



Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches
The Parishioner



Dear Folks

Another year is history and we find ourselves on the doorstep of a new year with all its uncertainties and challenges.

A major national item on the calendar in 2011 was the celebration of the 450th Anniversary of the King James Bible. The contribution of this bible to the people of the United Kingdom cannot be underestimated.

The year 2011 in both congregations will be remembered as the year of refurbishment and roof replacement. Thanks to an amazing team and a determined effort, after fifteen years we have managed to make the dream of a refurbished church come true in Kirkhill ! The result is very pleasing and we are all happy. The refurbishment bound us together as a family in a new way, bringing a lot of excitement and expectation, which is always good for any congregation. I want to thank all and everyone who made this dream a reality.

We are also very thankful to have been able to replace the Kiltarlity church roof after seven years of planning. Good progress is also being made with the fundraising for the roof replacement and we are very thankful for this. Louisa and I would also like to thank you for replacing the Manse roof. The Manse is now much warmer !

The two Bible discussion groups are well underway and enjoy meeting each other around the Bible at the Manse. Small groups are essential to the church of today for spiritual growth and we are very grateful to have been able to get these two small groups started. We hope to start up more small groups.

We all had our sorrows and losses this year in the family. Our hearts go out to those folks who have lost a mother, father, son, daughter or a family member. May you experience the consolation of the Lord in a special way during this Christmas season.

The year 2011 will also be remembered as the year in which the emotions ran high on the issue of same sex relationships within the Church of Scotland following the decision of the General Assembly in May. However, we are relieved that the Church of Scotland cannot agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same-sex marriage.

The New Year is around the corner causing all sorts of emotions such as uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. Let us remind each other of the comforting words of Joshua (1:9) before the people of Israel moved into the Promised Land: "**Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**"

May the good Lord surprise you round each uncertain corner of life with His mercy and presence in 2012.

Greetings from the Manse

Kobus and Louisa

KINDERHOEKIE

by Louisa

THIS IS GOOD

An old story is told of a king in Africa who had a close friend with whom he grew up. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, "This is good!"

One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off.

Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, "This is good!"

To which the king replied, "No, this is NOT good!" and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to the stake.

As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole. So untying the king, they sent him on his way.

As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend.

"You were right," he said, "it was good that my thumb was blown off."

And he proceeded to tell the friend all that had just happened.

"And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this."

"No," his friend replied, "This is good!"

"What do you mean, 'This is good'? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?"

"If I had NOT been in jail, I would have been with you."

What are some more things you can do to show your love for Jesus?

Connect the dots to find out.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

CLEAN ROOM



HUG



SHARE



SMILE



Moderator's Christmas message

I remember the first time it dawned on me that the world Jesus was born into was in so many ways exactly the same as the world we live in today. I felt quite deflated, if not defeated. Did the fact that armies still occupy foreign countries; that dictators wreak havoc with their cruelty upon nations; that poverty still is prevalent; that people still flee their homeland to save their lives, mean that nothing had changed since Jesus was born?

“ Christmas for me is such a season of hope.

The gospel writers use their words wisely. Matthew tells us the story of the birth of Jesus with the image of a bright star against a dark night sky; Magi set against Herod; a baby against an army. That darkness is still here as our newspapers tell us regularly – but so is the bright star. The world has changed. Life has changed. Now we have a hope, for at Christmas time we remember how light shines in the darkness and by its very shining defeats it. In a glorious mixture of pagan and Christian

symbolism we light up our trees at this time of year. However else you wish to understand it, it is a defiant gesture that when darkness is at its most profound we light up our world to chase the darkness away. We do it because of the light which God sent at Christmas.

Christmas for me is such a season of hope. In the midst of economic news that is hardly encouraging; in the midst of a continuing battle in far-off Afghanistan that is still taking its toll; in the midst of political turmoil in much of the Arab world a star shines

in the darkness. It shone then and it continues to shine today. And this year we will celebrate Christmas as boldly and as confidently as ever, assured that this festival is good not just for us but for our country too. If we can't celebrate Christmas in the darkness we can't celebrate it at all.

Right Reverend David Amott is Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Moderator's prayer for the New Year

A thanksgiving for life at the beginning of a New Year
An offering of gratitude for blessings received
An awareness that throughout all the days that have gone
You have been present, Lord God.
In the dark of the darkest night
In the loneliness of the loneliest day
In the stumbling, searching, groping of our living
You have been present,
To bring light into our darkness
To bring companionship into our solitude
To bring direction into our wanderings
And for that act of faith in us
For that belief in us through Jesus Christ
We offer today our thanksgiving. Lord God.
And in thanksgiving our prayers for others
For those for whom the advent of this New Year
Has brought no peace or joy.
For the troubled land that is Afghanistan
For our forces there
For the families left behind, and the children too young
to comprehend
For the fatherless and the angry;
Lord God, may your peace descend slowly like a dove
upon that land

For those for whom there will be no New Year celebrations
Because of the continuing aftermath of natural disasters
That flooded homes and swept away villages months ago
For those still scrabbling for a pittance of food
To keep body and soul together.
For those who found little warmth in the doorway or the
dark alley,
For those addicted to their habit of drink or drugs,
For all victims of domestic violence at this time,
For those for whom anxiety and ill-health has blighted
this stage of life.
Lord in silence we lay before you now the needs of those
for whom especially today we wish to pray
But today of all days
And in this place of all places
We pray for Kirkhill and Kiltarlity and for both churches
That your holy spirit may lead and direct
Our thinking and our being together
So that Kirkhill and Kiltarlity may flourish and prosper
By the preaching of your word
And the doing of your will.
As we have begun the year worshipping
May that spirit of harmony and togetherness
Typify all our relationships from this day forwards
By placing you, Lord God, at the centre of our lives
And by placing us at the centre of yours.
These we ask and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

GUILD NEWS

Our monthly report starts with a flourish - you may recall that the Guild made up a team of four for the Guild Quiz held at Trinity Church in Inverness on 29 November 2011. There were fifteen teams competing on the night - and Kirkhill Guild achieved second place! Our team was made up of Margaret Birkbeck, Carol Grant, Elizabeth Macrae and Rosemary Mortimer. For a team from one of the smaller guilds to achieve such a high place is no mean achievement. We were runners up to the well-deserved first place winners from Crown Church in Inverness. We very much enjoyed the quiz, and the generous supply of tea and cakes provided after the competitive part of the evening.

On a very wet and windy afternoon on 13 December 2011, about fifteen members of the Guild attended the "Open the Book" presentation at Kirkhill Primary School, by kind permission of Cris Ford, Head Teacher. The afternoon's story portrayed the travels of the Magi as they followed the star to Bethlehem, encountering King Herod on their way, and finally reaching the birthplace of Jesus. Both children and adults alike were enthralled at the story, with much admiration of the acting skills and costumes - particularly the acting skills of the Magi, who were required to ride invisible camels across the classroom in their search for the Bethlehem stable. Mary and Joseph were portrayed by two young pupils from the school. We were also the audience for the awarding of stars to the high achieving pupils of that week, who received much-deserved applause. The combined classes of Primary 1, 2 and 3 then performed some Christmas songs for us, which was a lovely end to the school proceedings. In worsening weather, the Guild and Open the Book folk repaired to the Old North Inn for tea and cakes, to reflect on a very enjoyable afternoon.

Just a reminder that the next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 March 2012, when we will have a guest speaker from Childline and NSPCC. We will be meeting in the refurbished Guild Room at Wardlaw Church. This is now a much more welcoming environment for our meetings. Like the main church, the Guild Room has been given a new floor (no more fighting over who sits on the sloping bit !), 3 new heaters, 25 new upholstered chairs and newly painted walls. We look forward to welcoming all-comers, as well as Guild regulars.

Rosemary Mortimer



Copies of the December / January / February booklet "Our Daily Bread" are still available at the entrance to the Wardlaw Church. Please take one to read daily with your Bible.

There are also a few extra copies of the Introductory Version if you feel you would like to introduce a friend, a neighbour, or a relative to this booklet.

If you find this devotional helpful, you can use the form in the middle of the booklet to arrange to have future issues posted direct to you at home.

Memory Verse - Romans 8 : 28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Sanctuary heating at Wardlaw Church

The heating system for the sanctuary area of Wardlaw Church is ceiling mounted double panel radiant heaters - Frico Elztrip EZ 220. They are designed to give total and supplementary heating as well as protection against cold draughts from windows in environments such as department stores, assembly halls, industrial premises, etc. Similar ceiling mounted panel radiant heaters were installed at the Church of Scotland in Lairg in 2001 and have proved to be economical to operate, and were well received by the congregation.

Radiant heaters give a soft, pleasant heat and individual comfort can be created with spot and zone heating. No moving parts mean a silent system that does not cause air movements and a hygienic indoor climate is created when the spread of dust, bacteria or odours is reduced. Ceiling mounting leaves the walls free and increases safety.

The heaters are zoned and can be controlled according to which part of the sanctuary area is being used, and a time clock has been connected to the heaters. This programmable operation of the heating system has not operated so far, as the electrician who installed the system has not given the appropriate training to the Church officers on how to achieve this zoning / phasing of the heat. Morrison Construction is fully aware of this "missing link," and hopefully a training session will take place early in the New Year.

OPEN the BOOK

Open the Book Needs YOU at Tomnacross Primary !



The Open the Book Team have been invited by Mrs Josephine Offord, Head teacher, Tomnacross Primary to present their programme to her P1 - 4 pupils. Our aim is to start after the February break and visit the school regularly.

Open the Book is a programme designed for primary age children and which uses the Lion Story Storytellers Bible. It aims to deliver the stories and message of The Bible through narration, mime and acting and with the help of some costumes and props.

Open the Book is already working very successfully in Kirkhill Primary with a dedicated team of volunteers from both the Kirkhill and Kiltarlity communities. To deliver it in both schools we need more volunteers especially to work in Tomnacross Primary. The existing volunteers would tell you that you don't need to be an actor but that you do need to believe that telling our children the stories and message of the Bible is of the utmost importance. It is an activity which is great fun and very worthwhile for those who are comfortable working with this age group.

If you think you would like to take part, or want to find out more, contact Ellenor (741 330) at Kiltarlity, or Flora (831 373) at Kirkhill and they would be delighted to hear from you.

**To help with planning please try to contact us before
15th January 2012**

Hope for 2012

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

At the start of this New Year we are all aware of the uncertainties which we face, especially in terms of our finances, jobs and economic prospects. We have to face the big questions of life: what shall I do ?; who can help me ?; who cares for me ? and what do I say ?

The familiar words of the prophet Isaiah were also given by God in a time of political and economic uncertainty. The Assyrians had just conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, fulfilling Isaiah's warnings to the people, who had turned their back on God and his ways. However, Isaiah also brings a word of hope, 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.' For Isaiah, it felt as if the future had already arrived ! However, after 700 years the promised child was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. For us, facing a New Year, he continues to be an answer to both our needs and questions:

Wonderful Counsellor : he will give us the wisdom we need, when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with our finances or future direction.

Mighty God : he will provide the help and strength to face the difficult diagnosis, the family crisis or relationships breakdown, as we trust his plan and purpose for our lives.

Everlasting Father : he cares for us as a father cares for his children, so we can come to him when we feel alone or we are really struggling, knowing that he hears and will answer our prayers.

Prince of Peace : he has secured peace by his cross and resurrection, and so we can find in him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Therefore at the start of 2012, may 'our joy be increased' as for the people in Isaiah's day. For only Jesus can truly turn our sorrow into joy and save us from the vicious spiral of sin and death. Whatever the mess and mistakes we have made over the past year, he can deal with them. With him both our present and future are secure. This is no pipe-dream, for 'the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.'

Foot in mouth

The vet in a small town was also in charge of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there ?"

"Do you require his services as a neighbourhood watch, or as a vet ?" she asked. "Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's an intruder in it."



Quiz Night



in aid of the Tomnacross Church Raise the Roof appeal

Where : Kiltarlity Village Hall

When : Friday, 24 February 2012

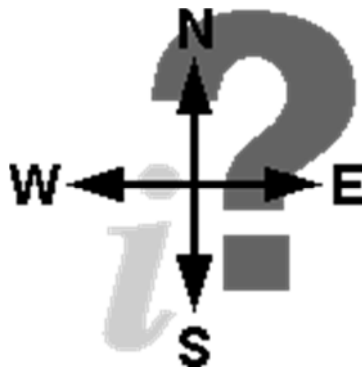
Time : 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Cost : £20 for a team of 4
includes tea / coffee and home baking

Bring your own bottle and glasses

The questions will be suitable for all ages and cover subjects such as geography, history, sport, local knowledge, literature, films, TV, arts and general knowledge.

To secure your place in advance, please contact
Marjory Sandilands on 741 429 without delay





BURNS SUPPER – 28 JANUARY 2012 BROCKIES LODGE, KILTARLITY

Welcome drink at 7:00 p.m. with proceedings
commencing at 7:20 p.m. prompt

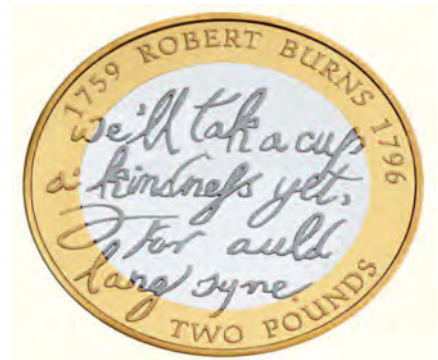
£17.00 per person including welcome and toast drinks.
Folk from both churches and their friends / family
will be very welcome.

Margo MacLennan and Ellenor Thomas have put together a splendid evening of entertainment, involving folk from both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. Robbie and Jean Sheriffs and their team at Brockies are providing a lovely Burns meal for us in their Function Room. All you have to do is book your place and turn up!

Here's how to book your place

Kirkhill : Please book and pay for your place with Rosemary Mortimer at Kirkhill in person.

Kiltarlity : There will be a supply of specially printed envelopes held by Margo MacLennan. Write your details on one of these envelopes. Place the money (cash preferred please) in the envelope, seal it, and give it to Margo. Rosemary will be collecting these envelopes from Margo on a regular basis.



The menu for the night is as follows :

*Scotch Broth
served with a warm Brockies bread roll*

*Cockburns haggis wrapped in filo pastry, on bashed neeps and mashed potato,
glazed with a whisky cream*

Tipsy Laird served with Cloutie Dumpling ice cream and caramel coulis

Tea or coffee served with tablet

Menu price includes a drink on arrival and again for the toasts (choice of a dram, glass of wine, or fruit juice). Please notify any special dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Memory Verse - Romans 8 : 28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

WARDLAW CHURCH REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Well over a decade ago the issue of refurbishment was first raised in a quinquennial visit from Inverness Presbytery.

The Deacons' Court has wrestled with the issue over the years and often felt that the problems were insurmountable. We have finally seen our plans come to fruition and secured the building for the new century.

Due to the efforts of Revd. Fraser Turner and the then Property Convenor John Finlayson, supported by Trustees Charles MacDonnell and Jim Moffat, we secured a grant from Church of Scotland to contribute towards major roof repairs and to carry out a feasibility study for the rest of the work needed. Jim Moffat retired in 2008 and his place was taken by James Stewart. Charles and James were very supportive, and successfully argued our case at the many General Trustees committee meetings our refurbishment plans were discussed at. We also had support and assistance from Revd. Alec Whiteford and Revd. Alastair Younger of Inverness Presbytery negotiating the many hurdles that had to be crossed before submission to the General Trustees. We are indebted to all these gentlemen.

After the retirement of Revd. Turner, things stalled and we seemed to be going round in circles. The fact that we have now achieved the refurbishment of the interior is due to efforts of the whole congregation and to members of the wider community who supported our fundraising activities in so many ways.

To bring it all together required the special skills of three people. Firstly, the Revd. Dr. Willis Jones blew into town and reinvigorated our efforts making us believe that anything is possible. Secondly, we discovered that a new member of our congregation, Neil Wilson, possessed construction contracting skills and, despite a heavy workload, he gave unstintingly of his time in enabling us to turn the architect's plans into a viable, affordable scheme. Due to changing work commitments he had to step back at this stage but before doing so he drew up a comprehensive schedule of works. At this point Iain Mortimer stepped forward to manage the project on a day to day basis, liaising with the contractor and architect. Iain also co-ordinated emptying the church, ordering furnishings and the move back into the building at the end of the construction period. This required a huge commitment of time and it is a testament to his patience that no major disputes arose in what was inevitably a difficult project with many unforeseen issues arising.

We owe these gentlemen a great debt - thank you.

We must also record our thanks to Colin Munro and Anna Mackinnon of Thomas Munro and Co. , Architects, and to Morrison Construction and, in particular, site managers Aeneas Robertson and David Merrick for bringing forward solutions to the unforeseen problems that arise in a project of this nature and ensuring that the church was treated in a respectful way.

Finally further thanks are due to the aforementioned Trustees who continued to show great interest in the project, meeting with us, giving us advice and smoothing our path through the various Committees at 121 George Street in Edinburgh.

Elizabeth Macrae

Memory Verse - Romans 8 : 28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

REFURBISHED WARDLAW CHURCH OPENS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES



We didn't make the original target date of 4 December, but on 11 December, the Wardlaw congregation was able to attend worship in the newly refurbished church for the first time. It had been a very busy week beforehand – very many thanks to all who helped to pack, transport, unpack, move, lift, clean and position all the furniture and equipment. By the time everyone arrived on Sunday morning, the church looked splendid. The new chairs had been arranged, measured, moved, re-measured, etc., etc. The beautiful wall hanging, made by a dedicated team to a very short deadline, is a very welcome addition. Anne Lyle's Christmas flower and candle arrangements were, and still are, magnificent.

The service was conducted by Kobus, and attended by Vivian Roden, Moderator of Inverness and Nairn Presbytery, who read the Scripture reading, and offered a thoughtful prayer for the future of the church, and its people. The text of this prayer is printed on page 13 in this edition of the Parishioner. The opportunity was taken to ask the Moderator to present Simon Fraser with an engraved whisky decanter and glasses, by way of thanks for his many years of service as Clerk to the Deacons Court of Wardlaw Church.

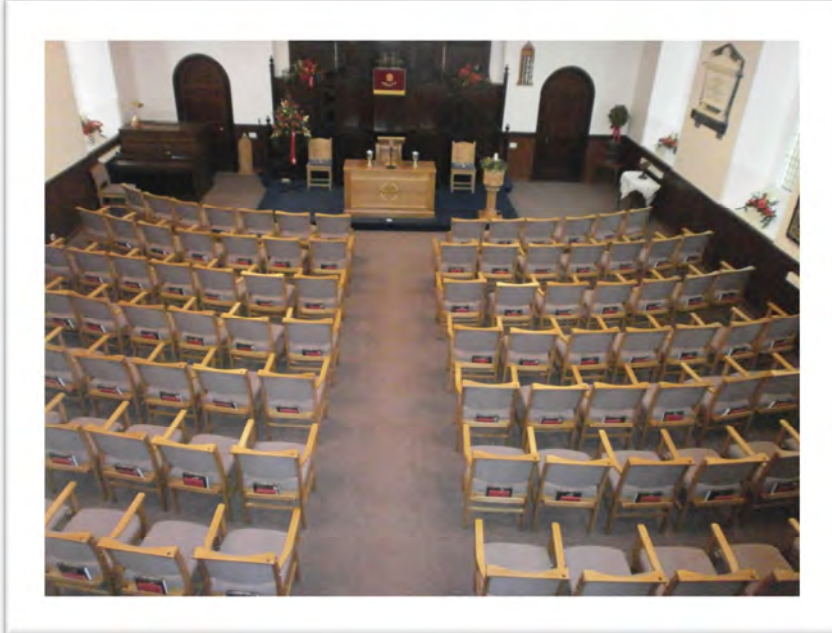
On that evening, the church played host to the children, parents and teachers from Kirkhill Primary School for their Carol Service. The children took part enthusiastically, even though they had lost some valuable rehearsal time during the bad weather experienced during the previous days. It was good to see the church full for this community service.



By the morning of Sunday, 18 December 2011, Kobus was the only one who knew definitely where he was going to sit, as his position in the chancel was unchanged – everyone else was still deliberating which chair to have! John Finlayson was presented with a splendid port decanter by Louisa Smit, in recognition of his 14 years' service as Church Treasurer.

/Contd.

The evening of Sunday 18 December 2011 was the last Sunday before Christmas Day, and as such, the date of our much loved Carol and Candle service. By the time the Celestial Choir started their introit "Jubilate", the church was packed to the roof. Kobus gave the Call to Worship, which was followed by carols sung by the congregation, anthems from the Celestial Choir, and readings from both Old and New Testaments by Margaret Shiels and Mary Bell. It was a joy to welcome Rev. Dr. Willis Jones, and his wife Pat, to the service, particularly as Willis had been so very instrumental in kick-starting the refurbishment. His prayers and Christmas reflection were both moving and thoughtful, and included heartfelt thanks to those who had supported him and Pat through what had been a very trying year. It was also good to welcome Richard Cunningham back as organist for the night; both his skill and his enjoyment in playing the Wardlaw organ were very evident. The Celestial Choir get better each year, under the leadership and guidance of Mary Robb – Mary and the choir excelled themselves once again, with the choice of anthems being very much appreciated. The enjoyment of the congregation was evident in the good singing heard on the night. The evening concluded with tea



and Christmas biscuits. Very many thanks to all who helped, participated, and attended this service.

One of the aims of the Wardlaw refurbishment was to enable more flexible use of the church. On Wednesday, 21 December 2012, the folk who came to the showing of the "Nativity" DVD were able to experience this. It was a premiere in more ways than one, as the chairs in the sanctuary had been turned a quarter turn to the left, and the film was projected onto the side wall of the church. The "Nativity" was well received, being a moving and human portrayal of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, first shown on BBC at Christmas 2010. Many thanks to the team of ladies who provided tea and home

baking for the interval, and also to the volunteers who pioneered the first go at rearranging the chairs, and to those who put them back again in time for the Watchnight service.

The Watchnight service on Christmas Eve was organised by Iain Marr, who got together a team of people to give prayers and readings. He had chosen an excellent selection of carols for the congregation to sing, accompanied by Mary Robb, now back behind the organ again, and on good form. This slightly more informal service was enjoyed by just over 100 people, with a break when Simon Fraser rang the church bell at midnight to herald in Christmas Day, and the congregation were able to exchange Christmas greetings. The service ended with a rousing rendition of "We wish you a Merry Christmas." The offering of £254.83 has been donated to the Direct Access Overnight Accommodation and Support scheme for homeless people in crisis in Inverness this winter. Christmas morning saw Kobus's last service before travelling back to South Africa. Again this service was filled with carols, including Kobus's favourite "Silent Night."

We welcomed a good many new faces to our Christmas services, particularly the Watchnight service. We feel this could well be due to the leaflet drop carried out in the days leading up to Christmas, informing the local community about the events happening in the church and inviting them come along. So very many thanks to all who helped with the delivering of leaflets, particularly given the unpleasant weather!

Narrative and photographs by Rosemary Mortimer

The rude parrot

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked, kicked the door and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said:

"I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird spoke-up, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

Thanks to Mary Bell for this story

Life

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years." The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years." But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?" "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the couch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be sat on my couch.

Thanks to Suzie Dobson for this story

*Vivian Roden's pray at the Kirkhill Rededication Service
(adapted from a Prayer in The Book of Common Order)*

Almighty God, Creator and Ruler of all, we join together to ask that:

Peace be to this house and all who worship in it.

Peace be to those who enter it, and to those who go out from it.

Peace be to those who love it, and who love the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In whose name we proclaim good news to the poor.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are the source of every good and perfect gift.

Accept the offerings of the many people whose gifts and labours have enabled the refurbishment of this Church.

Use it for your purposes and hallow it with your blessing.

May it be a place

- *where the broken hearted are bound up*
- *where they are comforted by the Good News of the Gospel which proclaims freedom from sin, and salvation to all who accept Jesus, your Son, as their Saviour*
- *which enables those who mourn to receive the oil of joy and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.*

May this Church continue to be a place:

- *of thankfulness*
- *of joy*
- *of hope*
- *of celebration of your great love for all your people, which reaches down to us, and sustains us, and strengthens us, through your mercy.*
- *And where we may reflect as much of your great love as we are able, to each other, and especially to those who are in need, or in trouble, so that in our actions and dealings with others, the world at large may glimpse something of your splendour.*

And so we pray this morning for the Minister and Office Bearers of this congregation, seeking your blessing upon them, and praying that together they may continue to build a Spirit-filled community of faith, reaching out to others.

We pray for your wider church :

- *for peace and reconciliation where this is needed, and*
- *that everything done in your name may be to your glory.*

We pray for your world - for everywhere where there is :

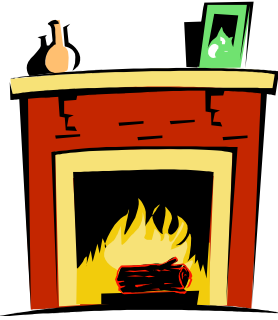
- *turmoil or strife*
- *famine or sorrow*

May Your Spirit move through the world, healing, reconciling, strengthening, comforting and blessing it.

*Dwell in this house Lord, and brighten it with your glory,
that it may be to all who seek you here, a temple of the living God,
none other than the gate of heaven - filled with your presence,
and bringing strength and inspiration to those who worship here;
for the glory and praise of Your Holy Name.*

AMEN

Keep the home fires burning



The old floor boards from Wardlaw Church that did not have dry rot have been kept by the west side of the Church. Graham Elkin and his trusty chain saw will be cutting the boards into lengths suitable for putting on an open fire, or a wood burning stove during January (weather permitting). If you, or if you know of a neighbour living in Kirkhill and Bunchrew, who would benefit from this heat source, please contact Graham – 831 590 – who will arrange a bag or two for you to collect or a delivery service is available.



Kiltarlity Church Flower Calendar 2012



At the start of this New Year, a big thank you to all the ladies who gave their time and talent to providing the beautiful flowers in our church each Sunday during 2011.

The Flower Calendar for 2012 is now on our church hall notice board. If you wish to help, or wish to put flowers in the church to mark an anniversary or special occasion, please enter your name and telephone number against the dates of your choice. If you wish,

you may share the provision / arrangement of flowers with a friend or family member. If so, both names can be added to the Calendar against the appropriate dates.

At special times such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Communion Sundays we tend to theme the flowers, and when it is possible, place additional arrangements in the church on these occasions.

Please do not feel daunted by feeling that you cannot arrange flowers ! A vase containing a few choice blooms can be very effective.

New flower donors / flower arrangers are most welcome.

If you have any ideas or wish information relating to our church flowers, please contact Mrs. Marie Harvey, telephone : - 741 328 e-mail : - marie.harvey6@btinternet.com or Mrs. Barbara Wilton, telephone : - 741 352 at any time.



New for 2012

Starting in the New Year, there will be an event on the third Sunday evening of every month at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill. This to be known as "Third Sunday Praise," and will be a mixture of praise songs interspersed with short Bible readings and prayers.

The first event will be on Sunday, 15 January 2012, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The vision will be to encourage folk from all Church denominations and others to gather for fellowship and to sing together. There will be tea, coffee and home baking served at the end.

Memory Verse - Romans 8 : 28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Moses revisited

Nine year old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you ?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it !"

What children have to say about angels

It's not easy to become an angel ! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. - **Matthew, age 9**

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. - **Henry, age 8**

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows. - **Jack, age 6**

WARDLAW CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR



Thank you so much to all the kind people who gave flowers and donations so generously throughout 2011.



Your generosity makes my task such a pleasure. If anyone in the congregation would like to help with the flowers please get in touch.

If you would like to put flowers in the church for a Sunday special to you, please put your name on the flower calendar which is in the entrance to the Church.

A big thank you to everyone. *Anne Lyle* - telephone 831 456

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER and BIBLE DISCUSSION MEETINGS

The Kirkhill Evening Prayer meetings for January will take place on 4th and 18th January and will be held in the Guild Room at Wardlaw Church. The short service begins at 7:00 p.m. and finishes by 7:30 p.m. Prayers are both free and fixed. Pray for individuals and their needs, the church, world issues, and whatever is on the minds and hearts of those present. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this time of prayer.

The Kirkhill Bible discussion group will meet in January on Wednesday evenings in the Guild Room following the prayer time at 7:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. On 4th January the group will be looking at Ephesians chapter 3, and on 18th January will look at chapter 4 verses 1 to 16. New people will be most welcome at the group.

There will be no Kiltarlity Bible Discussion meetings in January 2012 as Kobus will be on holiday in South Africa for the whole month. The Kiltarlity Bible Discussion meetings will re-commence on Thursday, 9 February 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at Wardlaw Manse.

METAL THEFT WARNING

The Church of Scotland General Trustees have warned of an alarming rise in lead and copper thefts from church roofs. The chairman of the General Trustees, the Revd. Jim Jack, states that the Trustees are hearing of thefts "on a weekly basis." The amounts taken range from small pieces of flashing to several tonnes of lead.

The General Trustees are urging congregations to take preventative measures to prevent thefts from their buildings. Secretary of the Trustees, David Robertson, warned that churches are not insured against metal thefts and that the value of the metal stolen is often eclipsed by the repair bill for damage caused during the theft.

If you see any people acting suspiciously around Wardlaw or Tomnacross Churches, please contact the Property Convenors of the Church immediately - Ian Dearing (741 571) for Wardlaw Church or Hamish MacLennan (741 312) for Tomnacross Church, or any Church official.

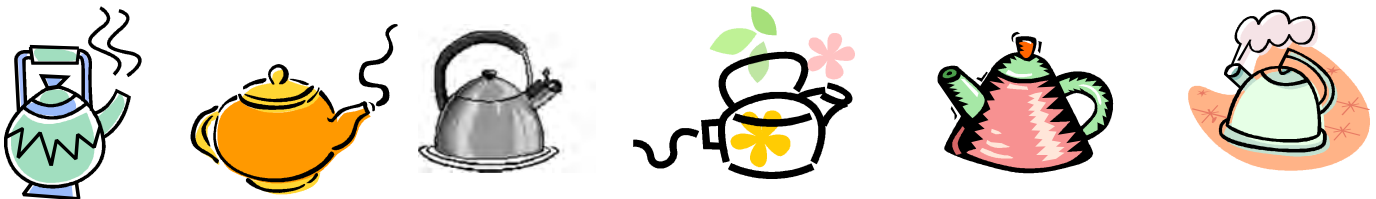
PARISH NOTICE BOARD

- Revd. Dr. Kobus Smit will be away in South Africa for the whole of January 2012. Kobus has arranged the following pulpit cover :

1 January - Revd. Alastair Younger
8 January - Revd. Stewart Jeffrey
15 January - Revd. Bart Buell
22 January - Revd. Bart Buell
29 January - Revd. Bart Buell

Please contact the appropriate Session Clerk for any Church or pastoral matters that arise during January. Kirkhill is Maris Elkin (831 590) and Kiltarlity is David Garvie (741 038).

- Thank you to Alasdair Morrison for putting his hand above the parapet, but we are still looking for any volunteers to sit at the sound desk during a Sunday service at Wardlaw Church to operate the microphone levels. First class training by Iain Marr will be given to any volunteer. Please speak to either Iain Marr or Iain Mortimer.
- Intimations for Wardlaw Church for the month of January 2012 only should be made known to Iain Mortimer before 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the Sunday service. Contact can be either a telephone call to 782 648, or send an e-mail to iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com . Intimations after January need to be sent direct to Kobus at the Wardlaw Manse.



A rota for tea and coffee making at Wardlaw Church, and washing up, after Sunday service is currently being compiled. This is subject to a slight delay, as several of the people who have volunteered are also elders and / or deacons, and in two cases are volunteers on the sound desk as well. The new door rota has now been issued, so I will now be trying to make sure nobody is on the door, taking the offering, counting the offering, making the tea, and running the sound desk on the same morning!

The tea-making duties are much easier with our new kitchen, but still require a minimum of 2, possibly 3 people. I have the following people noted as tea-making volunteers – if you want to volunteer and your name is not listed, please tell me as soon as you get a chance. If your name is listed, and you didn't volunteer, again, please tell me ! The aim is to arrange things so that no one is on tea duty more than once a month on average.

Volunteers so far: Mary Bell, Elspeth Colburn, Ian Dearing, Maris Elkin, Moira McDonald, Maureen Matheson, Alasdair Morrison, Eileen Morrison, Flora Morrison, Lisa Quinn, Iain Mortimer, Rosemary Mortimer.

Volunteers are **not** required to provide tea / coffee / milk / biscuit / washing up supplies - unless they particularly want to - just to bring themselves and wiping and drying cloths.

Thanks !

Rosemary

KIRK HILL CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BI-CENTENARY TIME CAPSULE

At the time of Wardlaw Church's bi-centenary in 1990, a time capsule for future generations of worshippers was made up and left hanging underneath the pulpit. The capsule was uplifted at the beginning of the refurbishment programme for safe keeping. The capsule contains the following items : A copy of the Press and Journal review of 1990; a copy of the Inverness Courier dated Friday, 28 December 1990; a copy of the last "The Record" magazine of the United Free Church of Scotland, dated September 1929, priced two pence; a copy of the "The Record" magazine of the Church of Scotland, dated September 1929, priced two pence; two Kirkhill Church communion tokens, one is dated 1813 and the other is dated 1833; a set of UK coins celebrating the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1990; a copy of the "The Kirk in Kirkhill" book by C.I.M. Gair and Hugh Barron; a copy of the order of service for the Bi-Centenary Thanksgiving Service held on 4 November 1990 at Wardlaw Church. The preacher was Rt. Revd. Prof. R. Davidson and the Minister was Revd. Campbell Mackinnon; a copy of the

KIRK HILL CHURCH OF SCOTLAND	
BI-CENTENARY TIME CAPSULE	
Name	Occupation
Peg Goghill	Homemaker.
Sam Gair	Farmer
Margaret Phile	Palms Manager.
Alma Chisholm	Clerkess.
Peggy Dallas	Housewife
Jemie Morrison	Home wife
Jan Fraser	Farmer.
Margaret Fraser	
John Aitch	Labourer
Margaret B Taylor	nurse.
Nancy Paterson	Home wife
H Inneside	clerkess.
Heather Reid	
Rita Mitchell	Housewife
Annabel MacDonalld	Housewife
Karen Chisholm	Schoolgirl
Jack Shicks	Police Sergeant.
Gillian Beaton	Kennel Manageress
Margaret Reid	Farmer's wife.
DEBBY FRASER	
Naomi MacDonalld	KILNMAKERS MANAGER
L. Munro.	school girl!
	Housewife

KIRK HILL CHURCH OF SCOTLAND		
BI-CENTENARY TIME CAPSULE		
Name		Occupation
ALLI MUNRO	WESTER MOWACK	FARMER
RAE BAXTER,	"Fionn-Uisg" Kirkhill	ADMIN MANAGE
Betty Smith	Delashan Kirkhill	Housewife
J. Cummings	4 Lyneam Crescent Kirkhill	Signatman.
J. Cummings	" "	Housewife
Em. McMillan	131 Old Edinburgh Rd.	
J.M. McMillan	131. Old Edinburgh Road.	
M. Hayles	32 Elmwood Road, Glasgow	Housewife
J. Inneside	7 St Marys Rd	Home wife
Elizabeth Fraser.	Stroma Kirkhill	Pharmacist
Shelagh Macrae	Stroma Kirkhill	Accountant.
Janna Macrae	Stroma Kirkhill	School girl
Pauls. Baxter	"Fionn-Uisg" Kirkhill	School Boy
M. S. Williamson	Swona, Kirkhill	Housewife.

"Kirkhill Parish Supplement" dated February 1919; some examples of Sunday School activities, including photographs, and an explanation letter from the Kirkhill Bible class signed by Karen Chisholm (aged 12½), Alison Mackintosh (aged 13¼), Simon Fraser (aged 14) and Paul Baxter (aged 12); 3 sheets of paper containing signatures of various members of the Church - illustrated on this page.

Robert Reid	320 AM	Farmer
James Sutherland	5 St Marys Rd	Postman
Norman Williamson	Swona	Retired Bank Manager
Quinn J. Fraser.	Chungoin Farm	Farmer.
Mrs H MacDonalld	5 Fungask Farm	Ward maid
M. A. McQuibban	Renore	Housewife
J. Neuchairn	Englishton Colle	Labourer
Carol Weir	Burchrew	
K. O'Beider	GRAAM FARM.	SECRETARY
Lisa Baxter	GRAAM FARM	child
Chas. E. Hayles.	Fionn-Uisg	child 10 years old
Kathleen G. Gray	Glasgow, G. 41	Retired Telecom. Manager.
John Finlayson	Pallochshulds, Glasgow	Retired Clinical Scientist
Khoda Gair	2 Kirkston W. Str.	Severage.
Gordon Taylor	Kades Mowack Kirkhill	House wife.
Moira B. Fraser.	9 Netherhill, Leith	Gardener.
Thomas Frater	12 Englishton Muir-burchee	High school L.G. Officer
John Hayles	" "	Retired
Simon S. Fraser	Roby Kirkhill.	Farmer.
Sarah J. Fraser	Achnagairn Farm	Farmer's son. 14 yrs
	Achnagairn Farm	Farmer's Daughter 14 yrs

All these items were sealed in plastic files, and then were put into a hard plastic container. When recovered, the hard plastic cover showed teeth marks of some small animal trying to find a way into the inner plastic files. The hard plastic cover will be replaced with a more suitable container and put back in a secure place under the pulpit for a future generation of worshippers to open fully and learn about life in the 1990's and before.



Photograph by Rosemary Mortimer

Nancy Paterson sits on her pew (No. 2) and cushion from Wardlaw Church at her Drumallan home. David Skeene kindly collected the pew from the Church and made the necessary adjustments for it to take its place in Nancy's lounge window.

A thank you from Mary Robb



I should like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the Choir members for their commitment in attending practices during the lead up to our Candlelight Service. Because of their enthusiasm, I feel we all shared in a most memorable service on Sunday evening, 18 December. I do hope this will encourage more friends from each congregation to join us for future singing events.

May I thank you, the congregations of both churches, for the love, friendship and encouragement shown to me throughout 2011.



God bless you all

Mary Robb

An article which appeared in the October 2011 Life and Work written by the Moderator which should give us all food for thought as we enter a new year.



Photo: Thinkstock

PART OF THE TEAM

The Moderator, the Rt Rev David Arnott explains why people are the Church's best resource.

I FOUND the words inordinately sad. 'Things have changed, Moderator. It used to be our church. We had a say in what went on. Nowadays it seems to be the minister's church and we are being told what to do and therefore excluded.'

If that were an isolated comment perhaps it could be easily dismissed. When it is shared with me from various quarters, face to face and over the telephone by a growing number of people I have to take it seriously.

I have always understood there to be two essential elements in the relationship of a minister to a congregation. Firstly the minister has to love the congregation; the minister has to love the people. That is our job. Secondly there has to be a healthy tension in that loving relationship. It is a tension which ensures the congregation never gets too cosy or comfortable, but is always looking to be stretched, to have its comfort disturbed in order to move forwards to find the God who is always out ahead of us. Working with the Kirk Session the minister 'moderates' between the different voices while preaching, teaching, inspiring, guiding, directing, leading, praying and loving all the while.

I have had the privilege of being with congregations as they celebrate 200 years of worship in their current building as we did in Glenorchy Kirk in Dalmally on a beautiful summer's evening. The story that

congregation, and others, have to tell is a story of people intent on ensuring there is at the centre of their community a church which serves the needs of the parish and beyond. It is a story of people working, labouring and giving sacrificially to ensure that remains a reality. It is the story of our country up and down the land, as people demonstrate their relationship to, their involvement with, and their love for the church. A people proud of their church.

I spent a day at HQ 51 Brigade in Stirling being briefed on much that is going on in the army in Scotland just now. As they seek to adjust to the implications of the Strategic Defence Strategy Review they are also proud, and rightly so, of two elements which I want to share with you. Firstly they changed how they viewed their recruitment and selection policy. Rather than trying to ensure they filtered out those whom they deemed unsuitable they now try to work out how they can keep in as many of the applicants as possible. They work out how they can bring the young men and women up to the standard they require. I rather like that analogy for the church. I wonder what can we do to equip our faith enquirers and other interested spectators in order that they might become part of the team, rather than be frightened off.

The second point is something my predecessor John Christie highlighted during his year of office. The Firm Base

initiative was set up by the military to interact with local councils, housing authorities, education authorities and health boards. This is to ensure that serving personnel and their families, as well as veterans, are properly looked after before during and after their time of service. Presbytery Clerks have been advised of this already but I would encourage you all, where appropriate, to be aware of service personnel families in your parishes, especially in these days. This Firm Base demonstrates a sense of ownership and belonging that resonates so strongly with who we are in the church, and how we too care for people.

Where there is that sense of belonging it is so much easier for the church to move forward together. I saw that recently in St Andrew's Church in Clermiston in Edinburgh as well as in Ludgate Kirk in Alloa. In both there was a variety of initiatives that spoke of congregations looking outwards to serve the community. This was especially true in The Gate in Alloa where a day centre has been set up to cater for homeless people. It speaks of a group of people filled with such love that they want to share that with others and help them find their way in life again.

As with all these ventures the setting up is rarely without a hitch but the commitment and dedication of the people involved is inspiration itself. It is true, the best resource we have in our church is the people. ■

LIFE and WORK MAGAZINE

The 2012 subscription is **£18.50 for 12 copies**, i.e. no increase on the 2011 subscription rate. Our churches would certainly be the poorer without this very readable and informative magazine. Subscription to this magazine helps to secure a future for *Life and Work*.

Please pay your annual subscription, as soon as possible, to either Moira McDonald or Louise Monaghan for Wardlaw Church, or Eileen Maclean for Kiltarlity Church.

The naming of Jesus is celebrated on 1 January

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour.' The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - eight days after 25 December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Philippians 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua.' In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus.'

The meaning of the name Jesus is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation.' No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus : "because he will save his people from their sins."

On January 8 we celebrate Nathalan - an early farmer in Scotland

Many saints have fed the poor, but not many were interested in actual food production. Nathalan (died c.678) was, so perhaps he might be the patron saint of anyone who produces food – and gives most of it away to those in need.

Scotland in the 7th century must have been a hungry place, especially as far north as the Aberdeen district. According to his legend in the Aberdeen breviary, he was a nobleman who decided to cultivate his land as a way of serving God. He wanted to feed the people in times of famine. It is not known what food he managed to grow so far north, but Nathalan was well-loved for providing what he could.



Rev. Dr. Kobus Smit 831 662
Maris Elkin 831 590

E-mail: smitk51@gmail.com
David Garvie 741 038

Kirkhill Sunday School – Margaret Birkbeck 831 518 / Flora Morrison 831 373
Kiltarlity Sunday School – Linda MacKenzie 741 313 / Anneliese Garvie 741 038
The Parishioner – Iain and Rosemary Mortimer 782 648
E-mail – iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com

Diary dates for JANUARY 2012

- 1 January Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Services to be led by Revd. Alastair Younger
- 4 January Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 4 January Kirkhill Bible discussion group at Wardlaw Church at 7:45 p.m.
- 8 January Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Services to be led by Revd. Stewart Jeffrey
- 15 January Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Services to be led by Revd. Bart Buell
- 15 January Third Sunday Praise event at Wardlaw Church at 6:00 p.m.
- 18 January Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 18 January Kirkhill Bible discussion group at Wardlaw Church at 7:45 p.m.
- 22 January Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon
Services to be led by Revd. Bart Buell
- 28 January Burns Night Supper at Brockies Lodge at 7:00 p.m.
- 29 January Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon
Services to be led by Revd. Bart Buell

Memory Verse

With Epiphany in mind...

A mother was telling her three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, her six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

The February 2012 issue of The Parishioner will be published on Sunday, 29 January 2012