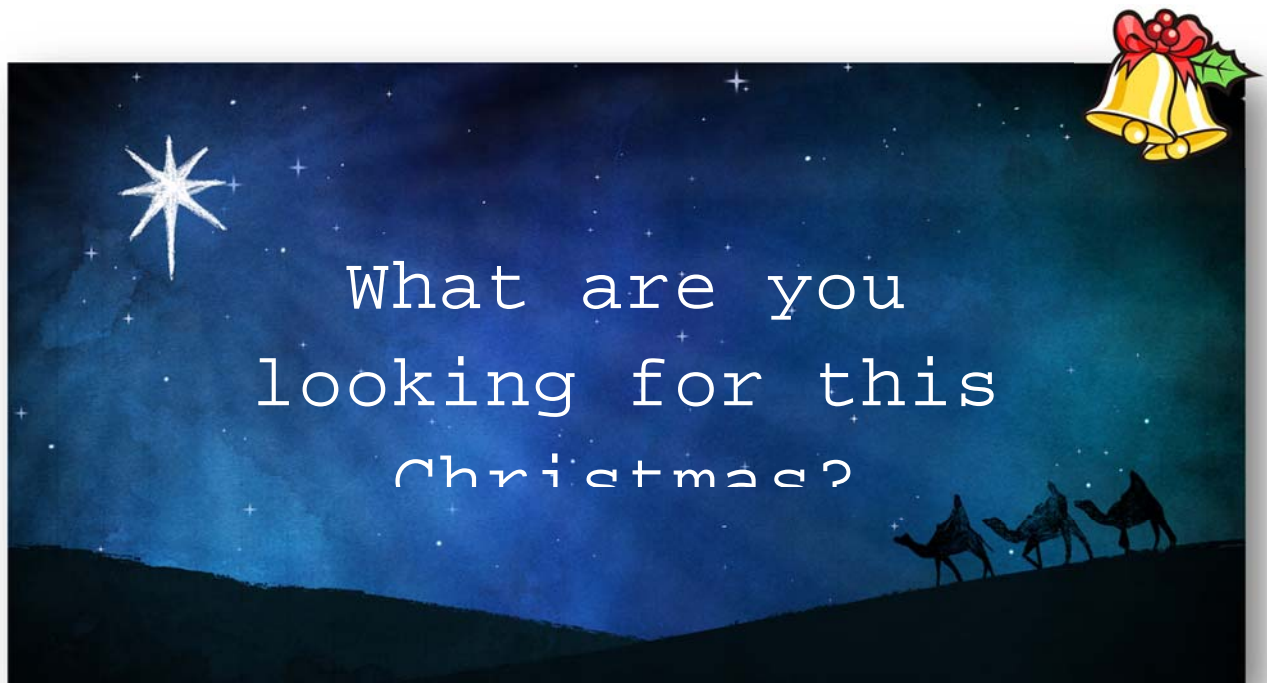


# THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill  
Churches

## Christmas 2016



*Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands*

[www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk)

SC: 003866; 014918

Hello again and.....



*A very warm welcome to the Christmas edition of the  
"Anchor"*

I hope you enjoy reading through the articles over a mince pie or three! As you can see from our front cover, our theme this year is "What are you looking for this Christmas?" The picture reminds me that the wise men probably didn't have much of an idea who they were looking for, but something within them led them to travel over great distance to worship the "King of the Jews" (Matthew 2: 2). I believe that we all have that stirring within us for the "more" - more than just what we see in the world around us, more than just meeting our material needs (or wants), more than the often superficial human relationships that take up most of our time. The Bible tells us that we are made up of body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23), and it is our human spirit that is wired to connect with Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16) to kick start and/or fire up the life-flow of God in us, and the knowledge of His Fatherly love. But this requires a step of faith. To respond to the stirring we need to be prepared to pursue the "more" of what God may have for us regardless of where we are in our faith life. It's a bit corny I know, but nevertheless true that "Wise men still travel!"

With our Christmas card published jointly with the Free Church, we are also challenging our communities with that big question - "what are you looking for this Christmas?" Can **WE** be part of the answer? Whether that is through a conversation, a warm

welcome to one of our services, an act of kindness, etc. nCan we be Jesus to someone, such that they encounter Him by his Spirit? If we have put our faith in Jesus as our Lord, then He dwells in us and his Spirit rests upon us for the sake of others. What more do we need other than to know these truths and ask for opportunities to walk out in them? On this the apostle Paul wrote:

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen".*

I wish you all our readers a very Happy Christmas, a blessed New Year when it comes, and many exciting "God moments" over the festive period!

*Jonathan*

## **Spotlight on Helen and Mick Goldspink and family (Kiltarlity) - "THE ROLLER COASTER LIFE"**

Not everyone describes their life as the biggest roller coaster you can imagine. WE do! Life for everyone has ups and downs, highs and lows - that's normal. We even had. God only gives you what he knows you can cope with. We heard it all. People didn't really understand what was going on in our lives. Why should they? In every family the natural cycle is of births, deaths and marriages. We are no different. We dealt with the illness and

subsequent death of parents, the marriages and divorce of siblings and the births of nieces, nephews and cousins.



The reason describing our lives as a "roller-coaster" was that something happened in the family that resulted in the Christian faith that was so key to our family, appearing to abandon us. Why? We hear you ask. To answer that we need to give you some family background and then maybe you will understand.

We have been married for forty four years. We have two children, Annika whom you know and Brian who sadly you will never know. Brian was our first child. When he was almost five he was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. The prognosis at that time was not good, he would not live to seven. They didn't know Brian! He took great pleasure in proving doctors wrong, and **WRONG** he proved them. His life and ours revolved around

physio, hospital appointments, hospital admissions due to infections, medication, and operations. Brian, despite all this, lived life to the full. We always felt supported by the Church we attended, together with family and close friends although maybe they couldn't understand completely the impact the diagnosis had on all our lives, including Annika. At times life was very difficult for us all and that was when we really felt the presence of God.

We are immensely proud of both our children and their achievements. Both are very musical and both succeeded in their chosen careers. Annika, as you know, is a paediatric nurse and Brian was a piano / percussion teacher.

We moved to Muir of Ord in January 2010. It was very hard to leave Annika and Brian but they were both settled by then. Brian was married by then to Claire and no longer living at home. It was the right time for us. It had been a dream of ours. Brian and Annika knew that and were worried but happy for us. Mick had a massive heart attack shortly after being made redundant from his job in the city for the second time. I had been diagnosed with cancer and had major surgery. I also felt it was time for me to retire from teaching.

We found the Methodist Church in Inverness but found it very difficult to settle there. Everything went wrong. In 2013 Nick's Mum, who only three months before had left her family in Sussex to be with Nick, died at the age of eighty, in February. Exactly one month later, at the end of March, Brian died. We did not get to the hospital in time despite all our efforts. He

was ten days short of his thirty seventh birthday. Our world fell apart. The God that seemed to have been with us all our lives suddenly seemed to have abandoned us. That was how it felt.

Nick and Annika married at Kiltarlity in August. It was a wonderful day, although tinged with sadness. Hilda and Brian were remembered in the service by a poem written by Hilda and a song written by Brian.

After the wedding we came to Church in Kiltarlity a few times. The more we came, the feeling that God was with us began to return. During one particular service there was the overwhelming feeling that we were not alone and never had been. God had always been there, we just needed to ask for His help. We did.

The Church Family at Kiltarlity have been a great support, without you knowing the whole story. We describe the feeling, when among you, as being given a great hug by a father. We are so happy and settled with you all. It's a feeling we have not felt for many many years. I hope you all realise how special you are.

Now we have Eliza, such a darling wee girl. How you have all shown such a great interest in her is wonderful. She has changed from the tiny baby who was quiet during the service to a toddler who at times can be quite vocal! You miss her when she is not in Church. You ask about her. You CARE. Her baptism was a special day in so many ways. God was truly among us that day and every day. The fact that members of the Church Family

joined with us after the service meant a great deal to us all. Many of our family and friends were really touched by the warmth of your welcome and by Jonathan's service. The roller coaster is slowing. It bumps every now and again. However, we are no longer lost and alone. We know who to turn to. You helped in that. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Helen and Mick Goldspink, Annika, Nick and Eliza Goldspink-Collie*



## **THE FILLING STATION, Wednesday 7th September at Wardlaw Church**

I went along not knowing what to expect. When I arrived it appeared to be busy, that was a welcome surprise, maybe 70 people were present ranging in age from early 20's upward. Our church had been transformed, round tables adorned with red

tablecloths, with candelabras, with clear fairy lights, and with a welcoming banner hanging from the gallery. Teas and coffees were readily available, the band was set up, all ready "to go".

Jonathan welcomed everyone, Kate led the company in prayer and then it was over to the band to lead the praise, congregated persons invited to stand or to remain seated, own choice. It was a great experience, uplifting and everyone praising the Lord in his / her own individual style.

Deborah Mitchell from Lossiemouth read a passage of scripture, and delivered a message stating that she felt a strong presence of the Lord with us all. She offered prayers for His continued presence and care. All too soon the evening came to a close, but the band continued to play, more singing continued and more teas and coffees were served, with delicious home baking treats! Time for Fellowship?



My thinking on Wednesday was that the experience was overall most enjoyable. Initially I was not sure if I could commit to going again, but on reflection I consider this.... it's a different way of worship to that to which I have been accustomed, but if 20 young people were to come along on a Wednesday evening to worship through song and dance I'd be so happy.

Would I come to Filling Station again, OF COURSE I would. Surely we are NEVER too old to welcome other forms of worship and renewal of Christian Faith.

*Frances Grant*



## CHURCH FLOWERS KIRKHILL

*Mary Donaldson writes:*

"When I was asked to take over the Church Flowers I was very apprehensive but now I find that I am enjoying it, thanks to the support and encouragement from the congregation. I will, however, be looking for volunteers to assist me throughout the year, e.g. Easter, the Harvest and Christmas. Anyone able to help please get in touch with me by telephone on 01463 831528, or at the Church."

The new Flower Calendar for 2017 is now at the front of the Church. Any donations of money should be given to Mary. Any queries, please telephone Mary on the above number.

## CHURCH FLOWERS KILTARLITY

*Marie Harvey writes:*

"The Flower Calendar for 2017 is now available on our Church Hall notice board. If you would like to help out in providing and / or arranging flowers please enter your name and telephone number / email address on the calendar.

Thank you to all the ladies who have ensured that our Church has had lovely flowers in place throughout the year. It is heartwarming to know that you can always be relied upon. Additional helpers are always welcome.



On special occasions e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday and Communion Sundays we tend to theme the flowers and place additional arrangements in the Church. Our new windowsill platforms give us more scope for this."

Contact details:

Marie Harvey Tel: 01463 741328

E-mail: [marieharvey6@btinternet.com](mailto:marieharvey6@btinternet.com)

Or Barbara Wilton Tel: 01463 741352

## CAROL GRANT

At the service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November Carol was invited to "come forward". Carol has been a faithful servant of the Church for many, many years, indeed decades, her role the essential yet rarely acknowledged one of "church cleaner". It was fitting that after such a long, long service and now that Carol has decided to hang up her Hoover and pinnie and look forward to a long and happy retirement from her duties, she should receive reward. This is in the form of a cheque and bouquet of beautiful autumn coloured flowers, the former presented to her by Ian Morrison, treasurer and the latter by young Iona Ferguson. The



presentation was made on behalf of the minister, office bearers and all who now, and have worshipped in this church, with very best wishes to both Carol and Norman who together have "given" the church in total 100 years of unstinting service. Thank you both very much.

## TEA & COFFEE ROTA KILTARLITY

Teas and coffees now have become routine practice following each Sunday Service. This opportunity for fellowship and friendship is popular, the majority of worshippers remaining in Church for this chance to meet with old friends, make new friends, converse with Jonathan and Kate and often discuss the service / lesson and / or raise any matters of concern.

It would be pleasing if more persons could add their name to the "helpers" rota, a sheet for this purpose being available on

the notice board. If anyone would like to help but is unsure of what is required please speak to Margo MacLennan or Ellenor Thomas. Either will be delighted to explain what is involved and include YOU.

## OPEN THE BOOK KILTARLITY

Team members are very pleased to report a successful (albeit delayed) start to the weekly presentations of familiar Bible stories to the young children attending Tomnacross School. The sessions, on each Monday afternoon from 1.00 - 2.00 pm have been very well received by staff and pupils alike, pupils attending now inclusive of nursery class through to primary 4. At present the dedicated team of 5 is regularly augmented by children from the upper classes 6 and 7, each one recollecting his / her experiences when on the "receiving" end of the stories. It is wonderful to become aware of just the impact these stories have had on the older children through discussing with them just what they individually remember. It is great to have them still involved, but from a different perspective.



Thanks go to each team member without whom the programme could not continue. "New" team members / recruits will ALWAYS be most welcome. Please, if YOU are interested speak initially to Ellenor, or phone 01463 782289

## OPEN THE BOOK KIRKHILL

It is good to report that Avril (Marr) is planning a restart of Open the Book at Kirkhill Primary School. Avril is enthusiastic, dedicated and willing to lead the Team, but at present is short of volunteers. If anyone from the Kirkhill congregation would be willing to help Avril to recommence this very worthwhile programme please speak to her directly, either in Church, or by telephone. Your input will be very much appreciated.

## KIRKHILL COFFEE MORNINGS

Along with many others, everyone at the Tuesday Coffee Mornings was saddened to learn that Anne Lyle had died.

Anne was one of the original volunteers in seeing the need for fellowship in our Kirk, hence the Tuesday Coffee Morning was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Anne's enthusiasm and bubbly personality will be sorely missed by us all.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September, we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning when the grand total of £408.05 was banked. Thank

you to all who helped and contributed.



Our last coffee morning for this year will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, but we shall have our aprons on, and be back again on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. From the Tuesday

coffee morning team, we wish everyone a joyous Christmas and Blessings in 2017.

*Maris, Winnie, Margaret and Mary.*

## TONYA

Our organist will once again be hosting a concert, this time in **Kiltarlity Church Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017, at 6.30 pm.**

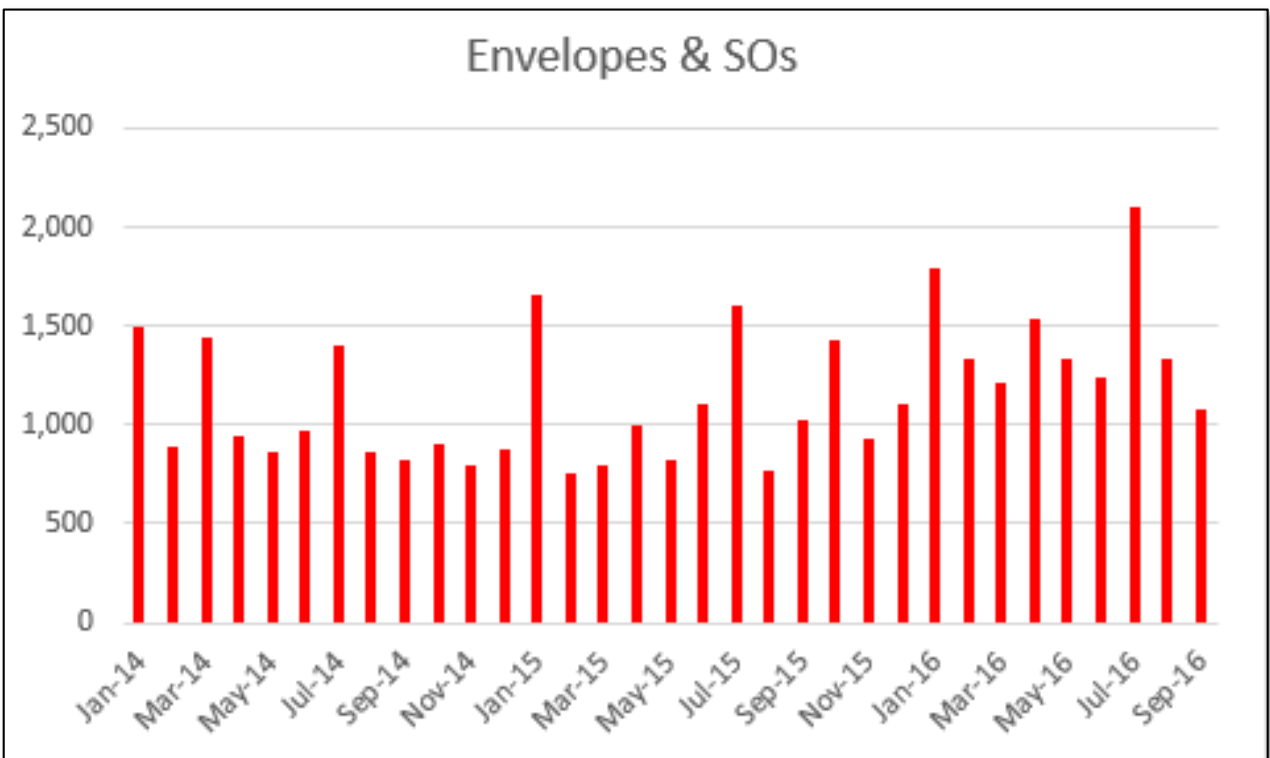
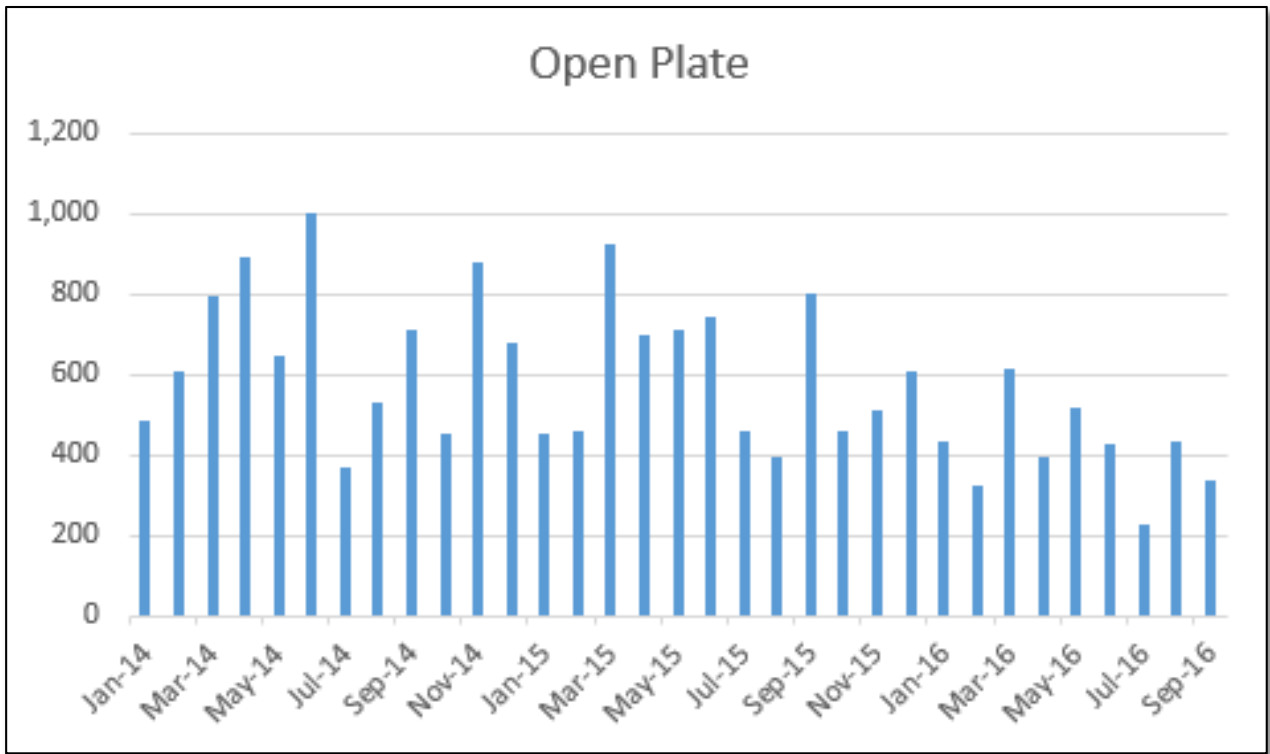
Artistes will include:

- Tonya's students
- Jenny Walker (Grantham, Lincolnshire) on piano
- Tonya and Jenny on 2 pianos, playing Mozart Piano Concerto No 20;
- AND some solo tunes on the recently refurbished 110 year old organ by Tonya herself.

Do keep this date "free" for what is sure to be an outstanding evening of music.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW KIRKHILL

One of the constant topics on the agenda of the Deacon's Court (now Property & Finance Committee) is Church Finances. Each time the Deacon's Court meets a review of income and expenditure is undertaken for the year to date and that is compared with the position in the previous year and against the budget.



The figures to 30th of September 2016 showed that income was fairly static against the same period last year but down against budget. Income from standing orders (SOs) & envelopes was up 37% whereas as the open plate giving was down by 34%. The immediate conclusion would be that one has been replaced by the other but the number of people giving by SO & envelope has remained fairly static, so the reality is that the giving by that method has increased whereas the giving to the open plate has decreased.

The graphs show the pattern of giving since January 2014. The spikes on the second graph arise because some giving is made quarterly. We are expecting our Ministry & Mission cost to rise by 20%. This is the amount we pay to Edinburgh, being our share of the cost of ministry throughout the whole of Scotland. The amount bears no relation to the amount our minister is paid and is a proportional share of all ministry costs. The large increase has come about because, unbeknown to the Deacon's Court, our share had been discounted because of the cost incurred when we refurbished the Church. This year it is simply being returned to where it should be.

The obvious answer would be for the Deacon's Court to ask you to give more but I am sure many of you would find that impertinent. Certainly it is good from time to time to consider ones financial position in relation to your church giving but what we are asking is for you to consider giving on a regular basis, either by SO or weekly envelopes. If that is something that is of interest to you please speak to Louise Monaghan in Kirkhill &



Ian Morrison in Kiltarlity and they will give you the necessary forms to complete.



A further way to increase church income is by gift aiding your offering. If you are a tax payer all that it requires is for you to complete and sign a form confirming that you are a tax

payer and your treasurer will take care of the rest. For every £100 you give to the church HMRC will refund the church £25. Speak to Louise or Ian and they will get the necessary form for you to complete.

*<sup>37</sup> "Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. <sup>38</sup> A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. Nehemiah 10:37*

*Louise Monaghan, Treasurer Kirkhill*

# Christmas Quiz



The following are the first lines of Christmas hymns (CH3) without vowels and punctuation. Do you recognise them? (answers in next edition of The Anchor)

1. SWTHGLDNSSMNFLD .....
2. CMLLYFTHFL .....
- 3.SNYNDRMNGRLW .....
- 4.NTSSBRNSN .....
- 5.LLMYHRTTHSNGHTRJCS .....
- 6.TCMPNTHMDNGHTCLR .....
- 7.CHRSTNSWKSLTTHHPPYMRN .....
- 8.CMCMMMNL .....

The following are the LAST lines of Christmas carols. What are the first lines?

1. Now and for evermore. Amen. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which now the angels sing. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Give my heart. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are his own. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Thou hast a wondrous message. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Our Lord Immanuel. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Shall yourselves find blessing. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Alleluias to our King. \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS OF THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Sunday 11th Dec: Andrew Morrison taking services at Kirkhill – 10am and Kiltarlity 11.30am

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: WI Choir service at Kirkhill – 2pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: Carol Service with the Salvation Army – Kiltarlity Village Hall - 7.00pm

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec: Kiltarlity Church of Scotland – Nativity Play – 11.30am

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec: Kirkhill – “Carols by Candlelight” - 6.30pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: Kiltarlity Church of Scotland – Schools’ Carol Service - 10.30am

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Watchnight services Kirkhill – 11.30pm; Kiltarlity Church of Scotland - 11.30pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Day family service at Kirkhill - 10.00am; Kiltarlity Free Church - 11am

Sunday 1st Jan: Kiltarlity Free Church - 11am; family service Kiltarlity Church of Scotland - 11.30am



## AND FINALLY:

The editors, Frances, Sheila and Ellenor thank you all once again for your contributions / articles etc for this edition of YOUR magazine and.....

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS A VERY, VERY  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR

Please check our website

([www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk)) and Facebook page  
([www.facebook.com/kiltarlitykirkhillchurches/](https://www.facebook.com/kiltarlitykirkhillchurches/)) for  
regular updates on activities past and future in both  
parishes.

