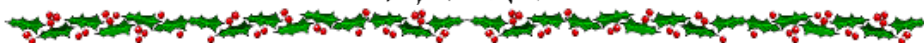


Locum Minister:
Rev R Duncan, 25 Rowan Avenue, Kirriemuir, DD8 4TB
Tel 01575 573973

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May we wish our readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas



Interim Moderator: Mr Gavin Drummond
8 Turfbeg Rise, Forfar DD8 3LW Tel 01307 463011

Dear friends,

How quickly time moves these days, doesn't it – or maybe that is a sign of getting older! Here we are, well into the Advent season, with all the preparations for Christmas underway or awaiting us. As I write the radio news is full of road traffic problems caused by the first fall of snow at low level, fortunately for us it seems to be mostly confined to the west of Scotland but, inevitably, it will head our way!

Advent is the time in the Church when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and if we are to get the full significance of that fantastic gift we need to take time to clear our minds of all the detail that we contend with. Easily said I hear you say because there is so much to do, the cards to write, the presents to buy, the food to prepare, the decorations to put up, the parties and so much more if we are to have everything ready for Christmas. Oh, and I forgot to mention the services in the Churches! Both St. Andrew's and Oathlaw Tannadice have a range of services throughout Advent leading to the Christmas celebrations, which are listed elsewhere in the "Link." As well as preparing for the coming of Jesus this is also a good time for us to prepare for the coming of a new minister, whenever that may be. This is a good time for all members to commit to stepping up their involvement in the life of the congregations. So, if you have not been in church regularly of late, can I ask you to plan to attend more often, if you are able? That will provide encouragement to Mr. Duncan and the office bearers who are working so hard to keep the life of the congregations lively and active.

It has been said that *"if you take Christ out of Christmas, all you are left with is M & S!"* And there is a real danger that, for a huge part of the community, they have taken Christ out of Christmas. A survey showed that, among under thirties, more people knew about the programmes they would watch on television than they did about the reason for Christmas. Only 28% could name the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus, and only one in five knew that the king who ordered the killing of boys under two years of age was called Herod. In contrast 64% could name the detective who drove a red Jaguar as Morse! So maybe it is at this Christmas time that we have to set out to change that perception and to shout out with joy, anticipation and excitement that Jesus is the reason for the season.

So, as we move through the Christmas season and into a new year, a year we look forward to with hope and expectation, Muriel and I wish you and all your loved ones a restful and blessed Christmas.

Gavin Drummond

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

We were delighted to be associated with the 100th birthday celebrations of St Andrew's oldest member, Mrs Louie Peffers, Cairnie Lodge Home, Arbroath. The Kirk Session sent a card of congratulations and a bouquet of flowers with all our very best wishes.

ST ANDREW'S LUNCH CLUB

The ladies are so pleased that the lunches served are enjoyed by all who come. The Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 20 December. This will be a delicious 3 course meal and instead of the usual £3, donations are requested, the money being divided between the church and a chosen charity. This year it has been decided to support a Project in Panihata, Bangladesh nominated by Angus Presbytery. The money is used to fund a nurse who works in the maternity unit of a clinic there, ensuring babies are delivered safely.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

It is our linked charges' turn to provide a Commissioner to the General Assembly next year and Mr John Ray, Wester Logie, will represent both congregations in Edinburgh in May.

SPLASH 2011

Thanks to everyone who supported this annual community event. The St Andrew's envelope appeal raised £527, and the share of the total profit from the day was £2,200.00. This has been divided and distributed to the charities chosen by St Andrew's Congregational Board, namely; the Macmillan Cancer Local Committee, Rotary Club of Kirriemuir Bosnia Fund and Operacion San Andres.

Many thanks for the articles that keep this magazine going. If you have any suggestions on how we can make it more interesting for you, or you would like to help in putting it together, please get in touch with Helen Main, St Andrew's or Jean Wilkie, Tannadice at any time.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 13th	Tannadice – praise led by Brechin City Band St Andrew's – praise led by Forfar Instrumental Band Gift Service at both churches. (Please mark you gift "boy" or "girl", and for the appropriate age group).
Sunday 18th	Tannadice – Sunday School Nativity Play. Christmas Breakfast afterwards. St Andrew's – Sunday School Nativity Play.
Thursday 22nd	Carol Singing at Storyville Residential Home, Kirriemuir at 6.30 pm.
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service at St Andrew's – 6.30 pm No Watchnight Service at St Andrew's 11.15 pm Watchnight Service at Tannadice. Retiring collection on behalf of The Kate Simpson Fund. Mulled wine and shortbread will be served in the vestibule after the service.
Christmas Day	Christmas Day Service at Tannadice – 9.45 am. Christmas Day Service at St Andrew's 11.15 am Children are encouraged to bring along their favourite Christmas gift.

Sunday 1 January – Services at usual times at both churches.

Village Carolling

As in previous years members are invited to take part in Carol Singing round Tannadice Village at a date to be announced nearer the time. Tea and Coffee with mince pies will be served after the event.

*Love came down at Christmas;
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign.
Christina Rossetti*

Social Events at St Andrew's Church

The Harvest Supper in October was a very cheerful, informal evening enjoyed by 56 people. Jim Smith compered the evening in his own inimitable style, and entertainment was provided by Bill Carr and Peter Dick, Bill Hutcheson and Pat Newman. Thanks to all who came and thanks to the social committee for organising the event.

A **Christmas Fayre** was held on the last weekend of November and thankfully the snow stayed away this year.

The Guild's cake and candy stall was laden with lots of goodies, and the hampers were won by Mrs Margaret Inglis, Mrs Margaret McLaggan, Mrs Christine Tosh and Mrs Alice Whitton..The Christmas cake was won by Miss Ruth Fraser. The gift stall included lovely handmade items and Sandy Willkie's framed pictures and calendars with local scenes were very popular. There are still some available so contact Sandy if you want one.

A cup of tea with Christmas pie and

Come and enjoy an evening of toe-tapping Scottish music featuring the
Angus and Strathspey Reel Society Orchestra
on Saturday 18 February 2011

To be held in the church - details will be announced shortly

KIRRIEMUIR CHURCHES TOGETHER

January 25 th	- St Mary's Church
February 29 th	- St Andrew's Church
March 28 th	- "Bridges", High Street

All meetings start at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Tannadice Church Events Committee

Our Interim Moderator, Gavin Drummond, conducted our **Harvest Festival Service** on Sunday 23rd October. For the first time in Tannadice visual aid equipment was used to enhance the presentation of the service, which was based on the Harvest Pack provided by Self Help Africa. Afterwards the gifts of produce, flowers etc, were auctioned through the kind offices of Pat Lawson and the sum of £300.00 was raised for the Charity. Thanks to all who donated to this worthwhile cause to encourage the peoples of Africa who struggle on a daily basis just to get one decent meal.

A **very successful Musical Evening** was held on Friday 21 October with £400 being raised for our Missionary Partners, Operacion St. Andres of Lima, Peru.

Bill MacDonald again hosted the evening and the Northmuir WRI Choir, conducted by Nancy Davidson, came along to entertain us. In addition, Davina Farquharson, Zoë Innes, the Wee Macks and Jean Wilkie also performed. John Fife from St. Margaret's Church was a late replacement for Bob

Wallace and Allan Thompson and his selection of stories and song was most enjoyed. As always Bill McDonald kept things moving along and the audience enjoyed a break when refreshments were provided during the interval. Thanks are due to all who came along and it was good to welcome many of our friends from Kirriemuir St Andrew's.

Quiz Night and Dream Auction

This was held in Memus Hall on Friday 18 November and raised £1166 for Church Funds. Very many thanks are due to Isla and David Monteith and their extended family for organising the function. Over 100 attended all had a very enjoyable quiz hosted by Claire and Colin Farquharson. Pat Lawson conducted the Dream Auction and thanks are due to him and all who donated Pledges and Prizes for the evening.

Once again everyone who attended is to be thanked for their support in helping with the work of the Church in these difficult times.

Christmas Quiz

Our Annual Christmas Quiz is on **Friday 16 December** in the extension at Tannadice Church. The evening, in aid of World Mission to Nepal will be a Buffet Supper at a cost of £12.00 per head. Tickets for this evening prove to be scarce so anyone wishing to attend should contact John Rome on 850493 without delay.

The quiz (organised by Nancy Davidson) is interspersed between courses and is a popular event on the Church's social calendar. John is holding his usual Music Quiz based on Strictly Come Dancing Music and Dances.

And for the New Year -

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Tannadice Church Extension will resume on Saturday 4th February and on the 1st Saturday of each month through to June. Members are invited to come along for a chat at these enjoyable get-togethers.

Operacion St. Andres

A Fund Raising Evening for the above Charity will be held on **Friday 24^h February 2012**. This will be a Mediterranean Evening and full details will be announced to the Congregation after the Events Committee meets in January.

OUTREACH - 2011

At this festive time of the year we think of the disadvantaged in our own area and the world beyond. Tannadice supports local Social Services with the donation of gifts brought by Members and Friends to the Christmas Carol Service. In addition our Christmas Quiz raises funds for the Church's World Mission for Children in Nepal.

To date this year the generosity of those who attend the Outreach Events and made donations has raised £1750 with £725 going to our Missionary Partners Operacion St. Andres in Peru and £300 to Self Help Africa. The Sunday School through Coffee Mornings, support a Child in Nepal with Plan International and after Service Sunday Coffee and Bronze Collection has to date donated £240 to Christian Aid Scotland. In addition other fundraising events supported the Kate Simpson Cancer Fund, the East Africa Famine and British Legion Poppy Appeals. Thanks are due to members and friends of the congregation who give full-hearted support to these Charities as part of their Christian Stewardship.

The Congregational Board is highly grateful to all who have contributed to this year's Outreach and to the Events Committee for their organisation of the functions held.

John Rome

PARISH REGISTER

OBITUARIES

Mrs Elizabeth Clarke, Old Roman Road, Westmuir, Kirriemuir.

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"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years. Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

George Matthew Adams