

No. 402**Advent 2015**46 Mid Street
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Dear Friends,

I wonder, how easy it would be for us to get through December without singing or hearing carols and Christmas songs? Unless we lock ourselves in a soundproof room for a few weeks, I'd think it pretty impossible. We hear them everywhere – not just in church but in shops and through various media.

Some may weary of them, as they perhaps weary of Christmas generally. Yet, in a vain attempt to purge ourselves of all the frivolity and myth of the season, we risk losing it all – the snippets of truth and meaning that do exist.

Don't misunderstand me, some of what we sing is nonsense! Take my favourite carol (especially when sung to the tune by Harold Darke), "In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone ..." really, in the autumn in Palestine? Or "the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes..." I suspect not! So because they don't meet our editorial standards should we just bin them, remove them from our "play list"? I'd suggest not!

The Advent and Christmas seasons offer opportunities, perhaps unlike any other time of the year, for all of our senses to be engaged and stimulated. Over the years in our family we learned to appreciate the full sensory experience that the Christmas period brings, including the touching of those inner senses of imagination and spirit. In spite of the imperfections of our meagre efforts to understand and celebrate the turning point of human history, God still seems able to speak to the world.

It appears that God has always turned to the unlikely and the improbable, even the imperfect, as channels for communication, whether the prophets of old or the church of the present day.

Somehow - and perhaps this is part of the mystery and miracle of the season - little fragments of truth can shine through the trappings, morsels of mystery can emerge from the myth, and through it all we strangely find our minds stirred and our hearts warmed.

Wishing you each every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Kevin

CHURCH ROLL**2015****Death** **Mrs Janet Wallace, 15 Leven Place, Kinross****Transfer** **Mr David Smith, Mrs Rose Smith to Templehall Parish Church**

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FLOWER SERVICE ROTA**2015**

November	1	Mrs A. Allan
	8	Remembrance
	15	Mr D. Fairgrieve
	22	Mrs L. Lowe
	29	A friend
December	6	Mrs V. Graham
	13	Mrs P. Mackie
	20	Evergreens
	27	Evergreens

2016

January	3	Mrs S. Forsyth
	10	-
	17	Mrs G. Wallace
	24	-
	31	Mrs L. Bushnell
February	7	Mrs A. Collins
	14	Mrs M. Kelly
	21	Thinking Day
	28	Mrs J. Ingles
March	6	Mrs D. Hogg
	13	Mrs N. McLean
	20	Mrs S. Adamson
	27	Easter

Many thanks to the friends who so willingly supplied the flowers over the past months, as these bring so much pleasure to all and are greatly appreciated. If you would like to provide flowers for the church please contact Sonia Forsyth (651852).

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IN RECENT WEEKS

Harvest

Harvest was celebrated in September with a lovely display in the church including flowers, fresh produce and non-perishable food which was taken to the Kirkcaldy Foodbank for distribution to families and individuals around the Kirkcaldy area. A big thank you to everyone who contributed. An email was received to thank us for our contribution.



Shoebox appeal

A good number of folk packed a shoebox this year. These will be taken to young people overseas by the organisation Samaritan's Purse. Thank you to everyone taking part.



West End Congregational Church
Kirkcaldy

Rev Kevin Flett

Please accept our sincere thanks for the very generous donations made during your recent harvest festival.

The Foodbank volunteers have been overwhelmed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of all the churches and schools who decided to give some (or all) of their donated non-perishable goods to help increase the foodbank stocks which in turn goes to help those desperate families in need in our area.

Please pass on our and their thanks to all involved.

Kind regards

Kerry Horsburgh
On behalf of Kirkcaldy Foodbank



Freedom Matters & Chora Chori

It was good to welcome Philip Holmes to our service on 15 November, and to be brought up to date with developments in the work of Freedom Matters and its sister charity Chora Chori (this means "children" in Nepalese). Recent work includes the development and reconstruction of schools and the supply of emergency aid following the devastating earthquakes. Work is also ongoing to repatriate children from India and bring them back to their families and communities in Nepal. During the service a cheque was presented, most of which was gathered from the "loose change" which many of you bring along to church each week. Thank you one and all.



THE INCARNATION

I will not sing of shepherds
 Watching flocks on frosty nights,
 Or angel choristers.
 I will not sing of a stable bare in Bethlehem,
 Or lowing oxen,
 Wise men trailing star with gold,
 Frankincense, and myrrh.
 Tonight I will sing praise to the Father
 Who stood on heaven's threshold
 And said farewell to His Son
 As he stepped across the stars
 To Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
 And I will sing praise to the infinite, eternal Son,
 Who became most finite, a baby
 Who would one day be executed for my crime.
 Praise Him in the heavens,
 Praise Him in the stable,
 Praise Him in my heart.
 (*Joseph Bayly*)

PRAYERS FOR HOME

These are advent prayers linked to the lectionary readings for the month, taken from the publication "Feasting on the Word."

Morning Prayers

Thank you, good and gracious God,
 for the morning light,
 for another day in which to live out what it means to have you magnified in my soul
 and the souls of those around me in the world.
 Teach me the meaning of "let it be to me according to your word."
 Show me how to trust; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Good and gracious God
 we give thanks that you have made incarnate in the world
 the breath of life, the life of hope.
 Keep us safe through the night, that in the morning we may again rejoice
 and live in peace with all creation; in Jesus' name. Amen.

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SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COMMUNION ROTA

Door Duty Groups:

I	R. MacMillan	A. Collins	D. Allan
II	J. Hutson	A. Adamson	D. Galloway
III	D. Fairgrieve	L. Bushnell	E. Kirkhope

(Group members should arrange cover if they are unable to be present)

		Group	Church Officer	Communion Servers
November	1	II	D. Galloway	A. Adamson & D. Galloway
	8	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	15	I	E. Rennie	
	22	II	J. Hutson	
	29	III	L. Bushnell	
December	6	I	R. MacMillan	
	13	II	A. Adamson	
	20	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	27	Joint service to be held in the Pathhead Church		
January	3	III	L. Bushnell	D. Fairgrieve & L. Bushnell
	10	I	R. MacMillan	
	17	II	J. Hutson	
	24	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	31	I	R. MacMillan/ D. Allan	
February	7	II	A. Adamson	
	14	III	L. Bushnell/ E. Kirkhope	
	21	I	D. Allan	
	28	II	D. Galloway	
March	6	III	E. Kirkhope	D. Fairgrieve & L. Bushnell
	13	I	R. MacMillan	
	20	II	A. Adamson	
	27	III	D. Fairgrieve	
April	3	I	R. MacMillan	
	10	II	J. Hutson	
	17	III	L. Bushnell	
	27	I	D. Allan	
May	1	II	D. Galloway	A. Adamson & D. Galloway
	8	III	E. Kirkhope	
	15	I	R. MacMillan	
	22	II	A. Adamson	
	29	III	D. Fairgrieve	

DATES FOR 2016

Thinking Day service:	21 February
Good Friday & Easter:	25 / 27 March
Church Meetings:	March (AGM); July; November
Communion:	03 January; 06 March; 01 May; 03 July; 04 September; 06 November
Newsletter:	Deadline for contributions, 14 February; 05 June; 30 October Ready for distribution, 06 March; 03 July; 20 November
Coffee Days:	Second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Tea and Coffee are served following the service on the Sundays after the Coffee Day.

AUTUMN CHURCH MEETING

A number of matters were brought to the church meeting which will be of interest to the whole congregation. A professional survey of the church building had been undertaken a few weeks previously and a report was submitted to the Trustees. A summary of this report was highlighted at the church meeting.

Overall the building is in a condition which reflects its age (around 140 years old), and it is recommended that a timetable of works be planned over the next five years and beyond to meet current regulatory requirements, to repair and renew parts of the building (especially the roof of the main building) and to then ensure ongoing maintenance.

There will be costs involved in this work, some of which it is hoped can be covered by accessing funds which are available for historic and listed buildings.

The trustees were able to report that a settlement had been agreed with Orange, over the ending of the contract for the lease of the church tower. This settlement goes some way towards meeting the cost of the initial work requiring to be carried out. The meeting recorded its appreciation to the Secretary of the Trustees for his perseverance in pursuing settlement.

A development plan for the life of the church was presented, copies of this had been previously circulated, outlining some of the ideas gathered during the conversations which had taken place in September. We will look to continue developing our worship, and how we can bring folks together more regularly through the week. We agreed to purchase a projector for use on occasional Sundays.

OPERATION MANNA

The Second World War was weeks away from ending.

The statistics for Bomber Command are quite frightening to look at. For every 100 airmen 45 were killed with 6 seriously injured.

The population in the Netherlands were destitute and starving, forced to boil tulip bulbs to survive.



In the latter stages of the war who better to stage a humanitarian air lift of food to over 1 Million starving people of the Netherlands in Operation Manna, the RAF aided by the Americans through Operation Chowhound.

In April 1945 Operation Manna through the RAF and the Americans carried out the necessary air lift of over 11000 tons of food and supplies to the Netherlands.

A floral Mosaic created by the internationally renowned designer Jan Guidemond has been gifted to the city of Lincoln by the Dutch Government. The Mosaic was planted on the 25th September 2014 in a ceremony on the east lawn of Lincoln Cathedral, in partnership with the International Bomber Command Centre and JUB Holland the bulb growers. The Mosaic consists of 40000 bulbs depicting a Lancaster bomber parachuting necessary supplies.

I received a surprise invitation in the post to attend an unveiling ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of "Operation Manna" at Lincoln on the 21st April 2015.

The invitation received from "The Trustees of the LBCM Trust and Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands".

You will see that the Mosaic was in full bloom for the unveiling ceremony held on the East Lawn of Lincoln Cathedral on the 21st April 2015.

New Bomber Commands Air Crew and Ground Crew story is being told and fittingly remembered.

Bob Terras



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Leaders from both the Pathhead and West End churches met in September to plan our activities over the Advent and Christmas periods. The aim was to coordinate what we both did, to look at some things we could do together, and to make sure that individual activities didn't clash if possible. The following programme was agreed by both church meetings.



Advent week 1

Sunday 29 November

Morning Services as normal in both churches

Wednesday 02 December

Advent Reflection, West End, 8 – 8.20am

Monday 30 November – Saturday 05 December

West End Fair and Craft Fair, 10am – 2pm daily

Advent week 2

Sunday 06 December

Morning Services as normal in both churches

Wednesday 09 December

Advent Reflection, West End, 8 – 8.20am

Saturday 12 December

Christmas Coffee Day, West End, 10am – 2pm

Advent week 3

Sunday 13 December

Morning Service, Pathhead, 10am

Gift Service, West End Church, 11.15am

(toys brought for Fife Women's Aid)

Carol Concert, with the Carefree Chorus

West End, 4pm, followed by Christmas Tea

Advent Reflection, West End, 8 – 8.20am

Wednesday 16 December

Advent week 4

Sunday 20 December

Carol Service, Pathhead, 10am, followed by Christmas lunch

Carol Service, West End, 11.15am, followed by Tea & Coffee

Wednesday 23 December

Advent Reflection, West End, 8 – 8.20am

Christmas Eve

Christmas Communion Service, Pathhead, 7pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Family Service, West End, 11am

Christmas Sunday (27 Dec)

**Joint Service (Lessons & Carols) Pathhead, 10am
(no service in West End)**

New Year Sunday (03 Jan)

**Joint Communion Service, West End, 11.15am
(no service in Pathhead)**

Leaflets and invitations will be available at different times for you to pass on to family, friends and neighbours to invite them along to our different events.

WEST END CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

STANDING ORDER REQUEST

Bank or Building Society:

Sorting Code: [.] – [.] – [.]

Account Number:

Name of Account to be Debited:

Payment to be made to: West End Congregational Church
 Account No. 00518006
 Sorting Code 80 16 84
 Bank of Scotland
 PO Box No. 10,
 Carberry Road,
 Mitchelston Industrial Estate,
 Kirkcaldy. KY1 3PA.

Amount: £.....

Frequency: [e.g. Monthly]

Payment Date: [e.g. 5th of Month]

Starting Date: [e.g. Today's Date]

Narrative:

[e.g. Offering - West End Congregational Church]

Customer Authority: Please Debit my / our Account with payments shown above.

Signature Date.....