



Christmas Chronicle

February/March 2019



Fantastic Fayre

Christmas event was a great success Pages 4-5

St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church

Minister: Rev David Logan

Tel 01387 270128

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



'Time to celebrate faith'

The Moderator is urging people of faith to celebrate our faith and to encourage interfaith understanding and harmony by recognising the common foundations which unite all people of faith.

Rt Rev Susan Brown, who last month visited the Church of South India, says her own understanding of ecumenical and interfaith work has been enriched by meeting and talking with people of other faiths.



"In the Highlands of Scotland there are not so many opportunities to be exposed to those of other religions and faiths," Susan said. "In this year as Moderator, however, I have had the opportunity to share in conversations and meals with people who come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds, both in Scotland and further afield.

"I have visited Christian churches in all sorts of other places: from the Scots Kirk in Rotterdam, to our partners in the Waldensian church in Uruguay, to the Church of South India.

"Often, these places are places where Christianity is just one religion among many and often Christians are in the minority. For many church-goers, life is lived daily with the reality of friends and neighbours who worship not only in different ways, they worship different gods.

"Sometimes that creates difficulties and, in extreme circumstances, it leads to persecution. When that happens all involved are diminished – perpetrators as well as their victims.

"It is also true, however, that often those of different religions are able to live side by side and, in very practical ways, they get on with each other and contribute together to creating healthy, welcoming and inclusive communities where they are.

"In the last few days I have visited several projects in the dioceses of Madras and Coimbatore where the local Christian communities (minorities in their land) are committed to serving those around them with and in the greatest need. They provide schooling and healthcare for the poorest children and have set up schools and homes for those with physical and learning difficulties - children as well as adults – whether they are Christian, Hindu or Muslim.

"One project, supported by the Church of Scotland's HIV programme, offers help to women and children across the faith communities, who have the HIV virus and who are shunned when they go to buy food, or get on a bus and also when it comes to getting work.

"In this project they feel welcomed. As they are. But this cross-faith working together happens in Scotland too. I visited a food bank project in Glasgow Hillhead where the Church opens its premises to those who need food support. Once a month, a group of Muslim women prepare a meal for everyone who comes.

"All religions call for their followers to live respecting themselves, others and the world. We may not all agree theologically, but we do all know the worth and value of each day and of all those who share that day with us. Let's make the time to celebrate that."



From the Manse

Dear friends,

As I write this letter I have to say that things are not clear as to the way ahead. With half the shoots through in the Manse garden it looks as though we are going to have a show of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and tulips all at the same time. Unless, that is, the threatened Arctic Blast kills the lot. We are buffeted too by Brexit – do not worry, the Manse letter is no place for politics – but really I cannot remember a time in my life when the country seems so rudderless. This is a time when nobody seems to know what to do.

It seems such a trite thing to say, but trite or not, the best thing we can do is turn to God and ask him to provide our political leaders with vision to lead us out of this apparently endless conundrum. As the lyrics of the old hymn say

“When we’re weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care

We should never be discouraged, when we take it to the Lord in prayer”

You may wish to come to St Mary’s-Greyfriars’ on Thursday March 28 at 10.30am for a time of quiet prayer to do just that.

We started off the New Year with a very different style of service, which saw our praise being led by our own Heather O’Connor and her friend Sam. We were treated to an hour of lively praise music that certainly blew away the remaining cobwebs of 2018. They will be back to lead us in worship on Easter Sunday – something to look forward to!

May God Bless you.

Your friend and Minister,

Church register

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

November 30: Mr W Simpson

December 19: Mr A King

December 27: Miss M Lind

January 3: Miss J Low

Baptism – “Let the little children come to me”

December 9: Amira Rose Richmond, daughter of Johnathan and Alana

Please let me know of any changes of address:

Marion Bennett, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY.

Tel: 263106.



From the Christmas Fayre







From the flower team

The new flower list for 2019 is now displayed in the vestibule. There are several vacant dates now if anyone would care to make a donation for the church flowers.

No need to be put off by thinking you can't arrange flowers – someone else can do them for you, though we are always pleased when people like to do it themselves.

Many thanks to all volunteers who donate, arrange and deliver flowers. Members of the congregation who are ill, housebound or bereaved receive flowers and they are very appreciative.

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

Notes of thanks

A thank you from Mr and Mrs T Hannah for the lovely Christmas present from the church. It was very much appreciated. They send best wishes to all for 2019.

I have also been asked to pass on thanks for gifts from Mr & Mrs Fraser, Mrs Louise Gourlie, Margaret Wallace, Mrs Mary Wallace, Sally Wilson, and John & Isabel Wright.

Mrs Eleanor Haining sends thanks for the flowers, which were very much appreciated.

Flower rota

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Feb 3 | L Bell |
| Feb 10 | C Proudfoot |
| Feb 17 | C Smail |
| Feb 24 | Vacant |
| Mar 3..... | E Sutherland |
| Mar 10..... | M Dalrymple |
| Mar 17 | M Woods |
| Mar 24 | Vacant |
| Mar 31 | Vacant |
| Apr 7 | Vacant |

From the Buzz

On November 26, we had a St Andrew's afternoon of music with Mike Stenhouse and had a name that tune with songs like Ye Banks and Braes, Loch Lomond, My Love is like a Red Red Rose, Scottish Soldier and many more – we also had a singalong. It was a very happy afternoon with tea to follow.

Our December 10 meeting was our Christmas Party with games and Carol singing, with Anne Mackie playing on our new Keyboard gifted by one of our members.

We had a lovely afternoon tea followed by Christmas gifts. Santa was so busy he didn't manage to visit us, but it was a lovely party.

All are welcome to join us at our meetings.

Freda Hunter



Christian Aid

Lenten Lunches this year will run each Friday from March 8 to April 12 in St John's Church hall from 12 noon to 1.30pm when soup, cheese rolls, T/C will be served. There will be a sales table most days.

Christian Aid Week is May 12-18.

Christian Aid Coffee morning is on Saturday September 21 and will again be held in The Usual Place.

Spring cleaning?

With the Christmas clutter behind us and the thought of spring cleaning to look forward to can we remind you that we are always looking out for good bric-a-brac for our stall at the monthly coffee mornings.

Larger donations can be uplifted if required – just phone 262349 to arrange.



Fairtrade breakfast

Fairtrade Fortnight this year starts on Monday February 25 so you are invited to come and join us for a Fairtrade breakfast in the hall on Sunday February 24 starting at 9.30am and finishing in time for our morning worship at 11.30am.

About the magazine

Welcome to our first issue of 2019. The deadline for our next edition is **Sunday March 24** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always!

Editor: David Bennett

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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

Rod Williamson..... 251876



Janette Kirkpatrick, Guild President, presenting Gillian Boyes, right, from the Birthing Suite at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary with more than 100 baby Beanie Hats that were knitted by Guild members during the recent Guild Week. Looking on are knitters Janet McSherry, Louise Jardine, Janet Thompson and Alison Brown.

From the Guild

Twenty-three members enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal at the Woodland House Hotel at the beginning of December. There was, as always, much laughter and our brains were put to the test with two unusual quizzes. £125 collected that night has been sent to MAF.

Our January meeting took place at the Dumfries Baptist Church Centre. Pastor Alistair Purss gave us a talk on the building's history and we were then shown round by Naomi Platt, Assistant Centre Manager. Our meeting finished with refreshments from the Centre's cafe.

Our February meeting is back in the hall at 1.30pm on Tuesday February 19 when a speaker from Crossreach will tell us about the Guild's project Joining the Dots and a month later on March 19 at 7.30pm Pastor David White will be telling us about his personal One Journey, Many Roads.

The Guild has its coffee morning on Saturday March 2 so there is lots going on.

And finally, over 100 little beanie hats were knitted during Guild week and have been gratefully received by Cresswell.