

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Church

Winter

2022



Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

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A word from our Minister.....

Last year when I wrote my bit for the winter edition of the newsletter, we were unaware of the impending arrival of more covid restrictions. We managed to get one nativity service done only to have to cancel the second. It all seems like a distant memory now. The reality is we can never predict with any accuracy the future that awaits. With Remembrance Sunday just behind us we were all thinking about the changes that have taken place with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Again, would we have been able to predict the impact that conflict has had and will continue to have? Rising costs of living, interest rates, climbing energy bills and more displaced people. The last four years have been difficult on many fronts; physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, spiritually. The list goes on. The Kirk too faces great challenge and change as well and even the most positive of optimists would have to concede that life is likely to become more challenging before it gets a bit easier. Yet the hope of the Christmas message is again this year unchanging. Last year I directed readers to read through the book of the prophet Isaiah. It is still a good read for advent preparations, and I would heartily recommend it again this year.

You see the hope that the Christ child brings is a practical hope. It is hope in the midst of a beginning in a stable. It is a hope that escaped the threat of violence to Egypt. It is a hope that allowed one to cope with loss. It is a hope that freed people from illness. It is a hope that returns the wayward heart. It is a hope that forgives. It is a hope that can endure sacrifice. It is a hope that restores. It is a hope

that promises paradise when we do not deserve it. It is a hope that cannot be defeated by death. It is a hope that promises to love us...no...matter...what...

The last few years have likely put many things into perspective for us. My priorities have shifted most definitely, and I would like to think for the better. Today I was reading Luke 23.33-43. The thing that stuck out for me was this. Jesus did not take on the barbed questions or comments that came from onlookers, soldiers or religious leaders. He didn't entertain them in the slightest. What he did speak to, or more aptly, who he did speak to, was the criminal beside him who defended him and asked for mercy. His reply is found in verse 43...'*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*' That is the hope that is found in the coming of promised child to Bethlehem and exemplified on the cross.

We can see that hope is still very much needed today and is available to any and all who seek it. All you need to do is ask the one through whom it comes, Jesus. Who loves with an everlasting love.

Our wish and prayer is that the God of salvation may pierce through the sin and need of this world to bring a light to you, your family and community that ignites a hope that is contagious and transforming. May this advent/holiday season bring to you and yours encounter with a holy, loving and present God.

Happy Christmas and New Year from the Wardlaw Manse family.

Messy Church



Messy Church has been a family mission outreach program run by the church for a number of years now. As with many events due to COVID Messy church had not run for over 2 years within the churches. This past May marked our first Messy church since COVID, it is hard to believe we are about to host our third Messy Church event on November 27th. Without people to run it and invest in it we would not be able host them or reach the over 30 families across the events. Each event takes prayer, time, planning and preparation. Messy church consists of crafts/activities, music, talk and of course food! If this is an outreach you would like to invest in either financially or practically your contributions would be graciously and thankfully received.

The Messy Church Team



No prizes for guessing who has come up with the one-liners!

Grandma's been staring through the window ever since it started to snow. If it gets any worse, I'll have to let her in...

What do you call a snowman in July?

A puddle.



Open the Book



(Bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school)

Open the Book is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible during the school year. It is presented in schools by teams of Christians from local churches and using the Lion Storyteller Bible.

After a lengthy absence from Tomnacross Primary School in Kiltarlity due to the Covid epidemic and lockdown, it is both an honour and delight to have been once again made most welcome by staff and pupils. The children of P1-3 have responded enthusiastically to those stories so far presented and it is hoped that periodically older children too may be included. Our team of volunteers try to bring the stories to life, using visual aids, costume, and drama. Teachers at all times accompany the classes, sometimes joining in. A planned timetable of our visits has been compiled covering the school session 2022-23, and any persons willing to help will be made most welcome to join the team. Further details may be had by making contact with

Ellenor Thomas, 01463782289.



Young Life International

YLI team continues to minister to local young people. We are very thankful for the Kirkhill and Kiltarlity church buildings. Both are being used to host regular activities for young people. After school once a week there is a small group Bible study with older teens in the Kiltarlity building. The Kirkhill building is being used for a weekly youth club. These events are exploring scripture with 30 young people who live in the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill parish.

Thank you so much for your prayers, financial support, and use of the church buildings! We greatly appreciate it.

Blessings,

The YLI Team



Friday Club

Every Friday afternoon, when the school is in session, 20 or so children from Tomnacross Primary School are escorted across the road to the church where they eat lunch, watch stories, sing, play, make things and generally have a good time. The club was started as an outreach programme to let children enjoy coming into a church building, have fun together, learn a little about Christianity and, most importantly, give a small service to hard-working parents who have to find something for their children to do on Friday afternoons when there is no school. I'm pleased to say the idea has worked. There is nothing better than working with the next generation.



For Remembrance Sunday, the children cut out poppies and mounted them on a pulpit fall for the church. Every child contributed, and all were so proud to get it hung up. We were proud too! Again, the club can only function as long as there are enough volunteers. If you feel you could spare an afternoon, let us know.

Margo, Sheila and the Friday Club Team



Project Trust

Hi! My name's Isobel Garvie and I'm currently in S6 at Charleston Academy. I'm studying Advanced Higher Biology, Chemistry and Maths and I'll be studying Biomedical Science at university after my gap year.

Next year I'll be going on my gap year to Senegal with the charity Project Trust. During my year away I'll be living in a local community with a fellow Project Trust volunteer and together we will be teaching young children. In addition, I will be fully immersed in the community and so will be getting involved with all sorts of activities, from dance classes to football celebrations.

I'm extremely excited to go to Senegal as I've never been to Africa before, let alone Senegal. As Google shows me, Senegal is full of gorgeous landscapes and the one that stands out the most for me is Lake Retba (The Pink Lake shown below).



The two official languages that I'll be speaking are French and Wolof. I'm looking forward to building on my Higher French but am also very excited to learn Wolof, although I believe it'll be quite tricky as it has a completely different alphabet!

I chose to go to Senegal because of the languages but also because I believe it'll be an incredibly enriching experience which will teach me huge amounts. I'll not only be learning languages but also Senegalese traditions, food, culture, sports and much more. The national food of Senegal is Thiéboudienne which is a fish and rice dish - unfortunately fish is not high up on my favourite foods list, but I guess that's something else I'll learn when I'm out there!

On the other hand, living in Senegal will be very tricky as well as rewarding. I'll be away from home and everyone I know for a whole 12 months. I won't find out my exact location in

Senegal until May, but it is very possible that I won't have access to WiFi, phone service and running water. This will mean it's even harder to stay in contact with family and friends, but I reckon old-fashioned letters will suffice! Everyone I've spoken to has said that it was one of the most challenging yet rewarding years of their life. I believe this will be similar for me because all of the basic amenities I've taken for granted my whole life will most likely not be as accessible.

In order to fund this incredible opportunity, I have to raise £6,950 between now and August 2023. I hope to raise this sum of money by holding fundraising events throughout the year such as:

- Ceilidh
- Quiz night
- Sponsored Kiltwalk
-

Although one of my main intentions of this trip is to contribute to the local community and also learn huge amounts, I realise I will also personally benefit. Therefore, I have already contributed £1,000 from my savings to start the fundraising and I am donating 90% of my earnings monthly.

The money I raise will go towards paying for my training, flights, accommodation, but also the in-country support I will receive from Project Trust to ensure my safety in Senegal. I hope these things will ultimately allow me to make a small difference in the local community.

If you would like to donate then please visit my JustGiving page for which the link is www.tinyurl.com/isobelgarvie You can also scan the QR code below. If you would like any more information then please don't hesitate to contact me using one of the following methods:

Phone: 07928 0927483

Email: isobel@garviefamily.com

In a couple of days, on Saturday 26th November, I am holding my first event which is a ceilidh in Kiltarlity Village Hall. It is at 7pm and all ages are welcome! There will be a main meal, home baking and a cash raffle so it is sure to be a great evening. If you would like to buy a ticket then please contact me using the details above.



My IQ test results came back. They were negative.

What do you call a penguin in the desert? Lost....

How does a snowman get around? He rides an icicle!





“Whose we are and whom we serve”.

We held the first Guild meeting for some time on Wednesday 5th October '22 at Kirkhill - the meeting was opened by the Reverend Drew Kuzma. The intention was to begin with some informal sessions in Kirkhill & Kiltarlity, until everyone's thoughts are carefully considered. Since advertising the Guild's start up again, the Beaully congregation is now joining us and there has been a name change to “The Firth Of Beaully”, to accommodate this.

The objective was to have a Guild that is accessible, enjoyable, interesting, and thought provoking for all. This will be done in accordance with the aims of the Guild whilst operating within the guidelines of the Church of Scotland's “Guild Constitution” with the agreement of the two Ministers, Rev Drew Kuzma and Rev Ian Manson from the Beaully Church of Scotland, and Kirk Sessions. Nonetheless it is not there to restrict or limit our performance and achievement or equally how we do it, acknowledging flexibility to express and demonstrate our experiences in terms of peoples' location

and existing resources. The only traditions we need to continue are those incorporated in the Guilds aims and motto.

The Guild may reflect different interests and age groups: be led and organised in different ways. Perhaps even more than one group meeting arranged at different times of day or at different times of year, as a result allowing a group to adapt, shape, adjust and individualise it as their own.

The local group is where most of the Guild's work will be undertaken and where its connections and friendships mature and flourish, additionally it is a regional and national movement which allows for involvement and support for one another.

The work of local activities - regional and national - is brought together by the three-yearly strategy 2021 - 2024 with yearly themes, this year's theme being "Wee seeds, Big Trees". All six of the current projects are supported by the Guild members and relate to the theme, and are described below:

- Beat: Bletter with Beat, supporting people living with an eating disorder and raising community awareness.
- Home for good: Finding a home for every child, supporting the Christians to be involved in adoption and fostering.
- Pioneers: Chocolate Heaven, supporting the development of sustainable chocolate production in South East Asia.

- Starchild: Finding the light in every child, supporting children with autism and other learning disabilities in Uganda.
- Unida: Hear our voice, supporting and empowering women in Brazil through theological education.
- The Vine trust: Kazunza village of hope, supporting the development of sustainable village in Tanzania.

The Guild has supported projects and raised more than £7 million since the 1960's.

For the Guild to qualify and function as a national movement members are required to contribute a small annual fee, which is set by the National Executive and payable yearly.

There is still a considerable amount to be done to get everything organised and consolidated in the coming weeks, but we do hope that past, present and new members will consider coming along to join, where discussion and suggestions will be encouraged on a possible future programme for the forthcoming year 2022-2023. Look out for details of meetings.

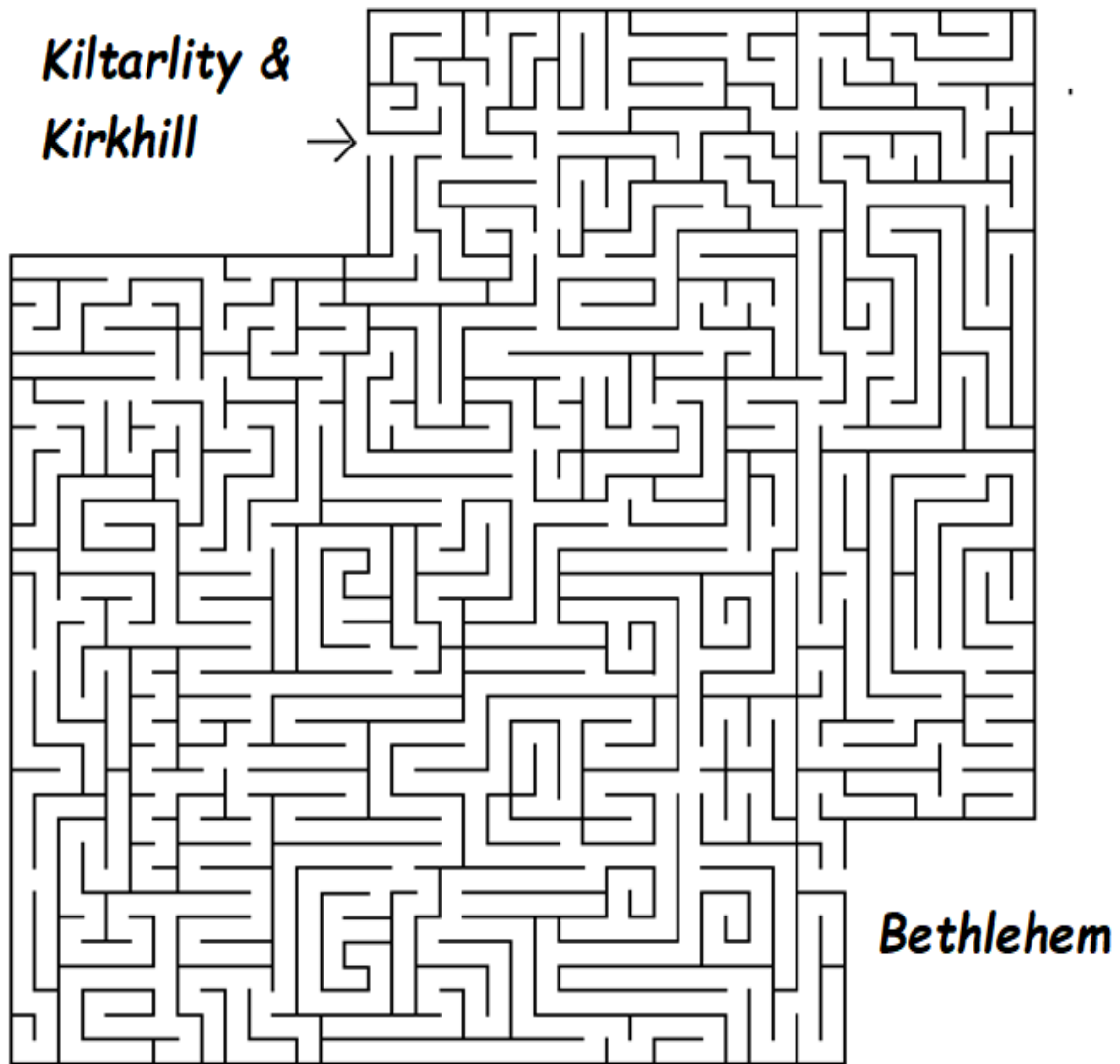
Ann MacBeath



An avalanche is snow place to be.....

Do birds know where they're going when they fly south for the winter or are they just winging it?

Find the road to Bethlehem....



Why can't you trust an atom? Because they make up literally everything.

The stressed-out snowman had a meltdown.



What's going on in our church.....



sing sessions

Pre school singing
10am on Fridays at Kirkhill Church
Bring your little ones along for a fun singing and rhyming session for 20 minutes followed by a chance to grab a cuppa and chat with other carers.

Home Bible Study

Family Gatherings

Worship Nights

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

and more.....



KIRKHILL COMMUNITY HUB HAVE CREATED A

Warm & Cosy
Space to Work, Relax & Socialise

TUESDAY 22ND NOV 12-4
(STRAIGHT AFTER COFFEE MORNINGS)
AT KIRKHILL CHURCH

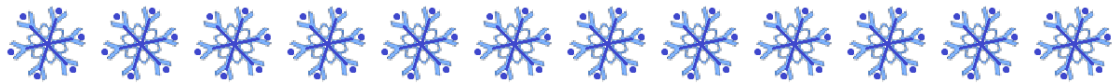
SOUP & BAKING AVAILABLE | OPEN TO ALL
MORE DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and will be celebrated in the Kirkhill Church building. You know, it would be lovely to see a great turn-out. Let the turkey look after itself and come along!



The winter was difficult for the trees but in the spring they were re-leafed.....

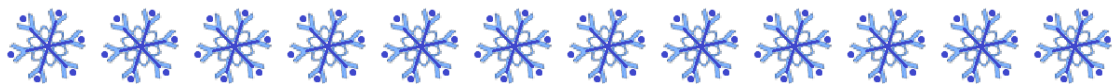
(Oh dear, they get worse.....)



Outdoor Nativity - The Christmas Journey

CHRISTMAS!! We love Christmas and the excitement, mystery and amazement that comes with celebrating it! This year we are thrilled to be hosting an outdoor nativity in both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill - come along as we journey together to hear the story retold by the Nativity characters found in the Bible. Hear all about Jesus miraculous birth in a fun and creative way followed by warm drinks and Christmas treats. Bring your torch, nativity costume, singing voice and appetite.

Margie Kuzma



The two dates for the Nativity will be -

11th December at Kiltarlity - 5pm

18th December at Kirkhill - 5pm

The Watchnight service will be in Kiltarlity - 11.30pm
and the Christmas Day service in Kirkhill - 10.45am



Looking forward to seeing everyone there!