



Christmas Chronicle

December 2018/January 2019



St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church

Minister: Rev David Logan

Tel 01387 270128

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



Triumph for good is on the cards

An anonymous benefactor donated £1000 following a theft of takings from the church's Cards for Good Causes shop.

Two days' worth of takings, amounting to £150, were taken in early November, which would have meant a direct loss to the charities that the shop was set up to help. However, after the news was made public, members of the public came forward to show their support. This resulted in the kind-hearted benefactor making a £1000 donation, with other members of the public opening their hearts and coming forward with donations totalling a further £250.

Our picture shows Rev David Logan and Janet McSherry in the shop after the donations were confirmed.

Hall entry cards

I am again in the process of updating the list of people who hold entry swipe cards for the church hall. I would be obliged if anyone who has a card could please let me know as soon possible. Also if you have a card that you no longer require to return it to me.

You can contact me on 01387 261257, at Kingsacre, 34 Noblehill Avenue, Dumfries DG1 3HR, or by emailing wbswkingsacre@aol.com.

If you require use of the hall for meetings etc you can check out the availability by contacting me as above - don't assume the hall will always be available.

Thank you for your help in this important matter.

Margaret Williamson, Church Hall Diary Keeper



From the Manse

Dear friends,

Having reached a certain age, I tend to look at things with rose-tinted spectacles if truth be told. Somehow the world was a nicer place, summers were hotter, winters were full of snow and sledging and, best of all, at Christmas, selection boxes! These were boxes full of different chocolate bars, and were the best Christmas present ever!

Well this Christmas, both Caerlaverock and St Mary's-Greyfriars' churches are offering you a selection box of Christmas worship and activities, truly something for everyone. From Christmas Bazaars and Advent walks to reflective services, you will be spoiled for choice. Check out the timetable below.

Christmas and the New Year are the time for remembering as well as looking forward. They are a time for presents and family and of happy memories. So often we forget the real reason for our celebrations, which of course is the birth of a tiny baby in a place far away from us. Please, in the midst of your hectic Christmas schedule, pause for a moment to remember the birth of Christ.

While we have not had to seek our troubles in the last year, Catriona and I are extremely grateful to both congregations for your love and support and she joins me in sending you our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Your friend and Minister

Christmas services

December 7	Advent Reflections, 10.30am in Vestry	SMG
December 8	Advent Walk from 9.30am	Caerlaverock
December 14	Advent Reflections, 10.30am in Vestry	SMG
December 21	Advent Reflections, 10.30am in Vestry	SMG
December 21	Christmas service of quiet, 7.30pm	SMG
December 22	Christmas service of quiet, 7.30pm	SMG
December 23	Christmas service of quiet, 7.30pm	SMG
December 16	Family nativity service	SMG
December 23	Family Carol services	Both churches
December 24	A country Kirk at Christmas, 7pm	Caerlaverock

Please note: there is no Watchnight service at St Mary's-Greyfriars' this year.

Timely reminder: Please keep bringing your used postage stamps to church for collection.



Church register

New member – Welcome!

Mrs S Paterson

Death – “I am the resurrection and the life”

November 14: Miss M Stirling

Baptism – “Let the little children come to me”

September 30: Isabelle Anne Kirkpatrick (pictured, right, with her parents Lisa and Gary)

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



What's on ...

December

Saturday 1: Christmas Fayre, 12 noon to 2pm

Tuesday 4: Guild Christmas dinner

Wednesday 5: Garden Club Christmas lunch

Monday 10: Buzz Christmas Party

Tuesday 11: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm

Monday 24: Buzz holiday

January

Monday 7: Buzz holiday

Tuesday 15: Guild Visit to Baptist Church. Meet for 1.30pm

Wednesday 16: Garden Club, Quiz with Anne and Marie

Monday 21: Buzz, Robert Burns, speaker from Ellisland

Tuesday 22: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm

Monday 28: Service and Soup at 12.15pm in the hall

Wednesday 30: Garden Club with Bill Holland

February

Saturday 2: Buzz coffee morning

Monday 4: Buzz, speaker to be arranged



Christmas at Caerlaverock

Here at Caerlaverock, we are planning for Advent and Christmas too. For the last two years we have been led round the Parish by David on our Advent Walk. We meet at the church before going off on a pilgrimage. Every so often we stop and scripture is read and we have a short prayer before moving on. As we do so we are very mindful of the journey made by Mary and Joseph all those years ago.

On return to the church, there is hot spiced apple juice, mince pies, tea, coffee and traybakes to warm us up. After that, those who wish to, stay and decorate the church for Christmas. Why not join us if you have the time? You will be made very welcome!

Our new venture this year is a “Country Kirk at Christmas”. We will have our church specially decorated to bring back memories of Christmas past and we will worship by candlelight. Once again there will be mince pies and refreshments after the service. Come and help us celebrate.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2018: With the help of many members and friends 84 filled shoe boxes, two large bags of additional items (many knitted) and additional donations of £205 were delivered to the lorry on November 5 (in order that they might be prepared and delivered for Christmas). Grateful thanks to all who have supported this very worthwhile effort.

Celtic blessing

This blessing was used at the 70th Annual Reunion of the D&GRI Nurses League Service in the Crichton Church on Sunday October 7.

Ebb and Flow by Dawn Allen

From the flowing of the tide to its ebbing,
From the waxing of life to its waning.

Of Your peace provide us/ Of Your light lead us/
Of Your goodness give us

Of Your grace grant us/ Of Your power protect us/
Of Your Love lift us

And in Your arms accept us/ From the ebbing of the tide to its flowing

From the waning of life to its waxing.



Bill and Anna McGowan with their card from the Queen to mark their diamond wedding. They thank Rev Logan and family and friends for flowers and good wishes following Anna's recent stay in hospital.



From the flower team

The flower list is displayed in the vestibule. There are several vacant spaces 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. The flowers in the church on Sundays are given to members who are ill, housebound or bereaved and are much appreciated.

Flower team contacts: Norna Francis (250199), Moira Cannon (720394) Betty Jardine (257691), Margaret Thomson (253484) or Maureen Wilson (255008).

Notes of thanks

I express my sincere thanks for the flowers I received recently when I was ill. Thanks to Maureen Wilson for delivering these to me and also for the phone call advising me that they were at my door.

Janet McSherry

I would like to say thank you very much for the beautiful roses I received after my stay in hospital. Thanks also to Marion for delivering them and checking how I was recovering.

Bob Sharp

I would like thank you for the lovely flowers delivered after my fall. Many thanks.

Pauline Montgomery

John and Isobel Wright would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers they received to mark their diamond wedding anniversary in September.

I have also been asked to pass on thanks for flowers from Billy and Wilma Harper, Willie and Nancie Howat, Jane Meikle, and Gavin and Thelma Templeton.

From the Buzz

On October 1 we heard from Rolf Buwert on Tear Fund, which he has been involved with for 36 years. Tearfund works around the world, but has a base in London and also an office in Glasgow. We heard about some of the ways which the charity has helped people in the places it works.

Two weeks later we heard from John McVee on a visit to Burma in December 2012 – a country just opening up after very troubled times. Among the many places they visited was Mandalay, where they were unexpectedly met by a white Christmas tree and country music! We had a lovely afternoon hearing about the trip around the country.

On October 29, we were visited by Anne Melville, who is a private podiatrist. She told us about how our feet work and how we can make them more comfortable.

At our meeting of November 12, we heard from John Anstray from the Devils Porridge museum, who showed a film and gave a talk telling us about the history of the factory.

Freda Hunter



From the Guild

For our October meeting Rhian Davies, Active Travel Officer from Sustrans and our local Public Health Department gave us a most interesting talk on local footpaths and walking groups thus encouraging us to get out and walk. She also extolled the virtues of electric bikes as an 'easy' mode of transport. We now all have maps of the Dumfries walks and some physical activity guidelines to follow.

The service on November 18, the first day of Guild Week, was led by our convener, Janette, and a team of Guild members on the theme of One Journey, Many Roads. Afterwards approximately 50 people enjoyed a soup and sweet lunch in the Hall.

Guild members are once again taking up their knitting needles, this time making hats for babies, both premature and full-term, at Cresswell. Please ask any Guild member for a copy of the pattern if you would like to take part in this project.

Our Christmas Dinner is on December 4 at the Woodlands House Hotel and our meeting on 15th January at 1.30pm will be held at the Dumfries Baptist Church Centre when we will be given a tour of the building followed by tea and business.

History has been made this session as we now have our first ever male member on the books! If you would like to come to our meetings you can be sure of a warm welcome.



The Ian Walker band entertained around 100 members, family and friends to a concert of country and gospel music both traditional and modern in the church on October 20. The evening was rounded off with one of the now famous St Mary's-Greyfriars' buffets. Pictured are Ian Walker, left, with his wife Mo and Jimmy Scott after the show.

About the magazine

Welcome to our final issue of 2018. The deadline for our next edition is **Sunday January 20** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always!

Editor: David Bennett

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Call: 01387 263106

Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Minister

Rev David Logan..... 270128/07793 542411

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie 266186

Treasurer

Rod Williamson..... 251876

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Billy Simpson..... 252278



Nine-year-old Kirstin Brown helping sort out the gifts from the St Mary's-Greyfriars' Harvest Festival ready for donating them to the local foodbank.



Session Clerk Anne Mackie, second right, and parish nurse Catriona Logan being presented with a Heart Start Defibrillator for use by people in our church hall by Bobby Wilson, left, chairman of the Dumfries Country Dance Club, and Gavin Foster, their secretary. Club members decided to use surplus funds to buy the equipment for the benefit of all organisations who use the hall.

Elder Emeritus awards



On September 30, two Elders of the Church were awarded Elder Emeritus Certificates. This means that although they no longer take an active role in Kirk Session, they are still Elders of the Church.

We are indebted to Alasdair Miller (left, ordained 1997) and Stan Tanner (ordained 1981), for a combined service of 58 years, carried out in a conscientious and faithful manner, and we give them both our grateful thanks.

Anne Mackie, Session Clerk