

From the Manse

Dear friends,

I don't know about you, but I'm wondering what has happened to 2015. It seems to have disappeared in a flash. Perhaps that's because much of our poor summer has been wiped from memory, or perhaps it's because we've been doing different things that come at us in a rush and pass all too quickly.

This past year has seen the introduction of a number of new things, most especially in our worship. At Tannadice we've changed the shape of the service a little and now have the Sunday school coming in at the end. This allows them to show the rest of the congregation what they have been up to (with thanks to the leaders who now have a deadline to cope with). It's also been good to have some of our young people contribute to our worship at other times. At our Remembrance service, all three readers, representing the Scouts and the Brownies, happened to come from our Sunday school. It is good see such confident young people willing to participate in this way.

At both churches we've introduced café-style services. This gives us an opportunity to speak to each other about our faith, and to share our understanding and experience. Although not to everyone's taste, they have been well-received, certainly judging from the buzz that comes from the gatherings. We will continue to try new things as we explore ways of expressing our faith in worship.

When we celebrate Christmas, it seems to me that we are celebrating God doing 'a new thing'. Having spoken through the prophets, it seems that God wanted us to know first-hand what it meant to be part of His people. What better way than to show us in person? God 'engages' with us directly, first through Jesus, then through His Spirit. Our 'new things' should help us to engage more directly in our worship and in our faith. May this Christmas bring you the blessings and peace of the God who wants us to know Him.

John

St Andrew's Lunch Club

Numbers attending have been steady and the next dates are **1st and 15th December** when a delicious 3 course Christmas meal will be served. The team of ladies who organise the fortnightly Tuesday lunches, look forward to welcoming folk - good food and chat is guaranteed!



**The
Guild**

At St Andrew's we celebrated Guild Week in November with a "do it ourselves" afternoon and at time of writing, we look forward to welcoming Malcolm McBeath on 24th November showing his photography skills. Our Christmas party is on December 8th and we begin the New Year with a talk by Rev John Orr on **January 19th**. Everyone is made most welcome – so please join us in the New Year.

Charlotte Brown



Our first Messy Church of the New Year will be on Saturday 23 January 2016 in St Andrew's Church Hall from 10.30 to 12 noon. A time to worship, to share food, to be creative and to learn about Jesus. It's fun, it's busy, it's tiring, but so worthwhile!

Please feel free to drop and see what goes on and enjoy a tea or coffee.

Wendy Smeaton

Important Intimation

The number of members coming to Sunday worship has fallen and yet the church is heated whether it is 25 or 55 people attending. The Kirk Session has decided that, during the months of January and February, the boardroom will be used as it will accommodate the number of people who have been attending. This will cut down on heating costs.

Alex Rae, Session Clerk

Christmas Celebrations

Oathlaw Tannadice Church:

- 13 Dec 9.45 am * Christmas Gift service with Brechin City Band
20 Dec 9.35 am Nativity Service followed by Brunch
24 Dec 11.15 pm Watchnight Service. Join us for mulled wine and shortbread after the service.
27 Dec 9.45 am Catch-up Carols - the favourite carols we didn't get a chance to sing.

Kirriemuir St Andrew's Church:

- 13 Dec 11.15 am *Christmas Gift service with Forfar Instrumental Band
20 Dec 11.15 am Nativity Service
24 Dec 6.30 pm Family Nativity Service – retiring collection for the RAF Benevolent Fund
27 Dec 11.15 am Catch up Carols – the favourite carols we didn't get a chance to sing.

*Please mark you gift “boy” or “girl”, and for the appropriate age group. These will be passed to the Angus Social Work Department for delivery to families in need at this time.

“No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.”

John Betjeman

Christmas Quiz

The Annual Quiz and Supper will be held in the Extension of Tannadice Church on Friday 11 December. Tickets costing £15.00 can be obtained from John Rome on 01241 85876 in advance if required.

Kirrie Churches Together

At the switching on of the lights in the Square on 28 November, members of the group will be serving hot chocolate and distributing leaflets will all the dates and time of Christmas services in the area.

The first meeting in 2016 will be on 27 January in Bridges hosted by Strathmore Christian Fellowship at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Coffee Time at St Andrew's
starts on Saturday 23 January at 10.00 am.**

Toasted fruit loaf, pancake or a scone, tea or coffee for still
only a £1. Delicious home baking for sale.
We will be delighted to see you.

Parish Register

Funerals

At St Andrew's

Molly Williamson, Kirriemuir

At Oathlaw Tannadice

David Monteith, Tannadice

Anne – perhaps these could be used in the magazine if there is space?

Reflections

Everything changes year by year,
And some things, day by day,
Lord, give me courage, strength and hope
As time just slips away.
Sometimes I feel I'm left behind
The world seems harsh and new,
But nature shows me peace and calm
And helps me turn to you.

I can't go back, except in thought,
So I must look ahead
And see the beauty and the joy
Around the path I tread.
So on the journey of my life
Though many things seem strange,
Lord, show me your undying love
For this will never change.

Iris Hesselden

What's in Your Parcel?

A very gracious lady was sending an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country and went to the post office with her parcel. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the man at the desk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady!