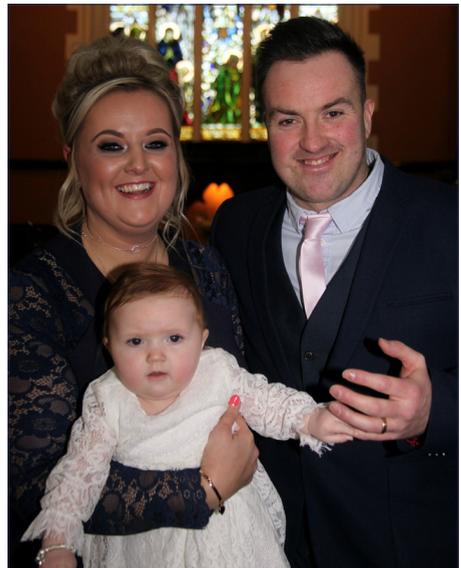
Go gently, go peacefully and go with the love of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Fiona Wilson



We celebrated two baptisms in December. Henry John Buchanan Telfer (above) was baptised on December 17, and Quinn O'Neill Gordon is pictured right after her baptism in the church on December 31.





Church register

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

December 2: Mr J Pagan

Baptisms – “Let the little children come to me”

December 17: Henry John Buchanan Telfer

December 31: Quinn O’Neill Gordon

Please let me know of any changes of address: **Marion Bennett**, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY. Tel: 263106.

What’s on ...

February

Monday 5: Buzz, Burns Music and Poetry (change to the syllabus)

Tuesday 13: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 14: Garden Club, St Valentine’s In-House Fun Day.

Monday 19: Buzz, Update on Moatbrae

Monday 26: Service and soup in the hall at 12.15pm

Tuesday 27: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 28: Garden Club, Dorothy Edwards on her travels

March

Saturday 3: Guild Coffee Morning

Monday 5: Buzz, Banff National Park, Andre Barallon

Tuesday 13: Arts and Crafts , 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 14: Garden Club, East Coast of Canada, Andre Barallon

Monday 19: Buzz, A Musical Selection from Edith Beeton and friends

Monday 26: Service and soup in the hall 12.15pm

Tuesday 27: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 28: Garden Club, Our Dumfries, Norna Francis

April

Monday 2: Buzz Easter Monday holiday

Saturday 7: Coffee Morning

Tuesday 9: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 17: Garden Club, Garden Quizzing, Marie and Ann

Monday 22: Buzz, Burns Music and Poetry, Robert Lind

Tuesday 23: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall



Christian Aid

Lent Lunches for 2018 run by Dumfries and District Churches, again in St John's Church hall, start February 16 until March 20. These will be held from noon until 1.30pm each Friday, with different churches providing and serving soup each week and providing and manning a sales table. Soup and cheese roll, and tea/coffee, provided for a minimum donation of £3.50 for adults and £2 for children. A quiz will be available for 50p. St Mary's-Greyfriars' are providing and manning the sales table on Friday February 23.

Christian Aid Week runs from May 13-18.

The Environment Fair is on Saturday March 10 in Rutherford McCowan Building, Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZL, from 10am-3pm.

About the magazine

Welcome to our first issue of 2018. The deadline for our April/May issue is **Sunday March 18** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always!

Editor: David Bennett

Write: 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY

Call: 01387 263106

Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Minister

Rev David Logan

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie 266186

Treasurer

Rod Williamson..... 251876

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Billy Simpson..... 252278

From the Buzz

At our meeting on November 27 we had a Scottish afternoon with Ian on fiddle and George on the accordion, playing us a medley of music. Ian told us a bit of history as they went along and the country dancers did a few dances for us, too.

William Williamson talked about his days as a young boy, dancing from a very early age and winning competitions and medals. He danced the Highland Fling, showing that he can still do it very well all these years later! The audience joined in singing along to Loch Lomond. We had a good turnout of visitors, who all seemed to enjoy themselves. Janette Kirkpatrick had organised the concert and it was very kind of everyone who gave up their time to come along and entertain us – we followed with tea and it was a great afternoon.

Freda Hunter

World Day of Prayer: This service will be held on Friday March 2 at Troqueer Church. Time: 7.30pm (tbc).



From the flower team

The flower list for 2018 is now displayed in the vestibule. There are several vacant spaces over the year so if anyone would care to make a donation that would be good. No need to worry if you think you are unable to arrange flowers – someone will make the arrangement for you. Contact a member of the flower team to make a donation.

We would be grateful for more volunteers to make deliveries after church services. Only six members are on the delivery list at the moment – more names, fewer times! The flowers in the church on Sundays are given to members who are ill, housebound or bereaved and are much appreciated.

Many thanks to all who worked hard to decorate the church for Christmas – and who tidied it away afterwards. Happy new year!

Contact any of the flower team – Norna Francis (250199), Moira Cannon (720394) Betty Jardine (257691), Margaret Thomson (253484) or Maureen Wilson (255008) – if you are interested.

Bill and Helen Holland wish to say thank you for the lovely service conducted by Rev David Logan for the 50th Anniversary of Bill's Ordination into the Christian Ministry of the Church of Scotland; also the reception afterwards and the lovely gifts we received. It was a very special time and we were delighted that our four children travelled from all parts of the UK and Ireland for this occasion. Thanks also to those who came from Caerlaverock, Lochend and New Abbey, and all other places to be with us. Thank you to our Session Clerk, Anne Mackie, and all others involved in the organisation of such a special time for us all.

Thanks for the Christmas present from the church and the flowers. Thanks also for visits from Isobel Evans, Janet McSherry and the minister, all of which were greatly appreciated.

Ina Thom

Thank you for all cards, gifts, and good wishes from our Church family on my recent big birthday.

Anne Mackie

Flower rota

February 11: C Proudfoot

February 18/25: Vacant

March 4: E Sutherland

March 11: M Dalrymple

March 18: M Woods

March 25/April 1: Vacant

Mary Bell, Heathhall, would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers received following her operation.

Wilma Harper sends thanks for the flowers and kind thoughts after her recent stay in hospital.

Thanks also for flowers, and the Christmas gift from the church, from Mrs Neiria Watson.

I have also been asked to pass on thanks for flowers from Bunty Hogg, and thanks for Christmas gifts from Margaret Wallace, Vera Haining, and Mr and Mrs T Hannah.



Heather's Hungarian adventure

In November I was lucky enough to join our Hungarian partner church, Arpad Ter, to celebrate the renovation of the outside of their church and 500 years since the Protestant Reformation.

Whilst the 2.30am start to travel to the airport had to be remedied with copious amounts of coffee, I am glad to report that it was worth it.

During my stay in Hungary I was met with an incredible amount of kindness and generosity from the people there, especially my hosts



János, Fanni, Gergő and Éva.

Éva, János and Gergő. There is a saying in Hungary that all guests should have to do is eat, and that was definitely fulfilled by my hosts. I'm advocating for the cakes and the cherry soup.

During my time in Hungary I enjoyed being shown around the Debrecen Theological University, where I learned about the significance of the city of Debrecen in the development of Calvinist thought during the Reformation. This was particularly interesting as it tied in with the theology subjects I'm studying at university myself. Afterward, I was taken on a walk around Debrecen and through the campus of the University of Debrecen, which was beautiful. Debrecen itself is a quiet and slow city where life seems relaxed – almost serene. On Saturday, there was a service at Arpad Ter church followed by a plaque unveiling to celebrate the church's refurbishment – which looks excellent! A glass plaque, gifted to us from our friends, is on display in our church in Dumfries if you wish to see it.

It was a pleasure to pass on the good wishes of our congregation to our Hungarian friends, who were so pleased to host and give.

Being in Hungary and experiencing such kindness was a reminder of the importance of fellowship with Christians outside our own church, as we can support and learn from each other in both times of joy and need. If given the chance to visit, I'd recommend going without reservation, as the hospitality is superb.

Heather O'Connor

Fairtrade breakfast: This will be held in the Hall on Sunday March 4 from 9.30-11am. Please come and enjoy Fairtrade products, which can all be obtained locally.



Pictures from the Bazaar



Eight-year-old Kirstin Brown assisting Maureen Woods, left, and Louise Jardine with the surprise parcel stall at the Christmas Bazaar.



Bill Holland with his prize teddy bear.



Katie Archibald, right, presenting Dorothy Edwards with her prize cake.