

Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church

Kirk Matters



'I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who
believes in me should stay in darkness.'

John 12:46

December 2021 - February 2022

December 2021



SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>Notes</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			1	2	3	4 Christmas Concert by Octave
5 Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion	6	7	8 Prayer Group - 2pm	9	10	11
12 Gift Service - 11.00am Quiet Christmas Worship at 6.30pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 Carol Singing in the Church grounds - 3.30pm
19 Sunday School Nativity - 11am	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24 6.30pm - Family Service 11.30pm - Watchnight Service	25 11am - Family Service with the celebration of Holy Communion Christmas Day
26 Sunday Worship - 11am Boxing Day	27	28	29 Quiz Night 7.00pm	30	31 New Years Eve	



On Sunday 5th December 2021 we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion at 11am in the Sanctuary.

We would be delighted to welcome you if you are able to join us.

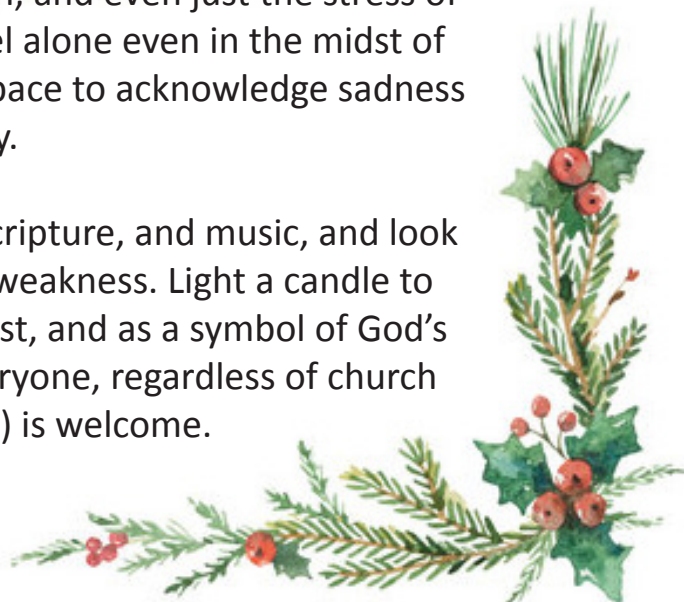
Christmas Gift Service

Our Gift Service will take place on Sunday 12th December. During worship we will collect gifts for Motherwell and District Women's Aid as we have done in the past. This year they would greatly appreciate Gift Vouchers for local supermarkets that can be used to buy food, clothing, toiletries or specific items for women and children using their services. We hope to have some representatives from Women's Aid with us. The children of our Sunday School and Bible Class will each receive a Bible from the Church Family to help with their Christian education.

A Quiet Christmas (Sunday 12th December, 6.30pm)

Christmas can be difficult as well as joyful. The constant happy music, people getting together with family, reminds many of what and whom they have lost. The pain of broken relationships, employment worries, ill health, isolation, and even just the stress of the season can make us sometimes feel alone even in the midst of the celebrating. At times we need the space to acknowledge sadness as well as joy.

Come and join us as we hear prayers, scripture, and music, and look for God's presence that comes in our weakness. Light a candle to give thanks for the memories of the past, and as a symbol of God's light shining even in our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.



From the Manse

In “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”, CS Lewis paints a haunting picture of Narnia, a land under the sway of an evil witch, where it is “always winter, but never Christmas”. (If you have not read the book, it would make a great Christmas present.)

If we were to update Lewis for December 2021, we might describe our situation as a land where it is “always Covid, but never quite normal”. We rejoice in vaccines, and in much of life returned, yet the numbing chill of this pandemic never seems to thaw. If last Christmas we lived in fear and isolation, a year on, and we live in frustration and increasing weariness. (It can’t just be me, can it?)

So, what does Christmas have for us? There is certainly much to cheer us. Among the mince pies, favourite carols, trees, lights, mulled wine, and a wee bit of Slade, only a real Grinch couldn’t find something to distract us from our woes, and cheer our hearts at least for few days. But that’s not really enough, is it? That’s why January can seem so flat.

However, for those who believe in Jesus, Christmas is far more than a bit of mid-winter cheer. It is not a short-term excuse to forget our woes until January’s harsh chill reminds us. Rather, it is a reason to look the darkness right in the face, and to proclaim that, in Jesus, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall never overcome it.” The Gospel story is not magical escapism. It is set in a world of tyrannical empires, and political oppression; a world of shepherds in grinding poverty; a world of a pregnant girl and a scandalised community; a world of homelessness and refugees; a world of violence where grieving mothers would weep for murdered children. Bethlehem was a brutal and unforgiving place that Christmas. There was no escaping the pain, not even for a brief festive moment. And yet, in all of that darkness, the light shone. It still does.

To the lonely – it proclaims God is with us. To the broken – that He comes to save. To the hopeless – that Christ died in our place. To the grieving – that he rose from the dead. To the angry – that he shall come again to judge the living and the dead. To those who despair – that he will restore heaven and earth.

That’s why Christmas preparations for the Church start not with the Christmas tree, or the calendar, but with our Advent prayer, that looks at the brokenness and proclaims in hope: “Come, Lord Jesus”.

So, as we approach this Christmas, I would urge you not to forget your struggles, griefs and frustrations, and have a good time for a season. Rather, bring all your pains and struggles, and hear the message of the God who entered into them, and overcame them all for us.

We will do this at all of our Services. We will particularly do it at our “Quiet service” on the evening of December 12th, where you will be invited to light a candle, you acknowledge your own losses and pains, into which the light shines. We will do it on Christmas Day, when amidst the celebration of young and old, we will share an informal communion, to remember that Christ died for us, but rose again.

It’s usually bad form to spoil the ending of a book – but if you haven’t read to the end of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, be assured, that the Lion returns, the Witch is defeated, and the children of the Wardrobe are crowned as kings. Indeed, winter ends and Christmas is celebrated in joy and hope.

In all your merriment, and in all your pain, may God richly bless you, in this season

Alistair

Kirk Session and Congregational Board

Our Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings have now moved from Zoom to in-person and we are meeting in the Sanctuary to allow us to keep a safe distance from each other.

Over the last few months we have been kept updated with the ongoing work in the Sunday School and Bible Class and are delighted they are able to meet face-to-face every Sunday. We are blessed to have dedicated leaders who are committed to the Christian Education of our children with such a varied programme of activities.

We were also delighted to hear that the Uniformed Organisations are all meeting face-to-face again (within government guidelines) as are the Guild and the Men's Club. It is great to see them all back and the buildings being used more often.

We continue to receive reports each month from the Finance Team on our ongoing financial position and also from the Facilities Group who look after our buildings on our behalf.

Anne Brown, our Presbytery Elder, reports to us each month following the meeting of Hamilton Presbytery. From January next year Hamilton Presbytery will be joining with Lanark Presbytery to form a much larger Presbytery, the name has still to be decided.

On December 5th we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary and this will be the first time we have been able to do this without a restriction on numbers, since February 2020.

As we enter into the Seasons of Advent and then Christmas, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board wish you all a joyous, peaceful and Blessed time as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Helen Lawson
Session Clerk.



Friday Drop-in Cuppa
Dalziel St. Andrew's Church,
Merry Street
1pm-2.30pm

01698 440180

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Befriend  Motherwell



Hi All

Welcome to November/December 2021, hope you are all keeping safe and well. I hope everyone had a great Halloween and Guy Fawkes night. We have all been having fun within the company following badge work, doing physical activities and enjoying parties. We have also enjoyed and took pleasure in Mrs May joining in some of our company evenings, we certainly hope she will be a permanent addition to our team.

Our Festive party this year was to wear as many bright colours as possible. The girls did amazing with bright costumes and our Brigaders spent some time decorating cookies.

We are looking forward to having our Christmas parties on company night heading into December and also we are delighted to have tickets for the Panto in Motherwell Civic Centre. A few of the girls and officers are excited for this to be back on.

The capitation fees this year remain low at £15, to reflect that we would like to encourage as many girls back as possible.

If the girls have made new friends at school or even the ones they already had that didn't come along before, tell them to feel free to bring a friend as all will be made welcome. Hope to see more girls coming along and bringing friends.

We still give updates via the what's app group and 3rd Motherwell Facebook page. You can message 07917356331 or drop and email Sharon_mcgeachie@hotmail.com if you would like further info or just pop along on Wednesday evenings. 6:30 – 8pm.

Hope to see you all soon.

Sharon McGeachie
Captain



The Sisterhood

It is with great sadness that the Sisterhood is closing. It all began in Dalziel North Church 113 years ago when it was introduced on an afternoon for ladies to come along to while the children were at school. The ladies could meet up with other ladies, have a short service of worship and enjoy fellowship together. So many ladies have benefitted from this organisation over the years and one of their highlights was being invited to the Civic Centre in Motherwell to attend a Civic Reception in recognition of their centenary year in 2008.

Over the last few years, the number of ladies attending has decreased due to advancing years and declining mobility and the difficult decision was made to close. Our thanks must go to all those who have helped to keep the Sisterhood running over the years, the Office Bearers, Tea Ladies – and of course, Rollo Brant who helped with this for many years, and pianists, including Roy Clark.

The ladies have agreed to fund an outdoor Christmas Tree in the Church Grounds this year and our thanks go to them for doing this.

We would ask God to bless the ladies of this long lasting and most worthwhile organisation.

The Men's Club for Fellowship

October 4th Our session is now under way with our opening speaker being our Honourable President Rev. Alistair May. This was an opportune evening for our members to "Meet the Minister" and of course for our minister to meet the more senior members of his congregation, or should we say more senior than others. Faith, Hope and Fellowship were part of the topics discussed with Alistair, all were most encouraging given the issues and the effects of those issues which have reached each and every one of us.

October 11th One of our long serving members, Rollo Brant, was due to speak to the members about his experiences as a young boy during the war. Unfortunately, through illness, he was unable to fulfil the engagement. Alex Baird stepped in and spoke about his interest in Robert Burns and his experiences when addressing his audiences - it was hilarious.

October 18th - Our syllabus is full of excellent speakers with wide ranging topics. Tom Purdie spoke about Hearts F C footballers who fought for their Country as a unit during the first world war, many of whom never returned and will always be remembered

October 25th - Our own Bob Burgess set up a quiz night with questions about Motherwell, it's amazing how much was learned about a town we all thought we knew well, for example, question: where will you find the original Netherton Cross?

November 8th – Colin Weir, Captain of 2/4 Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section of The Boys Brigade spoke about the decision taken by the Officers to attempt keeping the boys active during the Covid lockdowns.

This was major, requiring risk assessment and health and safety issues to be considered, all of which were eventually cleared. The boys had a ball, all activities were carried out under canvas, fire pits were used for both cooking and keeping people warm, the boys will never forget this experience.

Our Club session has only just started, we have excellent speakers on football, Bonnie Prince Charlie, HMS Erabus & HMS Terror (dramatized by the BBC), A trip to Normandy, London Docks Railway, Isle of Barra, The Falklands War to name but a few.

Our famous Scots Night on 14th February should be booked early.

If you would like to learn more about our Men's Club please speak to any of our committee or phone Douglas Graham 01698 265453



The new session is now well under way. We have had an excellent turn out of both old and new members who are all enjoying meeting together again after a long break.

We would like to thank our Worship Group who have been leading us in our devotions and welcoming our excellent speakers.

A special thanks to our new pianist Marion Copp.

Our Christmas Carol afternoon will take place on 14th December when we look forward to singing lots of well loved carols followed by tea and Christmas goodies.

Christmas lunch has been booked at the Moorings on 21st December.
May you all have a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Janette Moffat
Secretary

Music at Dalziel St. Andrew's

Advent 2021 and we are in a different place from Advent 2020 and certainly not where we were through Advent 2019. Nothing remains the same in life and we must keep moving forward, trusting in God. We sing to praise Him alone, to give Him the glory He deserves.

Music in Dalziel St Andrew's is different from what have been used to and it is good to have some change and be challenged, even if it takes us out of our comfort zone. One thing that has not changed and will never change is the Christmas message. God sent His Son, into our broken world, as an innocent Baby. I am reminded of the worship song by Tim Hughes:

***'Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.
So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me
And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.'***

Singing continues to be a challenge through masks, but remember this is to try and keep others and ourselves safe. We look forward to the day when once again it is safe for the choir to stand together and sing in 4-part harmony without wearing masks leading the congregation in song.

We have been fortunate in gaining 3 new choir members and would like to welcome David and Marian and also William who joined our group in September. We hope you enjoy singing with us and joining in the fellowship and laughter! New members are always welcome, you just need to enjoy singing.

Over the past few months we have appreciated small groups of singers to help lead our worship. Andrew, Brian, Daniel, Fraser, Jim and Rebecca all agreed to sing.....and sometimes join in with the actions of some hymns for the children. We offer them our thanks and trust they are able to continue until the situation changes.

For a number of years Christmas carols were sung throughout Advent, but they tend to jump ahead through this time of waiting. There is not a huge number of Advent carols to use, but we will all try to remain patient until we get a bit closer to Christmas.

Throughout the last 18 months or so life has become a time of waiting. We don't like waiting. We are a society of getting and doing.... now! I want to share some words from this song by Graham Kendrick.

***So many centuries of watching and waiting
But when the moment came well nobody saw
Traders and travellers hurried by
And life went on just like before
In all the clamour just a new Baby crying
One more poor family shut out in the cold
Nothing unusual sad to say
Hasn't it always been this way?***

***But nothing will ever be the same again
This night has changed everything
Nothing will ever be the same again
Since the night He came.
(Rumours of Angels)***

Let us remain patient through Advent until it is time to sing:

'Joy to the world, the Lord is come!'

'Come and join the celebration'

'Love came down at Christmas'

...and so many more.



**Eric Geddes
Musical Director**

Prayer

Loving God, the great festival of Christmas is drawing nearer and we are busy preparing for it – choosing presents, writing cards, planning get-togethers, buying food – so much that has become an accepted and expected part of this season. Yet, in all the hustle, we so easily forget what matters most: responding to the gift of Your Son.

Gracious God we thank you for the joy you have brought to so many through the birth of Jesus: teach us to celebrate that truth today and in the days ahead. May God surround you all with His love, His joy, His peace and His quiet understanding each day.

**Amen
Joy to the world!**



When the children came back to Sunday School & Fusion after the holidays we decided, due to a variety of reasons, to change the groups.

There are no children attending the Beginners Group on a regular basis, albeit from September we will have 1, and we only have 8 regular attenders on the Primary Department. We therefore decided to trial Primary and Juniors together, but Fusion would remain separate. We would do this until the October week and have a further meeting to decide the way forward.

We continued to use SU Material for the time being with some of the leaders researching what other lesson/material we could use.

The attendance since August has been very similar to just before the holidays with quite a few children not yet returning.

As agreed, we had a further meeting in October and it was decided that the current working of Beginners, Primary and Juniors was not viable and that we should revert to the groups we had

- Beginners -3 – 5 years old
- Primary – P1 to P3
- Juniors P4 – P6 and
- Fusion P7 – S1

At present Beginners will meet with Primary and both this group and Juniors will meet in the same hall. All this will take place in the new session after Christmas. It has also been agreed that from January 2022 we will be using the new Heartlands material which we can purchase from the GLO Centre. The leaders have been looking at this material and are very keen to use it as they feel the children will certainly enjoy it.

I should also say at this point that I am still looking for leaders or, if you do not want to commit to that, helpers that would be willing to be included on the rota to help with the Primary and Junior classes. If you would be willing to do this, please contact me.

At present the children are busy practicing for this year's Nativity which will take place on 19th December 2021 – a date for your diary as I am sure, like me, you all look forward to watching the children perform. I would also like to thank Lorna Geddes and Linda Simpson for their help with the Nativity which they give every year.

The Book & Gift Service this year will be on 12th December 2021 where all the children will be presented with a copy of the Hands On Bible which they will be encouraged to bring to Sunday School & Fusion every week. It has been suggested that the gifts this year should comprise of supermarket gift vouchers or ladies and children's pyjamas.

A newsletter has been issued to the parents of all the children in the register to let them know what is happening in Sunday School & Fusion over the next few weeks to try and encourage those who have not yet returned to church to do so. We can only pray that they will do so.

As usual a big thank goes to the leaders of our Sunday School & Fusion and I would ask that you continue to keep them in your prayer as they continue to teach and encourage our children to learn about God, the Bible and God's will for each and every one of us.

All that remains for me now is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2022.

With warm Christian love

Jean Stevenson

Sunday School & Fusion Coordinator

Property Update

Replacement of Under Floor Heating Pipes

In recent months we have experienced two severe leaks under the sanctuary. Unfortunately, investigations have concluded that much of the heating pipework beneath our sanctuary has corroded and requires to be replaced. This was quite a shock as it was only installed in 2012. However, the Church of Scotland's heating consultant has advised that this is a widespread fault with materials generally used at that time, and this has only recently come to light. In short, nobody is to blame.

Our consultant is securing tenders for the replacement work, which we anticipate will begin early in the new year. The work will take several weeks, during which time our sanctuary will be out of use. We anticipate that services will be in the hall during this period, but the details have still to be worked out. The Kirk Session will keep you informed as things become clearer.

If you wish further details on this matter please speak to Ian Mathie or Alex Baird

Halls Work

We have identified an outbreak of rot in the fascia boards all round the eaves of our church halls. A contract is due to start in January to eradicate the rot and to cover the repaired fascia boards with PVC sheeting which will help greatly with ongoing maintenance.

In addition we plan to replace the door screen entry to the halls. The existing doors (now almost 60 years old) are not suitable for modern access, particularly for those with mobility aids. The ramp is also too narrow for modern mobility devices and will be widened with new handrails added.

These projects will be carried out by R.Rogan Limited who tendered the lowest amount in the tendering process organized by our Conservation Architect, LBG Waterston of Bothwell.

We are indebted to Awards for All, Viridor Credits and The National Churches Trust for their financial assistance which has enabled these projects to proceed.

Alex Baird
(Member of Facilities Group)



ALL AGE QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 29th December
7.00pm

Refreshments and light-bites

All proceeds will go to Tearfund

Contact the church office on 01698 264097 for more information and to book.



What's on...

Sunday

10.00am - Morning Worship

10.00am - Sunday School

Monday

5.15pm - Rainbows

6.00pm - Brownies

6.30pm - Guides

Tuesday

2.00pm - Midweek Service/Guild (week about)

Wednesday

6.00pm - Girls' Brigade

7.30pm - Choir

Friday

1.00pm - Befriend Motherwell Drop-in Cuppa

6.00pm - Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

6.30pm - Boys' Brigade Junior Section

7.30pm - Boys' Brigade Company Section

Church Directory

Minister	Alistair May	01698 211 106
Session Clerk	Helen Lawson	01698 374 426
Deputy Session Clerk	Eric Geddes	01698 239 244
Church Treasurer	Kirsty McMaster	01698 251 618
Boys' Brigade	Colin Weir	07736 285 850
Girls' Brigade	Sharon McGeechie	07917 356 331
Guides	Fiona Sharkey	07403 155303
Men's Club	Douglas Graham	01698 265453
Guild	Janette Moffat	01698 355929
Choir	Eric Geddes	01698 239244
Prayer Group	Anne Kerr	01698 267113

Gone But Not Forgotten



Mrs Margaret Barrowman,
Summerlee Care Home, Coatbridge

Mrs Jean Melvin,
Burnside Court, Motherwell

Mrs Margaret Marshall,
Avon Street, Motherwell

All safe in the arms of Jesus.

Deliveries

We are hoping at this point to return to the magazines being delivered as we did pre-Covid. If any of you who did previously visit are no longer able to do so, can you please let me know as soon as possible. If anyone would like to start delivering please also get in touch with me.

Helen Lawson

Next Edition...

Please send your contributions for the next edition of Kirk Matters to the church office, either via email office@dlsa.org.uk or by post no later than Sunday 5th February 2022.

www.dalzielstandrews.org.uk



Believing in Christ - Belonging to Christ - Becoming like Christ

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